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As President and Chief Security Officer of the nation, I will employ every means and instruments at my disposal to secure this nation against forces of evil which seek to divide and sabotage our country... There shall be no sacred cows in our efforts to expose, contain and defeat this network of terror



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# I've built a house hawking banana

• Says 80-yr-old who treks kilometres daily selling her commodity

**S**HE sauntered into the Press Centre of the Nigerian Union of Journalists in Kaduna, carrying on her head a tray loaded with banana. Between her residence and the Press Centre, she had trekked a distance of about 10 kilometres, barring the fact that she had to branch to many other places as she hawked banana, a trade from which she has earned her livelihood for decades.

80-year-old Gladys Nnamode, an indigene of Obiagu Local Government Area, Enugu State, has lived in Kaduna since the early 70s. She had gone to Kaduna soon after the civil war ended in 1970 and has remained there ever since, only paying occasional visits to her native town. On arriving Kaduna, she had started life as a petty trader, selling yams and later tomatoes until about 20 years ago when she gave up both to hawk banana around the metropolis.

Every day, she leaves her house and heads for the Railway Station Market renowned for banana in the state. From there, she picks as much banana as she can carry and heads towards the central business area of the metropolis, about three to four kilometres away. From there, she walks to distant places like Angwan Rimi, Malali and Kawa within the metropolis. In all, she covers no fewer than 20 kilometres daily, hawking banana.

She told *The Nation* that even though she is not educated and therefore cannot state categorically when she was born, she could not be less than 80 years old. She recalled that she came to Kaduna at the end of the Nigerian civil war, which ended in 1970.

She said: "The woman who brought me to Kaduna is still alive today, but she now lives in our village. I came to Kaduna to look for money. The business that brought me to Kaduna is what is on my head now (banana). I have spent over 20 years selling banana."

"When I came to Kaduna, I started by selling yam. Later, I left that business and started selling tomatoes. After some time, I started selling banana. I have spent so many years doing this business."

You might feel pity for her carrying such a heavy load on her head and walking the long distance. But the octogenarian says she enjoys what she is doing "because that is where I feed from, cloth myself and do other good things."

A widow without a child of her own, she told *The Nation* that she had to come to Kaduna after the war because she lost her husband and children, and there was nobody she could run to for assistance. She said: "I was once married, and I came to Kaduna because my husband died. The civil war started three years after my marriage. My husband went to the bush to check his traps and stepped on the head of a snake and its bone entered his leg. That was what killed him. There was no hospital then to attend to him."

"I had three children, but they all died. I don't know what killed them. And right now, I don't have a child of my own."

Walking the street hawking could be very hectic, especially when she had to walk in the sun and in the rain just to sell her banana. But she has not allowed that to be a hindrance to her determination to succeed in the business that puts food on her table and gives her clothes to wear. Interestingly, she has built a house in her village with the little she makes from the business.

She said: "With the money I make from this business, I have built a house in my village where people are living at the moment. The house has seven rooms and a parlour. My family members live in the house."

"I make a profit of between N700 and N2,000 per day. It is from the profit that I pay my house rent, which is about N36,000 annually. And it was from it that I built the house in the village."

Besides losing her husband and children, Madam Gladys also grew up not knowing her biological parents. "I did not grow up to know



• Madam Nnamode

■ Tony AKOWE, Kaduna ■

my father and mother because they died before I grew up," she said.

She hopes to retire from the business she started more than 20 years ago in the near future, but not until she has been able to gather about N2 million with which she could build a four-room apartment where she hopes to stay. "When I am able to gather money, I will go back home and enjoy the money. I am praying to God to give me about N2 million so that I can go home, build myself another house, a four-room apartment and stay there."

"Seven years ago when I was building the house at home, I used to gather between N70,000 and N100,000 and then go home and buy cement and wood for the house. With that, I was able to complete the house. When I no longer have the power to walk around, I will leave this business and I will go and rest in my house," she said.

The woman considered by many as an aggressive marketer has two of her brother's children in her custody in Kaduna. But she is not happy with the girl among them, pointing out that the girl has chosen for herself a different life from what she wanted for her and refused to go to school.

She said: "I brought two of my brother's children to Kaduna and they are living with me. The boy is selling slippers at Sabo market and the girl has refused to stay. Instead, she prefers to walk around. The boy has finished school, but the girl refused to go to school. I told her that I don't want a prostitute in my house and that I came here to struggle and that is what I am doing. I was still young when I came to Kaduna and I did not go after men. I am looking for what to eat and to feed those living with me, yet, she does not want to listen."

"The little money I make from this business is in the bank. My prayer now is for God to give me long life and good health, and for God to give me the money I am looking for so that I can retire from this business. My desire is to build another house where I will live and enjoy my money. The other house I built is for the family



I make a profit of between N700 and N2,000 per day. It is from the profit that I pay my house rent, which is about N36,000 annually. And it was from it that I built the house in the village

and they are living there. I want to build four rooms for myself".

She believes that Nigeria is beginning to be a good place once again, as it was during the first and second republics. "Nigeria was good when Azikiwe was President up to when Shagari was there. I heard that Maryam Babangida was giving people money, but it did not get to me. It is not that they gave me money, but the market was good. The market is getting better again under Jonathan and I thank God for that," she said.

She, however, has one request to make from the Nigerian government: "Give me money so that I can retire from this business". She said: "I want this country to give me money because I am a Nigerian and Nigeria has been good to me. They should help me with money to build this house and retire there so that I can rest. I am not asking for a loan."

"As you can see, I am an old woman now. So, I want people to help me with money and not a loan so that I can go and rest, because I am very tired. I have been doing this business for a very long time. I also pray that God will give the government good health and money and that there should be no problem in this country again. I want peace in Nigeria".

## Hundreds of illegal immigrants deported in Kano

FOLLOWING the spate of suicide bomb attacks in the country, the Nigeria Immigration Service has deported hundreds of illegal immigrants from the northern Nigerian city of Kano.

A senior Immigration Officer at the Kano Command of the Service, who spoke to *The Nation* on condition of anonymity, said the deportation of illegal immigrants from the state was done for the sake of national security.

The source said the aliens, who have no valid travel documents, usually engaged in menial and undignified jobs in the state, and as such could be ready tools in the hands of mischief makers.

According to him, Nigerians, Senegalese, Malians, Sudanese, Chadians and Somalis were among the hundreds of foreigners deported from the country in the last couple of weeks.

He disclosed that the Nigerian Immigration Service had adopted a quiet tactical approach in purging the country of illegal immigrants so as to deport as many of them as possible.

The officer, who has served in critical departments of the service for several years, further revealed that the Comptroller General of the Nigeria Immigration Service handed down an instruction to all the commands to carry out a 'silent mop up exercise' to fish out illegal immigrants and hand them over to authorities in their respective countries of origin.

The senior officer said he was confident that with the deportation of the aliens, the security of lives and property of Nigerians would be enhanced as, according to him, those who carried out the suicide attacks on the Police Headquarters and the UN Building were not Nigerians.

The source also stated that all the state commands had been instructed not to disclose their modes of operation to newsmen, as that could jeopardize efforts aimed at ridding the country of illegal immigrants.

**Shell's strategy to develop manpower for Nigeria's oil, gas industry is overseas scholarships —MD**

**T**HE Managing Director of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), Mr. Mutiu Sunmonu, has stated that the oil firm's strategy to develop manpower for Nigeria's oil and gas industry is overseas scholarships.

He also assured that the SPDC would recruit the beneficiaries of its overseas scholarship schemes if they excel in their studies and demonstrate the right skills to beat the competition and win placements in Shell.

Sunmonu stated these yesterday at the Rivers State University of Science and Technology (RSUST), Port Harcourt, at the award/farewell ceremony for the ten 2011 beneficiaries of the Anglo/Dutch oil giant's Niger Delta Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme.

He said the scheme, started last year, was designed by the SPDC to give talented students from the three Niger Delta coastal states of Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers an opportunity to further their education in fields relevant to the oil and gas industry in the United Kingdom universities.

The managing director, who was represented by Shell's Human Resources Manager, Charles Gbandi, stated that the one-year Master's degree programmes hold at the prestigious University College, London; Imperial College, London and University of Leeds.

The courses comprise Petroleum Engineering, Petroleum Geoscience, Petroleum Geophysics, Engineering Geology, Chemical Process Engineering, Mechanical and Civil Engineering, Exploration Geophysics and Oilfield Corrosion Engineering.

Sunmonu disclosed that the scheme covers tuition fees, return flight and living expenses based on annual British Council rates, while potential beneficiaries must possess a minimum of Second Class Upper in Bachelor's Degree and confirmed admissions for the specified courses.

He said: "Support for education is just one aspect of SPDC's investments in the Niger Delta. SPDC considers education an important aspect of its social responsibility investment."

# We know sponsors of bomb blasts- Jonathan President: Security agencies ordered to go after them

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan said yesterday that government knows the sponsors of the recurrent explosions in the country.

He said government has uncovered what he called "strong leads" to the terrorists ad those behind them.

The president said he has therefore directed security agencies to begin a man hunt for the alleged sponsors, saying there would be no "sacred cows" in the "war against terror."

President Jonathan, who spoke at the launch of the new National Drivers Licence and vehicle number plates in Abuja, also paid N6000 to obtain his new drivers' licence.

He warned those visiting death and destruction on innocent Nigerians and their sponsors that there is "no hiding place" for them anymore.

Jonathan said: "Today's launch has acquired greatest significance following last Friday's unprovoked attack which led to the loss of lives and has left in its trail gory images of the threat which terrorism now poses to the peace and security of our nation and the safety of our citizens.

"Since the last bombing episode on October 1, I had directed the hastening of efforts to build a credible data base of drivers and vehicles in order to improve public safety. The importance of this project is reaffirmed by the consistent use of vehicles in the conduct of the recent bombing episode.

"Let me use this occasion to reassure Nigerians and members of the international community that we now have strong leads as to those involved in this terror war on Nigeria and Nigerians. I have directed security operatives to go after them no matter where they may be hiding."

"Also, I am using this opportunity to warn that those who choose to hide under our new freedom to perpetuate evil against our people shall have no hiding place."

This administration, according to the President, is fully determined and able to deal with all threats and agents of instability who continue to test the resolve of our nation and its democratic institutions and leadership.

"As President and Chief Security Officer of the nation, I will employ every means and instruments at my disposal to secure this nation against forces of evil which seek to divide and sabotage our country," Jonathan said.

He added: "There shall be no sacred cows in our efforts to expose, contain and defeat this network of terror. I have directed the review of our national security architecture to lay greater emphasis on intelligence and citizens' participation in security surveillance."

An explosion went off at the United Nations (UN) House in Abuja penultimate Friday, killing at least 23 people and injuring scores of others.

In June, another blast rocked the Police Headquarters also in Abuja.

There was controversy over the casualty figure, but a traffic warden was officially confirmed dead in that attack.

The Boko Haram ('Western education is sin') sect claimed responsibility for both explosions.

Sanni ONOGU, Abuja

August 31, 2012 to change to the new ones.

He said the new driver's licence now costs 6,000, while the vehicle number plates would cost N15, 000 for private car owners.

Chidoka said: "Today (yesterday) is the beginning of our quest to restore the integrity of the driver's licence. It is a culmination of the work we have done with the support of the media very strongly to re-educate Nigerians and to bring back the integrity of the driver's licence. One of the critical ingredients of this is that we are going to have a credible data base of drivers and vehicles in Nigeria.

Another suspect, Mamman Nur, an al-Qaeda-trained Boko Haram member, alleged to be the brain behind the explosion, has been declared wanted.

On Thursday, the fundamentalist group named 27-year-old Mohammed Abdul as the suicide bomber who drove the explosive-laden Honda Accord Car that rammed into the UN House.

Before extending its operation to the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Boko Haram had been engaged in series of killings and attacks in Borno, Bauchi and some other northern states.

Jonathan said yesterday that government was pleased "that the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) has delivered in its promise to introduce a credible driver's licence that meets international standard."

He described the launch of the new enhanced driver's licence and number plates by the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) as a "positive development which demonstrates the FRSC's commitment to the government's transformation agenda and testimony that we can get it right in this country."

He added: "Restoring the integrity of the driver's licence allies fully with the transformation agenda of this government. It is at the heart of the efforts to alter a culture of recklessness, impunity and lack of consideration for other road users and to transform these negative traits to a positive affirmation of a rule driven society."

According to him, the international dimension of driver's licences and number plates imposes on Nigeria as a country the need to ensure that they are not used as instruments of terrorism.

He spoke further: "I want to reassure Nigerians and members of the international community that terror groups would be defeated in our land. This administration will spare no effort or resource in containing these latest threats to the unity and stability of our nation."

Terrorism has no conscience, it spares no one. We must all stand together against terror and its destructive manifestations. We are in touch with all international agencies involved in the global war against terror. We work in tandem with all organisations and partners towards a timely and eventual containment and defeat of terror and their sponsors in our land."

The tribunal has up till mid-November to determine whether the CPC has a case against President Goodluck Jonathan or not.

Investigation by our correspondent showed that the acting President of the Court of Appeal is being pressured to reconstitute the Presidential Election Petition Tribunal.

It was gathered that some forces wanted the Ag. PCA to do away with pro-Salami

in three critical things. The new drivers licence and plate numbers would help us first in enforcement, develop patterns of the behaviour of the drivers, and help in area of national security."

Dignitaries present at the launch which took place at the headquarters of the FRSC in Abuja, included the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Senator Bala Mohammed, Minister of Police Affairs, Caleb Olubolade, Minister of Information and Communications, Labaran Maku, Inspector General of Police, Hafiz Ringim, the Chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue



• President Jonathan

Service (FIRS), Mrs Ifueko Omoigui-Okauru, among others.



• Justice Salami

**Yusuf ALLI, Managing Editor, Northern Operation**

elements within the system and all actions the suspended PCA took while in office.

But some legal experts have also been advising against any overhaul which might be interpreted as a witch-hunt within the system.

The experts expressed fears that the appellate court may end up being polarised.

A top source, who spoke in confidence, said: "There are indications that the Presidential Election Tribunal might either be reconstituted or disbanded if the acting PCA bows to pressure.

Already within the system, there is apprehension over this latest development.

"The truth is that it is within the constitutional powers of the acting PCA Justice Adamu to take such a step but given the circumstances under which he came on board, meanings might be read into any action he takes."

Responding to a question, the source added: "As at Friday, some Deputy Chief Registrars considered loyal to Salami have been redeployed. This exercise has created mixed feelings within the system."

"I think in the next few days, the reshuffling may affect judges in some divisions of the Court of Appeal.

"So, the signs are obvious that sweeping changes are imminent."

A Senior Advocate of Nigeria appearing for the PDP at the tribunal, who spoke in confidence, said: "I am not yet aware but I expected an adjustment of the number of judges attending to petitions."

"With the exit of Justice Salami, we now have four judges at the tribunal which is not tidy in case of split decisions. Constitutionally, the judges should be five but in the present circumstance, they could be either three or five. Definitely, the Court will have to add or remove one of the judges."

"If the panel is reconstituted, none of the parties will lose anything because we have not reached the hearing stage. We are still at the preliminary stage which can be

handled by any judge.

"Once a petition is at the hearing stage, you cannot change the judges.

"But I don't think outright disbandment will be okay because once such step is taken, petitioners will be reading meaning into it. To me, there is nothing in the petition of the CPC; the panel should be allowed to remain.

"Or else, we will end up with a well-deserved judgment being beclouded by political sentiments."

The Congress for Progressive Change(CPC) had on August 20 raised the alarm that the suspension of Salami was designed to frustrate its petition before the Presidential Election Tribunal.

In a statement in Abuja by its National Publicity Secretary, Engr. Rotimi Fashakin, the party said: "What is unquestionably discernible in this entire saga is that it was not Justice Salami that is the target but the CPC Presidential Petition which his court is adjudicating on! The hush-hush manner in which this spectacle of the Infra dig is being executed gives the impression that a timeline is being strictly adhered to.

"Why is NJC not allowing the normal constitutional provision of making recommendation to the President to prevail? Why did the NJC refuse to be served the summons in the Suit filed against it by Justice Salami? Why did the NJC choose to still discuss a matter that is already pending in a High Court?

"Why did NJC suspend Justice Salami, thereby effectively removing him from his office contrary to the provision of the constitution? The next hearing in the Motion for Judgment filed by CPC is August 29, 2011. Is NJC trying to work to ensure that a more malleable judicial officer is on the saddle before that date? This lends credence to the widely held notion that this decision was taken with a purpose to frustrate the CPC Presidential petition and render it time-barred."

The party also faulted the alleged desperation and the speed with which NJC took its decisions on Salami.

It added: "The Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) is horrified by the meeting of the National Judicial Council (NJC) of Thursday, 18th Au-

gust, 2011, wherein Justice Isa Ayo Salami, President Court of Appeal (PCA) was suspended and ordered to hand over to the next in seniority.

"In a manner reminiscent of a witless regurgitation of prepared script, the NJC carried out a hatchet job that careful watchers had anticipated for quite a while.

"It is still mind-boggling that the same NJC that admitted the intervention of the Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN), Justice Aloysius Katsina-Alu, in the Sokoto governorship petition appeal suit, which was clearly outside his judicial powers; went ahead to pronounce a 'guilty as charged' sentence on Justice Salami for daring to challenge the impunity of his boss.

"In a 24-member body where the CJN accounts for the appointment of 20 members (including himself), it is hardly conceivable that the same body can ever apprehend the CJN for any malfeasance!"

The CPC warned the NJC against foisting a state of anomie on the nation.

It said: "Indeed the preponderant view within the polity is that this ignoble decision has opened a new vista in Nigeria's season of anomie. The 3rd Schedule I (21b) of the constitution states that the NJC shall: "Recommend to the President the removal from office of the Judicial Officers specified in Sub Paragraph (a) of this Paragraph and to exercise disciplinary control over such officers."

"Without any scintilla of doubt, the greatest tragedy that can befall the Nigerian nation is when the Judiciary, as the bastion in the defense of the rights of the oppressed, becomes noxiously compromised and made prostrate.

"Thereafter, Rule of Law gives way to the Ruse of Law; anarchy and unimaginable disequilibrium subsist. As a party, we still believe that the Nigerian Nation can be saved from this web of orchestrated, selfish and needless crisis of confidence on the judicial arm of Government. God bless Nigeria ."

When our correspondent sought to speak with the Acting PCA, a staff in the court said: "Justice Adamu is leaving for Egypt on Friday night, you cannot talk to him until next week."



• Arrested members of Sara-Suka Group which was terrorising Bauchi and its environs, paraded at a news conference by the Bauchi State Police Command in Bauchi yesterday.

PHOTO: NAN

## Why Jonathan, other world leaders moved against Gaddafi

### • Al-Qaeda training ground discovered in Muttabi, Libya

**■ Yusuf ALLI, Managing Editor, Northern Operation**

cup was full and they had to move against him. The last to join the fray against Gaddafi was Russia, which had been a long standing ally of Gaddafi.

"The convincing evidence of terrorism placed before Russia informed its withdrawal of support for Gaddafi.

"World leaders are tired of terrorism and in their determination to ensure global peace, they chose to cut Gaddafi to size."

On why Nigeria decided to back the Libyan Transitional National Council, the top Presidency source added: "Gaddafi has never hidden his disdain for the continued survival of this nation as one."

"Last year, he said openly that Nigeria should split, and he has been working towards that since 1997. He has been undermining our internal security."

"For instance, when a

former Chief of General Staff, Lt. Gen. Oladipo Diya narrowly cheated death through bomb explosion in 1997, intelligence report showed that Gaddafi had a hand in it.

"The two suspects behind the botched bombing of Diya's plane (otherwise called Sumaila and Sumaila) were trained in Muttabi in Libya too.

"During the administration of ex-President Olusegun Obasanjo, he persuaded Gaddafi to invest in the nation's refineries, especially in Port Harcourt. But Gaddafi said he would prefer the refinery in Kaduna because Nigeria would break up by 2004. That was how his planned investment in our refineries was jettisoned when the Kaduna Refinery was not conceded to him.

"So, you can see that having had our share of terrorist attacks, we cannot afford to sit on the fence. Gaddafi had never wished Nigeria well."

On the relationship between Obasanjo and Gaddafi, the government source said: "It has

no effect on the recognition given to the TNC in Libya by the Federal Government.

"All along, the ex-President knew the kind of person Gaddafi is. But he said he has been courting him for the sake of peace and security in Nigeria .

"When Obasanjo was in power, each time he was asked why he was relating with Gaddafi, he always said that whoever would not allow you to enjoy your meal to the fullest, you add his own from the outset.

"Obasanjo saw Gaddafi as a threat and he cultivated him to reduce tension in Africa. I think that approach also succeeded to some extent.

"The ex-President understands the position of the Federal Government, and as a nationalist, he appreciates the fact that Nigeria's interest is above any other consideration. Can you really call Gaddafi a friend of Obasanjo?"

**T**HE Benue State State and National Assembly Election Petition Tribunal sitting in Makurdi has fixed Sept 6, 2011 for judgement in the election petition between the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) House of Representatives candidate for Ado\Okpokwu\Ogbadigbo, Comrade Daniel Onjeh Donald and Hassan Saleh of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Since both the Governorship and National Assembly Election Petition Tribunals commenced proceedings more than four months ago, this is the first judgement it would deliver. All eyes are on the impending judgement, as it is expected to rekindle the hope of most of the petitioners.

Comrade Onjeh Donald, a former President of National Association of Nigeria Students (NANS) and President West African Students Union (WASA), who contested the Ado/Ogbadigbo/Okpokwu

House of Representative seat on the platform of the ACN, is challenging the election of the PDP candidate, Hassan Saleh.

The hearing notice served on both the petitioners and respondents and signed by the tribunal's secretary, reads: "Take notice that the above judgement will be heard on Tuesday, Sept 6, 2011."

The former student activist had in the course of proceedings raised the alarm that there was a sustained pressure on him to drop his petition against his opponents. He, however, told journalists that he could not be bought.

Investigations revealed that the ACN House of Representatives candidate is the only one left with a pending petition before an election tribunal from the Benue South Senatorial District otherwise known as Zone C. Most of them had their petitions either withdrawn or struck out.

## Plateau government hunts masterminds of Sallah mayhem

**■ Yusufu Aminu IDEGU**

agencies over the incident. A lot of discoveries have been made.

"But to be fair to all, it calls for further investigation on the facts on ground. At the end of the investigation, I can assure you, government will go after any individual and group involved in this distasteful act."

"I can confirm to you that arrests have been made over the incident. It is too early to mention names since we are doing further investigation."

"But at the end of it all, government will get to the root cause and deal decisively with anyone found to have caused this sabotage on government's peace efforts."

## Kidnapped Edo businessman released

### • Promises to launch foundation to tackle unemployment

**■ Osagie OTABOR, Benin**

ment, but the family suddenly stopped talking with them.

Elder Soare's wife, Bridget, two police orderlies and driver were killed during the abduction, while his daughter is still receiving treatment at the hospital.

Friends and sympathisers went to his residence in droves to rejoice with him.

Speaking yesterday, Soare promised to set up an unemployment foundation to create jobs for unemployed graduates.

He said he would donate some of his properties for the purpose, even as he attributed the rising wave of

crime to unemployment.

According to him, "In God I trust. There is no other man that has done it. It is God. I want to thank the governor of this state who went into action almost immediately, my traditional ruler, the Commissioner of Police and all the security agencies in the state.

"I heard much from my adversaries what was happening; that it was an unfortunate issue that they had to handle a man like me; that the reaction from the people was giving them a lot of concern. I want to thank my family and all my well-wishers.

"We should do everything possible to create job oppor-

tunities for our young school leavers. The only way we can end this rot, this problem, this unprecedented situation is to provide jobs for our young ones. When that is done, 90 per cent of the problem will be solved.'

"In my own case, whatever I have as a property, I will be able to sacrifice some to make a contribution, because I want us to establish an unemployment foundation, which every reasonable Nigeria should contribute to, because when you are wealthy and everybody around you is not wealthy, are not happy, they have nothing to eat, you hardly could live in a quiet society."

**P**LATEAU State Government has said it has discovered individuals and groups who perpetrated the violent clash that occurred in Jos during the Izala sallah celebration last Monday.

The state's Commissioner for Information and Communication, Pastor Yiljap Abraham, made this known at a news conference in Government House, Jos yesterday.

According to Yiljap, "for about two, three days, we have been in intensive security meeting over the recent security situation in the state, and government is prepared to bring to justice those said to be behind the renewed conflict."

"He added: "The security council has been briefed by all sections of the security

## Jonathan's visit: Party chair, nine others critically injured as ACN, PDP supporters clash

No fewer than 10 party loyalists were severely injured as fighting broke out in Ibadan yesterday between supporters of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and those of the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN). Among the victims of the clash, which occurred at the airport during President Goodluck Jonathan's visit to the city, was the PDP Chairman in Oluoyole Local Government Area, Elder Oyelade Akinlade.

Oyelade, it was gathered, was still unconscious at the Renewth Clinic and Maternity, Oremesi, Argungu, Ibadan, where he was rushed to for medical attention.

A source at the hospital yesterday said doctors were still battling to revive the party chairman, as he was yet to regain consciousness.

Some ACN supporters were also said to have sustained injuries from the fracas which occurred outside the main gate leading to the airport.

The PDP and ACN supporters were said to have stationed themselves at the Airport as early as 8 am to welcome Jonathan and members of his entourage, including the Minister of State for the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Oloye Jumoke Akinjide, who were in Ibadan to have an on the spot assessment of the damage caused by penultimate Friday's flood disaster which claimed more than 100 lives and damaged property worth several millions of naira.

A heated argument between

**Oseheye OKWUOFU, Ibadan**

the two opposition groups was said to have resulted in a free for all, leaving many severely injured.

According to an eyewitness account, trouble started when security men disallowed some of the party supporters entry into the airport.

Some members of the ACN were said to have frowned at what they described as an illegal party rally at the airport by some PDP supporters, who allegedly turned the occasion into a party jamboree.

The PDP supporters were said to have started singing and dancing in a manner the ACN supporters considered offensive.

When the PDP supporters persisted, the ACN supporters were said to have also mobilised their members and started singing and dancing; an action the PDP supporters also considered offensive.

Members of the two opposing parties were later said to have resorted to assaulting one another, throwing missiles and using clubs and charms.

Sensing danger, Elder Akinlade was said to have run for safety, but an unidentified person hit him with a club on his forehead, causing him to fall on the ground and lying unconscious while his dress was stained with blood.

Akinlade was later taken to the hospital where he received treatment along with others who also sustained injuries in

the fracas. Both PDP and the ACN members are trading blames over the crisis. While the PDP accused the Vice Chairman of the state's Pilgrims Board, Alhaji Abass Oloko of inciting members of the ACN to attack its members, the ACN alleged that the PDP Chairman in Oluoyole deliberately came with party thugs to the airport with the aim of attacking ACN members.

In a release signed by its Publicity Secretary, Mr. Matthew Oyedokun, the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN), Oyo State Chapter, said it saw the reaction of the PDP in the state as a manifestation of the party's frustration.

According to the party, at a time when what was expected from all people of goodwill was sobriety and sympathy for the victims of the flood disaster that wreaked havoc in Ibadan, the PDP was trying to score "cheap publicity and cheap propaganda" from the loss of lives of the people of the state.

Oyedokun urged the state PDP to suspend what it called "its usual broth of reckless partisanship" for the moment and allow the spirits of the dead to rest in peace, stating that the party stands to gain nothing from this "unnecessary recrimination" and trying to pass buck when, according to it, "the dumbest person in the state knows that the flood is one of the several manifestations of the inept government that the Alao-Akala government ran for four years."



•President Goodluck Jonathan (right) and Governor Abiola Ajimobi during the former's visit to Ibadan yesterday over the recent flood disaster in the ancient city.

## Community begs Orji to construct road

**T**HE people of Amokwe Item in Bende Local Government Area of Abia State have pleaded with the state governor, Theodore Orji, to help them construct the Rubber Road leading from Uzuakoli/Arochukwu road into their community for even development.

They said the opening up of the said road would also help the fast development of that area, while the construction of the road, which leads into Ebonyi State, would generate employment for the teeming youths.

Speaking at Amokwe Item during a reception organ-

known to him, refused to construct the road.

He noted that the governor did well by appointing their sons, like Anyaso Anyaso, Director of Protocol and Okpara among others, into various positions, adding that such appointments had gone a long way to show that the governor had a lot of regards for Item people.

Responding the Special Adviser to the governor on Public Relations, Okpara, thanked his people for the honour done to him and assured them that the governor had just started appreciating the support the people of Item gave to him during the last two general elections.

Okpara thanked them for the support they have been giving the governor and told his people to continue to support the governor, "as there are a lot to gain from supporting Governor Orji, if we continue our support for him, we will gain, as there are still a lot for us from this government".

## Deaconess Ajayi's 10th memorial holds today

**T**HE 10th memorial anniversary of the late Deaconess Olubunmi Omobolanle Ajayi will hold today at her residence at 29 Emmanuel Keshi Street, Magodo Estate, Lagos.

The event, which holds between 9 am and 11am, will feature prayer ministeration and thanksgiving service.

The late Deaconess Ajayi, who was a trained midwife and nursing sister, worked variously at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, Idi-Araba and Yamaha Manufacturing Company Limited, Otta, Ogun State.

A devout Christian who lived an exemplary life, she was survived by her husband, children and relatives, namely Mr. Moses Olubunmi Ajayi, Mr. Oluwemi Ajayi, Mrs. Yetunde Alade, Miss Omobolanle Ajayi and Miss Tobiloba Ajayi.

Others include Mrs. Yinka Raji, Mr. Ezekiel Adeyeye, Elder and Mrs. Isaac Odedina and Mrs. Rike Ahmed.

## Ibadan flood: President pledges to assist Oyo

**Bisi OLADELE, Ibadan**

the flooded sites as "pitiable." He said technical experts would be deployed from the Ministry of Water Resources and the Environment to identify how the Federal Government could help Oyo State to handle the disaster.

The President commended the Oyo State Government, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other relevant

organisations that rose to the challenge of offering help to the flood victims.

He described the incident as a natural disaster and prayed God to comfort those who lost their loved ones and property in the flood. He called for a minute silence in respect of those who died in the disaster.

He said: "On behalf of the Federal Government and my family, we express our condolences to the government and people of Oyo State over

the disaster... We flew over some of the sites, inspected and saw the extent of the damage. We also watched video clips of the disaster. It is a natural disaster.

"We pray that God will give those who lost their people in the flood the fortitude to bear the loss. On the part of the Federal Government,

we commend the Director General and officers of NEMA and the Oyo State Government for their quick response.

"While NEMA will keep assisting with relief materials, technical experts will be deployed from the Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Environment to identify how the Federal Government can help the state government."

Earlier, Governor Abiola Ajimobi urged the President to come to the aid of the state, emphasising that the damage could not be handled by the state alone.

Ajimobi, who described Jonathan as a caring and supportive president, said Oyo State and the South West as a whole had not witnessed the magnitude of the August 26 flood before. He said the state felt helpless and thereby needed the assistance of the Federal Government to handle the devastation as well as put structures in place to prevent a reoccurrence.

He handed over to Jonathan a letter officially requesting the assistance of the Federal Government.

Jonathan's aircraft, marked Nigerian Air Force 5N-FGT, touched down at Ibadan airport at 12:25. He was received by Ajimobi, members of his cabinet and a blend of leaders of the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP).

Also on the entourage were Senator Femi Lanlehin; Minister of State for Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Oloye Jumoke Akinjide; Speaker, House of Assembly, Hon. Monsurat Sunmonu and a host of other political office holders who hail from Ibadan.

## Lagos Speaker visits EFCC over petition

er the allegations are true or not, it is important to hear from the Speaker.

"Upon the receipt of the petition and after preliminary investigation, we decided to reach out to the Speaker in the past two weeks.

"But he claimed to be away for Lesser Hajj. When we could no longer bear his excuse, we sent our operatives to his office last week.

"The Speaker's secretary got in touch with him in Saudi Arabia and he phoned our Deputy Head of Investigations.

"So, the Speaker personally reported to the EFCC for interrogation on the allegations in the said petition.

"It is too early to say whether the Speaker has a case to answer or not."

There was confusion by press time yesterday over whether or not he had been released.

While a source close to his

office said he was on his way to Lagos yesterday following his release, the Head of Media and Publicity of the EFCC, Mr. Femi Babafemi, said he was yet to be released.

Meanwhile, the Chief Press Secretary to the Speaker, Mr. Rotimi Adebayo, yesterday debunked reports that he (Ikuforiji) was arrested by the EFCC.

He said in a statement that contrary to reports and insinuations, the Speaker went to the EFCC office, Abuja, on his own volition.

The statement reads: "It has come to our knowledge that there are rumours over the alleged arrest and detention of the Hon. Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Adeyemi Ikuforiji, by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) office in Abuja on Friday, September 2, 2011.

"In the face of the above, we

hereby state as follows:

"That the Speaker was neither arrested nor detained by the operatives of the EFCC.

"That the Speaker, however, on his own volition, decided to formally honour the EFCC's earlier invitation sent to his office when he was away to the Lesser Hajj.

"That the Speaker only just returned to the country from Umrah on Wednesday night of 31st August, 2011 and he immediately scheduled a date with the EFCC operatives to honour their invitation.

"We also wish to state that the rumour making the rounds that he was arrested and detained has no truth whatsoever in it and should therefore be discounted.

"We wish to add that the Rt. Hon. Speaker Adeyemi Ikuforiji is a law-abiding citizen who has been striving to pursue the overall interest of Lagosians and development of Lagos, our great state to a better level."

PEAKER of the Lagos House of Assembly, Mr. Adeyemi Ikuforiji, yesterday visited the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

Ikuforiji was said to have been interrogated by the EFCC at its Abuja office over a petition.

The Speaker voluntarily reported to the EFCC headquarters upon his return from Lesser Hajj.

Investigation by our correspondent revealed that the EFCC had been on the trail of Ikuforiji in the last two weeks following the receipt of a petition against him.

The names of the petitioners were not disclosed by the commission.

The petitioners asked the EFCC to prevail on Ikuforiji to explain what he has been doing with his monthly subvention.

A top source said: "Wheth-

# 42 feared killed in fresh clashes in Jos

**T**HREE seems to be no end in sight to the violent sectarian clashes in Jos, as it emerged yesterday that at least 42 persons might have been killed on Thursday.

According to agency reports last night, both Muslim and Christian communities in the city claimed that at least 42 lives were lost with residents blaming soldiers for causing a number of the casualties through indiscriminate shooting.

Residents of the city claimed that when clashes broke out on Thursday, soldiers were as usual called in to restore order, but ironically did most of the killings by shooting into the rampaging crowd.

But while the military did not say anything on the number of people killed, the army vowed it would use "all the necessary force within its power" to stop clashes in the city.

A statement signed by Captain Charles Ekeocha said: "The Special Task Force is now mandated to use all the necessary force within its powers on anybody carrying and using arms and/or dangerous weapons on another person."

Ekeocha's statement said three soldiers were shot and critically wounded. The statement added that it wanted to "make it clear to whoever is having the false confidence of trying their hands on the might of the Nigerian military to retrace their steps, as the Special Task Force will bring her might to bear on any persons or groups of persons."

The military task force has been deployed in Jos over the repeated violence in the city and surrounding areas.

The head of a search and rescue team for the Muslim community said soldiers were responsible for most of the casualties on the Muslim side, including 22 persons killed.

In like manner, an official from the Stefanos Founda-

■ Augustine AVWODE ■  
Assistant Editor with  
Agency reports

tion, a Christian group, said his side lost 20 persons and 50 were wounded. It was alleged that many injured persons were taken to hospitals in the city, but a resi-

dent, Frank Ojukwu, said that soldiers allegedly invaded the hospitals to arrest those admitted for treatment.

The clash was a continuation of a fracas that broke out on Wednesday when a group of Muslims, on their way to offer Eid prayers,

were confronted by members of the other community.

More than 40 vehicles and 100 motorcycles were also said to have been burnt during the fracas.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the police con-

firmed the clashes.

"Fighting broke out between the two religious organisations, but the police succeeded in putting it under control," Commissioner, Plateau State Command, Dipo Ayeni, was quoted to have told agency reporters.



•Dr Pius Odubu, Deputy Governor of Edo State (representing Governor Adams Oshiomhole), and Elder Ted Sorae during a condolence visit to Elder Sorae (right) who lost his wife last Sunday following his kidnap in Benin City... yesterday

## ...ACF condemns crisis

**T**HE Northern socio-political organisation, the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), yesterday condemned the renewed violence in Jos, the Plateau State capital, which it said had unleashed untold hardship on innocent people living in the town.

In an SMS to *The Nation* Saturday, the National Publicity Secretary of the Forum, Anthony Sani, regretted the new circle of violence at "a time

■ Tony AKOWE, Kaduna ■

when peaceful coexistence is needed for the socio-economic development of the country".

While appealing to all those involved in the violence to give peace a chance, the ACF said the unending resort to the principle of an eye for an eye would not lead to anything positive, but would leave the nation more devastated than before.

The SMS reads: "Arewa Consultative Forum is sad over reports that the sectarian crises in Jos have resumed vigorously with the revenges unleashing untold hardship on innocent people.

"These actions by the feuding members of the two religious groups are in clear violation of the teachings by all faiths, including Islam and Christianity, which preach peace, love and tolerance, as well as core values of humanity.

"There is no fact of history which suggests that conflicts are ever resolved to attain permanent peace through armed struggles. This is because peace which all religions teach come only through peace talks that bring about genuine reconciliations that go with true forgiveness.

"For the sake of one God whom we all profess to worship and in the interest of peaceful co-existence needed

for the socio-economic development of our nation, ACF appeals to all the warring factions in Jos conflicts to please sheathe their swords and embrace peace that comes with reconciliations and forgiveness.

"ACF says this because the unending resort to an eye for an eye can only leave all of us blind eventually. Enough of the mindless, unreligious carnages in Jos, Plateau State of Nigeria.

"Finally, ACF sympathises with all those who have lost their dear ones and property in the crises. May God provide them with all it takes to endure what cannot be changed and the capacity to replace the lost property many folds".

■ Augustine AVWODE ■

**A**civil society group, Projekthope, has tasked the leadership of the House of Representatives to transform its legislative agenda into reality, so as to redeem its image.

In a statement by its co-ordinator, Steve Aborishade, Projekthope, while commanding Speaker of the House, Hon. Aminu Tambuwal, and his Deputy, Hon. Emeka Ihedioha, for the vision they showed in fashioning out a legislative agenda to guide and benchmark the work of the seventh session of the House of Representatives, stressed that challenges facing the country require

that the legislature moves from the realm of agenda to reality as it resumes legislative business in a fortnight.

"The challenges facing the country today call for urgent translation of rhetoric into tangible realities that can bring smiles to the faces of suffering millions of Nigerians," the statement said.

The group called on Nigerians, especially members of the civil society, the academia and the executive arm of government to give the current House leadership the necessary support and encouragement to succeed since they have demonstrated sufficient intentions to make the lives of Nigerians better and the society a better place.

**T**HE Offa community in the Offa Local Government Area of Kwara State will today honour former military President of Nigeria, General Ibrahim Babangida, and 64 others for their contributions to the development of the town.

Other personalities to be honoured are Olofa of Offa, Oba Mufutau Gbadamosi; Professor Jamiu Oyawoye; Chief Emmanuel Adesoye; Dr Tunji Olagunju and Dr. J.D Soleye, as well as other sons and daughters of the community.

The presentation of

■ Adekunle JIMOH, ■

Ilorin

awards and certificates to deserving personalities is part of activities marking the 20th anniversary of the creation of the local government,

the chairman, organising committee of the event, Hon Hassan Oyeleke, has said.

This is the climax of the week-long celebration of the council's 20th anniversary.

Hon Oyeleke, a member of the Kwara State House of Assembly on the

platform of the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN), said: "We also want to use the occasion to showcase our spirit of self-development effort to address some pressing needs of our people."

He further said: "By this appreciation, we wish to show in our own little way, which is in consonance with our core value, that Offa community places high premium on good deeds.

It is also for others to know that one of the greatest values of Offa people is the unconditional love for

**Ibadan flood:  
Akani Aluko  
commiserates  
with Oyo govt,  
Olubadan**

THE Chairman and Publisher of the Third Eye Newspapers, Chief Akani Aluko, yesterday commiserated with the Oyo State Government and the Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Samuel Odugade I, over the Friday's flood disaster that killed over 100 people and destroyed property worth millions of naira.

He also condoled with the families of those who lost their lives in the massive flood disaster as well as those who suffered material losses.

In a statement made available to *The Nation* in Ibadan yesterday, Chief Aluko expressed sadness over the heavy loss of lives and property, and prayed the Almighty God to grant the families of the departed souls the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss.

He prayed God to comfort those who were on admission in various hospitals, wishing them speedy recovery.

Chief Aluko further urged the state government to come to the aid of the victims to alleviate their suffering as they urgently deserve not only the sympathy of every individual, particularly wealthy sons and daughters of Ibadanland, but also corporate organisations operating in the state capital.

The publisher also condemned in strong terms, the recent bombing of the United Nations House in Abuja by the members of the Boko Haram sect and urged the federal government to urgently arrange for a top level meeting with Northern elders and emirs to find a lasting solution to the menace of the group.

Chief Aluko called for the urgent over-hauling of all the security agencies in the country to prevent the insecurity situation as Nigerians could no longer sleep with their eyes closed.

## Group tasks Tambuwal, Ihedioha on House image

■ Augustine AVWODE ■

**A**civil society group, Projekthope, has tasked the leadership of the House of Representatives to transform its legislative agenda into reality, so as to redeem its image.

In a statement by its co-ordinator, Steve Aborishade, Projekthope, while commanding Speaker of the House, Hon. Aminu Tambuwal, and his Deputy, Hon. Emeka Ihedioha, for the vision they showed in fashioning out a legislative agenda to guide and benchmark the work of the seventh session of the House of Representatives, stressed that challenges facing the country require

the town.

"The celebration is also aimed at stimulating more contributions from our friends, sons and daughters by way of endowment of specific projects to be named after donors. We have identified some critical areas that need urgent attention.

"They include the provision of water and t r a n s f o r m e r s ; improvement of some basic health centres; completion of the Offa Descendants' Union secretariat, among other projects."

**In The Federal High Court Of Nigeria  
Holden At Lagos**

Suit No. FHC/CS/L/1033/2011  
**In The Matter Of**  
**The Companies & Allied matters Act Cap C20 LFN 2004 (CAMA)**  
**And**  
**In The Matter Of An Application Under Section 539 CAMA**  
**And**  
**In Re: FinBank Plc**

## **Meeting of the Registered Holders of the Issued and Fully Paid Ordinary Shares of FinBank Plc.**

**Notice Is Hereby Given** that by an order of the Federal High Court, sitting at Lagos (hereinafter called "the Court") dated 1 September 2011 made in the above matter, the Court has directed that a meeting (the "Meeting") of the holders of the fully paid up ordinary shares of FinBank Plc. (hereinafter called "the Bank") be convened for the purpose of considering and if thought fit, approving (with or without modification) a scheme of arrangement (the "Scheme") between the Bank and the holders of its fully paid ordinary shares. The Scheme is explained in detail in the Explanatory Statement on Pages 16 to 25 of the Scheme Document.

The Meeting will be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2011 at This Day Dome, Plot 702, Ahmadu Bello Way, Central Business District Abuja at 1pm at which place and time all the aforesaid shareholders are requested to attend.

Copies of the Scheme and the Explanatory Statement required to be furnished pursuant to Section 539 and 540 of CAMA are enclosed herewith.

At the meeting, the following resolutions will be proposed and if thought fit passed as special resolutions of the company:

- (1) *That the issued share capital of the Bank be and is hereby reduced from N8,360,599,735(Eight Billion, Three Hundred and Sixty Million, Five Hundred and Ninety Nine Thousand, Seven hundred and Thirty Five Naira) to 0 (zero) by the cancellation of 16,721,199,469(Sixteen Billion, Seven Hundred and Twenty One Million, One Hundred and Ninety Nine Thousand, Four Hundred and Sixty Nine) issued and fully paid ordinary shares of the Bank, in consideration of which the Shareholders shall receive cash or be issued, allotted and credited as fully paid, ordinary shares in the share capital of First City Monument Bank Plc.*
- (2) *That the unissued share capital of the Bank comprising 4,278,800,531 (Four Billion, Two Hundred And Seventy Eight Million, Eight Hundred Thousand, Five Hundred And Thirty One) ordinary shares of 50kobo each be and is hereby issued and allotted to Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) in consideration for the injection by AMCON of such amount of bonds required to take the Bank to a net asset value of zero.*
- (3) *That the 4,000,000,000 (Four Billion) unissued preference shares in the share capital of the Bank be and are hereby cancelled.*
- (4) *That the Board of Directors of the Bank be and are hereby authorised to consent to any modifications of this Scheme of Arrangement that the Court shall think fit to impose and approve.*
- (5) *That the Board of Directors of the Bank be and is hereby authorised to take necessary actions to put this Scheme of Arrangement into effect.*

By the said Order, the Court has appointed the Chairman of the Bank, Dr. Theo Chike Osanakpo (SAN) or failing him Mrs Suzanne Iroche, the Managing Director of the Bank, or failing them both any other director appointed in their stead by the shareholders present at the meeting to act as Chairman of the said meeting and has directed the Chairman to report the results thereof to the Court. Voting at the meeting will be by poll.

Shareholders may vote in person or they may appoint another person, whether a shareholder or not to attend and vote in their stead.

A form of proxy is being sent to each shareholder. In the case of joint shareholders, the vote of the senior holder who tenders a vote, whether in person or by proxy, will be accepted to the exclusion of the votes of the other joint holders, and for this purpose seniority will be determined by the order in which the names stand on the register of members of the Bank.

It is requested that the executed Proxy Form be lodged at the office of the Company Secretary, as shown on the Proxy Form, not less than 24 hours before the time appointed for the Court-Ordered Meeting.

Please note that the lodging of a Proxy Form does not prevent you from attending the meeting and voting in person should you so wish. However, in such instances, your proxy will not be entitled to attend or vote.

The Scheme of Arrangement will be subject to the subsequent approval of the Court.

### **Closure Of Register Of Members**

**The register of members will be closed on September 19, 2011 for the purpose of attendance at the court-ordered meeting.**

Dated this 1<sup>st</sup> day of September 2011

**Olaniwun Ajayi LP**  
 Plot L2, 401 Close  
 Banana Island, Ikoyi  
 Lagos

**Kola Awodein & Co**  
 6<sup>th</sup> Floor UBA House  
 57 Marina  
 Lagos

**George Etomi And Partners**  
 1BTiramiyu Belo Osagie Street  
 Parkview Estate, Ikoyi  
 Lagos



## Saturday Flakes

with  
Vincent Akanmode  
SMS 08077536312  
vincentakanmode@yahoo.com

**F**EW things can be as disheartening as the realisation that our good President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan's 100 days in office is coming at a time the nation is undergoing one of its lowest moments. An explosion that killed no fewer than 22 people at the United Nations House in the nation's capital city, Abuja, penultimate Friday coincided with the flood of sorrow that caused the untimely death of no fewer than 102 people in Ibadan, Oyo State and left thousands of other residents homeless. The twin tragedies will most likely rob Jonathan's political associates, friends, admirers and well-wishers the chance to roll out the drums in wild celebration of his numerous achievements when he marks his first 100 days in office on Tuesday.

Like I pointed out in a piece I wrote as a columnist on the back page of *Saturday Punch* on July 24 last year, the idea of celebrating 100 days in office did not originate in Nigeria. It is actually traced to the days of former French emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte. Specifically, it refers to the 100 days between March 20 and June 28, 1815, during which Napoleon recaptured power after escaping from the island of Elba in Italy, where he had been on exile. Since then, 100 days had been considered a period long enough for any administration to set its agenda and lay the foundation for accomplishing it.

But like other things that originate elsewhere only to find their full expression in our coun-

# A plea for security as Jonathan clocks 100 days in office

try, the 100 -day game became a culture exploited by favour-seeking Nigerians to worm their ways into the hearts of public office holders. Hence, rather than being a moment for sober projection, favour seekers in Nigeria have turned it into a session of fanfare accompanied with a flurry of newspaper, radio and television adverts that congratulate the office holder, not necessarily for setting any remarkable agenda or laying a worthwhile foundation, but for just occupying the office for that number of days.

In the case of President Jonathan, however, his admirers, associates, friends and hangers-on will have more than enough reason to justify their action if they decide to close their eyes to the tragic events around the nation and roll out the drums in wild celebration on Tuesday. I had not imagined the numerous achievements the President had recorded since he was inaugurated on May 29 until a lorry load of them was reported by a national newspaper last Sunday to have been rolled out by his spokesman.

“  
**As Jonathan marks his first 100 days in office, Nigerians are looking forward to an administration that will rise above cosmetic achievements and guarantee the security of citizens**  
”

Dr. Reuben Abati, whose vices are known never to include undue trivial claims, reportedly identified Jonathan's ability to convince the Minister of Finance, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, to leave his duty post as a Managing Director in the World Bank to come to Nigeria for a cabinet appointment as one of the President's achievements. Somehow, the massive achievement that inheres in inviting a World Bank official to serve her fatherland was lost on Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo who was the first to do so between 1999 and 2003 when he held sway as President. He made no show of it and left Jonathan to take the glory more than eight years after.

And by way of flaunting this achievement, Jonathan has since constituted an economic management team headed by the World Bank returnee who triples as the Chairman of Nigeria Bulk Electricity Trading Plc.

It is also no mean achievement that within 100 days, the President has hosted two world leaders, namely, the British Prime Minister, David Cameron, and the German Chancellor, Dr. Angela Merkel. It did not matter that Cameron visited the country at a time Jonathan had literally conceded a part of the North East and was also at the verge of conceding the Federal Capital to the terrorist group called Boko Haram. In fact, a lot of people believed it was for fear of insecurity at the nation's capital city where the Force Headquarters had just been bombed, that Jonathan had to travel to Lagos to receive Cameron instead of the latter going to Abuja to meet him. Although Abati dismissed the claim as both unreasonable and illogical given that Cameron had an assignment to perform in Lagos, penultimate Friday's bombing of the UN House at the Federal Capital would seem to lend credence to the position of those who claimed that Jonathan left Abuja to receive Cameron in

Lagos in order to avoid international embarrassment.

Unfortunately, that was what the nation got from the bombing of the UN House. While the nation smarts from the deadly blow, it also constitutes a reminder to Jonathan on how seriously his administration needs to take the issue of security. The most critical duty of any responsible government is to protect the lives and property of its citizens without which there will be a breakdown of law and order. The result will be a return to Thomas Hobbes' state of nature, where life is solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short.

The breakthrough that has been recorded in the search for the brains behind the attack on UN House since our security outfits were joined by the CIA, the FBI and other international security outfits points to how grossly defective our security and intelligence networks are. The discovery that the suspects are Nigerians with strong links with the international terrorism group, al-Qaeda, is an indication how well we had underestimated the strength of the group that has turned the nation into Armageddon.

We thought we had all the clues when in actual fact we were clueless. We dignified a set of criminals from the pit of hell by calling them Muslim fundamentalists. Now we know that they are nothing but terrorists of the most pernicious breed, as deadly as Osama bin Laden and his gang of murderers and probably even less humane. Rather than look out for heartless offspring of Lucifer, we were busy combing the community of innocent Muslims whose daily lives are guided by the teachings of Allah.

As Jonathan marks his first 100 days in office, Nigerians are looking forward to an administration that will rise above cosmetic achievements and guarantee the security of citizens.

## A President and his clustered desk

**C**ERTAINLY, this is not the best of times to be the President of Africa's sleeping giant. This writer does not know if President Goodluck Jonathan shares the same view but it is clear that the Aso Villa presidential desk should by now, be filled with files demanding the urgent attention of the Otuoke-born zoologist. As days pass by, the challenges are getting tougher for a President who breezed into power through an amazing run of good luck. If luck were all that is needed to set Nigeria on the path of development that has eluded it for so many years, the Jonathan presidency would not be battling with the cocktail of crises assailing it today. Now, it appears that that burst of luck has run its full course while reality is knocking hard on the presidential door. The hour of reckoning is here, no doubt. History cannot be blind to what Jonathan makes of the golden opportunity that providence has thrust on his laps.

Although the President had, at a meeting with some visiting Yoruba elders, asked for a year's grace before an assessment of his performance could be made, the jerky and unconvincing steps taken in the past four months should be a matter of real concern for those that genuinely want him to succeed. By this, I do not refer to the political jobbers who surround him daily, telling him what he wants to hear and massaging his ego despite his much talked about humility. At times like this, it would do Jonathan a world of good to take a dispassionate look at the comments posted on his *Facebook* wall by his young friends in the aftermath of the suicide bomb attack on the United Nations building in Abuja.

To my mind, the comments, though mostly biting and sometimes superfluous, are reflective of the frustrations and anger many have expressed over the seeming inability of the President to provide leadership when it is required. Indeed, they may have cause to wonder: why did it take our President so much time to react to the unfortunate bombing incident at the UN building? Why couldn't he possibly consider a humanitarian touch such as a visit to the hospitalized victims? When the President's friends, those who braved the odds to ensure his victory, start casting doubts on his capacity to act decisively, then it should be evident that it is time for some thorough presidential soul-searching.

Generally, Nigerians are getting tired of the lame excuses that their President often adduces to justify the country's gradual descent into a terrorist nation. They do not understand why he should be the one rationalizing why bombs, lawlessness and unmitigated violence have become the order of the day in our society. Because the buck stops at his table, they do not think this President is sufficiently angry or courageous enough to rein in those whose sole intention is to install a reign of anarchy on the land. They do not understand why he continues to paint a picture of helplessness each time these agents of darkness carry out one national assault after the other. They wonder whether he has truly reflected on the danger this poses not only to his presidency but also to his transformation agenda whose success is dependent on a peaceful and secure envi-

ronment. They believe the brazen mugging would continue for as long as the perpetrators of the heinous acts perceive the man at the helm of affairs as a weakling - rightly or wrongly. All they ask of their President is simple: let him act presidential, walk his tough talk and convince the people that he is actually on top of the situation!

A president's word should be his creed, right? In our own case, a shadow of doubt hangs over our President's pronouncements especially as they relate to security matters. When Jonathan first made the public announcement in October 2010 that he was on top of the ignoble perfidy and that the perpetrators were within the radar of security agencies, most Nigerians heaved a sigh of relief. Yet, many doubted him when he prematurely exonerated the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) from the twin bomb blasts that put a huge dent on the country's 50<sup>th</sup> independence anniversary on October 1, 2010. They all waited, with bated breath, for the unmasking of the brains behind the national shame. Many months after, nothing concrete has been done to unravel the mystery beyond the shambolic arraignment of some 'suspects' in an Abuja court. Till date, no one is sure whether MEND was truly behind the crime or some other nebulous groups hiding under the name of MEND.

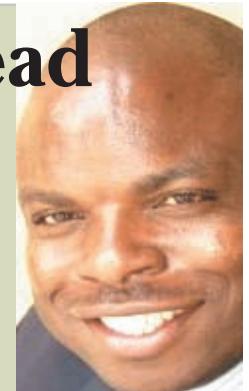
It did not take long before the dark images of our arrested independence anniversary paled into insignificance as another terror was visited on the nation's political capital two months later, precisely on December 31, 2010 at the relaxation spot located in the popular Mogadishu Barracks, Abuja. Then came the bomb blast in Suleja on April 8, 2011 where scores of ex-National Youth Service Corps members on election duties were killed. There was the April 26, 2011 bomb blast in Maiduguri; the April 29 bomb blast at an Army base in Bauchi and the sole blast in Zuba, a suburb of Abuja on the same date. Yet there was further spectacular assault on our nationhood, before the latest attack on the UN building, when the purveyors of death carried out a devastating suicide bombing attack on the Louis Edet House headquarters of the Nigerian Police Force in Abuja.

When the national police headquarters was attacked, the wailing public had expected nothing short of a swift response from the security agencies not just because the attack was carried out in Asokoro district of Abuja, Nigeria's literal seat of power, but also because it called into question the capacity of the authorities to protect its citizens. By the time Jonathan visited the scene and made his verdict on the attack public, it was clear to most discerning minds then that those at the helm of affairs were yet to grasp the enormity of the problem in their hands. Where they had expected to see an angry Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces sending his men after the assailants for breaching national security and frustrating his transformation agenda, what they got was a nation's chief security officer rationalizing the attack and probably giving his security apparatchiks a breather of a space. He, patronizingly, said that terrorism is a global phenomenon and that "all over the world, nobody is free. This terrorist act should not be viewed as an attack on the police, but on the entire nation. Everybody is a target when it comes to terrorist attacks." End of story!

## Knucklehead

With  
**Yomi  
Odunuga**

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Should we then clasp our hands in total submission to 'the will of God' and allow terrorists to take over? Definitely not. And that is where the President got it all wrong. Terrorism may be a global issue but business-like leaders are doing everything possible to curtail it. In those climes, these leaders are hardly seen putting up cameo appearances on prime time television in a futile attempt to downplay the glaring incompetence of those entrusted with the security of lives and properties. When such attacks happened, and they have in many places, the leaders roll up their sleeves and get serious about nipping them in the bud at the early stages. Knowing that security challenges are predominantly won at the intelligence level, such leaders spread their intelligence dragnet after suspected assailants. Sadly, no one is sure if that is what we are seeing here, judging from the President's dour and uninspiring pronouncement when he visited the ruins that once was the UN headquarters in Abuja.

In spite of the contrary view of the general public that his government has lost grip of the unfolding tragedy, the President said he was "on top of the situation", adding that: "terrorist attack on any individual or any group is a terrorist attack to the rest of the world. It is not just about the UN office in Nigeria."

Of course, the latest gibberish has been greeted with condemnations by public commentators, including the President's friends. The reasons for this are not farfetched. How can anyone believe that the Nigerian government is on top of a situation that continues to aggravate by the day? How long will it take for the President to realise that there is a world of difference between politics and policy? When will he be the leader that everyone expects him to be? When will he begin to display that strong character of purpose that will convince us that he is truly committed to doing things differently? With a clustered desk brimming with piles of memos on the Boko Haram menace, unresolved bombings, the resurgence of Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), arguments over fuel subsidy, minimum wage, health bill, six-year single term proposed bill, depleting foreign reserve, growing foreign debt and poor security network; it would be double jeopardy should the President keep on with the delusion of being on top of the situation. Truth is: no one believes him whenever he sings that song to the public. It is a tasteless song without any rhyme or rhythm. Jonathan should retrace his dancing steps before he finds himself being the lone dancer in the market square. It is not too late to do that. But will he?

**T**HE bomb blast at the UN office in Abuja that killed 20 people and injured several more, puts Nigeria squarely in the dark company of terrorist states that the international community can earnestly ask their citizens to avoid as much as possible for business or tourism. That surely must bother not only the Federal Government of Nigeria but two key ministers in foreign affairs and tourism who were busy at their normal chores whilst the terrorists struck at Nigeria's global image as a peace loving nation when they killed innocent diplomats working in our country on that day infamy for the Nigerian nation. Reportedly, Edem Duke the outgoing Minister of Tourism and Commerce was at the Osun Festival in Osun state promoting Nigerian culture while his foreign affairs counterpart Ambassador Gbenga Ashiru was announcing Nigeria's new foreign policy of 'consensus' aimed at providing leadership by example in making a donation of 2m dollars to famine ravaged Ethiopia at the end of a just ended donors conference.

Undoubtedly, both ministers have put their hands to the plough in burnishing Nigeria's corporate image as a credible and responsible member of the international community. But I am sure that they will be the first to admit that they face an uphill task given the security implications of the UN office bombing in Abuja recently. Yet this sort of international image decay and withering requires very strong doses of diplomatic vibrancy, overtures and innovations; as well as local confidence building strategies to make Nigerian citizens at home and abroad feel proud to say, as the ancient Romans used to say so proudly anywhere in their ancient world, that they are citizens of Rome.

Nigerians should be made proud to say that they are Nigerian citizens and that should be the image laundry objectives of the two new Ministers of Tourism and Commerce and Foreign Affairs in the wake of the assault of terrorists on our nation's image as a result of the bombing of the UN office in Abuja.

Having said that there is need to look at the underlying causes of global terrorism which has now enveloped Nigeria in spite of our best if inadequate efforts to avoid it, and the use of intelligence and economic management in curtailing and controlling the monster of terrorism.

I will discuss today the directive of the Nigerian government for our local security agencies to cooperate with the US FBI on the UN bombing as well as the Conference in Paris in France by Friends of Libya. This conference has 60 nations in attendance trying to find a way to help the new National Transitional Council in Libya after Libyans celebrated their first Eid - El - Fitr in 42 years without their dreaded leader Muammar Gaddafi, who called them rats and dogs for daring to rise against him - but who has now disappeared like a real mega rat into the dustbin of history in Tripoli.

I will also examine the import of the appointment of the most successful US general of our time for an intelli-



... or wave BYE-BYE to the RULE OF LAW.

## Image, security and the economy

**Global Economy and Politics**

With **Dayo Sobowale**

Tel: 08022467644 (SMS Only)

gence assignment as well as the grim conclusions of an article in the *New York Times* on the economic management skills of the Obama Administration in the US.

There is no denying that the security agencies in Nigeria are peeved by the reported presidential order to cooperate with the FBI on the Abuja UN bombing. But really they should count themselves lucky that aside from the normally calm president announcing his anger in the same calm manner, they have not been given the boot as would have been the case in any other nation that respects public opinion.

My advice is that they should cooperate with the FBI as the issues transcend sovereignty or territorial concerns and there is no humiliation in learning from a more exposed foreign institution even though our agencies know the terrain better. We can even learn from the post 9/11 investigations in the US which revealed that security agencies were hoarding information and intelligence from each other and that led to gaping loopholes exploited by the terrorists.

Our national security agencies should cooperate with any agency sent by the UN with the sole aim of preventing further terrorist acts or identifying the culprits for the bombings in the larger interest of the Nige-

rian nation.

This should be their approach instead of trying to go solo and claiming imagined but elusive laurels obviously beyond their competence so far, and at great cost to lives and property and the hitherto good image of the Nigerian nation.

The Paris Conference of the Friends of Libya last Thursday had French President Nicolas Sarkozy and British PM David Cameron as Co Chairmen and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in attendance with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. The first impression that the two former colonial masters have created is that they have learnt from

their Iraqi Invasion experience when they ignored the political differences of the liberated Iraqi leaders leading to murderous sectarian explosions and killings which almost made the invasion counterproductive but for the fact that it sowed the seed of democracy in the Middle East when other Arabs saw Iraqis voting in democratic elections in spite of the threat and presence of suicide bombers.

Although some have echoed the usual refrain and conspiracy theory that French oil companies have signed a deal with members of the Libya NTC to give one third of Libya's oil to France there is no denying that the conference

**There is no denying that the security agencies in Nigeria are peeved by the reported presidential order to cooperate with the FBI on the Abuja UN bombing. But really they should count themselves lucky that aside from the normally calm president announcing his anger in the same calm manner, they have not been given the boot as would have been the case in any other nation that respects public opinion**

and the defreezing of Libya's assets owned by the Gaddafi family is a step in the right direction in making governance in post Gaddafi Libya less tedious and violence prone for the new, green governors of Libya who have had no experience in government and its running which have been seized and run personally by the Gaddafi family for the past 42 years.

A retirement party was held this week in the US for General David Petraeus the former military commander of US forces in Afghanistan. Before this Petraeus used his peculiar talent of fighting counterinsurgency and lowering the death toll in Iraq when he was in charge as US Commander.

He later used what was called the surge which means more troops to change the tide of war in both wars he fought in. Now he has retired after 37 years in the military and has been compared to great US battle victors like Grant, Pershing Marshal and Eisenhower. However it is his new job that fascinates me as the Director of the CIA. To me that shows the importance the Obama administration attaches to intelligence in retiring one of its brightest and efficient military officers and putting him in charge of the CIA at this point in time. Although Petraeus was reported as saying at his army farewell parade that the Obama administration should not cut defence budgets, the new CIA director's assignment is to make the US safe by providing timely data and intelligence that marks out terrorists before the strike—and it is a task to which he brings remarkable credentials from his success in the field as an army commander who conquered counterinsurgency which happens to be the in thing in global terrorism right now.

Lastly, I read an article in the *New York Times* titled 'Dr

King Weeps from his grave' by Cornel West on August 26 which portrayed the Obama administration in very poor light given the way it has handled the US economy. Cornel wrote on the 48 years anniversary of Martin Luther King's March on Washington for freedom and jobs. To Cornel, the situation that led to King's March 48 years ago has not changed even with the election of Obama which he acknowledged was an undeniable success of the civil rights movement. According to Cornel – 'the age of Obama has tragically fallen short of fulfilling King's prophetic legacy. Instead of articulating a radical democratic vision and fighting for homeowners, workers and poor people in the form of mortgage relief, jobs and investment in education, infrastructure and housing, the administration gave us bailout for banks, record profits for Wall Street and giant budget cuts on the backs of the vulnerable.'

Cornel then went on to conclude rather ominously that – 'Like King we need to put on our cemetery clothes and be coffin ready for the next great democratic battle' – which of course is the 2012 US Presidential elections.

Whilst I do not share Cornel's disappointment and bitterness on Obama's economic management's skills or record I cannot but agree on the genuineness of his grievances. As well as the fact that the first black President in US history needs urgently to mend fences with his core constituency—the blacks in the US - or face a difficult reelection bid in 2012.

We apologise for the error of omitting the Murtala Obasanjo Administration in the introduction of the presidential system of government in Nigeria as pointed out by some readers and giving the honor only to the first military president of Nigeria IBB. The error is regretted.

—Editor's note

## Reactions to Knucklehead

### Re: The terrorists within

• I don't know that in the United Kingdom, there are area boys looking for opportunities to loot people's business. We thought that all was well in the UK but, with the recent unrest in England, we discovered that there is hunger in the Queen's land. Kudos to the London police for the manner in which they handled the rioters, paying special attention to the protection of life. Our police should emulate them. In Nigeria, the police would have found it difficult controlling a situation like that without killing innocent souls.

—Chika Nnorom, Abia State, 07089988238

• Good job Yomi. It was nice reading your brilliant article titled 'The terrorists within'. I thought I was alone in my alarm at the looming catastrophe.

—Pet Mmonu, Port Harcourt, 08083525724

• Today, it is the United Kingdom that erupted in violence and mayhem a-la-unemployment and frustration. Nobody knows where is next. However, the Nigerian government and leaders should plan and execute projects that will help the citizens out of frustration. If violent protest could occur in a place with adequate infrastructure and data; then what is Nigeria's fate? Leaders should learn fast by adequately providing jobs, shun corruption and improve amenities. The terror-

ists within Nigeria can be suppressed if our leaders are disciplined.

—Lanre Oseni, 08023023745

• Knucklehead, still on 'The terrorists within', what happened in England will be child's play should Nigeria's abandoned youths decide to revolt against the system. We are sitting on a keg of gun powder.

—07053507490

• Yomi, discipline my foot. In the UK, it is the freedom and liberty to their children that permit them to challenge their corrupt elected officials. In Nigeria, we are 'over disciplined' such that we even fear our shadows!

—Prince Adako, 08088161850

• Yomi, the British Prime minister is just receiving the backlash of what he preaches. Few months back, Mr. Cameron flew into Tahrir Square in Cairo in support of the youths rioting, calling for the end of the Mubarak regime in flagrant disregard for the consequence of advocating youth violence. Now, who is the terrorist within? Mr. Cameron or the frustrated jobless British youths?

—Abdullah Ibrahim, Kano, 08058545666



• Ringim

Yomi, many things are happening around our world which our leaders ought to have learnt a lesson or two from. But, in their folly, such occurrences, they presume, can never happen in Nigeria

If you ask me the government has failed the youths in education and employment. The worse is when you try to get a small business started, they will frustrate you with hire tax policies and pounce on you with their own job creation maloriented agents who are simply interested in what their will extort and share among themselves. May God save us from insensitive leaders.

—Don Ezeala (Port Harcourt), 08064843000

• Yomi, many things are happening around our world which our leaders ought to have learnt a lesson or two from. But, in their folly, such occurrences, they presume, can never happen in Nigeria. They believe we are lily-livered. In their shallow thoughts, Nigerians want to go to heaven yet afraid to die. They have forgotten we are the most resilient, the most dogged and probably the most obstinate species of the many species on the African continent. Education in Nigeria has become bastardised more than ever before. Our universities turn out so many yet very negligible percentage is catered for, job wise, by the Nigerian system. Have you really bother to ask who are the armed robbers, internet scammers and 419ers in Nigeria?

—08073914104

are getting richer through corruption while the poor are getting poorer through deprivation. The middle class which the low cadre aspire to in the past has been wiped out. The truth is that an impending revolution is looming in Nigeria. We are sowing its seeds right now and I foresee 2014 as the year of internal implosion. Mark my words. I'm not a prophet!

—Barr. Ayo Olalere, Apete, Ibadan, 08058517680

### Re: Privatisation, OBJ and this abused nation

• Nasir el-Rufai appeared honorable to me until after this probe started. If you are dissatisfied with your condition of service as an expert, you pack your bag and go. More so this never-ending probe stories have to stop

• I think the privatisation policy of Obasanjo's era could best be described as OBASANJOZATIO. But let us not forget that the era of obasanjoism also witnessed some positives. It is safe to say that the rift between OBJ and IBB tells the story of John the Baptist masquerading as the Messiah.

—Ehimare, 08076823815

Dear Yomi, that was a great piece. But note what Dyson (1967) said: To laugh at the terrors of life (Nigeria) is a sensible way to escape them. I fear for your life. Please stop being so passionate about leadership insanity in Nigeria. Our glorious future was in the past. Remember we have been told that by 2015 there



• Obasanjo

may not be Nigeria again. So do not induce on yourself high blood pressure before time.

—08151961464

• My candid opinion is this: I think the two of them are beginning to get haunted by the blood of innocent Nigerians that had been killed through their actions or inactions and they will never rest until they pay for all the injuries they had, and are still causing Nigerians. Odunuga, more ink to your pen.

—Engr Habib Ogundele Oseni, Agbado, Ogun state, 08024032505

• Thank you Mr. Odunuga for your write up on 'Privatisation, OBJ & this abused Nation.' I know what

Everyone of them is a crook. Remember Buhari and the 53 suit cases? How about IBB with his entrenchment of corruption in our body polity? How can we forget his criminal annulment of June 12, 1993 elections? Then came Abacha with his over-sized goggles. His obsession with wealth acquisition is better imagined than described. Next came 'messiah' Olusegun Obasanjo. For eight years that he was president, he committed a whopping N16bn to the power sector, yet all we have gotten is darkness. Nigeria's apostle of do-or-die politics handling of the privatization policy of his government shouldn't be a surprise. Before now, the Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) programme to which millions of naira was sunk between 1976 and 1979 metamorphosed into Obasanjo Farms Nigeria Limited (OFNL). All they care about is money and more money. What does it matter if all the currencies in the world become one and everything theirs. Do we have to remind them that vanity upon vanity, all is vanity? They have eaten more than they can swallow, they must surely vomit. It's only a matter of time.

—Remi Adesina, Ibadan, 08073914104

• Yomi, for the many atrocities committed against the Nigerian nation and her people by the self-styled military president, OBJ did not see any reason for his prosecution. Despite the grave allegations against the IBB regime by the mayor of Ota and the 'kingmaker of owu' himself in the interviews granted the press and submissions made at other fora, the man (IBB) who institutionalized corruption in Nigeria remained a saint to OBJ's regime until greed and lust for power tore them apart. Let them fight if they must. At least, the main bowl of the Abuja National Stadium should be big enough to stage the bout between them.

...Remi Adesina (08073914104)

—Odusola, 08033509122

• End of the story is OBJ is loved by Naija.

—08169858193

• Nasir el-Rufai appeared honorable to me until after this probe started. If you are dissatisfied with your condition of service as an expert, you pack your bag and go. More so this never-ending probe stories have to stop

—Ismael Odulana, Lagos

• It is quite unfortunate for this nation. One only hopes that, one day, we will redeem ourselves. God almighty has done enough for this nation. 200 mineral resources for Nigeria alone, 60 commercially viable mineral resources for only Nigeria, expansive unexplored land, fertile soils and a good population for any market also in Nigeria. Corruption, indiscipline and squandermania disease—who will bail us out?

—Lanre Oseni (Lagos), 08023023745

**My greatest regret**  
—Nse Ikpe-Etim



**IBADAN FLOOD**  
Where do I start life from? Asks Ganiyat Hussein, revenue collector who lost all



FEATURE/16

I had my only child when I was 40 and she died at age six

School proprietress relives life at 60

Social Scene 41

*Saturday*

# SPECIAL

\* Magazine \* Personality \* Life & Style \* Entertainment \* Romance



**Saved by mother luck**  
• Stories of UN House blast survivors





# Abuja UN House blast survivors recount ordeal

The 26 August terrorist attack on the United Nations Building in Abuja left in its wake not fewer than 23 persons dead and over 80 others injured. A week after the unfortunate incident, our correspondents paid a visit to the National Hospital where most of those affected were admitted for medical attention.

Stories of near-misses and providential escape still abound. A UN staff, for instance, was said to have escaped the deadly blast because he was unable to go back to his office when he met a visitor in the lift who kept him waiting for over one hour. His unconscious decision saved his life. A driver with the UN office said that he was saved because his principal sent him on an errand. He said he was already at the adjoining bridge leading to the UN complex when the blast took place.

But a young lady who was said to have gone to the complex to collect materials for her thesis was not that lucky. She was caught up in the blast and badly injured. You won't believe it, her parents are said to have paid \$50,000 to charter an air ambulance to fly the girl to South Africa.

Adanu Mgbede, an indigene of Benue State, and Ante Ebiefie from Akwa Ibom State, were affected by the August 26 bomb assault at the United Nations House, Abuja. They are still recuperating at the National Hospital where they were taken to after the incident. In this brief interview, Mgbede, a police detective attached to the UN complex and Ebiefie, a UN staff are recuperating while doctors and nurses attend to their injuries.

Mgbede and Ebiefie spoke to ONYEDI OJIABOR, JIDE BABALOLA and VICTOR OLUWASEGUN



## I'm eager to go back to work

- Adanu Mgbede, injured police detective

**H**OW do you feel? I'm getting better by the grace of God.

**A**re you a UN staff?

I'm a policeman and I work with the State Intelligence Bureau (SIB). I'm attached to work at the UN complex. I believe it is going to be well with me because I did not commit any crime. I was attached to work at the

UN complex to serve my fatherland. I believe it is going to be okay with me. I will not die. With the condition I find myself, I believe I'm going to be okay very soon. I thank God Almighty for everything.

**A**re you married?

I'm married with children. I have a little baby, so I don't want the mother to be with me in this hospital with the

little baby. I have other two brothers who take care of me in the hospital. Whenever we have people who come to visit us, my brothers go outside to wait after they will come in when the visitors leave. I don't want my little baby to be here because the baby may be exposed to danger like sickness. That is why my wife is not here.

**W**hen you are discharged, I hope

# When we heard the explosion, we thought it was a lift failure

– Ante Ebiefie,  
WHO employee



•Ante Ebiefie

**C**AN you recall what actually happened to you on August 26? Well I might really not be able to give you the full details because I just woke up to find myself in this hospital after the blast.

**But how do you feel right now?**

I'm getting better.

**Are you married?**

Yes I'm married with children.

**What was the last thing you recalled before you found yourself in this hospital?**

Actually, we were having a meeting on the first floor. We heard a bang; it was not all that loud. We even thought that it was

**you will still continue with your job despite what you have gone through?**

Haba, God is in charge of life! God said that I should go and work so as to serve my country and humanity. My mind is even at my workplace even as I stay in this hospital. Immediately I'm discharged, I will go back to my work. I think of my work, even as I'm in this place. Nothing can stop me from serving my fatherland to the best of my ability.

**I hope they are looking after you properly in the hospital?**

They are trying, I'm getting well.

**Can you recall how you were caught up in the blast?**

I cannot say much now because I did not know how I was brought here.

**Actually, we were having a meeting on the first floor. We heard a bang; it was not all that loud. We even thought that it was a lift failure. After that, I cannot recollect any thing else but I found myself in this hospital**

a lift failure. After that, I cannot recollect any thing else but I found myself in this hospital. Maybe it was the bomb blast that brought the things on us and all that.

**You must have passed out?**

I believe so, I should think so.

**After your treatment will, you still go back to work considering the rising activities of those behind the blast?**

For sure I will go back. We are serving humanity. That is what some of us chose to do to serve humanity. I will go back to work; we have to continue to serve.

**Lami Ahmed is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor, District 404A Lions Club Nigeria. Our Correspondents ONYEDI OJIABOR and VICTOR OLWASEGUN caught up with her at the National Hospital Abuja on Thursday when she, in company with other leaders of the humanitarian organisations, came to sympathise with those affected by the blast.**

**It's disheartening to think that Nigeria can come to this level**

–Lami Ahmed, Lions Club chief

**M**EMBERS of the Lions Club are here, what is the motivation?

We are here because we are lions and we give service. The reason why anywhere there is disaster or there is problem we go is because we want to serve. We want to make a difference in our community. Therefore when we heard about the issue of the UN House bombing, we quickly rose to the challenge by the call from the National Hospital for us to donate blood. About 16 members of the local Lions Club have donated blood so far. And when our District Governor heard it from Lagos, he also came even today to donate blood. So we are here because we have passion to serve and to sympathise with the victims of the UN bomb attack.

**You have seen some of the victims, what is your impression?**

It is disheartening to think that Nigeria can come to this level. We are known to be a loving people, a happy people. We have a culture of family tie to take care of our brothers and sisters. To feel that a fellow human being has done this to another is very sad, it is uncalled for.

**What do you advise the government to do to stem the tide of violence in the country?**

I believe that in any nation, there is no battle that has been won on the battle ground with guns and ammunition. What I encourage the Federal Government to do is to seek for peaceful resolution of the crisis. The search for peace must start from one party and government is a family, it is the head of the nation. Therefore if there are people who are aggrieved for one reason or the other, it may sound silly, it may be nonsensical by the interpretation of the larger majority but the Federal Government is our parent, father and mother. So, call those aggrieved to a round table so that there will be peace in the country. The Federal Government owes us the duty to ensure that we live peacefully.

**Are you satisfied with what the government is doing to tackle the problem?**

May be giving donation to the victims, we can do more. I want to see a more holistic way of tackling the problem to ensure that it doesn't happen again. Although problems happen here and there but I think we



•Lami Ahmed

**There is no battle that has been won on the battle ground with guns and ammunition. What I encourage the Federal Government to do is to seek for peaceful resolution of the crisis**

have the capacity to cut the excesses of this kind of threat to the nation. The Federal Government is trying, that is because it has happened. But they should stop the problem.

**Some of the victims have been flown to South Africa for medical attention. What does it say about the health facilities in the country?**

It shows as a nation endowed with all it takes, with human capacity and material resources, the government has failed us. That is it.

# 'How we survived the flood of sorrow'

**Hundreds of residents living along river banks in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, saw the shadow of death last Friday during the flooding of their homes. In an encounter with **BISI OLADELE**, a mother of four and a middle-aged bread winner narrated how they managed to cheat death on the fateful night**



•Elder Adekule's church and vicarage

**C**OLLAPSED houses, flooded household items and debris-ridden vegetation along river banks now welcome you to the

once lush and charming riversides in most parts of Ibadan. They do not just signify a sudden negative change, they also announce

the passing away of many residents who fell victim of the furious flood produced by a downpour penultimate Friday. As you marvel at the wanton destruction, grim

and sober faces around you also explain the anguish and pains of those who lost loved ones and those still nursing the wounds of the destruction of their property:

**'Our heart was in our mouth. We were so afraid because we were close to death'**



•Felix Ero

**W**HILE some lost household items, important documents and the like, some lost valuables including cars, factories and their entire means of livelihood.

A survivor in the area, Mr. Felix Ero, narrated how he narrowly escaped being flooded in the house on the fateful day. Ero, who has been living in the area for three years, recalled that he got home around 10:30pm on the day and went to bed after a few minutes. The father of three explained that he had slept off around 11:30pm when his wife suddenly woke him up and relayed to him how flood had entered the house.

"The rain had subsided as at the time I came in at about 10:30 pm that day. Then I went to bed shortly after. Suddenly, my wife came to wake me up around 11:30pm, saying water had entered the bedroom. As I woke up, I realised the flood had

reached my chin area. I asked them if they opened the tap but they said 'No'. I went straight to the door through which the flood was entering heavily. So I quickly woke up my children and found an exit. But the most surprising thing was that the door couldn't open because the flood had blocked it, as it was pressing it heavily from behind. Our heart was in our mouth. We were so afraid because we were close to death. Summoning courage, we tried to open the door forcefully by the grace of God. As I was pushing, my wife and children were also pushing until the door got opened.

"When the door was finally opened, my wife panicked so much that she could have caused something else because there is a drainage in front of the house. I was careful to ensure that we did not fall into

it as we found our way through the massive flood because that would have been the sudden end of anyone that fell into it.

"We just managed our escape through the flood, which was almost reaching the chest within the compound. I backed one of my daughters, carried one on my shoulder and carried my son on the other shoulder. I told my wife to hold me. We actually held each other. You know, the entire place was muddy. It was a sad experience!

"I also had to go back and rescue my landlady who is an elderly woman and her daughter. I mounted both of them on my back because the flood was so high that I swam in it at a stage. At the end, nobody was trapped in our house. We just have to thank God.

"But we lost everything – clothes, electronics, school and share certificates – the entire property. You can see that I am

**I backed one of my daughters, carried one on my shoulder and carried my son on the other shoulder. I told my wife to hold me. We actually held each other...I also had to go back and rescue my landlady who is an elderly woman and her daughter. I mounted both of them on my back**

still trying to salvage some of the items".

Ero said the loss was unquantifiable. He said he lost two cars to the flood.



•A scene of the flood

## 'How we saved a 102-yr-old woman and 15 kids'



•Mrs Olayiwola

**A**NOTHER victim, Elder Adeleye Adekunle, narrated how the flood almost trapped the entire members of the Celestial Church of Christ (CCC), Majemu Oluwa Parish, Oke Ayo. He said the flood sacked the church and destroyed all their items with those in the vicarage at a time they were preparing for a wedding slated for the following day.

Narrating the ordeal, he said: "The rain started around 5:30 pm. We did not expect that the flood would jump the fence. We were inside the church preparing for a wedding ceremony slated for Saturday. Unfortunately around 11pm, a church member called the



•Elder Adekunle

Shepherd in charge of the church, Prophet John Ogunmuyiwa, and told him that there was heavy flood at Odo Ona. So we woke everybody sleeping in the church.

"The surprising thing is that the flood grew so high within 10 minutes, entered the church and destroyed all our property including those in the vicarage. We were the ones who woke people up in this area, letting them know that heavy flood was here. Flood covered all the houses in the area within just 10 minutes. It was unbelievable! We had to carry all the children in our midst on our shoulder as we walked through the flood to

**There was this 102-year-old woman with us in the house that we had to move at once because she could not move in any brisk manner... She mourned the eight children that died in the house next to him, saying the children used to visit her and even share with her children. She described them as wonderful children**

the backside of the building where they were taken to the second street. That was 11:25pm. We just thank God that nobody died in the church but we lost a lot of property – a lot!"

However, the wife of the founder of a Cherubim and Sheraphim in Oke Ayo area of the city, Mrs Tomi Olayiwola, whose church was completely flooded and destroyed all items in the church and vicarage, said there are more reasons to thank God.

Mrs Olayiwola, a mother of four, narrated how the flood, which she said grew by the minute, and reached their knees before they realised that they were being trapped, said it

was better imagined than experienced. According to her, the church would have lost about 15 children, including hers, who were sleeping in the church and vicarage at the time of the incident.

Now accommodated in the relief camp set up by the Oyo State Government in the area with her four children and other dependants, Mrs Olayiwola recalled that they initially dared the flood as it has become a normal occurrence whenever it rains at the location. But as this one grew by the minute in a shocking manner, she said it was God that helped another member of the church to quickly think of evacuating all occupants from the building before it got disastrous.

Her words: "When the rain started in the evening, it did not make any different meaning to us because flood has become almost a normal thing with us there. We, however, saw later that the flood was growing gradually. We quickly thought about the safety of the many children that were with us and decided to move them out to a safe location within the neighbourhood.

"There was this 102-year-old woman with us in the house that we had to move at once because she could not move in any brisk manner. Thank God we escaped. By the time we returned, the entire church and vicarage had been submerged. All our belongings – dresses, furniture, electronics, musical instruments, kitchen utensils – all had been destroyed by the flood. It was a monumental loss for me and my family. I pray that nothing like that will ever happen again. It is something you won't wish for your enemy."

She mourned the eight children that died in the house next to him, saying the children used to visit her and even share with her children. She described them as wonderful children.

The victim appealed to well-meaning individuals to come to their aid as she lamented that she had no house to return to after leaving the camp. She also added that the dress on her and the children were supplied by kind-hearted neighbours who feared seeing her walking naked.

## IBADAN FLOOD



### Where do I start life from? Asks Ganiyat Hussein, revenue collector who lost all

**S**HE had mapped out her plans for life and was following them meticulously until that black Friday, August 26, 2011, when her dreams evaporated like smoke.

On that fateful night, Alhaja Ganiyat Hussein had already prepared to go to bed that when she noticed water gushing into the compound as a result of the rain that had started at about 4.30 pm. She kept vigil till early morning of Saturday as the heavy downpour refused to subside.

By then, the surging flood had found its way into the living room, threatening to push into the bedrooms. Thus began a moment of tears and sorrow not only for Alhaja Hussein, a revenue collector at the Ibadan South East Local Government who lives at Oke Ayo area of Ibadan West Local Government area of Oyo state, but also for hundreds of other residents who also witnessed the tragic flood that ravaged some parts of the ancient city last weekend.

Alhaja Hussein's major concern was the countless number of receipts and documents belonging to the council, with which revenue was collected for that weekend. Of course, she was grateful to God that her life was spared by the killer flood, how would she explain the disappearance of the documents? Will the authorities believe her explanation? How will she account for the monies whose receipts had been swept away by the flood? These and other concerns, including the loss of all the property she had laboured



■ Oseheye OKWUOFU, Ibadan ■

for, were the many questions bordering her mind.

She said: "As I am standing before you, there is nothing I can call my own. Everything is gone. In fact, where to lay my head when the night falls is a problem.

My dream is to work and eat from my sweat. Now, that sweat is no more."

She could not say much when she was asked about other things belonging to her, which were ravaged by the flood. She merely held up some soaked and discoloured documents, including a cheque book she said was dear to her heart.

"As I am standing before you, there is nothing I can call my own. Everything is gone. In fact, where to lay my head when the night falls is a problem. My dream is to work and eat from my sweat. Now, that sweat is no more,"

Beside her was an ocean of flood in which a vehicle and other items were trapped. "I don't know what to tell them (her bosses at the local government). Will they not think that I embezzled the council's funds? What will be my fate?" she lamented.

## IBADAN FLOOD

**T**HE perplexing situation in which residents of Odo-Ona, Apata in Ibadan found themselves provided an alibi for non-participation in the monthly sanitation exercise last Saturday. Rather, the residents were busy drying mattresses, clothes, plates, cushion chairs and many other items submerged after the downpour that left many parts of Ibadan flooded last weekend.

Among the residents badly hit by the flood was the owner of the popular Ase Oluwa Bread bakery, Mr Ajibade Adewale, who was found outside the wrecked factory in Gada area of Odo-Ona, Ibadan. Distraught and hopelessness were all too evident as Adewale and other residents counted their losses.

About 15 buildings were damaged beyond repairs. Many victims of the flood continued to relive tales of woes days after the tragic incident. The bread factory, which used to provide daily living for about 15 workers lay in ruins as its owner spoke with our reporter.

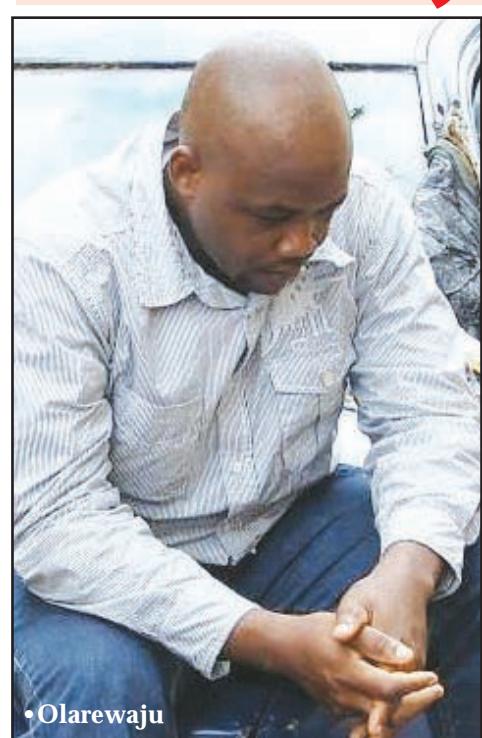
He said: "I was at Omi-Adio area with some of my friends on Saturday morning when I received a call. I thought it was about a customer who might need my attention about his goods. But I was shocked when the caller told me that my factory was flooded and had collapsed. I was shocked by this message because such had never happened since I started operation at the same location several

**As you are seeing us, we have no clothes to wear. Neither do we have any food to eat or give our children because everything has been washed away by the flood**

# I thank God I lost my business and all, but not my life —Ajibade Adewale, bakery owner



•Ajibade



•Olarewaju

# It seems my world has ended — Anthony Olarewaju

**A**NTHONY Olarewaju woke up on Friday August 26, 2011, stretched his arms and legs and thanked God for a peaceful night rest. Little did he know that disaster was waiting to happen.

It all started when he decided to pay a visit to his sister at Oke Ayo area of Ibadan, in Ibadan South West Local Government, the largest council in the state in terms of population. Olarewaju's problem was compounded by the fact that rather than go by public transport, he decided to borrow a friend's car, which he rode to his sister's house.

He had only left for a few hours when rain began to fall. The density

was so much that he felt it was safer to wait until the rain subsided. But he was wrong. He could not go home until the next day. Before he knew what was happening, the entire area, including his sister's house was flooded.

Although Olarewaju was lucky that his car was not swept away like many others around the city, every part was damaged as the car was submerged. When our reporter got to the house, Olarewaju was found sitting on the damaged vehicle, speechless. Looking distraught and dejected, he could not utter a word for a long time. It was gathered that he had come to visit his sister who lived in the area, but was trapped in the rampaging flood, which

decades ago.

"When I got to the place, none of us could stand where we are now, because everywhere was covered with water. It was like an ocean. So, we all stayed back and watched until the water came down."

Adewale, who could not hold back emotion, wore a black T-shirt and a pair of slippers, watching tons bags of flour, sugar, salt, plastics of butter and other perishable items destroyed by the flood.

"What can one say? Is it the number of bags of flour in the store or salt or the collapsed building itself? Let's us give thanks to God. It's only the shoes that were destroyed, not the legs," Ajibade said.

Outside Ajibade's bread factory were three mould ovens and one electric oven already destroyed, and about eight damaged vehicles.

Residents of Gada area of Odo-Ona, Apata, Ibadan might have dismissed repeated warnings not to build or rent a house near the river by the state or local government, to avoid the sad occurrence. But the reality of the warning soon dawned on them as the entire buildings along the bank of the river were all swept away by the ravaging flood when the water level rose as a result of the down pour.

But Nigerians proved to be their brothers' keepers as hundreds of sympathisers came out to render helping hands to the victims of the flood disaster. Any visitor would be overwhelmed at the love and kindness extended to victims.

Like other victims at Nihort, Idi-Ishin, Apete, Ologuneru, Odo-Ona Apata, Odo-Ona Elewe, Omi-Adio, New Garage, and Oke-Ayo areas of the city, Mr. Adewale would not forget in a hurry the great loss he suffered in the tragic flood.

Mr Opeyemi Samson, who lives at Gada area of Odo-Ona, Ibadan lamented: "We have lost our comfort, our peace and our sleep. We have nowhere to lay our heads, but we want you to help us appeal to our governor and the council chairman to do something. Even if it is just a place to stay with our children, it will be highly appreciated.

"As you are seeing us, we have no clothes to wear. Neither do we have any food to eat or give our children because everything has been washed away by the flood"

swept many lives and property worth millions of naira away.

But a woman in the area, who was also a victim of the flood, said: "He should thank his God that his predicament was not more than this. What will others who lost their beloved ones do? Look at this area; no one was spared. We are all together in this mess.

"You should help us talk to those in government. They are your friends. Let them know that our lives are in danger and they need to do something urgent to this river just as they did to Ogunpa river, so that we can have peace and rest of mind.

"You can go to other places and see what the flood caused."

A six-man gang of kidnappers, accused of co-opting a police officer in their efforts to kidnap a London-based oil company worker identified simply as Engr. John, was smashed by operatives of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) of the Lagos State Police Command during the week.

In their confessional statements, the gang members admitted that they contacted a police officer identified simply as Christian to be part of the kidnapping effort, but unknown to them, Christian simply brought in more policemen from SARS, who pretended to be working with the kidnappers until they were arrested.

Narrating their individual roles in the kidnapping attempt to *The Nation*, the suspects said they were shocked to the marrow when they discovered that the people they had recruited were police officers who were busy giving details of their kidnapping plans to the Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Yakubu Alkali through the officer in charge of SARS, Abba Kyari, a Superintendent of Police, on a daily basis.

Confessing his involvement in the kidnapping attempt, the leader of the gang, Mr. Osundu Njoku (26), a native of Isu, Ebonyi State said: "I was jobless when I was in the East, so I decided to relocate to Lagos to see if I could make easy money like some of my friends who had made it in Lagos.

"When I got to Lagos, I had no place to call my house. Fortunately for me, after sleeping in motor parks and on the streets, I met one Chinedu, a bus conductor who agreed to accommodate me in his room at 54, Alafia Street, Festac Town, Lagos, pending the time I will get my own room. After some weeks, I sat Chinedu down and told him that we must look for something to do to help ourselves to get the type of money we came to look for in Lagos.

"One day, I contacted another friend called Raphael and told him that I had a plan for us to make quick money. I told him that I had a police man we could use to extort money from people who sell drugs like cocaine and Indian hemp and other contrabands.

I told Raphael that what it required was to go round and look for people who sell drugs. Then we would contact the police friend whose presence would make them to bring out money, which we would later share.

"Later, I told Raphael that after sleeping, I hit on a bigger idea that could fetch more money. When he demanded to know the plan, I told him it was kidnapping, and he said it was a beautiful idea.

"Raphael then told me that he knew of a big man, an engineer working for a big oil company based in London but also resided in Festac Town. He said the big man's house help was his girlfriend whom he intended to marry and that they were from the same town.

"I told him that I had a police friend we could use and that his name was Christian. But the most pressing problem was how to get a gun because a gun was very important for such an operation. I asked Raphael whether he knew where we could get a gun and he said his cousin had a gun which his elder brother kept in his room before travelling back to London.

"Raphael insisted that some money would have to be given his cousin to agree to release the gun. He said the cousin found the gun while sweeping his elder brother's room and even went to school with the gun. He reassured me that he could get the gun from his cousin.

"I told Christian that I would not touch the gun and that we were

# We didn't know the people we asked to join our gang were policemen

## Kidnappers arrested by SARS operatives



■ Ebele BONIFACE ■

involving the police so that they could cover certain things up. Besides, people would not raise eye-brows if they saw a gun in the hands of a police man. Christian promised to bring two or three policemen into the gang.

"But my position as the leader was that I was the one to give the sharing formula which would depend on how much ransom we got. In this particular case, we targeted between N5 million and N20 million. We also decided on the role each member would play."

Confessing also, the second suspect, Raphael Okoye (23) from Achalla, Awka North Local Government Area, Anambra state said: "Osundu called me and told me his plan. He said he would make sure I got enough money to start a big business like most big boys who had succeeded in Lagos.

"He also told me that he knew many police officers who would even be members and follow us to perfect the deal. He said the challenge was to find a big target or big man worth millions of naira. I then told him (Osundu) that I knew of one big man living in Festac Town and that his house help, Chinasa, was my girlfriend whom I intended to marry. I told him I would visit her and put her on line.

"Later, I went to see her at Festac

Town and she gave me N20, 000 after I had told her that what the gang needed from her was full information about her master, Engineer John. She said her master would travel abroad on Wednesday and would likely use his car to the airport. She also said she would make sure her master paid the ransom through her, since his family was based abroad.

"When I informed Osundu that I had contacted Chinasa, he started calling me on the phone. When I could not answer his phone calls because I was scared, he started sending text messages.

"On Sunday, I went to see him. There I met the police officer with him and the police officer told me to take him to the engineer's house for surveillance. When we came near the place, I pointed at the house. He dropped me and gave me N100 to eat and I left.

"In the night, they called me again. When I came I saw Lucky (a police officer) who went to collect the gun. From there, we went to one hotel and I told them I would not enter because they did not tell me that gun would be involved in the job. My target was to get between 100 and 200 thousand naira to start a business and perform my marriage rites and wedding.

"I felt bad when I was handcuffed. It was then that I realised that the police had penetrated our ranks by

pretending to be members of our gang. I also felt bad for betraying my girlfriend. But I should not be blamed too much, because my wife to be has high taste and I needed big money to maintain her."

The third suspect, Chinasa Ozoemena (21) from Achalla, Awka North, Anambra State and the house help to the engineer, said, "I was introduced to the engineer by my town's girl, Chinyere, who is serving the engineer also. I started working for the man six months ago. I live in Festac with my boss. I knew Raphael from Achalla. He came to our house at 206 C-Close House 5, Festac Town on Sunday August 7, 2011, after church service. We went to a nearby beer parlour where I told him that I wanted to resign because the N8,000 monthly salary could not solve my problem. I told him I needed more money to further my education, assist my sick mother who is suffering from arthritis and my two younger brothers.

"Raphael said there was a way we could do it and I told him I was not strong enough to do the job. He begged me to give him N20,000 loan, which I gave him because I wanted him to be my husband.

"He told me to speak with Osundu and Osundu said what they needed from me was information. He asked whether my master had a gun and I said yes, and that he would travel on

**My position as the leader was that I was the one to give the sharing formula which would depend on how much ransom we got. In this particular case, we targeted between N5 million and N20 million. We also decided on the role each member would play**

Wednesday August 10, 2011. He asked what type of car he had and I said a Land Cruiser 450 and one Honda, but that I did not know the one he would use.

"At about 1am, they called me and I told them that my boss was sleeping and I did not have the key to the gate. When I called again, it was another voice that answered, saying they had a warrant to search my room. My boss called the senior girl, Chinyere, and they later arrested me. I regret meeting a criminally-minded fiancé."

The fourth suspect, Ugochukwu Nwaokike (24) resides at 2, Ifezue Street Fege in Onitsha South Local Government Area, Anambra State and a graduate of Chemical Engineering from Nnamdi Azikiwe University. He said: "See, my friend Osundu is owing me N45,000. He said after the business, he would double it for me. Since February 2011, I have been disturbing him to give me the money I lent to him.

"He called me and told me that he had a plan in Lagos and said my elder brother left a gun and that they needed the gun for kidnapping in Lagos. I gave him the gun and he hid it inside DVD and we entered a luxury bus to Lagos. When we reached Lagos, Osundu lodged us in a hotel where he told us that the deal would be 50-50.

"I was a member of the Black Axe when I was in 200 level in the university. My parents felt bad when they heard that I was arrested for kidnapping. I was born again in the cell and I wish my parents will forgive me for denting their image and disappointing them."

The fifth suspect, Obiorah Ekejiuba (25) from Arondizuogu, Imo State resides at 8 Nwuzor Street, Wokiwo Layout, Anambra State. He said: "My father died and I came to Lagos to see if I could get people to help me with money to bury my father. I had Ordinary National Diploma (OND) in Business Administration and Management. I reluctantly followed them before I was arrested."

The sixth suspect, Ikeji Chukwudi, aged 21, lives at 31, Onji Street, Achara Layout, Enugu. The 200 level Chemical Engineering student of Anambra State University said: "My brother, Dike, came back and forgot his gun, Roger Pistol 9mmx12, with 16 live ammunition. My cousin needed the gun for kidnapping deal and they promised to give me N300,000 after collecting N20 million ransom if they succeed. But they failed.

I had wanted to use the money to open an ultra modern barbing salon.

"I regret participating in this deal because I am from a wealthy family. What pushed me into kidnapping was the desperation to get another money after being robbed twice on the campus by cult members."

Contacted for comment, the Public Relations Officer of the Lagos State Police Command, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Samuel Jinadu said using undercover police officers paid off very well. He added that the suspects would soon be charged to court.

# Why the UN Building bombing couldn't be prevented

- UK-based Nigerian anti-terrorism expert

**Y**OU were reported to have said that the country was gradually getting to a point of no return in the push by terror groups to establish a foothold in Nigeria. You also warned that government should ensure that terror activities do not get to the stage of suicide bombing. It is apparent that suicide bombers are already here with us. What does it portend for the country?

It is a serious matter and we are into the last lap of terrorism. Like I once said, there are different stages of terrorism and the last stage is what we are in. It is the era of last resort where the enemy goes to become a smart bomb; that is instead of allowing the conventional bombs to go for a purpose, all the enemy does is to take it over himself, to go and do that. Like I said, once we get to that point, it will be difficult to go back because everything in the arsenal, the armoury of the enemy has been exhausted. That is the stage we are now. It portends danger, serious danger. It portends insecurity of lives and property.

**Boko Haram sect claimed responsibility for the August 26 bomb assault at the United Nations House in Abuja. Can you x-ray the psychology of the Boko Haram phenomenon in Nigeria?**

What I can say at this stage is that some people might think that it is not Boko Haram that was responsible for the UN office bombing but I think they should have a hand in it because there is what is called label stigma of incidences of bomb blasts all over the world. There is what is called tragedy trademark. The UN office bombing has the trademark of Boko Haram. One, they are very good in single-day multiple operations. Number two is that Boko Haram will always want to make a clear statement that they are involved. The magnitude of what took place is pointing towards that direction. Thirdly, they have said repeatedly that they will do something that will make everybody to shiver. So part of what happened is also sending a signal to the larger world that the issue of Boko Haram is not just a Nigeria issue.

**How do you consider the response to the blast by security agencies and the**



•Dr. Moneke

•Dr. Moneke

**Dr. Joseph Moneke is a consultant in aviation-targeted terrorism. He has a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D.) degree in Aviation-Targeted Terrorism, which he obtained from the University of Liverpool, United Kingdom. In this interview in Abuja with ONYEDI OJIABOR, Assistant Editor, Moneke, who resides in Britain, x-rayed the devastating bomb assault at the United Nations House, Abuja and offered ways and means to stem the tide of the Boko Haram phenomenon in the country**

**government?**

Response to the incident was okay, to the extent that nobody expected it; it was an emergency. The security agencies, I think, were there on time and the emergency response agencies went there for proper evacuation and took the victims to the hospitals. UN officials also responded promptly. The National Security Adviser and other security agencies went there to search for clues of those behind the blast. I think some breakthrough has been made.

**Despite reported warnings, the suicide bomber still penetrated the security network at the UN House, will you say there was security lapse?**

The only thing I can say in that direction is that before President Goodluck Jonathan took over office and the National Security Adviser and the Service Chiefs came on board, the security situation in the country was very bad. The system was decaying and intelligence was relegated to the background. I think all they are trying to do now is to revive an institution that was dead. I think that was partly one of the reasons. Another point is that this is a new enemy. The enemy is new and the environment he operates is new. Nigerians are used to conventional wars. So it will take them time to adjust in their procedures to get to know this enemy better. There is a gradual

adjustment going on.

**Is there any relationship between what is happening here and what is happening in the Arab world?**

Yes, there is and there is also a relationship with what is happening in Afghanistan and Pakistan and other countries. The guys who do these things, I will tell you, were tutored in the same seminary that tutored the mujahideens and the talibans. I read during my research about Nigerians who were arrested in an invasion that took place in Afghanistan. I have also seen the list of Nigerians who were arrested in Pakistan when government forces swooped on them in that country. Since some Nigerians were arrested in those places where some of these incursions took place, there was every tendency for Nigerians to have been trained and they sneaked into Nigeria to create havoc. Secondly, the Arab Spring, as we discovered, emptied a number of prisons and criminals were let loose in the streets.

**Will you say that the intelligence community has been able live up to its responsibility especially when you recognise that operatives wait for bombers to strike for them to follow up? Nigerians have not seen some elements of pro-activeness in their operations.**

•Continued on page 22

**Most of intelligence issues are not timed. If you don't have specific time for an expected incident, then your intelligence is not absolute. No criminal will tell you the specific time he will strike. Some arrests have also been made which goes to show that the intelligence community is not sleeping**

# Inside Gaddafi's



**Entrance:** The gates of Gaddafi's torture cells precede the areas where his enemies were brutalised

**T**HE secret door in the corner of the nondescript office swung open and I was ushered through.

The walls were hung with pictures of Tripoli's beautiful old city because the former primary school was serving as the headquarters of the historic buildings society.

But behind this innocuous facade lay scenes of horror. For this was where Muammar Gaddafi's secret police kept watch on the traders and residents of the city centre – and beat them if they stepped out of line.

Ibrahim Rapti, a former professional footballer, led me through neat offices filled with files.

He told me of their shock as they discovered the intelligence centre, then learned that friends and neighbours had been acting as spies for the repressive regime. 'We had no idea with some of them,' he said.

I asked where they were now.

'They have run away. Or disappeared.'

More... Horror of 150 bodies found on a farm after being massacred by pro-Gaddafi forces

British Council 'knew Gaddafi's daughter wasn't dead'

As we went downstairs, there was a door made of heavy iron bars. Inside were four tiny – and empty – cells, about 5ft by 3ft. With their tiled floors, they looked like nothing more than shower rooms. But several prisoners were often stuffed inside, their crimes perhaps nothing more than uttering a word out of place in a nation ruled by fear.

Chillingly, they were still smeared with blood, marking where brutalised prisoners had lain in agony on the ground after the torment of torture. Most terribly of all, in the first cell, there were two bloodstained handprints sliding down a wall.

These bloody handprints from an unknown victim of Gaddafi serve as a potent symbol for his vicious regime. He imposed his 42-year rule on Libyans using the terror of such neighbourhood torture chambers as much as his infamous prisons.

**Mark of terror:** The horrific scene inside one of the torture cells

Now men such as Rapti are forming town councils and preserving such places as testimony to that reign of fear. Encouragingly, there has been little looting, apart from that which has taken place at Gaddafi's massive compound at Bab al-Aziziah and some



**Mark of terror:** Horrific scenes inside Gaddafi's torture cells



**Young casualties of sniper on the streets of Tripoli**

government buildings.

However, returning with a photographer to picture the cells yesterday, we persuaded a friendly guard to let us in, and slid the bolts on a solid steel door. Inside, we saw a captured Gaddafi loyalist slumped on the floor.

But a second armed guard arrived and led us away quickly.

The incident demonstrates how, for all the determined talk of reconciliation, it will be hard to erase the legacy of a land riven with suspicion.

Another man told me he had swiped secret documents from the interior ministry that revealed the name of an informer in a nearby town. He had contacted six men fingered by

the informer and left them to resolve the matter.

**Tortured youth:** A young casualty of a sniper on the streets of Tripoli

There has been evidence of atrocities and vicious reprisals on both sides, with summary executions of prisoners, captives blown up with grenades and bodies found with hands tied behind their backs.

Above all, there is little sympathy for the hated mercenaries recruited by Gaddafi from Chad, Niger and Mauritania. Few African immigrants dare venture outside.

One hired gun from Africa surrendered on Friday after spending three days on the national bank's roof without food or water.

He was shaking with fear when he came down but was not killed, said one witness.

Despite the continuing threat of snipers, by yesterday morning I was able to stroll the ancient streets of the souk in the small hours. People of all ages were out happily enjoying a hot Ramadan night.

Nearby, there was the constant cackle of gunfire punctuated by the nerve-jangling thump of anti-aircraft guns as the rebels celebrated their victory in Martyrs' Square.

Families drove around waving flags. Children posed for photographs with fighters wearing specially made T-shirts proclaiming them the Eagles of Zawia or Lions of Tripoli. Troops from Misrata 120 miles away in their black graffiti-sprayed trucks received special acclaim after the fury of the battle for their city.

**End is nigh:** Libyans celebrate taking over Tripoli – but there will still be a lot of work to do

I chatted to a shy 22-year-old from the city named Salah who had fought his way to Tripoli after enduring the hell of his home town's struggle. He told me he was a university student.

'I am happy and I remain ready to die,' he said. 'But now I just want to return to my studies.'

Driving into the square, spent bullets clattered down onto the car roof. As I walked around, a carpet of casings scrunched underfoot. Many of the lovely white Italianate buildings are pock-marked with the scars of battle.

Such scenes were scarcely imaginable on my previous visit to Tripoli the week before the February 17 uprising when I came to talk secretly to those planning the revolt. They put their chances of success at one in five.

Today, these are the people planning the future of their country.

Remarkably, the speed of the city's well-planned downfall is such that just five days earlier this was called Green Square and it was filled with Gaddafi loyalists, chanting support for their leader.

Today, the desert despot is a fugitive fleeing the wrath of his people – and they take immense pleasure trampling on the loathed portraits that once festooned the city.

Adel Saudi, a successful financier, left Libya three decades ago after Gaddafi started rounding up his school friends to fight in a

# torture chamber



**Damaged youth:** These rebels patrol a checkpoint in Tripoli - the experience will be forever marked on the youthful gunman

war in Chad.

"In charge: Libyan rebels flash the famous 'V for victory' sign - but some of the divisions in the country will take time to heal

'When I crossed the border I kissed the ground,' said Saudi, who arrived the day before from Bahrain. 'It feels so strange to be here in Libya and able to talk freely.'

I can't tell you what that is like.'

The battle is not over yet, however. Fierce fighting continues in the outskirts of the city with overflowing hospitals, more Nato air strikes and the constant threat of snipers.

I watched from my hotel room on Friday as rebels, one armed with a shoulder-held rocket launcher, hunted down a lone gunman. The previous day the building came under fire.

There are roadblocks every few hundred yards, where young men clutch AK-47s and photocopies of registration numbers from cars used in sniper attacks. Drivers must slalom round piles of sand and burned-out vehicles.

But the mood is good and the soldiers friendly.

Incredibly, a network of secret hospitals has been established in people's homes rather than risk ferrying injured people several miles across town.

I visited one where 35 medical staff were operating out of five rooms in a house. They had moved three times in a week. The children's unit was in the kitchen - shelves were stacked with supplies while the man in charge was a vet.

Sitting on a treatment table was a stunned seven-year-old boy with bandages on his head. He was being comforted by his older brother and had been waving a new flag from his car window when a sniper shot his mother and younger brother dead. He was lucky to have survived, a bullet grazing his skull.

Revolution: Fierce fighting still continues as the rebels continue the hunt for Gaddafi - to secure the future of the young ones

One doctor I spoke to was Samer Ammar Khiel, a 22-year-old medical student just four months into his hospital training. 'It is an amazing challenge,' he said. 'But we must all help our people.'

These units demonstrate the way communities have closed ranks against Gaddafi's forces, even sharing fuel and food as the sweltering city is plagued by power cuts and shortages.

By the port, the roadblocks are manned by



**End is nigh:** Libyans celebrate taking over Tripoli - but there will still be a lot of work to do



**Revolution:** Fierce fighting still continues as the rebels continue the hunt for Gaddafi - to secure the future of the young ones

fishermen and, in the souk, by traders. Even in the city's richest area, once home to some of Gaddafi's children, residents have drawn up registers of guard duty.

There are attempts being made to control the number of guns in a city flooded with

high-calibre weaponry. In the first months of the revolution, many rebels were - astonishingly - able to buy guns at £1,500 each from Gaddafi's troops, which were then turned on their vendors. Shortly before he was ousted, the dictator opened the arsenals to

cause chaos.

I met one woman in a wealthy suburb logging weapons in her street. A student living nearby handed over his rifle while I was visiting; he had used it to help capture several snipers in the surrounding area.

Clearly, they did not know each other well. 'See how this is bringing us together now,' she said. 'Before, everyone used to keep their distance.'

Gaddafi gave people money to move in here and live among us, so you had to be careful. Now it is different. We are free.'

It is now emerging that the fight for Tripoli was very well planned, which may explain the rapid collapse. Despite claims Gaddafi had secured the capital, with loyalists patrolling suburbs for any signs of dissent, a secret operation had been under way for months with 'sleeper cells' of rebel supporters arming themselves and waiting for the signal to rise up.

**Damaged youth:** These rebels patrol a checkpoint in Tripoli - the experience will be forever marked on the youthful gunman

Hours before the uprising began a week ago, Abo Bakr Haddoud, 26, an engineering graduate and a member of a sleeper cell in the Tuwarja suburb, received a message that rebel boats were at anchor in the darkness outside the capital.

Along with fellow 'sleepers' - in reality, students, delivery drivers, labourers and doctors - he slipped past Gaddafi's patrols and rowed out to the waiting arms boats, which had been sent by rebel fighters in Misrata.

Under cover of darkness, they loaded rowing boats with weapons and rocket-propelled grenade launchers and paddled silently back to land. There, the weapons were distributed among supporters.

They received a signal at 9pm on Saturday night that 'zero hour' - the code name for the attack on Tripoli - was upon them, and took to the streets, firing at Gaddafi soldiers with automatic machine guns and grenades, as other sleeper cells were activated all over the city and took the fight to the dictator.

Now, as the final remnants of Gaddafi's regime are cleared from the city and the hunt continues for the man who wrecked Libya, the challenge is perhaps even greater: to build a new nation from the ruins of one of the most unpleasant regimes in recent history.

**Source: The Mail**

# 'How to tackle Boko Haram menace'

•Continued from page 19

I don't quite agree with you on that because intelligence is complimentary, no country is absolute in intelligence. Even in America or Israel that constitute the highest level of intelligence in the world, these things happen. Just a few days ago, there was another attack in Israel. The World Trade Centre issue America had intelligence that it was going to happen. Most of intelligence issues are not timed. If you don't have specific time for an expected incident, then your intelligence is not absolute. No criminal will tell you the specific time he will strike. Some arrests have also been made which goes to show that the intelligence community is not sleeping. Prosecution is also going on. There are other institutions that are coming up. Maybe, you have not heard about Centre for Terrorism that is in NSA's office. Some of these things are the results of intelligence carried out in the past.

**It is believed that Boko Haram sect as deadly as its adherents are is being treated with kid gloves?**

Some people will feel that way because these are people who want to confront authorities force with force, but the enemy the country is dealing with, like I said, is a new enemy. At times, you apply what is called care-frontation instead of confrontation. Care-frontation means opening up for dialogue, opening up to a number of things that will not create problems on both sides. I think that is practically what government is doing, trying to dialogue. These guys are Nigerians. Look at the way the issue of Niger Delta was handled. Right now, there is no much problem in the area. If government had confronted them, it would have been disastrous. I don't think government is treating the Boko Haram issue with kid gloves, rather the government is trying to take its time to achieve the best result. The intelligence community is also working to find out who these people are. For now, they are faceless. It is difficult to deal with an enemy you have not identified. It will take some time to identify the enemy. As you are trying to identify the enemy, you may take time to look at what the enemy is saying. If there is something reasonable an enemy is saying, you look into that. There is a saying in terrorism that one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter. Try to find out if there is any sense in what he is saying and find ways of addressing them. That underscores diplomatic technique in anti-terrorism.

**Some security operatives are warning that Nigerians should expect more bombings, do you subscribe to that?**

Definitely as a research scholar in this field, I should think that way too because how do you handle terrorism? Handling terrorism is knowing what happened in the past and you will be able to predict what will happen tomorrow. I know that the terrorists who bombed the WT Centre are not tired. They will be thinking of something else that will be more deadly. How do I know? If you follow terrorism from 1950, you will discover that it has been increasing from one lethality to another; terrorists are becoming deadlier every day. The government is battling Boko Haram and they are coming up with more threats. Before, there was nothing like suicide terrorism. It was a mild form of terrorism. Today, they have graduated to suicide bombing. So we will expect that something deadlier than this is likely to come up. The only thing is that we are praying that



•Dr. Moneke

it shouldn't happen but the reality is that the picture is clear.

**What should Nigerians do in the face of the emerging phenomenon?**

We should create more awareness because many Nigerians do not even know that a deadly enemy is around them. Awareness should be created using the press and other channels of dissemination of information.

Security agencies involved should also rise to the occasion. The Centre for Terrorism has already been set up. Other agencies should come up. Government should also open up channels of dialoguing with the people involved. Some foreign governments like the Saudi Arabian government and other governments could also be invited for discussion.

This is because there is one language that is central to them and the language is Arabic. They can come together to make appeal to the people.

There is no price too big to pay for peace. We should go to any length to tackle the problem. Force should not be used. Are you using force for an enemy that does not have a return address?

**But the Federal Government has said that it will not dialogue with the fundamentalists. The sect members are saying that their arrested members should be released for them to cease fire**

If it is possible, it should be looked into. Israel released some Palestinians for peace to reign. America released some of those they arrested in Guatemala. So, there is nothing new about it, it is part of the negotiation process.

**Before now, Nigerians were clamouring for an enabling law to combat terrorism. The National Assembly enacted the Anti-Terrorism Act. Do you think the country is making any head way with the law?**

Yes, the law will be effective. Don't forget that it is not up to one year that the law was enacted. It takes some time. The Centre for Terrorism is part of that law. The other thing is the operational structure that will enable the law to be activated. I think everything is ongoing right now. So we should be patient with the security agencies.

**You said no price is too much for peace and that if it means negotiating with those behind the series of bombings, it should be done. The law of the land does not say you should negotiate with someone who willingly takes another person's life?**

Yes, the law does not specify that but in this case, it is a communal battle; it is not a specific battle that is targeted at a specific person.

Somebody is not happy about an issue and decides to go to an extreme point, killing somebody that he may not have targeted to kill. I think if we can have a conducive atmosphere to discuss the issue, it will go a long way in ensuring peace and tranquility. Dialogue is a standard procedure in advanced countries of the world, it is not new. We should also adopt the same procedure to solve our problem. It is a strategy in anti-terrorism.

**Some Nigerians now avoid certain hotels and some public places in Abuja for instance. What does it portend?**

In terrorism, there is what is called prone areas for attack. Those prone areas must be identified and they must be garrisoned. If they are not garrisoned, people should avoid such places. Those prone areas are areas experts will look at and know because these people are all about news. The bigger the headline the better for them. More recruits are added to them after every successful operation. The Passover massacre in Israel when it happened, the number of recruits that were added to the Palestinian organisation was 75 per cent. That means if they had 10 people before, they became 35-40 because of the success of the Passover massacre operation.

**Five years ago, there was nothing like Boko Haram in Nigeria. How did we get to this situation?**

People will say there was no Boko Haram five years ago because it was not listed among the notable terrorist organisations in the world but it was existing under a different name. Maybe it was existing as a religious organization. Maybe it was existing as a friendly entity but there was a latent activity by this group. It metamorphosed into what we are now seeing in the later years because

somebody came out openly to be identified with their cause. The present structure which they are enjoying could not have been organised and assembled under one year. It had a primary structure that later became what we are seeing today. Look at the case of Al-Qaeda, it started as a friendly organisation. Over the years, they were fighting in Afghanistan. How will somebody say that it was because of the attack on WT Centre that they became Al-Qaeda? So Boko Haram has been on for some time without attracting much attention.

**Nigerians are surprised that no known names have been linked to Boko Haram as sponsors?**

Let me tell you that Boko Haram could also be an orchestrated effort by some opposition elements to destabilise the current tenants of power in the country, to make sure that the current tenants of power do not function effectively. Nigerians are feeling the way they are feeling because they think it is an open structure but Boko Haram is not an open structure. Terror cell is what is called cell behind the cell. The land operatives, the gorillas, operate not knowing the financiers. That is why it is called a cell behind a cell. In between the financiers and the land operatives could be a foreigner. All the land operatives know is that they come to carry out operation. And then some people are freelancing. Just as there are freelancers in journalism, there are also people who are freelancing as terrorists. All they do is get money and sponsor for their own targets.

**Most of our neighbours are living in relative peace in their countries, why Nigeria?**

One of the reasons may be that the political atmosphere in the country has been inflamed by political differences. Another one is the issue of resource control. In parts of the world where there are abundant resources, it is always a problem. What is causing the problem in Afghanistan is opium, the control of opium. Look at what happened in Liberia, it was because of coffee and diamond. What is happening in Libya may not be far from struggle for control of oil. Think of Democratic Republic of Congo, where Joseph Kabilo is holding sway, the struggle is for resource control. There is no country that is endowed with abundant resources that is not advanced in knowledge and civilisation that is not passing through what we are passing through. But I'm not also saying that a country like Ghana does not have resources but again, consider their size and population. Criminality in Nigeria is partly because of resource control. Terrorism is also religiously instigated. What happened in Norway the other day, the man did not die but the man attempted death because he saw death also as a requirement and then went into what he did.

**What do you advise government to do to stem the tide of terrorism in Nigeria?**

The only thing I will encourage the government is to do more of what they are presently doing because I know the government is making efforts to address the situation. I'm in the field and I know that the government is making huge efforts to stem the tide of terrorism. But Nigerians should be a little patient with the government that is trying to set up structures to tackle the problem.

**For how long will Nigerians be patient when many are dying?**

Everybody should join the government to make the country governable. That is the only way out.

**Government should also open up channels of dialoguing with the people involved. Some foreign governments like the Saudi Arabian government and other governments could also be invited for discussion**

# Entertainment



► SCREEN  
► MUSIC  
► REEL NEWS  
► SNAPSHOT  
► BACKSTAGE  
► LOCATION

Edited by: VICTOR AKANDE Tel: 08077408676 E-mail: victor\_akande@yahoo.com

## My greatest regret

– Nollywood actress Nse Ikpe-Etim

**STAND BY!**

With

VICTOR AKANDE

Afro Hollywood Best Entertainment Writer 2009

NEXT  
MOVIE SCENEE-mail: victor\_akande@yahoo.com  
Tel: 08077408676 (SMS only)**THINK**

An important part of the success of any civilisation is its ability to emulate the factors that led to the success of other civilisations. — Eric Reinert

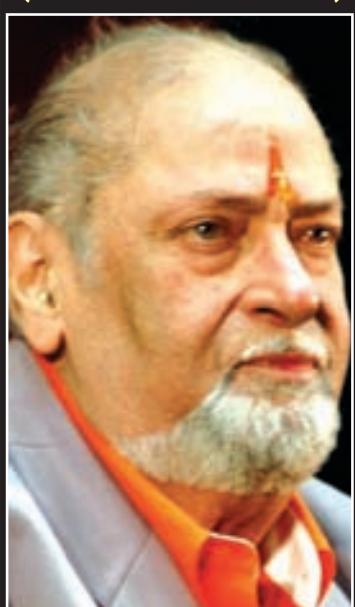
## Tribute to Shami Kapoor

**B**OLLYWOOD most boisterous actor was born in 1931, the second son of a Calcutta immigrant thespian Pritiviraj Kapoor, patriarch of the famous Kapoor family now in their fifth generation in the Indian film industry.

Long before it became a household in Nigeria or perhaps globally, Shami had made yahoo his sig-tune! In one of his major hits of the 60s, Jungle with Saira Banu, Yahoo was not just another song; it was also the climax of the film with Shami in his full elements in and around the snow-capped hills of Kashmir.

Shami Kapoor, the Elvis Presley of the Indian film industry on account of his romantic prancing and singing was the immediate younger brother of Raj Kapoor (1925-2003) the late founder and owner of the famous RK Studios, one of the oldest and perhaps the longest surviving of the film studios in India. Shami was also the immediate older brother of Shashi Kapoor, rated as the most handsome of all the first generation Kapoors. Shami was 4 years older than Dharmendra and Feroz Khan (1935); 8 years older than Indian first Superstar and national Phenomenon, the legendary Rajesh Khanna (1939) and 11 years older than Indian longest-running Superstar Amitabh Bachchan (1942).

He was not only a film hero but one who carried his heroic exploits to real life as well! Asha Parekh, the famous heroine of the evergreen Indian success *Love in Tokyo* got her first opportunity to star as an actress with him in *Dil Deke Dekho* in 1959. Before his acceptance to star opposite her, Asha's career was almost aborted due to the outright rejection of Asha by the then reigning Superstar, Rajendra (Jubilee) Kumar (Suraj) as the leading lady of his film that was to star her in the lead but Shami had no such reservation and readily accepted the Producer/Director, Nasir Hussain proposal to co-star with Asha, although as a public idol and foremost

**(1931 - 2011)**

To feel the full impact of romance with tears not far away from the eyes is to watch Shami Kapoor seduced Rajshree with a song, *Mere Mohabbat Jawan* (My young love) in *Jaanwar*. When Shami beat the drum, twang the guitar or had his fingers on the grand piano, it usually was a classical performance, especially when his actions were only make-believe.

Shami also gave Mumtaz her break and can be rightly credited as the established star that gave Shamila Tagore to the industry by starring with her in another successful hit; *An Evening In Paris* (1967). Today not many will believe that the 17 year-old Shamila in 1966 was only a newcomer in her first film in *An Evening*, given all her tantrums in the film. The film hit song *Akeele, Akeele* shot in Switzerland will forever remain a great example of paradoxes in filmmaking; An innocent star-struck actress in real life meekly following the instructions of her film hero while in the film was his chief tormentor. Sharmila herself is now a legend of the industry with her two children, a son Saif Ali Khan and daughter, Soha Ali Khan prominent members of today's Indian film industry. Sharmila's latest film, *Life Goes On* (2011) has been winning several awards as a most realistic and relevant films of our times.

Shami retired formally from his yahoo (boisterous leading man) roles in 1975 after successfully completing *Andaz* with Hema Malini and Rajesh Khanna. It is a mark to his acting prowess and popularity that almost 40 years after, his films and their hit songs, which though he wasn't the person that actually sang them but which he imprinted with his romantic boisterousness continue to reign on the top list charts. May his romantic soul, rest in perfect peace.

— Yinka Ogundaisi is a filmmaker and consultant to NFVCB

leading man, he had at his disposal a bevy of the then leading ladies of the industry like Madhubala, the Marilyn Monroe of Bollywood, Rajshree and Vijayantimala. Shami went on to do three more hit films with Asha Tessri Manzil, Jawan Mohabat and one other. It must have been this attitude of the senior helping the juniors that rubbed on positively on Asha herself

**WRITE TO US!**

Do you watch Nollywood movies? What do you think of the Nigerian motion picture industry? Send your review of any movie or short essay on any topic of your choice about the film industry in not more than 200 words. Send entries by e-mail to: victor\_akande@yahoo.com or SMS your short comments to 08077408676

**SNAPSHOTS**

# Blessing Effiong springs back

**N**OLLYWOOD actress Blessing Effiong has joined the league of producers to hit the cinema with her latest flick entitled *Two Brides and a Baby*.

The movie which recently got a boost when it passed a major screen test is billed to be premiere in November 17 at the Genesis Cinema, Lagos.

The actress who desires to give Nigerians a good film that can compete with any film anywhere in the world had this to say; "I am not going to the cinemas to show DVD but a real film and that has been the result of serious hard work and consultations I have been doing. I want everybody that sees the movie to know nollywood has come of age and that is why I am working hard to make sure that we put the movie on H264 Resolution Format. I believe anyone that

comes to the cinema wants to see a film

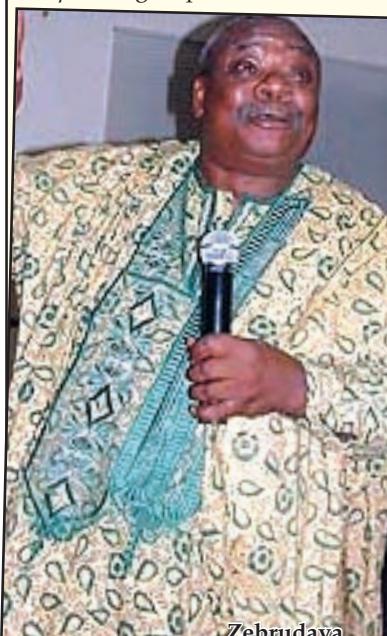
*Two Brides and a Baby* is a romantic comedy produced by Blessing Effiong Egbe, and directed by Teco Benson.

With a blend of new talented faces and Nollywood regulars, the movie features Stella Damasus, Kalu Ikeagwu, Keira Hewatch, OC Ukeje, Chelsea Eze, Blessing Effiong Egbe, Okey Uzoeshi and Kehinde Bankole.

The movie tells the story of Kole (O.C Ukeje) and Keche (Keira Hewatch) who got a chance to showcase what they thought was a perfect union. They planned for a beautiful wedding and hoped for a happy life thereafter until the unexpected happens. Now they must together fight for what they believe in or forever lose their dream of a happy life together.

## Christy Essien's burial has been hijacked by PMAN — Chief Zebrudaya

**W**ITH activities for the burial of Christy Essien Igboekwe reaching advance stages; Chika Okpala popularly known as Chief Zebrudaya has come out to express his displeasure at the way *The New Masquerade* group have been left out



in ongoing plans to bury the late Lady of Songs.

Speaking recently at a movie location, the veteran actor said: "I have been in touch with 'Clarus' and 'Giringori'. The last time we spoke, it was how to attend the burial of late Apena (Christy Essien). Whose burial appears to have been hijacked by PMAN. I don't blame them because she was once their chairman, but they should also know that she grew up from somewhere. And so we are looking forward to them revealing their plans to us and also asking us play a role in the burial arrangement of Apena."

"But we have not heard from them, they have not involved us; we don't know what they are doing. She didn't just answer Apena for nothing; and Apena was not a musical name. How did the name Apena come to be? They should ask us, we are still alive. If Jegede died, others are not dead. I should have written to their president but we don't know who the PMAN president is now because they keep changing presidents every now and then." He said.



## Why I starred in Mirror Boy

—Genevieve Nnaji

**K**NOWN to be picky in her roles Genevieve Nnaji during the week revealed why she accepted to feature in rave movie *Mirror Boy* which is still showing in Nigeria after recording a success in both UK and Ghana cinema.

Fascinated by the simplicity of the story of *Mirror Boy* and the determination of the producer and director, Obi Emelonye to do something special she said, "I was impressed with the way the writer spin a whole lot around of a simple story of mother and child and a spirit. It is told in such a way that



•Genevieve

you feel the three distinct characters. You feel the pain of a mother who's child is missing, you feel the trouble of an African boy born in UK in search of identity and you feel the emotion of a reincarnated father who doesn't want his biological child lost in the world of 'missed identity'. It is the kind of story that touches you from the screen so I am not surprised at the success so far at the cinema'.

*Mirror Boy* which has been at Nigerian cinemas for four weeks running have so far grossed over N15 million and it sets the enviable record of being the highest selling Nollywood movie in Ghana and the longest running movie by any African in UK cinema.

The movie which was shot in Gambia features Genevieve Nnaji, Osita Iheme, and a Gambian star.

## Aki and Pawpaw enlisted for Match of Stars

**A**s activities for the final burial of Lady of songs, Christy Essien Igbokwe gathers momentum, President of the Actors Guild of Nigeria, Mr. Segun Arinze announced recently that popular actors Chinedu Ikedieze and Osita Iheme, better known as Aki and Pawpaw will be in the Nollywood team that will battle Nigeria's top music stars at the much talked about Match of the Stars taking place today Saturday, September 3 at Teslim Balogun Stadium.

According to Mr. Arinze, "with Aki and Pawpaw on the field, the musicians will be chasing shadows as they will dash with the ball between their legs".

The list of the stars playing for team Nollywood include former AGN President, Ejike Asiegbu, Kanayo O. Kanayo, Fred Amata, Ramsey Noah, Nonso Diobi, Desmond Elliot, Yemi Blaq and Basorge Tarah Jr. Also in the team are

Charles Abazie, Rykardo Agbor, Femi Ogendegbe, Emeka Enyiocha, Charles Inojie, Ejike Metuselah, Frank Dallas, Famous Otakponwen and Don Pedro Obaseki.



•Aldi

**M**ORE often, the answers to human's spiritual problems are resolved at their roots. This is the thrust of *Foreign Demons*, a movie which is set in South Africa and Nigeria and thus brings the filmmaker's bond to the two countries to the fore by rebuking some of the xenophobia tendencies of the new South Africa against other blacks, especially the Nigerian.

The movie which has enjoined screenings at international film festivals, including the popular FESPACO, in Ouagadougou is scheduled to hit the Nigerian cinemas beginning from Friday, September 16, 2011 when it will be sowing at the Silverbird cinemas around the country.

The director of the movie, Faith Isiakpere, being a Nigerian has co-produced the flick with his South African wife, Firdoze Bulbulia, to decry the suspecting attitude of the South African locals on foreigners through strong filmic lines and a protagonist that says to all that no single country is a custodian of bad or good people.

## MDA: Organisers gear up for season 5

**W**ITH an upward review of the prize money which is in line with the new positioning of making the Maltina Dance All reality TV show bigger, better and bolder, this year's event, no doubt, promises to be more exciting.

The highly anticipated Maltina Dance All 5 family reality TV show tagged as the "Biggest" MDA ever, will hit TV screens across the nation and beyond tomorrow.

The competition which is its fifth season will be aired across major television networks within and outside the country. They include AIT, STV, NTA and Africa Magic on DSTV which will take turns airing the programme from the 4th - 24th of September 2011.

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Olamide won for himself a glut of fans and admirers alike when he debuted on the music scene with his popular single entitled *Eni Duro*. But many would not be too easy to give him credit for his creativity as critics liken his style of delivery to that of the late Dagrin. In this interview with DUPE AYINLA, the artiste reveals more about himself and his steady rise on the scene.

# Being a rascal back in school made me who I am today

— Fast-rising artiste, Olamide

**C**AN you define your kind of music? I do hip hop. That is my kind of music, basically hip hop.

You made a debut on the music scene not long after Dagrin passed away and most close watchers are of the opinion that you also deliver your songs like him. Can you tell us why?

I don't really know what to say on that. I mean me, coming out after Dagrin's death. I have always been there, I mean underground. And you know what artistes do, we hustle. The only thing we are sure about is what we are doing; we are not sure when it will be successful. So I think the question should be directed to God as to why Olamide is a hit now.

You mention being underground, how long was that, and what were you doing?

I was underground for up to 10 years. I started way back in 2000 before I met ID Cabasa in 2006. I used to move with my group from one show to another. I was a member of a group back then and we record songs together. When I met ID Cabasa, he did not allow me to start recording immediately. He made sure that I learn other things that have to do with music. So I took time to learn all that, it was like I was spending all the days of my life in his studio. I go to his studio everyday, not to record songs, but to watch him do songs for other artistes.

At what time did ID Cabasa decide that it was time for you to do your own thing?

I had recorded some tracks, but did not promote them. So when I recorded *Eni Duro* I was just all over the song, and then I just said to myself that

I was going to promote it. I later told ID Cabasa, and he said I should go ahead if that was what I wanted. We later started promoting it on the internet and before Dagrin's death *Eni Duro* was already a hit in my hood, I was also doing it at shows too.

If you have been doing the song at shows, how come nobody knew about you or the song?

What happened back then was because I did not have a video. And I haven't done enough collaboration too. While the song was blowing hot underground and in my hood, especially in Unilag, people were beginning to know me in the University of Lagos.

The same song helped me to hook up with someone in London, we did a gospel song together and I am grateful. That was how I hustled to put money together to make that video because people are more used to visuals.

How were you able to afford the money for the video?

(Laughs) Like I said earlier, I have been attending shows. I don't work, the only work I have is music. So where else could I have gotten the money from, if not music? I have been attending shows like crazy in Unilag, my hood and some other places, not like I have been outside my hood or something.

We know how expensive DJ Tee is, like how much

did you pay him to shoot the video?

Oh! The amount for the video produced by DJ Tee... I am sorry, but I can't reveal that.

How were you able to make use of 27 costumes in the video?

The video took us four days to shoot and we spend up to six hours each day to shoot a particular scene. We started each day around 10:00 am and stopped at 5:00pm. The video was shot in Bariga, my hood.

Have you been able to promote your songs outside Nigeria?

Yes! Apart from Nigeria, I went to Ghana to do a show with Adol and Zara under Toni Payne. Sincerely I have been getting calls from London, Malaysia, and some other countries to come and perform. But things are properly sorted out at the moment.

Do you plan to have a record label too like other artistes?

No! What I want to do is to be like a sponsor for good talents. I don't have the vision of having a record label, I won't be handling them myself. All I want to be doing is to finance them. Partner with a

good record company that can do the job well and get my own percentage of the income. What do I know about record labels? It is just crazy that everybody in Nigeria wants to have a record label, which is abnormal. This is one of the things messing up the structure.

Do you intend to have another contract with a willing record label?

No! What do they want to offer or give to me? It was in the past that record labels messed me up. Not now, I have shot a video, I can shoot more videos, more songs. Cabasa is here, he will produce it. What else do I need? Internationally they have been calling me, in Nigeria, they have been calling too and I have been attending shows. So it is God. He has been so good.

Tell us a bit about your background?

I was born and bred in Bariga. I am a native of Ogun State, (laughs) my mom and dad had indigenous forms of education, different from what we have today. I won't call them illiterates, because it sounds like calling someone a fool. My parents hustled and made sure that I attended school. They ensured that I become exposed and know different things about the world.

What brought about the line 'Legendary Hustler'?

(Smiles) It is the story of my life. Looking at myself from nothing to something made

me come up with that line. It is about my transformation from being that boy who was referred to as Cabasa's house help to being one who is being touted as the next best thing on the music scene.

Sincerely I picture my past and everything that I have been through, and how much people have underrated me. I mean the achievement, success stories and all that God has been doing. I am like a bird in the sky that has no wings. Back then we will just leave the house and when asked where we were off to, we just reply that 'A sha ma hustle'. When we come back home we would have nothing to remit for housekeeping. We were just hustling knowing that someday, we will make it big and start bringing something home.

My story is like a lizard that climbed a ten storey building, fell off and looked around and saw nobody to say sorry. My mum and dad were not in support of my venturing into music. They wanted me to go to school; but there was nobody to support me. I kept on striving nevertheless and I sometimes I wonder where I got the patience and endurance to cope with all those things that I went through.

I am like a story book for the ghetto kids that one day would want to become something in life. I have been through the thick and thin, I did not just come and blow up. I have made mistakes in the past but the main thing is to be focused and always put God first.

Are the mistakes you talked about something that can later affect your career?

I really don't know. Apart from the fact that I was a thug while still in secondary school. We dey jump fence comot for school; that's the scene I was talking about when I said I have made mistakes. I was setting a good example to some younger ones in school who looked up to me then.

I was a studio freak then and I used to skip classes just to go to the studio and see what was happening. So when they see me doing that, they come to commend me the next day saying things like "senior e bad o, when I grow up I want to be like you". There was a motive behind my bad behavior ...

When do you plan to move out of Bariga?

For real, if you think where you are staying is not conducive any more, you have to move. When the time comes, at least you don't expect me to die in Bariga. But I still live in Bariga presently.

What are your plans concerning your education?

I'm still in school studying Mass Communication at Tai Solarin University and sincerely the major reason I am in school is to have the knowledge, enlightenment and exposure. Not because I want to work under anybody.

What's up with your love life?

I'm sorry but that part is not for the public.



• Olamide



• J Flex

## J Flex sets to explode

**A**RMED with a hit single entitled 'Make Una Dance' which features rave of the moment Duncan Mighty, 24 year old Innocent Azubike a.k.a J Flex is about to make a strong statement for himself in the music industry with his 13 track album which is now nearing its final stage before its official release.

Born on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August, 1987, J Flex started his sojourn into the world of music some eight years ago. He basically does Afro hip hop and his favorite pastime is writing and performing on stage.

J Flex is signed onto Spinax Records one of the biggest record labels in Port Harcourt owned by Uba Francis; the label prides itself in having discovered artistes such as Shirly, a female hip hop artiste and the gospel duo G.Boy and J.S.



• Kefee

## 2011 Hennessy Artistry set to kick off

**T**HE headliners for this year's edition of the Hennessy Artistry project were announced last week at an exclusive launch which took place at the Likwid Lounge in Victoria Island, Lagos.

This year's edition will see ace producer Jesse Jagz teaming up with artistes such as eLDee the Don, Banky W and sexy songstress Tiwa Savage to produce a collaborative track. The song mixes the varied styles and sounds of the three artistes, showcasing 'the art of blending'.

Flagged off with club parties on August 20, 2011, Hennessy Artistry is set to bring fun, fireworks and Nigerian Youth culture to the clubs. Artistes such as YQ, DavidO, Shank and Black Magic will thrill fans during the Club Tour in Lagos, Abuja and Port Harcourt while Banky W, Tiwa Savage and eLDee will also be touring Nigerian cities for VIP nights.

The performing artistes will be supported by DJ Caise. Aside touring clubs, Tiwa Savage, Banky W and eLDee have

### • Ahmed BOULOR •

been engaged to conceptualize, write, record and perform a theme song that will drive this year's Hennessy Artistry project.

Similar to the previous edition's, this year's song, to be produced by Chocolate City's Jesse Jagz, will be followed by a video that will air on TV media across Nigeria and the rest of Africa.

These fantastic acts join the likes of Ice Prince, MI, Nneka, Kas, Sir Shina Peters, Blaise, Bez and Mo'cheddah amongst other prominent acts who have featured in the Hennessy Artistry initiative.

According to Tokini Peterside, Hennessy's Communications Manager in Nigeria "We are happy to be working with these exceptionally talented acts. They represent what Hennessy Artistry is all about, and we believe that they will be able to creatively translate the premium experience of Hennessy cognac into a song that blends their various sounds together perfectly."



## Too Much Music berths with Femi

**S**TURDAY August 13, Fun Factory, situated at Lekki came alive as upcoming music act, Femi hosted guests to his album listening and birthday celebration. From the stable of Too Much the artiste who goes by the name Femi Jubal says that he is about to release his album which, as he promised, encompasses different genres of music.

With collaborations from the likes of Faze and Aramide, Femi says that he hopes to reach different classes of people with the album. The need to diversify his style, he said, stems from the fact that sometimes change is the only constant thing.

The artiste also spoke about his new album. "It is titled My Name is Femi on 2 Much Music label. It will

be an album of about 13 tracks and it cuts across different genres. There is always a reason to buy it. For those who like serious music, or dance music, commercial music, . that way, there is always a reason to buy it.

On the reason for picking the title, Femi says that Too Much Music, as a label, is trying to introduce him as a brand. That was, he says, the title is very easy to relate with. "Everywhere I go, I tell people that my name is Femi."

Introducing the artiste and the record label, CEO of the record



• Femi



## Black Survivors Record signs Frenzy

**N**OTABLE producer-cum-soundman, Frenzy recently took a bold step by putting pen to paper after agreeing to terms and conditions of Black Survivors record as the label's producer.

The deal is expected to run for 12months. While under this duration, Frenzy is to handle production works for artistes signed to the record label. His first assignment for the label is the album compilation of Nasty J, a vibrant rapper with strong punch lines whom Frenzy has referenced as a fresh breath to the industry.

Commenting on the contract, the producer said, "This is an opportunity for me to leverage on so as to be able to re-invent my brand and carve an unquantifiable niche for it".

When asked whether the deal will affect his working with other artistes, he wasted no time in clearing the air regarding this

issue. "I am not tied up completely to Black Survivors record. There is absolute freedom for me to work with other artistes that are interested in my creative skills. As my management; Photon solutions has availed me of the workload at my disposal in other to be more efficient, Frenzy production is signed to Black Survivors record as in-house production outfit giving the opportunity to do external production works. That's what the deal entails." Frenzy clarifies.

## Creative Net Entertainment unveils Bossta

**I**T was amid high expectations and excitement that burgeoning artiste, Bossta was unveiled to the media last week at the swanky ambience of Savoy Suites in Ikeja recently.

Adeniyi Samuel Oluwatobi a.k.a Bossta is already considered a fast rising artiste in the industry and he is also gaining major recognition in other parts of Africa. The artiste was discovered and nurtured by Creative Net Entertainment and A.G ENT CONSULT.

In the words of Segun Akanbi the CEO of Creative Net Entertainment, Bossta is a rough diamond and he is about to unveil his potentials on the music scene. He is a hard working and committed artiste and he will surely be a good example to the average Nigerian youth faced with lifetime environmental challenges.

The premiere of his latest video entitled 'Eruku' was directed by hot-in-demand music video producer, Clarence Peters has also gone on to prove that Bossta surely has a point to prove.

Bossta has performed alongside other Nigerian artistes such as DJ Zeez, Phyno and Baron G while he draws inspiration from the late DaGrin and American rapper, Rakeem.



• Bossta

## Kefee to open stage for India Arie

**B**RANAMA crooner Kefee will be opening the stage for American soul singer India Arie at the African Festival of the Arts, Chicago (AFA) billed to hold on September 5, 2011 at the main stage of Festival Dee Palmer Woodtor, named after the co-founder.

She is expected to perform with the likes of Angelique Kidjo and Hugh Masekela, gospel duo, Mary Mary and Bootsy Collins among others with an expectation of 30,000 crowds.

Responding to questions, Kefee said: "If I ever liked African music, this experience has made me like it more now than I ever did. I am very proud of what I do. The reception of my

kind of music has been overwhelming even though some of my audiences don't understand my language yet".

AFA is regarded as the largest neighborhood festival of its kind in the United States. Currently on its 22nd anniversary, the festival is a yearly celebration of arts and culture from across the African Diaspora. The fiesta features a parade of African-cuisine, fabrics and visual arts.



**Nse Ikpe-Etim**  
doesn't come across as  
the regular  
Nollywood actress.  
With a series of Box  
Office hits in recent  
times, the actress took  
time out to speak with  
**VICTOR AKANDE,**  
Entertainment Editor  
on life outside acting  
and a host of other  
issues



I saw you in *Guilty Pleasures*, and you struck me as one who is simple and affable? Can you describe what you would want your fans to think of you as a person?

Honestly, I would say I would leave them to form their own opinion because no matter what, people will always have a certain view of you. We all get judged, my fans probably get judged, and I do too. So I will not hold anything against anybody. The best I can say is that I am not the character I play. I am a different person. I am Nse, a simple person. Yes, I like to have fun with my close friends and family. I am a very appreciative person when it comes to things people have done for me. I also appreciate the grace of God upon my life.

Please tell us how your journey into Nollywood began?

I did not know I was coming into Nollywood. For me, it was something that just happened because I did not plan to be in Nollywood. It was like being pushed into it again by Emen Isong.

Do you do anything else aside acting?

I am trying to build my business which is a food business. I love to cook.

Is it going to be fast food thing?

No, I don't do fast food. It's going to be local food.

Your role delivery seems to come naturally to you. Do you have any formal training in acting?

Yes, I do have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Arts, but that is not to say I have rested on my oars. I am constantly reading and trying to do things on role building. I am still learning and we all learn everyday.

Are you married?

No, I am not.

I saw an interview in which you were asked if you have any regrets. And you said it's a child. Could you explain that?

Yes, I said it's not having a child.

But you just said you are not married?

I would have had the child by any means at all. There is technology, you can get a child if you want one and there is adoption too.

So which suits you because we still have the natural process that starts from getting married?

Every option suits me. And who says you can have a child when you get married. (Laughs). As for me, I am not bound by any rules or laws; I survive only by God's grace. All I see is that when God has blessed you, He has. So I see certain things in life as a gift from God even if today, I decide to give birth or adopt, I will see it as a gift from God. It could be anything and I think we lock up ourselves so much and then, we become unhappy; forgetting that life is for the living. And when I said I wanted a child, what I meant was that I could have had the child way back and not thinking about having one now, when my career is in front of me. That's why I said it is my regret, like I would have had the child like six years ago.

Are you into any relationship?

No.

So what is happening to the attention you must be getting from guys? Are you putting them on hold?

It's a matter of choice and I am facing my career right now. My career is actually a young one and I know I need a lot of help and guidance. It would take a lot for anyone to want to stay with me right now and especially with the fact that I have to be drawn and soaked into my career because I need to build it. I am like a Mason; I have to build a house, so I am working. And if I stop working at some point, I might not even have a good foundation to build it.

What would you say is your strength, or what factor is working for you, because in this short while you have been receiving accolades and even nominations?

I don't know if that is what I have, but I always say that; you can have everything or got the talent, it can only take you thus far, but you need to have the right attitude and you need the grace of God too, because that is the only thing that can take you far. So we all have to learn to have the right attitude and be humble. It is not easy to be a humble person; you have to ask God to help you.

Where and how do you see yourself in the next five years?

That would be in my restaurant...

Really...

Yes. For me, acting is way of life. So I would say in the next five years, I should still be living.

What do you do at your leisure?

I play a lot of Scrabble and I also read a lot. I write too and chill with my friends.

What do you write?

I write short stories and articles.

Have you ever published any of your articles or stories?

Yes, about a few. They are articles published by different people. I also wrote something small

I am in love with love and I have fallen in love. When you fall in love, your heart gets broken; you pick up the pieces and love again. I am not one to dwell or sulk on it because I love living. Life is short, why waste it nursing a broken heart

# 'I am not in a hurry to get married'

for a friend of mine in the Music industry and it is online now. When I am writing a book, I will let you know.

Do you have a favourite food?

I love food. I don't have a favourite one. I don't necessarily eat heavy chunks of food. I just love and relish good food. Besides, I eat in bits. To me, food is amazing. And as long as the food is good, I will eat it properly.

You mentioned your nephew a while ago with so much affection, what's your family like?

I come from a close knit family and I draw strength from the support I get from them. We lean on each other. Growing up for me was amazing because it is a nuclear family. Even after my father died, my Mum still kept us together. She is my strength.

What is your position in the family?

I am the first out of six children.

This is not your natural hair, right?

Yes, it is locks. But I did it for *Phone Swap*. I had to leave my natural hair for a year for this movie.

I noticed that you usually don't use make up, is that right?

Yes, I am not really a makeup person. But when there is need for it, I apply if I have to. Of course, you can have a bit of colour on your face but I am more of a light make up person. For example, if I have to use a bold colour like red on my lips, I would probably not apply anything on my face and concentrate on my lips. For me, it is easier to be simple.

Like you said earlier, people like to have their perceptions about a person and you strike me as one who would want to take easy when it has to do with relationship or love. What is your take on that?

I am in love with love and I have fallen in love. When you fall in love, your heart gets broken;

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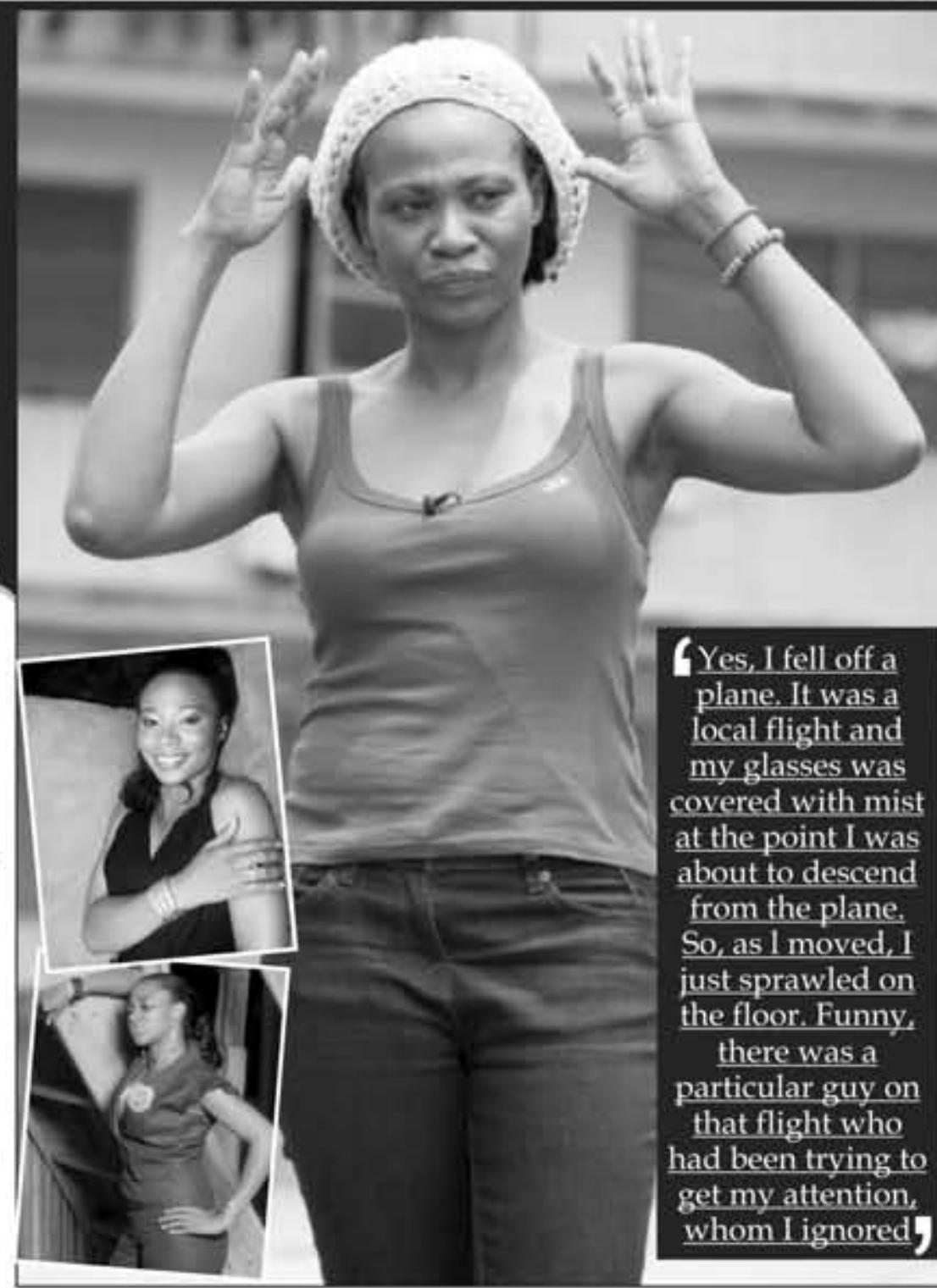
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nursing a broken heart

How does it feel like working with *Phone*



Yes, I fell off a plane. It was a local flight and my glasses was covered with mist at the point I was about to descend from the plane. So, as I moved, I just sprawled on the floor. Funny, there was a particular guy on that flight who had been trying to get my attention, whom I ignored,

It has been a wonderful experience so far, working with wonderful people like Chika Okpala, Wale Ojo, Chika Ike and Ada Umeh. When I saw Ada Umeh in *Domitilla*, I was taken by her performance, she blew my mind and I was happy when I heard she will be playing my senior sister. She is a very amazing person.

Do you see yourself becoming a director someday?

Seriously, I don't think so. I mean initially, I had that in mind. But after being in front of the camera, I don't think I will like to go behind it again.

What has been your most challenging role?

For me, every role is challenging because every character has its peculiarities. I think the most challenging thing is to have to switch from your person to play a certain character and switch back again. And you do that over and over again, that is why I like to give my self a long break so I can be me for a few months. I enjoy being me.

What would be the limit that you can go when playing a romantic role?

An actor does not have a limit.

Can you go all nude then?

As an actor, I would do everything that is relevant to a story and do what I am asked to do as an actor. But seriously, there is a thin line between nakedness and nudity, so as an actor, you need to know where that line is. If it will move a story, why not! I am also bound by societal values and career dictates.

But there is a conflict?

Indeed, there is a conflict there, between my

## Bimbo Akintola, Keppy Ekpeyong resurface in 90 Ninth Day

ULTR Nollywood actress Bimbo Akintola and one of the longest serving actors in the industry, Keppy Ekpeyong both returned in a recently completed movie by an Abuja based producer known as Paul Apel.

The movie entitled *90 Ninth Day* was premiered on August 11th and it was a huge success with 3 screenings for an event which was supposed to run twice.

The movie tells the story of Engineer Jack who was awarded a power plant contract by the Government that would be the beginning of a nightmare for him and his family. Susan who ought to have had the contract embarks on a blind revenge but one of Jack's friends Col. Ben who is obsessed with being an Army General holds forth for self benefits, but for honor Jack's family hangs in the balance. It all played out on the *90 Ninth Day* as written and directed by Paul Apel.

Already major cinema distributors' who are aware of the potentials of the movie have been making frantic efforts in order to secure the distribution rights for the movie.

Paul revealed that he loves new generation of Actors but said he settled for Keppy and Bimbo because none of them would have had the patience that Bimbo and Keppy had when they were shooting the movie in a time frame that lasted for a year. "The movie is the best thriller movie done in this part of the world". He added.



## Amstel Malta Showtime brings excitement to Owerri

IT was an impressive turn out despite of the heavy downpour that persisted for most of the day as scores of fun seekers trooped out in their numbers in Owerri, the Imo state capital for the first edition of the Amstel Malta Showtime, the talent hunt competition organized by Nigerian Breweries Plc., makers of Amstel Malta

The occasion featured performances by Choc Boiz consisting of M.I, Jesse Jagz, Ice Prince, as well as Flavour, among others. Also on stage was Darey 'Art' Alade who was the anchor of the event.

The event was also an opportunity for aspiring entertainers to showcase their talent through the talent competition. Competitions were held in singing, dancing and comedy. Winners were decided through a voice vote from members of the audience.

At the end of the competitions Egwu Emmanuel was voted winner in the singing category, while Odi Henry was adjudged winner in the dancing category. Austin Chukwumeka emerged the winner of the comedy competition.

The winners went home with various prizes including a voucher worth N25,000 for the second runner-up while the first runner-up got a voucher worth N50,000. The first prize winners in all the categories got a voucher worth N100,000, a laptop and an all-expense paid trip for two, to Lagos.

Speaking at the event, Mrs. Adedoyin Owotomo, Brand Manager, Amstel Malta, stated that the idea behind the Amstel Malta Showtime was to reward consumers of the brand and create a platform for them to display their talents. She said, "we wanted to give back to our teeming customers. That was why we brought this concept of Amstel Malta Showtime to Owerri. We also recognize that there are talented youths out there in the country who are just looking for that opportunity to display their talents, so we decided to give them the opportunity to express themselves."

**Girls going for gold,  
bronze for boys in Maputo**

Pg.  
30,35

**Team Nigeria set for  
Medal haul in Maputo**

Pg.  
32,33

# Nation Sport

Saturday, September 3, 2011

PAGE 29



•Chukwumerije (l) in action

**AS 10TH ALL AFRICAN GAMES BEGINS**

# Mozambique craves global recognition

**M**OZAMBIQUE craves global recognition as the 10th All-Africa Games begin on Saturday at Zimpeto National Stadium near the capital city.

The Southern African nation has built impressive facilities to host the biggest multi-sport event on the continent from September 3-18 with about 5 000 athletes from 48 countries competing in 24 different sports.

Though some A-list athletes have opted for the lucrative Diamond League meetings, crowds will see South African 'Blade runner' Oscar Pistorius in action.

South African swimming stars and Kenyan and Ethiopian long-distance running giants are also coming.

Foreign delegations praised Mozambique for creating the facilities in a short time.

"The organisation was immense to accomplish what they have done in two years," said Senegalese head Omar Diagne.

"The accommodation is excellent. It's even up to the standards of (the Olympic Games in) Beijing," he told AFP.

Traffic flow on the road from Maputo to Zimpeto remains slow, however, and an event calendar was unavailable three days before the opening ceremony.

Mozambique took over the 'African Olympics' when original hosts Zambia pulled out two years ago.



10TH ALL AFRICA GAMES...10TH ALL AFRICA GAMES...10TH ALL AFRICA GAMES...10TH ALL AFRICA GAMES...



# Team Nigeria set for medal haul in Maputo

**W**ITH events such as Weightlifting, Wrestling and certain events in Special Sports not featuring at the 10th All Africa Games, Maputo 2011, there has been concern from different quarters as to if Nigeria would be able to put up an impressive performance in terms of medal haul.

At the last edition held in Algeria in 2007, Nigeria finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the overall medals table with a total of 159 medals (50 gold, 54 bronze and 54 silver) behind Egypt, Algeria and South Africa, which came first, second and third position respectively of the 36 nations that participated in 24 sports at the Stade 5 Juillet 1962 Stadium, Algiers. Egypt had 74 gold, 62 silver and 63 bronze medals; Algeria had 70 gold, 58 silver and 77 bronze medals, while South Africa had 61 gold, 66 silver and 53 bronze medals.

It is on record that Nigeria always have a very high competitive advantage over other countries in Weightlifting and Wrestling that will not feature in the Maputo Games at the request of the host country Mozambique which explained that it does not have the facilities to host the two sports.

In Algeria, Nigeria recorded the highest number of gold haul in Weightlifting with 17 gold, 11 silver and six bronze medals while wrestling fetched the country six gold, seven silver and eight bronze medals and Special Sports with six gold, 13 silver and nine silver medals.

A total of 324 athletes will represent Nigeria at the 10th All Africa Games in Maputo.

A Breakdown shows that 36 athletes men and women will take part in athletics, 12 in Badminton, 24 in Basketball, eight in Beach Volleyball, nine in Boxing, 12 in Rowing, 12 in Chess, 12 in Cycling, 36 in Handball, 14 in Judo, 22 in Karate, 44 Para-athletics, nine in Para-Swimming, 10 in Swimming, 10 in Table Tennis, 16 in Taekwondo, eight in Tennis, six in Triathlon and 24 in Volleyball.

In this write-up AKEMI LAWAL looks at Nigeria's achievement at the last edition of the All Africa Games held in Algiers, Algeria in 2007 and the prospect of Team Nigeria in some of the events in this year's edition of the Games.

## ATHLETICS

Despite Nigerian athletes failing to make much impact at the on-going 13th IAAF World Championships (closing tomorrow) in Daegu, South Korea, hope is not lost on how the team will respond at the All Africa Games in Maputo.

17 top athletes representing in athletics' biggest event outside the Olympic Games are; current queen of the tracks, Blessing Okagbare who competes in 100m, long jump and the 4x100m relay events.

Also in the list is the duo of Osayomi Damola and reigning Commonwealth Triple jump champion, Tosin Oke.

Others are current fastest man in Nigeria, Ogho-Oghene Egwero, and debutants, Bukola Abogunloko and Margaret Etim who are members of the 4x100m relay quartet.

The rest include; Gloria Asunmu, Sean Adigun, Endurance Abinuwa, Agnes Osazuwa, Ajoke Odumosu, Blessing Mayungbe, Chizoba Okodogbe, Omolara Omotosho, Doreen Amata, Peter Emelieze and Stanley Gbagbo.

Athletics is one of the events that gave Nigeria more medals at the last All Africa Games in Algiers as the team won nine gold, eight silver and seven bronze medals to top the athletics medals table.

In the Men's track event, Olusoji Fasuba, who is not part of this year's edition of the All Africa Games, successfully defended his 100m gold at the last edition in Algiers while Olusoji Fasuba won the bronze medal for the country. Obinna Metu also beat all odds to win another bronze medal in the 200m.

Algiers 2007 also saw Salim Nurudeen establish a new Games Record of 13.59 to win the 110m hurdles gold.

Nigeria continued her gold medal haul in the 4x100m where Isaac Uche, Obinna Metu, Chinedu Oriala and Olusoji Fasuba finished with the time of 38.91sec.

In the 4x400m Olusegun Ogunkule, Edu Nkam, Victor Isah and Saul Weigopwa were only able to win silver medal.

In the Women's track event, Nigeria's gold medal hopeful in Maputo, Damola Osayemi won both the 100m and 200m gold and also teamed up with Gladys Nwabani, Endurance Ojokolo and Enem Edem to win the silver medal in the 4x100m.

In the 100m hurdles, Toyin Augustus defended her title from the 2006 African Championships to win gold while another Nigerian, Jessica Ohanaja silver. Nigeria completed her gold haul in the Women's track event when Joy Eze, Folashade Abugan, Sekinat

Adesanya and Christy Ekpukhon came first in the 4x400m with the time of 32.97 sec.

In the Field event, Doreen Amata established a new national High jump record of 1.89 to upset Anika Smit of South Africa and claim Nigeria's first gold medal at the 2007 Games.

In Long jump, Blessing Okagbare's 6.46 (+1.8) was only good for the silver medal.

Despite winning silver in the Triple jump, Chinonye Oduahuga set a new Nigerian record of 14.21 (-0.1), while Otonye Iborima defended her medal from the 2006 African Championships by winning the bronze medal.

BOXING

After an intensive camping in Benin, it is believed that the nine boxers selected from different weight categories by the Nigeria Boxing Federation (NBF) for the forth coming All-Africa Games in Maputo, will be able to surpass the one silver and two

Funke Adeoye won silver in Hammer Throw as Patience Okoro secured silver in Heptathlon with 5161 points.

BADMINTON

Nigeria no doubt is a force to be reckoned with when it comes to Badminton in Africa. The team placed second on the Badminton medals table behind South Africa with two gold, two silver and two bronze medals at the last All Africa Games in Algiers and all eyes will be on Grace Kubi Daniel who won gold in the Women's singles in Maputo.

The Kaduna State born athlete also teamed up with Susan Ideh to win silver in the Women's double, while Greg Okunghae teamed up with Ibrahim Adamu and Jinkam Iframu partnered Ocholi Edicha to win Men's doubles joint bronze medals. In the Mixed doubles Okunghae Greg and Grace Daniel won silver, while Nigeria won Gold in the Team event.

However, Nigerian chances of winning gold in the Singles are slim as Grace will only be participating in the doubles event. The pioneer Africa's Badminton champion in 2003 Games who just recovered from an auto accident she had in 2009.

Speaking ahead of Maputo 2011, Grace said, "My target really is to return to my number one position in Africa before the accident, and I am really working hard towards achieving that again even though very soon I am going to retire from the game, because the body cannot go again but before my retirement, I want to win back that position."

"Returning as an African champion



bronze medals achieved in the last edition held in Algiers.

The boxers are: Akeem Adebanji (49kg) Taiwo Agaje (52kg) Seyi Adegoye (56) Waheed Shogbam (60kg) Muyideen Ganju (64kg) Kehinde Ademuyiwa (69kg) Muyideen Akanji (75kg) Lukumon Lawal (89kg) and Akpochi Efekabo (91kg).

It would be recalled that both Muyideen Ganju (Lightweight - 60 kg) and Adura Olalehin (Light Heavyweight - 81 kg) won bronze each for the country in their categories in the last edition.

Though Nigeria will not be fielding any boxer in the super heavyweight class (+91kg), a category where Lateef Kayode won silver medal for his father land in the last edition, the President of the Nigeria Boxing Federation, Major-General Kenneth Minima (ret'd), is however optimistic that the boxing team will do Nigeria proud in Maputo, following their recent victory over their Ghanaian counterpart, at a two-nation Pre-African Games International Boxing Championship held in Benin the Edo State Capital, where Nigeria won eight out of their nine bouts contested for.

The team is to be handled by Idika Nsofor (Technical Adviser) and Obisia Nwankpa (Coach) to be assisted by Peter Konyegwache.

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"Returning as an African champion

## History of All-Africa Games

**M**ODERN Olympics founder Pierre de Coubertin conceived the Pan African Games as early as 1920. The colonial powers who ruled Africa at the time were wary of the idea, suspecting the unifying aspect of sport among African people would cause them to assert their independence.

Attempts were made to host the games in Algiers, Algeria in 1925 and Alexandria, Egypt in 1928, but despite considerable preparations taken by coordinators, the efforts failed. The International Olympic Committee's (IOC) first African member, Greek-born Egyptian sprinter Angelo Bolanaki, donated funds to erect a stadium, but still the Games were set back for another three decades.

In the early 60's, French-speaking countries of Africa organized the Friendship Games. The Games were

organized by Madagascar (1960) and then Côte d'Ivoire (1961). The third games were set for Senegal in 1963. Before they were completed, African Ministers of Youth and Sport met in Paris in 1962; a few English-speaking countries were already participating, they rechristened the Games as the Pan African Games. The Games were scheduled to take place in Kenya in 1963, but were postponed for a year and was held in 1978. Continuing the pattern, the next Games were scheduled to take place in Kenya in 1983, but were pushed back to 1985 and finally took place in Nairobi in 1987.

The four-year Olympic rhythm has not missed a beat since, and the Games have been organized in Cairo, Harare, Johannesburg, and Abuja. In 2007, Algiers once again hosted, becoming the first repeat host. The 2011 edition of the All-

Africa Games will be held in Maputo, Mozambique in September.

### 2007 All-Africa Games

The 9th All-Africa Games took place between 11 and 23 July 2007 in Algiers, the capital city of Algeria. Algiers is the first city to hold All-Africa Games for a second time. The 1978 All-Africa Games were held there. Besides Algeria, only Nigeria has hosted the event twice, but with different host cities.

#### Medals

Overall Medals of the 36 nations that participated in 24 sports

Rank	Nation	G	S	B	Total
1	Egypt	74	62	63	199
2	Algeria	70	58	77	205
3	SAfrica	61	66	53	180
4	Nigeria	50	55	54	159
5	Tunisia	48	41	58	147
6	Kenya	13	15	10	38
7	Senegal	8	12	26	46
8	Zimbabwe	7	8	8	23
9	Botswana	6	2	5	13
10	Cameroon	4	6	17	27

begin. It is time we reassert our position in Africa. We are ready."

#### TAEKWONDO

Nigeria's medal hopeful in

Taekwondo

and current Africa Champion, Chika Chukwumerije is expected to successfully defend his title this year as the team looks set to increase its medal haul to surpass the two gold, two silver and three bronze won in 2007.

Chukwumerije, Beijing 2008 Olympic Games bronze medalist, will lead 15 others in Maputo.

Head coach of the Taekwondo team,

Stoja John Egwu,

who disclosed that the team are eying five gold medals at the Games, said the electronic detector

that was recently made available to the team, will go a long way in making the five gold medal feat possible.

He said that the athletes' preparation

has been good and would be turned

into medal haul at the Games.

"Personally speaking, I am working

with five gold medals on my mind, but notwithstanding, we really need

players to do well."

The preparation has been so good,

so I believe it will translate into doing

well at the Games.

The athletes are improving well enough to put

smiles on our faces.

"I believe that when they would have been exposed to the electronic detector, it will give them

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## NATION SPORT

# Remembering Emeka Enechi aka Biafra (Aug 15, 1970 - Aug 29, 2010)

THE Globacom Limited's team comprising Mrs. Modele Sarafa-Yusuf, Mr. Arinze Anapugars and yours truly had just boarded the Egypt airline flight for Lagos following the successful signing of the extension of the Glo-CAF Football Awards deal for another five years. We had managed despite the brimming enthusiasm of the then newly appointed General Secretary of the Confederation of African Football (CAF), Hicham Amrani, to stamp his administrative profile on the affairs of the confederation following the departure of Mustapha Fahmy after 28 years in the office. Instructively, Amrani was just three years old when Fahmy began his reign at CAF.

Settling in the business class section of the flight, the seat belt had barely been fastened when my phone rang and it was a call from Nigeria. I usually only respond to very important calls due to the roaming charges and therefore looked at the screen to find out who must be calling at that time of the morning. Nigeria was two hours behind Cairo time at that period of the year and my surprise rose higher as the calling code indicated a call from Nigeria from Mr. Chris Itta, the then Deputy Editor of *National Life* Newspaper.

He dropped the bomb on me... "Harry, Biafra is dead". Surely, no one can call at such an ungodly hour to relay a good news and why I answered that call is yet a mystery to me because Chris, though a junior at University of Calabar is no regular caller. I really got to know him through my wife who was of the same set and course of study with him. But Biafra had drawn us closer for it was at Biafra's wedding, November 23, 2003 that he celebrated a reunion with my wife. My own wedding followed a week after that of Biafra and his lovely wife, Obianuju. It was a measure of our closeness that we jointly picked dates for our nuptials. I was with Biafra the day he first saw Uju at DDB Casers and detoured from our mission to chat her up, leading to exchange of numbers and a whirlwind courting that didn't last one year. Knowing that our guest list was going to have the same names, we had agreed to choose separate dates so as to help each other in the d-day activities.

It was the longest flight I must have endured even if the duration was just over four hours compared to trips to Europe that last six hours. Tears flowed freely and poured as memories of the man, Emeka Enechi came flooded in a fast-tracked flashback. Then the retrospection dwelt on Uju (we call her first lady) and

By Harry Iwuala

the two little kids-. What will become of them? How will they live with the absence of the loving and laughter-filled daddy? Who will explain this permanent absence? This was the point the seed of a Trust Fund was sowed in my mind.

He died exactly two weeks after his 40th his birthday and early in the morning of that August 15, as I was wont to do these past ten years, I had called Biafra to wish him a happy birthday and arrange an evening of merriments at his *SportsDay* newspaper office only to learn he was in Asaba. It was the trip he never returned from. Having learnt of the accident and being assured by Biafra that he was in good care, all one was doing was making supplications to God during family devotions for his recovery. Departing for Cairo on Thursday, August 26th, 2010, the last call that came through my mobile phone as I boarded the flight was from Biafra and his words were "Harry, I am going into surgery, please pray for me and extend my regards to Habuba". Pray, I did inside the aircraft even as I prayed for our safety on the trip. But alas, that was our last conversation on earth.

In memory of Emeka Enechi, a Trust Fund was launched on October 31, 2010 during which over N10m was realized in pledges and according to the report of the Trustees read at the inaugural memorial lecture on August 29, 2011 at the Lagos State SWAN Secretariat, only about N2.4m has been redeemed. It is noteworthy to mention that the organization he last worked for, *SportsDay* deemed it a duty to endow a fund for their late colleague and recruited Frank Ilaboya, Tony Ubani and myself for the administration of the fund. We spent hours over many days planning the direction of the endowment until it was accepted that an educational trust be instituted to which *SportsDay* made a very handsome seed donation of N1m. I deliberately pitched for an educational trust because one already existed in favour of my kids and the benefits are already being reaped since I left Globacom six months ago.

We have not been even near-perfect in the administration of the Trust as has been pointed out by some of the kind donors but a cardinal promise that we subscribed to is that none of us will benefit in any pecuniary way from the proceeds of the Trust. It therefore will not be out of place to extend appreciation to Mr. Taye Ige of *HotSports* Limited, Ejiro Omonode and Mitchel Obi of *MasterSports International*,

Muminu Alao and the Complete Sports Group, Jenkins Alumona of Strategic Outcome Limited and Chief Solomon Ogbu, the Publisher of *SportsDay*. Others are Aisha Falode, Larry Izamoje of *Brla FM*, Godwin Dudu-Orume, Mike Itemuagbor of Pamodzi Sports International, Kunle Solaja, the Editor of Soccer Star and the Lagos State Sports Council.

Unfortunately, there are a number of pledges that are yet to be redeemed and the fault is largely ours in the board of trustees. We are trying our best to follow-up with the Lagos State Government knowing that the elections and subsequent change of guards at the Sports Ministry must have hindered the redemption of the pledge made by Prince Adeniji Adele on behalf of the government. There is no doubt that Governor Babatunde Raji Fashola is a committed friend of the media and most importantly, I recall the spectacular goal he scored against Biafra in goal for Lagos SWAN against friends of Fashola at the Onikan Stadium as part of the 2007 election campaign. There is also a N1m pledge by the National Sports Commission represented by Mrs. Tayo Oreweme which the Trustees are doing their best to secure from the very busy Director General, Dr. Patrick Ekeji. The new Honourable Minister for Youths and Social Development, Alhaji Bolaji Abdulahi showed a remarkable love for Biafra when he personally showed up for the launching of the Trust Fund. His pledged donation of N1m is also being awaited.

On Monday, August 29, members of the Lagos State SWAN turned out in great numbers in honour of Enechi as the Trust Fund marked one year of his death with a memorial lecture. It was a good outing that had resource persons from the private sector delivering papers on the topic, 'Beyond Sports Journalism'. Mr. Olumide Oduntan, the Managing Director of First Trustees came in person to educate members on financial planning and investment. Davis Iyasere, a former Sports Journalist and now Communications director at Nigeria Insurance Association presented a paper on the role of insurance in financial planning for the future. As a beneficiary of First Trustees Children Education Trust Fund (CET) product, there was no doubt the importance of the topic for every working Nigerian and not just the Sports Journalist.

The lesson for every man on the attendance recorded at the memorial lecture is that we must all take responsibility for charting our future beyond our existence. It is not every late member of the profession that has benefitted from having a Trust set up in their memory. It is equally not only the institution of a rewarding trust that some of us may be remembered but through the things that will be said of us and through the impressions we made on the lives of others around us. According to Professor Wole Soyinka, 'We must set forth while it is yet dawn'. Continue to rest in peace Biafra.

**Harry Iwuala is a renowned Journalist based in Lagos, Nigeria**



•Enechi

## VOICE OF SPORTS

With  
Clement Nwankpa Jnr.  
[sportswar@yahoo.com](mailto:sportswar@yahoo.com)



## Two games, two scenarios

IN two days starting from tomorrow, Super Eagles will be involved in two games of varying importance. The first, against a supposedly weaker opposition but with stakes as high as they come while, the second is against a global superpower but with nothing more than pride at stake. The stakes in the latter are, however, raised with the opposition angling for vengeance. How coach Samson Siasia approaches both matches will say volumes about his managerial abilities.

Tomorrow, he will file out the team against Madagascar in a must-win Nations Cup qualifier in Antananarivo and on Tuesday, he will be up against Argentina in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Madagascar no doubt, should provide a weaker resistance but given the demands of the occasion where Eagles are expected to win by a wide margin to stand a chance of qualifying for the Nations Cup and the Antananarivo turf which should challenge the team to its limits, Siasia's wards really have a mountain to climb.

But what mountain will be higher than an Argentine team that should parade the likes of Lionel Messi? The Albiceleste to be paraded in Dhaka will be much different from the one that lined out against the Eagles in a friendly earlier in the year. On that occasion, Nigeria won 4-1 inflicting Argentina's worst ever defeat against an African opposition. That result coupled with the Argies' poor run at the Copa America led to the sack of then Argentine coach, Sergio Batista. The Argies want to banish memories of that loss and would cherish the opportunity provided by the Dhaka game.

Siasia has rightly pointed out that he placed more priorities on the Madagascar game. That's okay but, in reality, he may not avoid the thought of factoring the Argentina game into his plans even before the Battle of Antananarivo. The proper thing to do, of course, would be to focus on the Madagascar game knowing full well that a good outing tomorrow will bring the requisite confidence to confront the Argies. On the other way round, failure in Antananarivo (God forbid!), would mean Nigeria would have crashed out of the Nations Cup qualifiers if Guinea takes Ethiopia to the cleaners. Has anybody pondered how low the team's morale will be if they head to Dhaka with the realization that Nigeria will not be featuring in the next CAN? That would be a pre-requisite for a thorough bashing by the vengeance-seeking South Americans. So Siasia's safest approach would be to treat the Madagascar game as a World Cup final. Difficult as it may be, he should not even think about the Argentina game till after the referee's final whistle on Sunday evening. I understand he has 19 players at his disposal despite the spate of injuries and he should deploy all the available resources to get the desired results in Antananarivo.

These are two different oppositions and occasions. If Siasia understands the peculiar demands of each scenario, he would post good results in both outings. He should adopt different formations for both matches. For instance, against the weaker Madagascan where the team needs to win with a wide goal margin, the watchword should be attack, attack and attack. For such a fixture, I would welcome his twin-midfield combo of Mikel and Joel Obi. This combination provides less shield for the back four while aiding the team offensively. The Madagascan have listed only one foreign-based player in a team dominated by the U-23 players. That should reduce the strength of the hosts who are yet to record a win in the campaign. Given such an opposition, there wouldn't be any need to feature a defensive midfielder as there shouldn't be much threats to the Nigerian goal. The offensive players should be unleashed on the Madagascan because every goal would count on the last match day.

That said, Siasia would however be courting trouble if he sticks to the Obis against Argentina without a midfield enforcer like Fengor Ogude. The fact is that the Argies are going to be all over the Eagles. If they have their way, they would want to wipe out the 4-1 deficit incurred from the Abuja friendly. Woe betide Siasia if he fails to shield his back four with a natural defensive midfielder on that day. Ha...ha...ha...I dey laugh oh! Imagine Messi embarking on one of those breath-taking runs from deep without any inhibition from the midfield. I have always seen the Obis combo as the missing link in Siasia's team and looked forward to this match to see whether I was wrong. Siasia needs a three-man midfield in Dhaka with Ogude shielding the Obis. Anything short of this would spell doom for the Nigerians. Mikel doesn't do the dirty job in Eagles midfield and only hangs around to pick loose balls and throw 40 yard passes. This means the younger Joel tracks back to mark and we all know the kid doesn't have that physical presence. This has left the defence thoroughly exposed severally.

So while the team should go all out and attack in Antananarivo, once they make that long journey to Dhaka, 'caution' should be the watchword. Siasia's formation should aim at containing the more illustrious Argies and rattling them on the counter. If Siasia fails to file out a third midfielder beside the Obis, he would have failed to recognize the uniqueness of the Dhaka opposition. I hope he proves me wrong.

**T**HE IAAF World Championship ends this weekend in Daegu, South Korea, Olukayode Thomas reports on lessons for the Nigeria athletics family and sports generally and looks ahead to Maputo 2011 All Africa Games.

#### CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME, ----SO DOES IMPUNITY

One of the lessons we are taking away from the IAAF World Athletics Championship is that Nigeria must imbibe international standard practices and avoid being embarrassed abroad.

When reporters criticised the Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN) for allowing three American based athletes, Omotayo Talabi, Uhunoma Osazuwa and Chizoba Okodugbe, who are not resident in Nigeria, to compete at the Rivers 2011 National Sports Festival, they were labelled enemies of progress.

When some states protested that the athletes should be disqualified and stripped off the medals they won, their protests were thrown out by AFN officials.

Charged with impunity, the same attitude was exported abroad as we attempted to field two ineligible athletes at the World Championships.

Kudos to international sports federations where rules are not respecters of individuals or nations, we were humbled at the Championships, as the athletics world governing body, IAAF initially ruled that Gloria Asumnu and Mayunge Ibukun were not eligible to represent Nigeria at the championships. Though of Nigerian descent, both athletes were born in the United States and they carry American passports.

According to the IAAF rule, an athlete must carry a country's passport for two years before he or she could be eligible to represent that country. Though a temporary relief was sought by Solomon Ogbagba on behalf of Athletics Federation of Nigeria and Asumnu was left off the hook.

Nigeria has been participating in the World Championships since the inaugural edition in Helsinki Finland in 1983.

Are we so blessed that we don't have anybody in our federation who is aware of this rule? Or is it the case of impunity which begins at home now exported abroad?

#### WAITING FOR BLESSING IN DISGUISE TO BECOME ABUNDANT BLESSING

I am not a disciple of the great Jew seen Nostradamus, but one does not need to be a seer to know that Blessing Okagbare will win the 100m, Long Jump and 4x100m gold medals at the Maputo 2011 All Africa Games.

If the talented athletes decided to do the 200m, Triple Jump and even

the 4x400m relay, she has the potential to win an unprecedented six gold medals at the All Africa Games.

If she achieved the above, our sports administrators will roll out the red carpet and begin to celebrate, she may even be taken to Aso Rock to meet President Goodluck Jonathan, the way they took Mercy Nku to President Olusegun Obasanjo in 1999.

But sprinter cum-jumper Okagbare, need not celebrate, it should be moment of sober reflection for her.

With her talents and exposure, Okagbare should be winning medals at World Championships, not placed fifth in the 100m like she did Daegu or failing to make the finals of her specialty, the long jump.

What are the drawbacks stopping Okagbare from becoming an Abundant Blessing instead of Blessing in Disguise that she is today?

Talent, coaching, exposure and environment are the ingredients an athlete needs to succeed. If it is talent, Okagbare has got more than her fair share, God has endowed her more than an average human being in sprints and long jump.

If it is coaching, there are good coaches in Nigeria and United States where she is based, whose tutelage could turn her to be one of the best three, if not the best in the world. Competing with the best in the world today, exposure is not a problem for Okagbare. In the United States where she is based, Okagbare has access to equipment and facilities she needs to succeed.

But like Seun Ogunkoya before her, the drawbacks to Okagbare aspiration to achieving her potential, include lack of respect for constituted authority, indiscipline and disdain for hard work.

As at 1998, if there was one athlete that American Maurice Green, Canadian Ato Boldon, Namibian Frankie Fredericks and Trinidad and Tobago Ato Bolden dreaded, it was Ogunkoya. These world beaters so dread Ogunkoya, that whenever they see Falilat Ogunkoya, who they assumed wrongly was Seun blood sister, they had the same coach, Tony Oshetu then, they always sat Falilat down to ask for update on



• Damola Osayomi

Seun's training and plans for the next meet or championship.

But early success got into Seun's head, he ignored John Smith, the great University of Los Angeles coach who produced many Olympic and World Championship medallists when he attempted to coach him.

After winning many meets and championships, and becoming the African Champion, Ogunkoya even ignored Oshetu and become his own coach. What is the result? Ogunkoya failed to achieve his potentials.

Those with ears close to athletics ground knows that Okagbare is now travelling the same route. She no longer listen to coaches, when it comes to relays, she will choose the leg she want to run, coaches that can overrule are no longer invited into the nation team because of her closeness to power in athletic his-

Perec, Falilat Ogunkoya and others who sacrificed, worked hard and were disciple to succeed at Atlanta '96 Olympics Game, if she followed their path, she will rule the world at London 2012 Olympics Games.

But if he is not, let's share some Solomon wisdom with him that will help him achieve his ambition, and that of every patriotic Nigerian of getting athletics back on track.

Poaching athletes of Nigeria descent from America, which I regard as taking short cut to success will not help. Taking such route is prone to disappointment like it happened with Asunmu

and Ibukun in Daegu.

In the golden age of Nigeria track and field, Americans of Nigerian descent do not even bother to come for our trials because they know they can never make the team.

Secondly, winning medals with

these athletes is like reaping where we did not sow. Whatever we may say, Tosin Oke was developed by the British, and he is not and cannot be our athlete. Oke is probably competing for Nigeria because he could not make the British team.

For Oke to leave a lasting

legacy, he must go back to the route we took before that led to success then, grassroots development.

We the reason why current Diamond League that Oke pioneered, is not succeeding is because

there is no reward for participants.

The day athletes want to be legend is over, what they want now is cash. Every footballer wants to play in Spain, England or Italy because of money.

Once we put all these in place, our road to revival has started. The athletics may not come of age while Oke is still president, after all when Boris Yeltsin started the tennis revolution in all parts of former Russia he did not see the result until he left office, but today, tennis players from former Russia dominate the tennis circuit, this should be biblical wisdom for Evangelist Solomon Ogbagba.

How time changes. Our hope for track and field medals in Maputo, Mozambique rests with our girls. While Tosin Oke, a Triple Jumper is the only sure medal in the men events, the same cannot be said of the women events where our athletes could win the 100m, 200m, long jump, high jump, 100 hurdles, 400 hurdles, shot put, 4x100m, and 4x400m.

Events that our men naturally dominate like men 100m, 200m, 400, 110 and 400 hurdles, the jumps and relays have been taken over the athletes from southern African countries. How time changes.

**"While Tosin Oke, a Triple Jumper is the only sure medal in the men events, the same could not be said of the women events where our athletes could win the 100m, 200m, long jump, high jump, 100 hurdles, 400 hurdles, shot put, 4x100m, and 4x400m."**

# Girls going for gold, bronze for boys in Maputo



• Doreen Amata



• Blessing Okagbare

**"Okagbare change from 'Blessing Disguise to Abundant Blessing' take a cue from Marie Jose Perec, Falilat Ogunkoya and others who sacrificed, worked hard and were disciple to succeed at Atlanta '96 Olympics Game, if she followed their path, she will rule the world at London 2012 Olympics Games".**

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## NATION SPORT

I have read quite a lot of literature on must-win matches in the past two weeks. And I have followed the comments/responses of the Super Eagles' Head Coach, Samson Siasia, and the players concerning Sunday's make-or-break (another term common in these situations) 2012 African Cup of Nations qualifying match between our Eagles and the Senior Team of Madagascar, also known as Barrea.

In situations like this one, a lot of 'ifs' come to the table. Yeah, if only we had pummeled Madagascar by more than two goals in Calabar, we would have been having, at worst, the same goals difference with the Guineans now (they have two more than our team). If only Ethiopia had shown some verve and ambition when they hosted Guinea on Day One of the campaign, way back in September 2010, like they showed against the Super Eagles three months ago (the Walyas capitulated entirely and lost by 4-1 to the visiting Syli Nationale then). If only we had not lost in Conakry in October 2010, when we had huge opportunity to come away with, at worst, a draw.

If only Madagascar had shown some ambition on their famed atrocious pitch in Antananarivo and scooped the three points off Guinea in June. And if only the Super Eagles had overcome lethargy and finished off the Walyas in Addis Ababa in June.

No ifs would count now; only reality. And reality is that on the group B table of the series, Nigeria is second on seven points, three behind Guinea, and with two goals inferior to the Syli Nationale.

The battle is drawn. But all sporting battles, it is not to be fought with guns and armoured tanks. This is for the football field.

And the football field, according to our advanced party members, is atrocious. The pictures of the Stade Municipal de Mahamasina that I have seen makes the stomach churn.

The good side of it, though, is that our players know what to expect. They even expect worse, and when you go to battle with this kind of mindset, you are better able to deal with the challenges that sprout everywhere.

On Wednesday night, the Super Eagles flew out of the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja confident that they would pick the three points in Antananarivo. That is most crucial. Once we have the three points, whatever Guinea does with Ethiopia in Conakry will not matter much since we have a final-day showdown with the Syli Nationale in Abuja.

I read Coach Siasia being quoted somewhere: "If we don't get the three points, we are not coming back to this country o!" I believe the players know the implication of what the Head Coach has pledged and they would not want themselves and Coach Siasia not to be able to return to Nigeria after the match!

As I said a couple of weeks ago, football's unpredictable, and sometimes dazzling conclusions, hold a fascination beyond the imagination. On Sunday, the conclusion we expect, going by pedigree, ambition, go-go mentality and promise, is victory for the Super Eagles.

The way to go, however, is



## Inside The Glass House

WITH AMINU MAIGARI

# In Antananarivo, Eagles will break Barreas

not to be pompous about it. On Friday evening, I spoke to the players about the importance of keeping their eyes open and their heads level. Football is about taking your chances. No team has ever been able to win a match based on possession. It is the goals that count.

It is true that Madagascar has never qualified for the finals of an African Cup of Nations, not to talk of a FIFA World Cup. It is also true that while Nigeria is rated 38th in the world by FIFA presently, Madagascar is rated 155th.

It is true that Madagascar has no superstar names playing in Europe, with their best players plying their trade in Thailand, Seychelles and lower leagues of France. It is also true that on paper, Madagascar cannot light a torch to Nigeria at international level. It is again true that Madagascar's senior team lost to Iran in a recent friendly and fared badly at the Indian Ocean Games in Seychelles.

Yet, football is nothing if not unpredictable. That is why the sensible teams do not underestimate the opposition, no matter the level.

When you go with all airs, you are wide open for a sucker punch. An instance comes to mind. In 1987, the U-20 National Team, Flying Eagles, was highly rated ahead of the FIFA World Youth Championship in Chile. Players like Etim Esin, Adeolu Adekola, Ladi Babalola, Ahmed Abdullahi, Ene Okon, Lawrence Ukaegbu and goalkeeper Willy Okpara had dazzled the African continent to win a third continental title at that level for Nigeria.

The team was brimming with talent, passion and uncommon skills. Drawn against Brazil, Italy and Canada in the group phase, the Flying Eagles arrived in Chile with raised shoulders. It was reported that the Brazilian team had ran out of town to train somewhere else so they would not be intimidated by the Flying Eagles!

All that haughtiness was gone after 45 minutes, when Brazil soared to a 3-0 lead in the first match. The South Americans added another goal in the second period for a comprehensive 4-0 spanking. The other teams learnt from that and would not be intimidated by the Flying Eagles. It was 2-2 against Canada and then we lost to Italy to crash out at group stage.

Another instance: when the Brazilian U-23 team met out Dream Team in the semi finals of the Olympic Games in Atlanta 15 years ago, they thought a place in the final was fated accomplished. In the group phase, they had beaten Kanu

and co 1-0 and duly felt they were going to win. After going ahead 3-1, their Coach started removing some star players in order that they would 'rest' before the final match, expectedly against neighbours and bitter rivals Argentina.

Not so fast. Victor Ikpeba and Nwankwo Kanu levelled up just before the final whistle and Kanu got the golden goal minutes into the extra time. The indignant Brazilians could not believe it; they went ahead to pummel Portugal for the bronze, but that was all they could get - bronze. Nigeria decided Argentina in the final and we won Africa's first-ever Olympic football gold.

Remember the 1950 World Cup finals? The USA was up against England in a group stage game and communication was not what it has become today. When the telegram arrived in a UK newspaper office that USA had won 1-0, the editor felt there was a horrendous mistake and refused to use it. He would later explain that he actually thought there was an error: that the telegram was supposed to read USA 1 England 10!

Certainly, these instances are not meant to scare anyone but to bring us to the reality that matches are only won after the referee's final whistle. We have a team strong enough to dominate tomorrow and take the three points but we can only do it with level heads and knowing that the match will last for 90 minutes. All chances should be tucked away.

For the players themselves, winning is key as several of them have not even played in the Cup of Nations finals.

While Vincent Enyeama and Joseph Yobo have played in two FIFA World Cup finals, and can count several Nations Cup finals under their belts, the likes of Ahmed Musa, Emmanuel Emenike, Brown Ideye, Nosa Igiebor, Fengor Ogude, Joel Obi, Peter Utaka, Efe Ambrose, Chibuzor Okonkwo and Chigozie Agbim are looking forward to a first appearance at African football's summit.

The NFF Executive Committee surely has confidence in the Super Eagles to deliver on Sunday, going by the way they have prepared for the game, the travel plan that has enabled the team to arrive Antananarivo early enough to acclimate and familiarize themselves with the conditions (good or bad) and the knowledge that Nigerians will not take anything less than victory.

### Mikel's Visit to State House...

One will never get tired of expressing appreciation to our sports-loving President and

Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, His Excellency Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR for his passion for the game and keen interest in all the factors and personalities surrounding the Nigerian game.

I was outside the country but was well-briefed on the visit of midfielder John Mikel Obi to the Presidential Villa to meet with His Excellency and express his appreciation for the President's special interest in the case of his abducted (since released) father, Mr. Michael Obi.

Football is, indeed, a special factor in our country. And you could see this in the way the whole country rose up in unison to condemn the act and also the nation-wide demand for security services to up the game against the kidnappers.

We thank Mr. President for the audience granted the young Mikel to express his gratitude and the player (and his team mates as well) can only really give action to this expression by winning the three points against Madagascar on Sunday, that will take Nigeria closer to the 2012 African Cup of Nations finals, in Gabon and Equatorial Guinea.

### Live in Ravenna...

Our National Beach Soccer team is presently campaigning in the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup in Ravenna, Italy with its first match against Russia on Friday, and other matches to come tomorrow (Sunday, 4th September) against Venezuela and on Tuesday, 6th September against Tahiti.

Surely, the team has prepared well for the competition, with a long camping in Badagry, Lagos (thanks to the Lagos State Government) and a week stint in Faro, Portugal where they played a couple of warm-up games.

The team also played in the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup in 2006 (Rio de Janeiro), 2007 (Rio de Janeiro) and 2009 (Dubai) and in a player like Isiaka Olawale, top scorer at the African Beach Soccer Championship in Morocco in June, and who has also scored NINE goals in three previous World Cup appearances, the team has a veteran who has nothing to fear and will provide the pilot light.

In 2007, the Supersand Eagles famously defeated France and Argentina before losing narrowly to Uruguay in the quarter finals, so Venezuela and Tahiti are unlikely to be stumbling blocks. But they should not under-rate any team.

## NATIONS CUP QUALIFIERS

### Keita to return for Mali

BARELONA Midfielder Seydou Keita is poised to return to the Mali national team for the first time in 20 months after being named in the squad for tonight's African Nations Cup qualifier against Cape Verde Islands.

Keita, who has spoken of his frustration at the national set-up and a desire to concentrate on his club career, has turned down repeated call-ups since he won the last of his 62 caps in January 2010 at the Nations Cup finals in Angola.

Coach Alain Giresse named Keita in his 24-man squad for Saturday's game



in Bamako. Mali will go top of qualifying Group A if they win, leaving them well placed ahead of October's final round of matches.

### Uganda may qualify with draw

A draw away in Luanda would end for Uganda a 34-year wait for a place in the African Nations Cup finals.

The Cranes effectively need a single point from their last two games to finish at the top of Group J and take their place in the finals line-up for the first time since 1978, when they finished as runners-up.

But it will be a tall order away in Angola, although Uganda managed a goalless draw in Luanda during the 2010 World Cup qualifiers.

Defeat would still see Uganda at the top of the standings but mean they must then win their last game at home to neighbours Kenya in October to take top

place. They could short circuit that potential pressure by achieving a result on Sunday at the November 11th Stadium.

The East Africans are preparing in unusual splendour, camping for the last two days in Nairobi and then heading by charter flight to Angola.

Uganda have included David Obua, who has proven their talisman in key games in the past, despite his picking up a concussion in the Scottish league at the weekend.

Angola have named a strong squad including new FC Porto signing Djalma Campos and the former Manchester United striker Manucho.

### Libya to go ahead with AFCON qualifier

LIBYA will play in the African Nations Cup qualifiers this weekend but a match originally switched to Mali will now be played in Egypt, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) said on Tuesday.

Libya's Group C meeting with Mozambique had been originally moved from Tripoli to Bamako because of the country's security situation but has now been switched again, this time to Cairo. CAF said today's match would be played behind closed doors.

Libya has been gripped by six months of conflict as a popular uprising in February against Muammar Gaddafi's 42-year rule resulted in a civil war.

A CAF spokesman said Libya had originally sought a postponement of the match because they said they could not arrange for players to travel from Tripoli, where some of the worst violence has



• Paqueta

taken place over recent weeks. Since NATO imposed flight restrictions on Libya earlier this year at the beginning of the rebel push to overthrow Gaddafi, teams have had to travel by road from Tripoli to Tunisia and then fly onwards to various destinations on the continent.

Libya used Bamako as the venue for their last home match in the group in March.

The federation did not give a reason for the decision to move today's game, although the switch suggests Libya may have decided to use players based in Benghazi rather than those based in Tripoli as Benghazi is closer to Egypt.

Libya's Brazilian coach Marco Paqueta said last week it has been originally arranged for the squad to meet in Morocco and spend 15 to 20 days preparing for the match but that this had proven impossible to organise.

Paqueta told Brazilian newspaper O'Globo he did now know whether he would take charge of Saturday's match.

Libya trail Zambia by a single point in the group and still have a chance to take top place and qualify for next year's tournament.

**NATION CUP QUALIFIERS...NATION CUP QUALIFIERS...NATION CUP QUALIFIERS**



•Stephane Mbia

## Cameroon must win big in Mauritius

**C**AMEROON must beat Mauritius in Group E of the African Cup of Nations qualifiers this weekend to avoid a

**Malawi can seal 2012 AFCON berth**

**M**ALAWI can claim a place in the African Nations Cup finals for a second successive tournament if they beat Tunisia in Blantyre on Saturday, dealing a hammer blow to another of the leading teams on the continent.

But an away win for the north Africans will see them complete a revival of their fortunes under new coach Sami Trabelsi after a horror start to the qualifying.

Both sides are tied on 10 points in Group K where they are chasing second place in the standings behind Botswana, who have already clinched top place and a berth at the 2012 finals in Equatorial Guinea and Gabon.

Today's winner cannot be overtaken by the loser irrespective of the results of matches involving the two teams on the final round of qualifiers in October. This is because Malawi and Tunisia drew when they met in North Africa last year and therefore if there is a winner on Saturday, the victorious team will qualify on the head-to-head count out.



humiliating elimination from next year's tournament.

The *Indomitable Lions* must win the Group E game and hope the result between Senegal and DR Congo goes their way to maintain their chances of qualifying for the tournament in Gabon and Equatorial Guinea.

Cameroon are placed third in the group with five points behind leaders Senegal on 10

and DR Congo on seven.

This means the Indomitable Lions need a comprehensive victory to maintain hopes of clinching one of the two places for the best runners-up for the tournament to be held in Gabon and Equatorial Guinea.

But the former African champions will miss two key players Benjamin Moukandjo of French side Nancy and

Marseille midfielder Stephane Mbia because of injuries.

Only the top team in the group is guaranteed a place at the finals in Equatorial Guinea and Gabon next year. There are also two places for the best runners-up from the 11 groups.

The *Indomitable Lions*' final qualifier is in October against second-placed DR Congo.

## S/Africa duo warns of Niger danger

**S**OUTH Africa stars Lehlohonolo Majoro and Dayton Claasen have spoken of the tough task that awaits them in Niger for their 2012 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier on Sunday.

*Bafana Bafana* currently top their Group G by two points from Niger and a victory, coupled with Sierra Leone's failure to take full points at home against Egypt, and Pitso Mosimane's side will qualify for the finals tournament.

Defeat, and qualification will be out of their hands going into

the final round of matches in October.

"This is by far the most important match for us because Niger is breathing down our necks in second place in our group, and we know that a win will surely help us qualify for the 2012 Afcon tournament in Equatorial Guinea and Gabon," Kaizer Chiefs striker Majoro said on Wednesday.

"At the moment we are two points ahead of them, but we need to open up a bigger gap to ease the pressure and make life easy for ourselves."

"The good thing about this group of players is that every player called up here is ready to fight for their country, and if an opportunity comes for me to be in the starting line-up I have to grab it with both arms."

Lierse midfielder Claasen may well be given the playmaker role in the side that is usually assumed by injured skipper Steven Pienaar, but he says he is ready for the challenge. He says he is full of confidence after a superb showing in the 3-0 friendly win over Burkina Faso last month.

## Leone Stars target three points

**S**IERRA Leone will look to take three points off a youthful Egyptian side when the teams meet for their penultimate Africa Cup of Nations qualifier.

The Group G match takes place at the National Stadium in Freetown, Sierra Leone, on Saturday afternoon.

Egypt, who lie bottom of the group and have only a slim hope of qualifying for the 2012 Nations Cup finals in Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, have opted for a youthful team made up of

players from their U-23 and U-20 squads.

Veteran midfielder Ahmed Hassan, who is closing in on the all-time record for international caps, is the only 'senior' player in the *Pharaohs*' squad.

After Egypt's 0-0 draw with South Africa in June, three-time Nations Cup winning coach Hassan Shehata was relieved of his duties. U-23 coach Hany Ramzy will be in charge of the senior side for this match.

The Egyptian Football Association are currently

considering three candidates to succeed Shehata on a permanent basis: Colombian Francisco Maturana, Montenegrin Zoran Filipovic and former USA coach Bob Bradley, who has boldly stated that he will lead the team to the 2014 World Cup in Brazil if given the job.

But while Egypt are looking to the future, the Leone Stars are very much focused on the present and know that a win over the *Pharaohs* will give their hopes of reaching the 2012 finals a major boost.

**Olubanwo Fagbemi**

**On Sport**

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## War in Madagascar

**W**HAT is the point in being consistently rated among Africa's best when you struggle against weak continental opposition? The search for adequate answer to this poser and reward of faithful supporters should propel the Super Eagles towards today's 2012 Africa Nations Cup qualifier against Madagascar, above the anticipated patchy turf of the Antananarivo stadium and beyond qualification for the finals in Equatorial Guinea/Gabon.

Chief Coach Samson Siasia's bunch may be considered a chip off the old block with the undeniable potential of matching the intimidating records of national team predecessors who ran riot in the late 80s and early 90s. On account of playing personnel, widespread support and the coaching mix, the Eagles could soon add to Nigeria's twin annex of Nations Cup titles from 1980 and 1994.

Focus, though, is on the Madagascar fixture, second to the last in the 2012 qualification series. Nigeria, with seven points, is at present behind Guinea with 10 on the Group B log.

Since the lone Nations Cup ticket is reserved for the eventual leaders, and Nigeria lost ground early on, redemption lies in ousting Guinea in the very last group encounter when both teams would be tied on points, provided Madagascar, fielding the Under-23s or not, is pressed for a more favourable goals difference while the Guineans overcome Ethiopia in a corresponding match-up in Conakry.

As straightforward as it sounds, the task of piping Guinea at the death remains daunting, given the continent-wide knowledge of Nigeria's horrendous away form. As acknowledged by followers and confirmed by Tanzania, lately formidable 2014 World Cup qualifying group opponents, the smooth-playing Super Eagles tend to wobble in remote African venues.

Indeed, all the adversary has to do is force the Nigerians to honour ties on rough, undulating surfaces and our pampered lot sulk rather than play. But why patriotism never fuels conquest of the now familiar flaw remains awful indictment of national ethos considering the fact that Ghana, Cameroon and Egypt often respond better in similar conditions.

Unlike the run-up to the ill-fated friendly against Ghana last month in London, injury, as claimed by Taiye Taiwo, Osaze Odemwingie, Kalu Uche and Danny Shittu, and not administrative blunder, will hopefully be the major variable confronting the technical crew. As disclosed by football federation chief Christopher Green, Siasia is nonetheless expected to exploit official support for success.

With renewed optimism in the fate of the Eagles spawned by the coach's appointment to the helm after decades of lethargic campaign, the time has come to reward long-suffering fans. We start counting from Madagascar.

## Lightning Bolt and the stolen thunder

UNTIL the 100 metres men's final of the 13th IAAF World Athletics Championship in Daegu, South Korea, the only threat to Usain Bolt's world championship crown seemed to be the force of gravity. In the absence through injury of vaunted foes Asafa Powell and Tyson Gay, *Lightning Bolt* was expected to surge to the title, but he succumbed to a false start.

It was an awful turn, for the clearly anguished athlete as the enthusiast. But Bolt was as much a victim of the rules as his showmanship, with typical pre-race preening and swagger unsettling more than just rivals on the occasion.

As the attention generated by the no-show fizzled out, I contemplated what might have been. Young fly and compatriot Johan Blake may have run away with the 100 metres title with a modest 9.92 seconds, but Bolt's times of 9.58 sec in the 100 metres and 19.19 sec in the 200 from the last Worlds held two years ago in Germany promised much more - 9.7 sec? 9.6 perhaps?

Also reigning Olympic double champion - again achieved in world record time of 9.69 sec for the 100 metres and 19.30 sec for the 200 in Beijing 2008 -, Bolt is only restrained until an explosive threesome with the injured duo sometime soon.

Powell holds the season's best time of 9.78 sec set in Lausanne, Switzerland on June 30 while American Walter Dix - who was second in Daegu ahead of old spice Kim Collins - flaunted undoubted credentials after he won the American trials in the absence of previous favourite, Gay. In comparison, the best Bolt managed this term was the 9.88 sec set in Monaco last July.

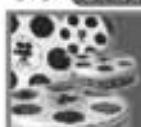
Still, few underrated the 6 ft 5 in human missile until the starter's gun stopped him dead in his tracks in Daegu. In peak condition Bolt may not be after gradually feeling his way back to fitness following the long layoff through injury last season, but a frightening proposition he remains.

He is held up as a sprints wonder, not least because of long legs that pound the track unbelievably quick. Even when he starts poorly, as often witnessed, he is capable of staging an amazing recovery to snatch victory.

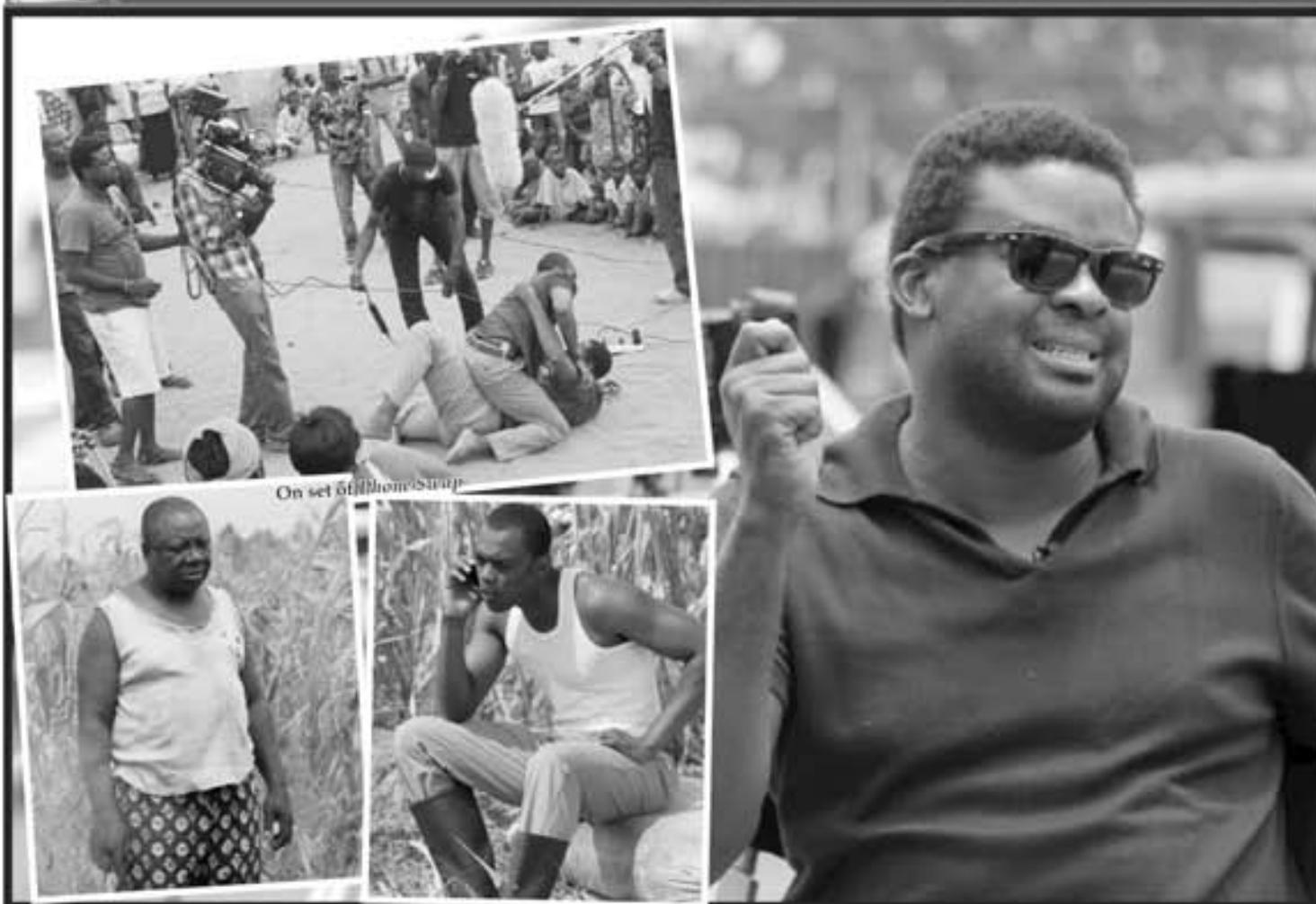
But what makes the 25 year-old run so fast? American scientists have an odd answer. They say it is not really because he moves his legs faster than rivals as leg speed is not a differentiating factor.

Where Bolt gets an advantage over his rivals is his ability to achieve commensurate feats with a larger frame. He covers a 100m sprint in 41 strides when rivals do so in 44. Compared to his closest rival, Gay, who at five foot 11 inches is considered the ideal size for a sprinter, Bolt, as all taller sprinters, must work harder to be as efficient since balance and control is as important as power.

Only slower than Powell, Bolt manages to overhaul his other main rival with fewer strides. He believes that further improvements could yet fetch a 9.50 seconds return, which may never be surpassed. It is a shame that his assertion evaded test in Daegu.



## BACKSTAGE



### Why I'm dedicating *Phone Swap* to Sam Loco – Kunle Afolayan

As the most anticipated new movie by award winning director, Kunle Afolayan reaches its 13th day on location; the filmmaker recounts to The Nation how the late Sam Loco Efe could have been part of this flick that he (the director) is excited will blow the minds of the Nigerian movie buffs when it is released. "I spoke to him three days before the news of his death came to us", said Afolayan regrettably. And although he is certain that Sam Loco's replacement is another highly talented actor that fills the gap adequately, he will dedicate the movie to the late actor as *Phone Swap* could have been his next job before death came calling.

Afolayan had unveiled; penultimate weekend, his new Golden Effects office alongside new state-of-the-art film equipment and a RED 4K camera which he said will be a great plus to the high

#### ■ Victor AKANDE ■

quality of production which his company is known for. The filmmaker who officially announced his appointment with telecommunications company, Globacom, as an ambassador, described the new movie as a romantic comedy.

Answering questions as to why he is delving into a genre that may not meet the thematic demands of most international film festivals he targets his works at, Afolayan said there was need to explore new opportunities: "We have chosen romantic comedy because we want to show how versatile we are. Creativity is important to us, but at the same time, commercialisation is key to the business that we are into because making a living is very important as well".

He revealed that Globacom has pitched tent with the movie which would rotate

location from Lagos, Abuja and Owerri. Golden Effects is being partnered by 1960 Media on this project, which has Seven Up, Pepsi and Honeywell Noodles as sponsors.

A visit to the present location in Badagry, Lagos revealed that a lot of effort at ensuring the movie is a bomb is being explored. A crop of amazing set designs are reinforcing Pat Nebo as one of the best art directors in the country. His unique creations of public tap, rooms, offices, interior of an aircraft and etcetera within the vast land of the Badagry community are applauding.

With such great fun like Asun (lamb delicacy) night, film show (some of then old flicks of the director's late father, Ade Love production) and each feting moment amidst wining and dining, there is no gain saying that a conscious avenue has been created to enhance familiarity among the cast who have been sourced from far and near, as a way of getting them into their movie characters with ease at the next set.

You cannot beat the combination of the young and sociable director himself, amiable actress Nse Ikpe-Etim, versatile artiste, Chika Chukwu, London-based actor, Wale Ojo, veteran dramatist, Chika Okpala (Zebrudaya), the ageless Joke Silva and Domitila fame actress, Ada Ameh, among others.

Written by award-winning Kemi Adesoye, the movie is about an arrogant business executive and a warm-hearted fashion designer who both exchange lives after accidentally swapping their mobile phones at a busy airport. An excited Afolayan said the movie has the trappings of a true Nigerian story, "with all the slangs, the languages and everything. Infact, it is an Igbo story, but with a mishmash of multiculturalism."



### Nigeria, Ghana in battle as ZAFAA 2011 gathers storm

WITH plans on top gear, organizers of the 2011 edition of the Zulu Africa Film Academy Awards have said that all is set to make the event a complete success. According to Chukwudi Uzochukwu, one of the organizers of the ceremony,

A peek at the list shows that Nigeria takes the lead in nominations. Billed for October 21 in London, 17 films were submitted. Films nominated for the awards include Queens's pride, The CEO, Beware, Anathema (my priestly vow), Haaja, Edikan, Bursting out, Uyai, Master of da Game, The beast, Carbin Kwai, Legend of Money, Carar Jakara (The Cockcrow), Marriage Planner, Fulani, Ghetto Dreamz, Cob Web, Cyphylis.

The Best West African TV category of the awards sees Nigerian stations like NTA, AIT Nigeria, AfricanMagic, My TV and Channels TV vying for the trophy alongside Ghana's Viasat, Multi TV, Joy TV and TV Africa.

In a similar fashion, both countries have to slug it out for the Best film category of the awards. With movies like Nigeria's *Mirror Boy*, *Save Our Soul* and *Fulani* pitched alongside Ghana's *Somewhere in Africa*, the race appears tough.

Another classification that sees Nollywood and Ghollywood trading punches is the Best Screenplay category of the awards with movies like Ghana's *Somewhere in Africa* and *Bed of Roses* and Nigeria's *The Mardens* and *Mirror boy*.

The comedy section of the awards presents itself as a strictly Nollywood battle as Cyphylis and Okon Lagos vie for the Best Comedy Film. While Vanessa Koko, Monalisa Chinda and Uche Ogbodo are up for the Best Comedy Actress (female), their male counterparts Victor Osuagwu, Ime Bishop Umoh and Kingsley Oghobona are in the race for the Best Comedy Actor (Male).

In the words of Uzochukwu, ZAFAA is still trying to broker deals with some airlines so that they can support the event. "The SMS voting commence September 1st. Glo is interested in partnering with us but we are still waiting for them. We have not had any concrete agreement yet," he added.

To add verve to the event and to show appreciation to corporate bodies that have shown support for the Nigerian movie industry, Uzochukwu said that they have decided to add the Best Entertainment Friendly Organization category of the awards. "We are looking at Glo, MTN and Etisalat but who carries the day is up to the public though this category has not been formally announced but we hope that it will be up," he concludes.



\*Guests at the ZAFAA nomination party

SOMETIMES last week, I was scanning through the Television channels and I stumbled on a news item that caught my interest. It was a story about a black American lady that was driven out of a departmental store because she openly breastfed her infant baby. In protest, the lady got to her home went straight to the internet and mobilized one thousand nursing mothers; and they all marched to the said store; put themselves in sitting positions with their babies and began to breastfeed their babies. Long story short; the store after some further legal actions was taken against them thereafter, offered to settle out of court with an undisclosed amount.

This arrested my interest, so I went to surf the net, seeking to know if it was against the law to publicly breastfeed babies. Lo and behold what I discovered was a surprise to me. I discovered that it was legal to breastfeed in public in America and other countries like Canada, etc. The reason I was surprised was because nothing like that is even mentioned in the Nigerian Constitution.

Well, who knows perhaps such a bill could be passed in the nearest future. Imagine omitting such a key factor of a child's upbringing.

Well, the thing I like about Nigeria is this, whether it is constitutional or not, nobody, I mean nobody can tell a Nigerian nursing mother when and where to breastfeed her baby. Mothers can breastfeed anywhere - in churches, market place anywhere.

# FEMINIQUE

With Vera Chidi-Maha Tel: 07056324508 (sms only)

Email: vcmaha@yahoo.co

## Should breastfeeding in public be allowed?

The reason is not far fetched. You see, a suckling child is impatient. He or she does not know whether the mother is in the market place or elsewhere. When a sucking child demands to be fed, it must be fed.

The few exceptions I have seen however is the so called *Aje-butte* mummies; you know, the type that for no medical reasons has chosen to bottle feed her baby with cow milk, because they claim they do not want their breasts to sag! For such mothers, I begin to wonder what they think the breast was given to them in the first place. For make-up or for fancy? Please! The white people have so designed breast feeding to be done in more refined ways. That is why; there are nursing bras; the types that have zips in front of the bra or buttons. For easy access to the breasts when there is demand for it.

There are clothes that a nursing mother should put on, when nursing her baby,

this makes room for decent ways to breast feed babies without any form of embarrassment. A nursing mother that puts on a fitted gown, is asking for trouble imagine what she has to go through to unzip the gown, undo the bra; etc.

I extend much commendation to all mothers that decide to exclusively breast feed their babies. Although a natural part of life and womanhood, it is not always an easy task to accomplish outside the privacy of the home. I believe breastfeeding mothers should be allowed to do so in public without any discrimination; if some simple, discretionary objectives are followed.

Like I mentioned earlier, the choice of clothes must be key.

I don't think breastfeeding in public should be questioned. It is a natural action. The only thing that should be questioned is the way a mother chooses to breastfeed. If a mother is to breastfeed in public, she needs to be taught

how to do so discretely. There is no reason to show everyone your breast. According to a resource material that was updated in May 2011, Health professionals and public health officials promote breastfeeding to improve infant health. Both mothers and children benefit from breast milk. Breast milk contains antibodies that protect infants from bacteria and viruses. Breastfed children have fewer ear respiratory and urinary tract infections and have diarrhea less often.

Infants who are exclusively breast fed tend to need fewer health care visits, prescriptions and hospitalizations resulting in a lower total medical care cost compared to never breastfed infants.

Breastfeeding also provides long-term preventative effects for the mother, including an earlier return to pre-pregnancy weight and a reduced risk of pre-menopausal breast cancer.

teoporosis (i.e. a condition in which the bones become weak and are easily broken).

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 75 per cent of mothers start breastfeeding immediately after birth but less than 15 per cent of those mothers breastfeed exclusively six months later. As a part of the Healthy People 2020 initiative, the national goal is to increase the proportion of mothers who breastfeed their babies in the early postpartum period to 81.9 per cent

by the year 2020.

Since the beginning of the mammal species, breastfeeding has been a natural way of providing food to a baby. Babies need to be fed at odd times and multiple times a day. So, if the mothers are outside in public running errands, she should be allowed to care for her baby by breast feeding. As long as she is using some form of cover up so there's no exposure, public breastfeeding should be appropriate for society without stigma. Or what say ye...

**The few exceptions I have seen however is the so called *Aje-butte* mummies; you know, the type that for no medical reasons has chosen to bottle feed her baby with cow milk, because they claim they do not want their breasts to sag!**

public knowledge that it becomes unpalatable to the ear.  
**Segun Makinde, Ibadan**

•Vera, what an interesting topic. I want to object your judgment on the case between Cynthia and Eric. I think if anybody is to tender an apology then it should be Cynthia. Yes, she should apologize to Eric for sexual assault, moreover, she should be happy having achieved her objectives.  
**Ugwu Greg, Obudu**

•Vera, there is no smoke without fire, there can't be sexual harassment without a cause, ladies uses various means to seduce men such as indecent dressing etc.  
**Meeks-Ugwu, Obudu**

•I like your column in the Nation Saturday, August 27. Keep it up. Both genders can harass and be harassed.  
**Tabai Mark**

•Men victims too. I practice medicine, so no woman can be too enticing during work; ethics and my mind! A big man's wife was used to making passes when consultation but I know how to get out of such tight corners. One day hubby out of town, the wife called to tell him she is ill and could not go to hospital. A doctor was to be sent. It was me! Met her in a night gown at 11am well perfumed in own bedroom. But at the end of the whole thing the big man's wife would not let go; because she wanted me!  
**Aloysius Abuja**

•A very sensitive question indeed, sexual harassment does not have a gender barrier, many have to woo their spouse of today through this means. It's when it becomes

**Anonymous**



•The couple, Mr. and Mrs. Ugochukwu Okoro at their wedding recently, surrounded by their bridal train including Ekene Okoro at the far left

# So good to be back

**W**HEN I was a little girl of about 8 or 9, I really had no choice about the kind of music I wanted to listen to or the film I wanted to watch. I depended so much on films the adults in the house were watching. If there were votes in the house on what film to watch, I would have lost anyway since I was the only young person in the house for a long time. Luckily, the beloved films in the house caught my fancy. We had *Roots 1, 2 and 3*. We had *the Immigrants, Sounds of Music, Hello Dolly* and so on.

I used to play the films over and over again and at a point, I could say word for word what my favourite said in each film. And o la, la, a was quite a spectacle whenever I began to sing the songs (if any) in the films.

As I write this page today, I remember with nostalgia the lyrics in the Hello Dolly film. I can't help but feel that a lot of you dear ones are singing something similar as I come back to the *Hearts* page to do what I know how to do best

- putting smiles back to troubled hearts.

The lyrics go thus: Hello Dolly. "It's so nice to have you back where you belong. You're lookin' swell, Dolly. I can tell, Dolly. You're still glowin'...you're still crowin'...you're still goin' strong... Dolly'll never go away again".

A lot has happened since the last time I was here. I have grown more in wisdom (that I can say without any doubt of contradiction). I'm now more convinced more than ever that the love you have for intangibles are sometimes more important than the love you have for tangibles. I'm happy to be back.

I'll like to thank my M.D, Mr. Victor Ifijeh who has never stopped seeing that great thing in me from the moment he discovered me many years ago. Mr. Dele Adeosun, thanks for being there.

To my friends (fans) who never left me all these years and months of being away - Ola Bakare, Gabriel Nweze and you all out there - I trowey salute. I'm finally back so let's see what we have this week. Enjoy!

## People say I shouldn't trust my husband, what do you think?

Dear Aunty Adeola,  
My name is Biodun. My husband was offered an opportunity to play football for a club outside the country. We rallied round and raised money for him to travel abroad and he has been gone for two years now. He's yet to get a club and things are hard for him over there. I have had to keep sending money to him to renew his visa and to support him. Now, my people are tired of helping me out and things are hard for me here.

I have remained faithful to him since he left and I hope to remain faithful till we see each other again. The problem now is I don't know when he will get a club. I can only hope that it

will be soon. We are children and I'm the one taking care of them.

People are not making things easy as they joke that my man cannot say he has been faithful to me too. Each time I ask him, he says he has not been with another woman over there, but that having a rich girlfriend is one of the ways he could use to make it faster. He asked me if he should try having one. We're both born again Christians. Do you think he has been faithful too?

Dear Biodun, it is difficult to answer your question about your husband's fidelity or otherwise. Most guys do not consider it a sin to help themselves in the area of sex when their wives are

away for so long. They won't think it is out of order to have another woman by the side. Two years without sex for a woman is not a big deal. We are the ones who are capable of holding on. Men are the weaker vessels when it comes to sex so. The best part of it is that they won't get pregnant even if they have sex everyday so they can deny it.

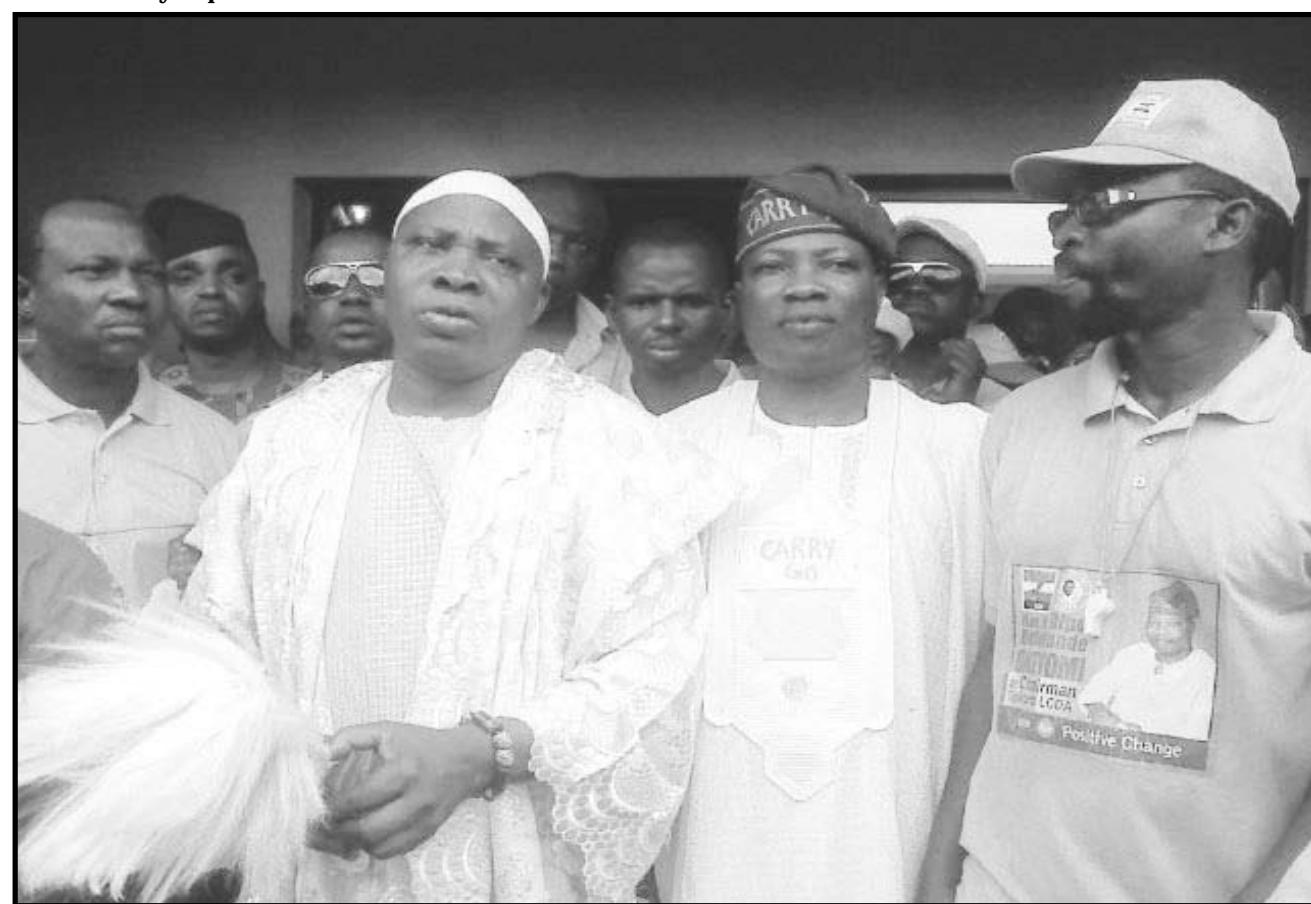
The problem here shouldn't even be whether your husband has been faithful or not. It should be when you're going to be reunited. The longer you stay apart, the longer your chances of growing apart emotionally.

If you think his chances of getting a club to play in over there are slim, advise him to

start coming back immediately. If you are here in Nigeria and you can survive, then you can both work together and make something worthwhile out of life. There are so many people in foreign country who keep chasing after the elusive dreams of making it. I pray your man's case will not be like that.

You may ask him to look at his situation critically and give himself the best advice. Getting a club shouldn't take so long, so he should start thinking of retracing his steps back home.

Forget about dwelling on the issue of faithfulness or not for now. Work hard for the future of your children and pray too. God will reunite you and your husband soonest, amin.



• Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) chairmanship aspirant for Ojokoro LCDA, Hon. Depo Okeyomi (middle) with Olu of Ojokoro, Oba Rilwan Oluwalmbe Taiwo during his visit to the royal father

# Hearts

With Adeola Agoro  
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## How can I solve the problem of loose vagina and save my marriage?

Dear Aunty Adeola,  
How is life with you? Hope fine by God's grace. I'm in my 30s, married and about to have my first baby, but the I found out that while making love to my husband my vagina is not tight as it ought to be. Please I will appreciate if you will help me with the name of the product you wrote about on your column and where I can get it because I don't want to lose my

husband to other girls out there and any other advice on how to solve this loose vagina problem will be welcome. Your response will be highly appreciated. Thank you and May God continue to bless and enlarge your coast. MP.

Dear MP, you're not alone as I have found out after talking lightly about this issue. However, your case is rare since you haven't even had a baby yet. Most women who have complained about this type of problem are those who have had two, three or more babies. It's okay though since we all have different body make-ups and since each man's size varies.

I'll advise you to stop worrying now until after the baby's arrival. Immediately after that, you may want to try what is generally known as Kegel exercises. They are exercises considered to be helpful in

## I can't stop other guys admiring me, but my man is angry

Aunty Adeola,  
There is this guy I met in 2009. Our friendship was flowing sweetly until I came back from school recently. Men have been coming after me but he wouldn't complain; he only asked me to tell them that I'm not interested. I told him cannot do that and he has stopped calling me since then. Please what can I do?

My dear, what do you want me to say? I would have thought that if the relationship meant anything to you, you would choose him over all other guys you barely know.

Yes, it's natural for men to pay you attention, after all, you're a babe with boobs and the other things guys may find attractive. It's also natural for you to enjoy the attention. However, isn't it better for you to be in a safe and secure relationship than allow some guys ruin what you've got? A bird in

strengthening the muscles that are situated on the pelvic floor. The exercises basically comprise of relaxing and contracting these muscles, thus making them stronger and elastic. You will have to do this when you urinate. When you pee, simply stop your pee in midstream by controlling your pelvic muscles. Try to do this a few times every time you urinate.

There are also many supplements available to help you firm up the walls of your vagina. They help in tightening the female reproductive organ that has become loosened due to one or the other reason. Ask around for some of such supplements (cream and herbal teas) from reputable pharmacies. It shall be well, you won't lose your darling husband and your sex life will get a boost.

hand is better than two in the bush, they say. And another is, the devil you know is better than the angel you've not met.

It was childish of you to have told your guy of 2 years that you couldn't tell the other guys you were not interested. Haba! The message you passed to him was that you didn't mind being toasted and that in fact, you were still searching for another guy. So, he gave you the chance to mingle freely. So, have you now found another to fill the empty space? I doubt that.

What do you do? If you honestly think what you had for 2 years was sweet enough, you'll go and tell this guy you want him and only him and that from now on, you'll be saying no to other guys. Making him feel trusting and loved will make you find your place back in his life. That is if you've not lost it. Good luck.

## FEED BACK

Hi Agoro, you made the world hopeful to me. I must commend you for the glorious and wonderful work you are doing in The Nation. I want to thank you so much for publishing my articles late last year titled: Nigerians help me! I really thank you for saving my life and dream. Concerned Nigerians have been responding and helping me financially and praying for me. God bless you more. Thank you so much.

- Joshua Orekhie (08033407687)

# SOCIAL SCENE

- Profile
- Partying
- Happenstances
- Style



I had my only  
child when I was  
40 and she died  
at age six

● Schl proprietress tells heart-rending tale at 60

# Happenstances

- People
- Places
- Parties

With KAYODE OLASHILE-ALFRED E-mail:kayflex2@yahoo.com TEL:08035733605



## Jasmine Murray-Bruce's new status

Jasmine, daughter of the Chairman of Silverbird Group, Ben Murray-Bruce, came into town a few years ago and we found elegance immediately. She was an icon of beauty and grace with her gentle gait and all round smiles. Although she is very young, her fashion sense is far ahead of her years. So, she could only have inherited that spirit of uncomplicated sizzle from an earlier generation. Right now, no one is in doubt that she is one lady to watch. The thoroughbred silver spoon is not all beauty without brains, as she happens to have inherited some of her father's entrepreneurial traits. In her 20s, Jasmine calls the shots at Monae Spa, which is located inside the Silverbird Galleria, Victoria Island, Lagos. The only daughter of Murray-Bruce, she attended some of the prestigious institutions abroad, and is no doubt sought after by people of the opposite sex, who are taken in by her pedigree, among other laudable attributes. A frequent reveller, Jasmine graces red-carpet events where she dazzles all with her awesome attires and matching accessories. Owing to the generous interest her personality arouses, her love life, which has been shielded from prying eyes, has dominated discourse, with speculations about the identity of her date making the rounds. Many months ago, there was a rumour that she was romantically involved with hip-hop star, D'banj. But the rumour was later dispelled. Those who should know informed *Happenstances* that the light-skinned, beautiful and soft-spoken lady is involved in a relationship with another silver spoon kid. However, details of this are still under the wraps.

## Where is Olumide Ogunlesi?

Everyone invariably takes the back seat at some point in life. And even the rich and their offspring are not exempted from this phase of life. Such is the story of Olumide Ogunlesi, the fun-loving son of Fola Ogunlesi, one of society's bigwigs. In recent times, society watchers have been straining their eyes to catch a glimpse of the Lagos Island big boy and owner of Lumog Perfume, but it seems the wind of life has taken the one time ultimate rocker out of the social firmament, leaving his coveted space in



## Brand new Omolewa Ahmed

Omolewa Ahmed, the new Kwara State first lady, has earned a place on the social radar more quickly than the speed of light. For many who have had the opportunity to cross Omolewa's path before she became the first lady of Kwara State, she was the wife of a prominent politician who preferred to operate from the background and keep a low profile. She was what could be called an epitome of humility. Before her husband's political elevation, Omolewa was widely believed to belong to the class of women with an aversion for ornament, because you hardly found such on her. She was a very quiet and reserved woman, with a personality that reminds one of a dove. Today, we cannot but acknowledge that the 'big madam', who is now the hottest woman in Kwara political and social space, can hold her head in any gathering as one of the best dressed women. Since she became the first lady, she has not fallen short of this reputation. While there had never been any argument about her fashion sense, she has improved greatly in this area. She dresses well and appropriately, gliding graciously from traditional to western attires. Omolewa, whose knack for keeping herself off the limelight has since been changed by her husband's political fortunes, hails from Osun State. She is definitely representing her state well.

## Dakova hits golden age

David Kolawole Vaughan, one of the pillars of fashion designing in Nigeria, is 50. The diminutive man behind Dakova fashion label and Aristotle lounge in Abuja turned 50 on Tuesday, August 30, 2011.

Dakova, as he is fondly addressed by friends, is one guy you cannot deny has been blessed beyond measure. Though short in stature, his brains and brawn more than make up for his height deficiency. He gladdens the hearts of young designers who search desperately for a role model whose story is inspirational. Many of them say they are abundantly encouraged when they remember Dakova who at 50 has accomplished a lot in fashion business. Though in the last few years, he has been enmeshed in many various forms of controversy, especially the allegation that someone died at his club in Abuja. Politics also dragged him away from his first love, fashion, on at least two occasions when he contested for the chairmanship of a local government and when he became an aide to a minister. But in spite of these, fashion has had him in its grips. No one would accuse Vaughan of not being diligent, dedicated and loyal when it comes to the style industry. He is blessed with two children (Michael and Rachael). Those who attended informed *Happenstances* that his 50th birthday shindig was staged on Friday.



the social arena to lie fallow. His absence from the social firmament has allegedly affected his business concerns, as his once booming A-list event centre, Fantasyland, located on Kingsway Road, Ikorodu, Lagos is now a far cry from what it used to be. While some believe that Olumide, a silver spoon kid with a remarkable sense of business, is on his way out of hibernation, others believe the factors that engineered his exit from public glare are clearing up, enough for him to stage a comeback.



## Ebi Egbe bounces back

**M**onimichelle Sports Agency boss, Ebi Egbe, is currently exuding whoops of joy. Not a few had thought his sojourn in the social arena would be short-lived and that he would fizzle out like smoke, leaving memories of him in the dustbin of history. A while back, he went off the social radar, leaving many to think the end had come for the active dude. But he is currently enjoying a new lease of life. His sports company, Monimichelle, deals in the construction of soccer stadia and artificial turfs. And right now, his company enjoys the most patronage in this area. In recent times, the company has changed the face of the sports industry and it is keeping up the good work. To start with, his firm undertook the laying of the Yenagoa Stadium's pitch, which is currently rated the best in the South-South.

Currently, the news making the rounds is that the firm is billed to embark on a transformational project for the Aku Stadium in Makurdi, Benue State. Those in the know further revealed that the company has broadened its horizon, and that an offshore contract in far away Cyprus and Barbados is in the offing.

## Victor Adelakun celebrates

**I**t was meant to be a low-key event, but the presence of top dignitaries greeted the opening of the head office of ADVIC Motors. Victor Adelakun, popularly known in the Lagos social space as Ade-Lexus, is a gold fish which has no hiding place. So, it was another moment of jollity and conviviality last Friday at the new office situated at Lateef Jakande, Agidingbi, Ikeja, Lagos.

The occasion, which witnessed the influx of top socialites, had both old and new friends of the popular auto dealer from the various sectors of the economy in attendance; from bankers and big players in the oil and gas industry to politicians and corporate men and women. It was one event that spoke volumes of Ade-Lexus's influence and social standing.

Top of the range drinks and assorted meals were served in their sumptuous best, and it was easy to see that the ADVIC boss was full of excitement.

## Wedding bells for Harry Obaseki

**H**e who finds a wife, the Bible says, finds a good thing. Such is the case of Harry Obaseki, younger brother to the former Group Managing Director of NNPC, Gaius Obaseki. A few weeks ago, all roads led to Christ Apostolic Church International at Uzebu Quarters in Benin City, Edo State, where Harry Obaseki was joined to his heartthrob, Ifunaya, a medical doctor. It looked like a marriage made in heaven as Harry and Ifunaya became the cynosure of all eyes.

It was a gathering of powerbrokers, socialites, fashion icons and business moguls, who turned out in large numbers for the big day. The ceremony itself was presided over by about nine ministers, who blessed the marriage with prayers and counselling. Reception followed immediately at the prestigious Mediterranean Hall of the Civic Centre along the busy Airport Road in Benin. It was a glamourous affair.

Among the dignitaries at the wedding were Chief John Odigie Oyegun, former governor of Edo State; Brig.-Gen. Obi Umahi and his wife; Barrister A.G.E Amegor, former State Secretary of ACN; Chief Ogbemi Osula; Gen. Ero Oyuki Jackson Obaseki; former Chairman National League Board; Col. Paul Ogbebor, Chairman/MD Paulosa Nigeria Ltd, Engr. Owens Obaseki; Chief Sam Igbe, the *Iyase* of Benin.

## Babajide Obanikoro eyes his father's old shoes

**B**y the time you are reading this, you might have heard or read about the latest ambition of Mr. Babajide Obanikoro, the son of former Nigerian High Commissioner to Ghana, Senator Musiliu Obanikoro. It came as a rude shock to many in the Lagos political space when Babajide lost in the last general election, where he contested for a seat in the House of Representatives to represent the Eti-Osa Federal Constituency. Happenstances gathered that the handsome dude has thrown his hat into the ring again. This time, the rumour is that Babajide plans to contest for the chairmanship election of Lagos Island, the same position in which his father once held sway. During the tenure of the elder Obanikoro, the City Hall, which housed the secretariat of the local government, was consumed by fire.

It will be further recalled that his father, Senator Obanikoro, lost woefully in the 2007 governorship election, in which he contested against Governor Babtunde Fashola on the platform of the PDP. Now, many are wondering if Babajide is not suffering from conflict of interests, since he had tried unsuccessfully to win a seat in the House of Representatives.

## Adedeji, Annan families set for union

**D**electable daughter of former Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, Aman, is warming up for a walk down the aisle with her heartthrob, Adepoju Adedeji, France-based son of Prof. Adebayo Adedeji, the founder and Executive Director of African Centre for Development and Strategic Studies. The three-day event, barring any hitch, promises to be a splendid affair. The quiet diplomat and icon of international status plans to go all out for his lovely daughter. Between September 29 and

October 1, all roads will lead to Accra, the Ghanaian capital. That is the day two prominent African families will be joined in the age-long institution of marriage. Having done the introduction earlier, plans are afoot to make the wedding a memorable one.

While the wedding ceremony is scheduled to take place in Ghana, the Lagos social space is already abuzz with details of the proposed wedding.

Nigerians who are close to the Adedeji family are getting set to honour the professor, who is also a former minister and a man of selfless service, both to his country and the international community.

Already, the diplomatic community, bigwigs from all walks of life, academics, politicians, socialites and celebrities are scrambling for a space on the guest list. Leading hotels in Ghana are said to have had their rooms fully booked for the period to ensure adequate accommodation for guests.



# 'Why I'm donating an orphanage as my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday gift to kids without parents'

The Proprietress of Foly Nursery and Primary School, Ikorodu, Lagos, Mrs. Folorunsho Ogbara, had her first and only child when she was about 40 years old. Sadly, she lost the child six years after. Ogbara speaks with JOKE KUJENYA about her 60 years journey into life, her travails and plans for children who lack parental love and care

**A**GE sixty provides lots of aged people the chance to look back into life. It also affords them the time to initiate fresh ideas to enable them start life all over again. It is not different for Mrs Folorunsho Ogbara, proprietor, Foly Nursery and Primary School, Ikorodu. The woman of stout build and agile strides said: "I have been running the school for more than 20 years. So, it is time for me to look back at my life, which had at one time felt like a tempest-tossed boat ride.

"At some point, I actually felt like someone climbing to breathtaking heights and, suddenly, I saw myself falling to desperate lows. I even got to a particular point I felt I

just couldn't go on. Time and again, I have realised that it is time for me to reminisce on the journey of my life so far. And I can tell you, I have crossed several milestones."

Born into the family of the late Alhaji Lamidi Ogbara in Ikorodu, and the second of her mother's eight children, Mrs Ogbara said running an orphanage was a dream she had held on to for about 15 years. "And that is why I have decided to launch it on my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. To me, laying

the foundation for the full take-off would be part of working for God."

"My late father had eight wives and 45 children. My mother, the late Mrs Moriamoh Ogbara, was the fourth wife. So, you can see we were very large in our family. Now, this was how it began: after I got married many years ago, I was unable to bear my own children. There was nothing my husband then and I did not do to ensure that I conceived and bore my own children, but

nothing worked.

"I was about age 40 when I eventually got pregnant and had my first and only child. Sadly, the baby died at the age of six. After the child whom I named Mayowa died, I lost interest in virtually everything about life, the school and my other business. I became practically disillusioned. I just wanted the whole world to collapse on me and end all my sorrows."

"But obviously, in my state of



• Ogbara



•Mrs Ogbara and some of the adopted children

despondency, God showed me that He had His own plans for my life. One day, I slept and had a dream and saw myself running an orphanage, which I then intended to name after my dead child, 'Mayowa Memorial Orphanage'. I then told some friends including the late Chief Wahab Folawiyo, the then Baba-Adinni of Nigeria, of my dreams. He told me then that when I needed to start, I should just inform his second daughter, Toyosi, and we left it at that.

"Not long after, I left Nigeria for the United States of America (USA) because I was almost losing my composure due to the death of my only child. Then, I had the dream about the orphanage and some time later, I returned to Nigeria. Shortly after I got to Nigeria, I stumbled on a young boy called Lekan Kasali. Someone brought his case to my attention that there was a young boy, an orphan, who was sick and needed medical attention to save his life. I asked that the boy should be brought to me, and I took care of his medical needs.

"By the time Lekan fully recovered, he told me about his younger sister, Aminat Kasali, who was then with someone at Sagamu, and who also required medical attention. They are of the same parents and lost them at tender ages. I was told that these children had nobody they could look up to for care and growth. By the time I took Aminat in, she was so ill and frail that she could not walk at that time. Every member of my own family who saw her then was afraid for me.

"So, with a sense of urgency, I visited Sagamu to meet the extended members of their family and formally requested that the two children be adopted by me. I got the consent of their family members and that was how they became my children and I found happiness in their companionship.

"Lekan had just completed his SSCE examination awaiting admission into any good Nigerian university. He did very well in the exams. And Aminat is about getting into SS2. They both attend Livingstone Secondary School, Ikorodu, and give me the joy of motherhood that I never knew I could enjoy.

"Their love for me then strengthened my dream to float the orphanage. But one thing

**I was about age 40 when I eventually got pregnant and had my first and only child. Sadly, the baby died at the age of six. After the child whom I named Mayowa died, I lost interest in virtually everything about life, the school and my other business. I became practically disillusioned. I just wanted the whole world to collapse on me and end all my sorrows**

kept recurring in my heart, and that is what my late father, Chief Ogbara, used to say: 'Folorunsho, this world is like a market place. People come, sell and will pass away. Think of a 'market' you will sell that people will remember you for.'

"So, I said the orphanage is that 'market' I have to sell in this latter part of my life. I believe that I am about entering the last 10 years of life as God has given every man according to His word. And I do not want to fail God or deny myself the joy of living that last 10 years meaningfully."

Tears welled up in the eyes of Mrs Ogbara as she added soberly: "You really can't appreciate how much of pains I have had to endure in this life of pains, from the trivial to the sublime. Yet, at the same time, God has favoured me so well. Now, I want to give back to the society through which God has made me who I am today, though my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday comes up on September 15."

Mrs. Ogbara added: "We keep hearing that the Lord is coming, but we don't know when precisely He would come. So, let me be up and doing so that I will find more favour in His sight. This does not mean that I have all the money in the world, but I believe God has blessed me enough to be able to lift up some of the under-privileged children in our society."

"Now that I am fully ready, my family members and well-wishers have advised

against naming the orphanage after my dead daughter. So, we came up with the name Destiny Orphanage Care Haven, which is meant to take after my personal destiny. Already, the registration process is on with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) in Abuja.

"Though, with Lekan and Aminat now in their teenage years and as the ones who have gingered this passion in me, we have our structure, that is, the building for the orphanage and almost everything we need in place. But I have not started taking children in until the registration is completed. Our nurses and other care givers are ready to take off, but we want to be sure to stay within the ambience of the laws of the land."

Mrs. Ogbara said she was sure God would give her more fulfilment in the orphanage than in the school she had run as a proprietress for over 20 years. She said: "I live more in the US than in Nigeria. And each time I see how the Americans pour out love into the lives of the less privileged in their society, I feel like I was failing God in so many ways. This is why I am burning within me to spread out love and care to some of the children in our own communities too. But I can't do it alone."

"There are people I have extended my dream to and they are already willing to give me their support. All they are waiting for me for is to inform them that I am ready

to commence. Before you know it, I will receive all the help the orphanage needs. I believe God is going to give me so many children that I cannot have on my own through the home. I also want to confess that the late Madam Theresa inspired me a great deal. Each time I saw her on TV then, I used to shed tears and felt like I was failing God if I didn't start the home at the appropriate time.

"Also, when I was filing my US residency and I got to the slot for children, I wrote 'childless'. Then the official attending to me asked if I had no children at all. I told him that the ones I have are adopted. He got angry with me and snapped that those two I adopted are my children, whether I liked it or not. So, with that encouragement, I believe that the time for the orphanage is now.

"We are going to be taking in children between the ages of three and six. We decided on this age bracket so that in addition to care, we can also offer them grooming in Godly virtues mixed with African values. We are going to agree with parents to support us to raise children that the whole of Nigeria will be proud of. It is going to be a lot of hard work, but we are fully prepared for the challenge. I will retire as the proprietor of my school. I have trusted people who would continue the school for me.

"By God's grace, I am setting up the orphanage to outlive me. Already, members of the Ogbara family are giving me their full support to ensure that the dream works. Toyosi has assured me of her support too. We will also sponsor some of the children through school, and see to it that they have quality education among other benefits.

"I have already pleaded with my family that even after I am no more, my property and the little money God has given me should be dedicated to the running of the orphanage. Right from after my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, I am going fully into humanitarian work, and I hope that others who had experienced similar fate in life would follow suit.

"I can only do my own in my own corner in Ikorodu while others can extend the same goodness to the needy in their own communities."



## Looking great in khaki

**F**ASHION outfits in khaki- cream, green and olive- command the season's attention with patterns reflecting the military uniform. Fashionable, expensive clothing and apparel shopping are not any more for women alone. Today, men have become equally fashion-conscious. Designer outfits for men are exclusively styled and patterned, according to the latest trends. A wide range of military fashion items available in latest trends, styles and colours can be worn for comfort and to reflect individual traits.



### Shaving tips for men

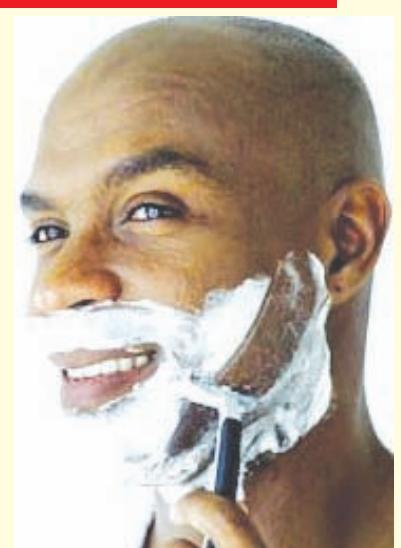
-It is ideal to avoid shaving the very first thing in the morning. It is best done after you must have had your bath. Shaving should be your final step before leaving the shower. The warm moisture of a shower makes hairs soft and plump and opens your pores.

-If possible, let your skin wake up a while. This allows the "puffiness" you encounter from fluids collecting in your skin during the night to recede, thus allowing you to get a closer shave when you do begin the task.

- Lubricate- Use an exfoliate such as a facial cleanser or scrub to eradicate dead skin cells and open up the pores of the skin to prepare it for a close shave.

-The hair should be wet with warm or hot water before shaving. This swells the hair shaft allowing the blade to cut the hair and not the skin.

- Massage shave cream



thoroughly. A vitamin and Aloe Vera-based shave cream will provide a close soothing shave and protect against razor rashes and burns.

-Use a sharp blade.

-Rinse the blade often in hot water when shaving and use slow short strokes. Take your time.



# Wedge extreme

FASHION has seen many trends. One minute, we are aboard the bandwagon of wearing high-waist bottoms to wearing the latest items like bags, sunglasses and everything else that the fashion influencers can think of. However, one thing is for certain and that is when it comes to footwear, wedge shoes are probably one of the biggest must-haves. No other set of shoes has captured the imagination of fashion buffs this season as wedge. There are three varieties of wedge that are hotly in vogue now: the wedge sandal, wedge shoes and wedge slippers. A wedge shoe is guaranteed to make you look chic. But never buy one without trying it out very well and making sure it fits at the store.



## Fashion news

### Ojuloge takes make-up to next level

Airbrushing make-up, a high definition technology in make-up artistry and the latest trend in the make-up world, is now in Nigeria, courtesy of Ojuloge Beauty and Art World.

Airbrushing is not a new invention, but not much is known of this wonder of make-up technology in Nigeria, and Ojuloge is proud to be the pioneer of the great technology. Unlike traditional make-up involving rubbing make-up on the skin and twisting your client's head here and there, airbrushing sprays a fine mist of special light water-based foundation on you. Therefore, the makeup sits evenly on the skin.

"My dream is to take the Nigerian home video to the international standard in the aspect of makeup, and this is one step towards that. It hurts me when I see a good script, brilliant directors and experienced cast, but bad costume and make-up to reflect and translate the script. My dream is to make this to a reality-making the Nollywood stand out in the international market in make-up and costume," said Oluwaponmile Funso-Adebayo, Ojuloge chief executive officer.



The search for the best hair stylist in Nigeria was taken to the South-West, as the preliminary was held on August 15 at the AY Hotels & Bar, Ogba, Lagos. It was a contest among eight salons. These were Beauty Lounge, Flakky Salon, Molad Beauty Salon, Style Me, Mary Light Salon, Stephny's Salon, WDC Salon and Vicky World.

The project director, Chukwumah Emmanuel, said the participants gave their best as they impressed the crowd with their creative styles. The styles were made from X-expression products- Schary, Romance Curl and Rich Braid. They used the products to create wig styles and hot water set styles. The judges used certain criteria to pick the best four- Style Me- first position, Molad Salon- second position, WDC- third position and fourth position Marylight Salon-to qualify for the grand finale later in the year.



MRS Rachael Aniyeloye deals in beads and other traditional items. But trading during festivals means more to her than just business. Behind her vocation lies a mystery only "the gods" and Aniyeloye herself would understand. "Trading in these traditional costumes is my fate and my salvation," she said in Yoruba language, her voice laden with bewitching passion.

However, she is not the only living evidence of the potency of culture on human life. Like her, Chief Nathaniel Ifatunde's world is also ruled by the strong hands of tradition.

For many years, Aniyeloye has been a regular face among the beads sellers that line up at the palace of the Ataoja of Oshogbo's palace in Osun State during the famous annual Osun Osogbo festival. She was also at the just concluded edition of the festival. She also said she would be at the Olojo festival in Ile-Ife, among other traditional festivals.

Those who seek beads, traditional artifacts like cowries and divination bowls and staffs, among others, are sure to find her selling her displaying her wares at cultural fiestas across the state. Her clientele are made up of traditional religion devotees and culture enthusiasts.

She stands out in terms of striving to meet her clients' needs. Fascinated by the passion with which she carried on at the Ataoja's palace, our reporter had commended her, wondering if she was meant for the trade. Not so, she said with a gesture of lamentation. "I do not want to sell these things. I don't like selling them at all!"

Shocked by her statement, the reporter probed her further, and she spoke with emotional fervour. Like one who had been looking for an opportunity to pour out her heart, Aniyeloye, obviously in her late 60s, continued: "I do not like selling these things. I preferred selling food items. But things became so rough for me, so much so that I almost lost everything. And when I inquired, I was told that I had abandoned my mother's business. She was selling beads and all the things you see here. Wherever I went, they said the same thing; that I had to go back and sell what my mother used to sell. They said that I should sell these things, if I want to succeed. So, I had no choice but to obey, because things became so hard."

Asked if her condition had improved since she made the decision to sell the traditional costumes, she said: "Things have changed for me. I go to anywhere there are festivities. I now have children who hawk my wares for me during the festivals."

Her name suggests she was once or still a Christian. Responding in the affirmative, she said: "I still practise my faith. My name is Rachael."

As she concluded her tale, a customer, Chief Nathaniel Ifatunde (47), who served as the interpreter, said: "I have a similar experience!"

Before taking up the self-imposed role of an interpreter, he was eyeing the *Ifa* divination bowl, which he later bought. "So, what is your story," the reporter asked.

"I was a Christian, baptised in the Baptist Church. I did my wedding in the church. Problems later took me to the mosque and I became a Muslim. The challenges of life continued and that was when I was told by divination that I had to go back to what my grandfather was doing. He was an *Ifa* priest," he said.



•Mrs. Aniyeloye displaying her wares

## 'I preferred food items but I'm compelled to sell traditional wares'



•Chief Ifatunde

■ Evelyn OSAGIE ■

That was how Nathaniel became an *Ifa* priest. And has his fortune changed?

He said: "I am now an Oluwo to the Glory of God. Things have changed for the better. Through

*Ifa*, I can now build my house. I must say that if God says this is what you will become, you can't be happy or have peace of mind until you become what you have been destined to do. It is more than you. I understand what Mama is going through because I have been there."

He added: "I am now a member

I do not like selling these things. I preferred selling food items. But things became so rough for me, so much so that I almost lost everything. And when I inquired, I was told that I had abandoned my mother's business...

of the Oodua People's Congress (OPC). I come here (Osogbo) every year as an OPC member to witness the Osun Osogbo festival. You can see we keep the place lively, apart from security."

His visits, according to him, have been more than just shindig. Like other devotees, he said, he also came to the feet of the goddess with prayer requests. "I make my prayers to God through the goddess, just like other religions have a medium through which they pray to God Almighty."



•Mrs. Aniyeloye

"Last year, I told Osun that if I did not achieve what I was looking for, I would not return. My coming here today is to say that I thank God, because I appreciate Him for doing it through Osun. I came here with my car, a Honda. You can see that God has a hand in the festival, because it always rains or there is light shower during the main day. The festival is beyond the town. I am from Ogun State, but live in Lagos."

# Promenade

With OKORIE UGURU E-mail: Promenade@thenationonline.ng Tel: 08056516881

Leisure  
Travel  
Tourism  
Fitness



•Worshippers at the bank of Osun River

## Breath of fresh air for Osun Osogbo

**O**SOGBO is a town that pulsates with the beat of creativity. This is a town where one is confronted with artistic creativity using one medium or the other to bring forth works that the world has always stood still to admire. It is the home of arts, craft and culture.

The fecundity of this great

town to churn out world-class talents in the field of creative arts is one of the major attractions to the town. And the art form is tied to the essence of the city reputed to have been founded by Osun, the Yoruba goddess of arts and creativity. Osun is the patron goddess of the Osogbo people. Every year, in reverence to the deity, the Osogbo devotees a large

chunk of the month of August to revere the goddess. It culminates with the Osun Osogbo festival.

For those unfamiliar with the festival, the grand finale involves the votary maiden, Arugba, taking off from the palace area carrying the calabash that contains sacrificial items and covered with cloth. Amidst celebratory atmosphere, she makes her way

to the bank of the Osun River inside the Osun grove.

According to the tradition of the Osogbo people, the collective success and failure of the people of Osogbo in the next one year are predicated on the ability of the Arugba to successfully carry the sacrificial items to the Osun River. She must not stumble. She must not fall, and neither should the calabash. Based on the importance of the work of the maiden, a protective cordon is made round her as she makes her way to the river stopping at certain points along the way to acknowledge some personalities and families, according to the tradition, until she finally completes her assignment inside the old palace of the founder of Osogbo in the grove.

It is easy for one to dismiss the Osun Osogbo festival a kind of predictable annual ritual. But part of the allure of the festival is that each year, the celebration has its peculiarities which make it unique that indigenes and Osun devotees would not miss. In the 2010 edition of the festival, there was an empty throne, a crown without a head to wear it and no king to deliver a goodwill speech to the mammoth crowd at the grove. This year was different. The state itself has seen a change in the leadership.

The festivities attached to the event is explained by the Osun State Governor in his speech read by his deputy on the occa-

sion.

He said : "Osun and everything attached to it constitute the core of Osogbo and form the archetype of the people. Osun is largely regarded as the purveyor of fertility , divine favour, healing, protection and prosperity. Although Osogbo is the home of Osun, the deity is worshipped throughout Yorubaland and in Diaspora. This makes this festival unique. It is to reverberate all through the land where Osun is worshipped.

"Osogbo has grown phenomenally on account of Osun. Our state evidently was named after the deity. The creativity of the inspired by Osun made Osogbo a centre of arts where indigenous, but world renowned artists emerged. It also attracts arts scholars from all over the world to the city. This is truly a heritage that we should nurture and treasure."

Aregbesola reiterated the desire of his administration to make tourism one the bedrocks for the development and economic empowering of the people of the state. He said: " When tourism is developed, it generates jobs in arts and craft, tour guides, transportation services in the airlines and taxicabs, hospitality services, such as accommodations, including hotels and resorts and entertainment venues, such as amusement parks, casinos, shop-



•Arugba flanked by guards and other Osun devotees

Continued on Page 50

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ping malls, music venues and theatres."

However, between last year and this year, so much has happened in both the traditional and political realms in the state that one could understand why this is epoch making. It is a new chapter for both the town and Osun State.

Precisely on August 10, 2010, during the build-up to last year's festival, the then king, Oba Iyola Matanmi 111, passed on, thereby creating a vacuum that many said was unprecedented in the history of the town.

However, in the Osun Osogbo 2011 celebration, all activities point to a new beginning for Osogbo and its people. Un-

## Breath of fresh air for Osun Osogbo

like last year, the new Ataoja of Osogbo, Oba Jimoh Oyetunji Olanipekun, Larooye 11, presided over the ceremony.

The Ataoja, in his speech, praised his predecessor for his contribution to the overall development of town. He said: "I have no new agenda at the moment but rather to urge a fresh faith in the old dream which is the fabric of our togetherness." He also called for understanding as he passes through the teething period.

The oba, however, used the opportunity to make some requests from the government. "We need more empowerment in

the state. The Nigerian Machine Tool and Osogbo Steel Rolling Mill that were privatized and sold to the Dangote Group are not functioning. The development moratorium given to the Dangote Group had expired without any change in the conditions of these places before they were sold. We the entire Osogbo people are requesting the government of our state to cry to the federal government to mandate the Dangote Group to commence work and reactivate the companies."

Based on his personal conviction that a society must not be stagnant, the oba

promised to unveil a ten-point development agenda for the city to be presented to the people during his first anniversary.

Despite the huge efforts this year by the organizers, much needs to be done. The organizers failed to control the number of VIP vehicles driven to the grove. It caused great difficulties for pedestrians to get to the grove.

Despite the huge number of people attending the event yearly and the discomfort that goes with it, it is a festival like no other in the world and it would always continue to attract tourist traffic.



• Tiv troupe performing at Osun grove



• The Ataoja (second right) giving his speech. With him are his wife (right); the Tourism Minister, Chief Edem Duke; Osun State deputy governor, Mrs. Grace Titi Laoye-Tomori; and other guests

## Culinary Delight

Kehinde FALODE: 08023689894

### Apple sandwich recipe



■ Foluke ADEMOLA ■

Apple sandwich is an easy-to-make dessert perfect for picnics and outings.

Ingredients:

- 9 bread slices

#### Make carrot spread from:

- 3/4 cup grated carrot
- 2 tbsp cheese
- salt & pepper to taste

#### Make apple spread from:

- 1 grated apple
- 1 tbsp cheese
- salt and pepper to taste

Method

- To prepare a carrot spread, mix

grated carrot, cheese, salt and pepper in a bowl and keep it aside.

- To prepare apple spread, mix grated apple, cheese, salt and pepper in a bowl. Keep it aside.

- Cover one bread slice with the apple spread. Place another slice of bread over it.

- Cover with carrot spread and sandwich with third slice and repeat the procedure twice.

- Cut into 4 triangles and wrap each one in a plastic wrap and chill.

Your apple sandwich is ready to eat. Enjoy it with a cup of tea or juice.

### Healthy and nutritional benefits of apple

Delicious and crunchy apple is one of lar fruits containing an impressive list sential nutrients which are required normal growth and development a overall nutritional well-being.

It also contains small amount of minerals like potassium, phosphorus and calcium. Potassium is an important component of cell and body fluids controlling heart rate and blood pressure, thus counters the bad influences of sodium.

Apples are low in calories; 100 g of fresh fruit slices provide only 50 calories. They, however, contain no saturated fats or cholesterol, but rich in dietary fibre which helps prevent absorpt of dietary LDL cholesterol in the gut. dietary fibres also help protect the mu membrane of the colon from exposure substances by binding to cancer caus cals in the colon.

Apple fruit contains good quantities of vitamin-C and beta carotene. Vitamin C is a powerful natural antioxidant. Consumption of foods rich in vitamin C helps body develop resistance against infectious agents and scavenge harmful, pro-inflammatory free radicals from the body.

One recent study shows that children with asthma who drank apple juice on a daily basis suffered from less wheezing than children who drank apple juice only once per month. Another study shows that children born to women who ate a lot of apples during pregnancy have lower rates of asthma than children whose mothers ate few apples.

Eating a least one apple a day has helped in the prevention of different types of cancers which researchers believe are caused by the high levels of the



fla - vonoids  
querctein and naringin in apples.

The pectin in apples supplies galacturonic acid to the body which lowers the body's need for insulin and may help in the management of diabetes.

Apples, like grains, starchy vegetables and other fruits, are a rich source of carbohydrates. The body uses carbohydrates for energy. Whole apples with skin are particularly fibre-rich. Eating fibre-rich foods often will help you reach the goal of consuming the recommended 14 g of dietary fibre per 1,000 calories.

## We need cultural rebirth, says Gani Adams

**T**HE National Coordinator of the O'oduwa People's Congress (OPC), Otunba Gani Adams, has called on the government to preserve Nigeria's cultural artifacts as a way of keeping the country's history and collective identity. Adams made this call in Osogbo during the 2011 Osun Osgbo.

Gani also spoke on the need for a cultural revolution, saying it was the only way for Nigeria to develop as a nation.

He said: "It is not exaggeration to say that this country is richly endowed with the necessary human and material resources which placed it in a better position to satisfy the desire for progress and development. However, there is an urgent need for reactivating the country's productive resources to capacity and for enhancing its developmental process. Government, through its agencies, as a matter of urgency, should safeguard our cultural

works which have the required transformational potential that can enhance our individual and collective efforts in the ongoing development process.

"For Nigeria to develop socially, economically and politically, there is an urgent need for a cultural revolution. This revolution should face European cultural imperialism. There is need for consistent and positive agenda for the implementation of national cultural policy as well as charting new directions in cultural and national development. Our ability to recognize and address the issues of our indigenous culture should be seen as success. It must, therefore, be inscribed in our minds that, through cultural education, respect and pride in our cultural heritage, we can foster a conscious national identity and imbibe patriotic feelings."

On the Osun grove, Adams called on the federal government to ensure the

physical development of the 55-hectare tourist site. He said the development would help in creating employment opportunities for many. Gani advocated that other touristic activities such as theme parks should be built around the grove as this would place it in better position to attract more tourist visitors from different parts of the world.

On the current case in court over the Ataoja of Osogbo stool, Adams called for dialogue among the opposing groups, advising that internal mechanisms within the traditional set-up should be used to settle the dispute.

He continued: "It is exceedingly important that for visionary indigenes of Osogbo community to make realistic appraisal of the general situation and come to a point of ensuring peaceful co-existence and harmony so as to move Osogbo forward.



•L-R: The Arigbamu of Agbamu, Oba Olusola Dare, Otunba Gani Adams and Chief Wahab Isiaka during the festival

## UNWTO launches energy efficiency project

**U**NWTO and the Indonesian Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT) have launched a new energy efficiency project in Indonesia. The project, "Sustainable Tourism through Energy Efficiency with Adaptation and Mitigation Measures in Pangandaran" (STREAM), aims to serve as a model of innovative climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in tourism destinations in Indonesia and South-East Asia.

The project will implement climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in Pangandaran - a popular tourism destination in Java, Indonesia - adopting an energy efficiency approach, while strengthening local structures for the long-term success of the destination. Measures include seminars and workshops to increase the knowledge and capacity of local tourism stakeholders, applying energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies in hotels and public buildings, low-carbon tourism planning tools and adaptation measures such as the rehabilitation of mangroves and coral reefs which naturally capture and store carbon emissions.

As such, the project will significantly increase the climate change resilience of Pangandaran and the competitiveness of its tourism sector, thereby serving as a model for other destinations in Indonesia and South-East Asia.

"This project is a clear example that the tourism sector is taking its responsibility to contribute to the reduction of global greenhouse gases emission and climate change adaptation seriously", said UNWTO Secretary-General, Taleb Rifai.

The Indonesian Minister of Culture and

Tourism, Jero Wacik, stressed the importance of local initiatives as a step towards national policy on climate change mitigation, adaptation and tourism development. "We are happy to cooperate with UNWTO in this project as its activities represent strategic development steps for Indonesia and its tourism sector in line with our four-pronged strategy - pro-growth, pro-job, pro-poor and pro-environment", he said.

The "Sustainable Tourism through Energy Efficiency with Adaptation and Mitigation Measures in Pangandaran" project

is part of the international climate initiative of the German Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

The official presentation was held in Jakarta, Indonesia at an event attended by the UNWTO Secretary-General, the Indonesian Minister of Culture and Tourism, representatives from other ministries, representatives from the West Java province and the Ciamis district and tourism associations. The event coincided with the presence in Jakarta of the UNWTO Secretary-General to participate in the World Economic Forum on East Asia 2011.



•L-R: Ozo Chinedu Idezuna (right) receiving royal blessing from the Oba of Ibeju

## Embraer, Kenya Airways ratify contract for 26 jets

**E**MBRAER and Kenya Airways have finalized the contract for the acquisition of 10 Embraer 190 jets. This agreement completes contract negotiations following the signing of a Letter of Intent during the 49th Paris Air Show in June 2011. The deal also includes purchase rights for 16 aircraft, which could be either the Embraer 190 or other models of the E-Jet family.

"This final agreement from Kenya Airways for more aircraft in its fleet demonstrates not only its confidence in the future but also its endorsement of the versatility of our family of E-Jets", said Paulo César de Souza e Silva, Embraer President, Commercial Aviation.

"This confirmation is a sign that our E-Jets have been instrumental in the growth of our largest operator in Sub Saharan Africa, and provided it with an optimal tool to develop new routes while providing their customers with a reliable and comfortable aircraft."

Kenya Airways' E190s will be configured in a dual-class layout with 96 seats: 12 in business class and 84 in economy. Furthermore, all passengers will benefit from a modern in-flight entertainment system with individual touch screens. Deliveries are scheduled to begin in the third quarter of 2012.

This fleet modernization will boost the airline's aggressive network expansion strategy and in particular, boost plans to fly to all African capital cities by the end of 2013.

"The Embraer 190 fleet will be key in ensuring Kenya Airways becomes the leading carrier on the continent, interlinking African cities and, through our Nairobi hub, connecting Africa to the world," said Dr. Titus Naikuni, Group Managing Director & Chief Executive of Kenya Airways. "The Embraer 190's excellent range, efficiency, size and superior level comfort will allow us to increase frequencies and start new routes along with improving the overall passenger flying experience throughout Africa."

With this new contract, the total number of E-Jets ordered by Kenya Airways is boosted to 20, considering aircraft acquired directly from Embraer or through leasing companies. Today, the airline is today operating five E170s and two E190s under agreement with leasing companies. Three E190 jets from a previous order have still to be delivered this year and in 2012.

Kenya Airways has embarked on an aggressive network expansion program to cater for the growing travel market. The combination of the E170 and 190 in Kenya Airways network will offer greater flexibility in right sizing the aircraft to meet route demand, using the same crew and ensuring consistent service level.

## Igbo community marks new Yam festival

**T**HE new Yam festival by the Igbo community in Ibeju Lekki council area of Lagos State, which kicked off yesterday, will end tomorrow. The new Yam festival, tagged Eko Oni Baje New Yam Festival, has a number of activities lined up. They include Yam feast, horse parade, beauty pageant, cultural dance, masquerading, camp fire, art exhibition, beach soccer and music.

As part of the effort to mobilize residents of Ibeju Lekki for the festival, the organizers, led by Ozo Chinedu Idezuna (Ezenmo), paid a courtesy visit to the traditional ruler of Ibeju Lekki, the Onibuje of Ibeju kingdom, Oba Salami, who blessed the organizers and promised support.



**Family Forum**  
with  
**Pastor Faith Oyedepo**  
Tel. 01-7747546-8  
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**D**EAR Reader, I want to specially welcome you to this edition of your usual column. It is my prayer that as you take practical steps to apply the Word of God that is coming your way, your home shall be heaven on earth indeed, in Jesus' name!

This month, via God's Word, I will be looking at a topic which I titled, Don't Just Talk, Communicate!

Many marriages break down, as a result of faulty communication. Couples talk and nag until they become weary of each other. Why? Because there is no effective communication.

Communication is very vital in marriage. You may not enjoy

your marriage, if you and your spouse don't know how to communicate effectively. It is like having gold in a garden, but not knowing how to dig it out. The gold is there, but as long as it is not dug out, you cannot be enriched by it.

That is why the basis of any fruitful and lasting relationship is effective communication. God, our Father and our ultimate example, proved this to us by communicating His plans and intentions to those whom He trusted. He spoke clearly to Moses, Samuel, David, right through to Jesus and beyond Him, to those of us who love and serve Him.

Marriage without effective communication never works! In

times past, particularly in African societies, women were regarded as mere objects and a part of a man's possessions. They were not consulted on major issues, neither were their views regarded as important.

In those days, women stayed married because they had no choice. But that has never been God's arrangement. He made marriage as an avenue for both husband and wife to find fulfillment, and fulfillment comes when there is effective communication.

An enviable home takes deliberate efforts to build. Effective communication is one of the requirements for building a successful marriage and family. Note that the need to constantly improve your communication skills and strategy cannot be over-emphasized.

No matter how effectively you communicate with your spouse and family members right now, it can yet be improved on. There is always a better way of doing whatever you are engaged in. Someone has said that the largest room in the world is the room for improvement.

Don't ever let it dawn on you that you are communicating the best way possible. You can communicate better than you are doing right now, if you care to constantly improve on the strategies you engage.

Communication is the key to success in marriage. A wise man said, "If you talk together, you stay together," and I believe it is very true. Marriage is about living lives together!

Adam's family, for example, will help you appreciate the importance of effective communication. God commanded Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam, I suppose, believed, but failed to effectively communicate the seriousness of this command to Eve. She took it lightly, I suppose. If you read the account carefully, you will find that in Eve's dialogue with the serpent, she mentioned that God "said", not "commanded" (Genesis 3:3). But God did not just say, He commanded.

So, communication must first be one-on-one, between the man and his wife, and then other members of the family. That responsibility cannot be shifted to

God. He will not leave heaven to come to your home and speak to your wife or your children on your behalf. It is a non-transferable responsibility.

Until you are born again, you cannot successfully communicate with God, which is the basis of effective communication with spouse and family members. Being born again entails confessing your sins and accepting Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. If you are set for this awesome experience, please say this prayer of faith: Dear Lord, I come to You today. I am a sinner. Forgive me my sins. Cleanse me with Your precious Blood. I accept You as my Lord and Saviour. Now I know I am born again!

Congratulations! Call or write, and share your testimonies with me through: E-mail: [faithdavid@yahoo.com](mailto:faithdavid@yahoo.com) Tel. No: 234-1-7747546-8; 07026385437, 07094254102.

For more insight, these books authored by me are available at the Dominion Bookstores in all the Living Faith Churches and other leading Christian bookstores: Making Marriage Work and Building A Successful Family.

## Some family health issues that bother individuals

**Q: What foods to eat in order to conceive a baby girl?**

Some people claim food can determine the sex of a child, but unfortunately it is not that easy. One of the more successful hypothesis is that you must have sex 24 to 72 hours before you ovulate (and not again for another 80 hours). The 'male' sperms are fast swimmers and will die before they reach the destination whilst the 'female' sperms will last longer and VOILA!! Still waiting for the foolproof method!

**Q: Toys: do men feel inferior if they have to share their bed with a toy and the girlfriend or wife?**

### Health tips

are starved of glucose.

#### The downside of self-medicating

A recent poll showed that nine out of 10 people choose to self-medicate conditions such as the flu and allergies with over the counter (OTC) medicines rather than paying for a visit to the doctor. But there can be serious catches to self-medication:

You may have misdiagnosed yourself and be taking medication you don't need, which means that the problem will continue.

You may have correctly diagnosed yourself, but are taking the wrong medication. This could lead to the problem getting much worse.

If you are self-medicating, it's best to see a doctor after about a week if symptoms haven't improved, if you have a constant fever or a cough that disrupts your sleep.

#### Aches on a plane

If you're a jet setter, you'll be well aware of the aches and pains that accompany long hours of sitting in a plane. However, movement and simple exercises can help prevent the discomfort and may thwart more serious problems, such as deep-vein thrombosis.

#### Take action:

Walk up and down the aisle every hour or so during the flight to work your leg muscles and ease back strain. Also do some heel raises, toe lifts, ankle circles, overhead stretches, back twists, curl downs and toe-heel walking. These exercises will ensure that your leg muscles don't contract and will help prevent fluid buildup in the legs.

#### Ulcer relief

Patients suffering from stomach and/or duodenal ulcers tend to react to certain foods, but each patient has individual reactions, so one ulcer patient may find that eating something such as mushrooms causes discomfort, while another patient will be able to eat mushrooms without a problem. Remember: if you suffer from stomach/duodenal ulcers, cook with as little fat as possible because high fat content can make your ulcer symptoms worse. In general eating low-fat foods will cause less gastric irritation than eating very fatty foods.

#### Too tired

If you suffer from extreme exhaustion, it may have something to do with your diet. If you are chronically fatigued, keep in mind that there are many different physical and psychological factors, and it is vital to 'have a full medical examination as a first step in trying to counteract this debilitating condition.

Some of the physical causes that may underlie chronic tiredness and the role that dietary changes can bring about are:

Malfunction of the thyroid gland

Malfunction of other glands- such as menopause

#### Anaemias

Blood sugar level problems- such as diabetes, reactive hypoglycaemia (a tendency to produce too much insulin)

Patients who suffer from any one of the above mentioned blood sugar level problems may constantly feel tired because their brains and body tissues

or the windows) when this thought arises, or pinch and twist the flesh of your hand to the point of mild pain, to break the pattern

of looking and thinking pleasantly about the breast of a woman who is not your wife.

### 10 tips to healthy eating

1. Eat a variety of nutrient-rich foods. You need more than 40 different nutrients for good health, and no single food supplies them all. Your daily food selection should include bread and other whole-grain products; fruits; vegetables; dairy products; and meat, poultry, fish and other protein foods. How much you should eat depends on your calorie needs. Use the Food Guide Pyramid and the Nutrition Facts panel on food labels as handy references.

2. Enjoy plenty of whole grains, fruits and vegetables. Surveys show most Americans don't eat enough of these foods. Do you eat 6-11 servings from the bread, rice, cereal and pasta group, 3 of which should be whole grains? Do you eat 2-4 servings of fruit and 3-5 servings of vegetables? If you don't enjoy some of these at first, give them another chance. Look through cookbooks for tasty ways to prepare unfamiliar foods.

3. Maintain a healthy weight. The weight that's right for you depends on many factors including your sex, height, age and heredity. Excess body fat increases your chances for high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, some types of cancer and other illnesses. But being too thin can increase your risk for osteoporosis, menstrual irregularities and other health problems. If you're constantly losing and regaining weight, a registered dietitian can help you develop sensible eating habits for successful weight management. Regular exercise is also important to maintaining a healthy weight.

4. Eat moderate portions. If you keep portion sizes reasonable, it's easier to eat the foods you want and stay healthy. Did you know the recommended serving of cooked meat is 3 ounces, similar in size to a deck of playing cards? A medium piece of fruit is 1 serving and a cup of pasta equals 2 servings. A pint of ice cream contains 4 servings. Refer to the Food Guide Pyramid for information on recommended serving sizes.

5. Eat regular meals. Skipping meals can lead to out-of-control hunger, often resulting in overeating. When you're very hungry, it's also tempting to forget about good nutrition. Snacking between meals can help curb hunger, but don't eat so much that your snack becomes an entire meal.

6. Reduce, don't eliminate certain foods. Most people eat for pleasure as well as nutrition. If your favorite foods are high in fat, salt or sugar, the key is moderating how much of these foods you eat and how often you eat

them.

Identify major sources of these ingredients in your diet and make changes, if necessary.

Adults who eat high-fat meats or whole-milk dairy products at every meal

are probably eating too much fat. Use the Nutrition Facts panel on the food label to help balance your choices.

Choosing skim or low-fat dairy products

and lean cuts of meat such as flank steak

and beef round can reduce fat intake significantly.

If you love fried chicken, however, you don't have to give it up. Just eat it less often.

When dining out, share it with a friend, ask for a take-home bag or a smaller portion.

7. Balance your food choices over time. Not every food has to be "perfect." When eating a food high in fat, salt or sugar, select other foods that are low in these ingredients. If you miss out on any food group one day, make up for it the next. Your food choices over several days should fit together into a healthy pattern.

8. Know your diet pitfalls. To improve your eating habits, you first have to know what's wrong with them. Write down everything you eat for three days. Then check your list according to the rest of these tips. Do you add a lot of butter, creamy sauces or salad dressings? Rather than eliminating these foods, just cut back your portions. Are you getting enough fruits and vegetables? If not, you may be missing out on vital nutrients.

9. Make changes gradually. Just as there are no "superfoods" or easy answers to a healthy diet, don't expect to totally revamp your eating habits overnight. Changing too much, too fast can get in the way of success. Begin to remedy excesses or deficiencies with modest changes that can add up to positive, lifelong eating habits. For instance, if you don't like the taste of skim milk, try low-fat. Eventually you may find you like skim, too.

10. Remember, foods are not good or bad. Select foods based on your total eating patterns, not whether any individual food is "good" or "bad." Don't feel guilty if you love foods such as apple pie, potato chips, candy bars or ice cream. Eat them in moderation, and choose other foods to provide the balance and variety that are vital to good health.

## Traditional medicine and conventional medicine: matters arising

Dear Dr John,  
The efficacy of TAM cannot be ruled out in discussing curative medicine. More often than not modern medicine is placed above TAM which in the right sense of it, (modern medicine) has its root from TAM. The most efficient healthcare system around the world (India & China), incorporated their indigenous medicine into the modern medicine. Yes of a truth, modern medicine has made diagnosis (through advanced technology) easy and less ambiguous; TAM has and still holds the hinges on which treatment of current global epidemiological challenges HIV/AIDS for instance. Africa is an embodiment of useful herbs. Advocacy for the incorporation of TAM into the conventional medicine should be the major concern of Health Stakeholders in Africa particularly, Nigeria.

**ONUBI ADAH MERCY  
Kogi State.**

Dear Mercy, Thank you for your lively comment and keen suggestion. Indeed, modern

medicine is placed above traditional African medicine (TAM) and has official standing and earned reputation. Many modern medicines do come from folk medicine from all over the world. The efforts made in the past 30 - 50 years in Nigeria to incorporate TAM into modern medicine have not borne fruit as the Chinese or Indian experience. This is because TAM is very different from Chinese and Indian medicine. TAM is holistic. It is less based on tangible, material, or physical aspects of life that are easily experimented on and validated as we have in Chinese and Indian medicine. TAM relies more on experiential and spiritual knowledge and does not seek explanations or understanding, both of which are often disregarded when one claims revelation. TAM is therefore at a great disparity with conventional medicine. I was engaged with the two groups at the WHO Collaborating Center for Traditional Medicine, Lagos some 10-20 years ago when we tried to work together to learn and borrow from each other. The only area we



could safely collaborate on was herbal medicines. Many Nigerian scientists are studying the effectiveness of medicinal herbs. In the past two decades, very little striking success has been achieved because our universities went down in quality of infrastructure, suffered brain drain, and were inadequately funded. I personally have studied several Nigerian medicinal plants and published scientific papers on some studies, so I can say we have natural resources in Nigeria that we can tap to serve our health care needs. I am interested and will do what I can to establish herb farms and package herbs in hygienic and attractive forms. I hope other scientists will do the same or serve other areas of transformation in our medical system. For example, we should have a data base of our medicinal plants. Ordinarily, we ought to be able to do what

is done in China, India and in the USA and many developed countries where people can purchase herbs over the counter as refined products. Furthermore, I believe conventional medicine can learn a few principles from TAM but the two types of practice may work best independently. One of the lessons from TAM that I consider important is to look at health and health matters from a holistic view of body, mind, and spirit. Indeed in many developed countries, hospitals and clinics have chaplains, and social and health care workers apart from the regular doctors, nurses, and therapists. As in any other professional field, medicine is evolving and responding to its times and circumstances. I hope you, as a medical sociologist, are one of those change agents for an improved system in Nigeria.

**M**OST women would have contracted this infection even before marriage usually as a toilet infection, but due to ignorance or nonchalant attitude the infection would have affected the reproductive organs. If you are a lady and in one time or another you have treated one infection or another especially a venereal disease, you have to make sure that you are totally cured. One mistake that most ladies make is that once they experience itching in their private part they go to chemists to buy drugs to stop the itching.

Once the itching stops they feel they are okay and free, not knowing that they have only cured the infection externally but internally the infection is still there. The internal infection may not show any serious symptoms for some years, but it will gradually be affecting the internal reproductive organs. When such women now get

married they now find it difficult to conceive, running from one gynecologist to another. Such lady could have save herself and her husband from such trouble if only she had done the right thing at the right time.

If you are a lady and you have any of the following symptoms you may need to come for medical check up,

- itching in the private part
- vaginal discharge
- irregular menstruation
- swollen breasts
- painful intercourse
- painful menstruation
- back ache
- internal body heat
- stomach making funny noise
- moving sensation in your body

Once you have some or all of the above symptoms then there is need for serious con-

cern because it could lead to any of the following ailment, Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (P.I.D.), Fallopian tubal blockage, Candida, ovarian cysts, all of which can cause infertility. Staphylococcal infections can lead to infertility both in men and women. Experience have really shown me that majority of our men that are infertile or that cannot make a lady pregnant are usually due to one infection or another. More than thirty percent (30%) of modern couples from mid-thirties to mid-forties are infertile. The inability of a man and a woman of reproductive age to produce offspring after unprotected sexual intercourse is defined as infertility. A couple should seek help on infertility if the woman is younger than 35 years and has not become pregnant after having unprotected intercourse while ovulating for one year. If the woman is older, but still of child bearing age, most experts recommend that help should be sought after about six months of unprotected sexual intercourse without pregnancy.

Most men are usually not aware of the fact that in most cases of infertility they are the guilty party. Once a man thinks that since he is sexually active and can go more than two rounds of sexual intercourse in a night, he believes then that nothing is wrong with him. But this is a fallacy because being sexually active is not an indication of being fertile. Although there are various reasons that can lead to infertility in men, from his kind of lifestyle, his diet, the nature of his occupation and any history of venereal disease. But what we are particularly concerned about now is the male infertility that is caused by venereal disease, when a man contracts a venereal disease and if not

well treated or cured could lead to staphylococcal infection. Most times staphylococcal infection in men is not easily detected until it has done a lot of damage to his reproductive organs. Most of the time such a man will be having some common symptoms like

- feverish condition
- fatigue
- headache
- quick ejaculation
- internal heat
- worm-like moving sensation in the body
- internal heat
- body weakness
- stomach noise etc.

All the above symptoms to him will seem normal until he goes to hospital for test before he can really detect that he has a big problem on his hand. Any man that usually feels any two or more of the above symptoms should endeavor to go for laboratory test, Seminal Fluid Analysis (S.F.A) to do the culture and sensitivity of the semen. Any result that indicates any of the following should be of great concern to such person,

- Oligospermia (low sperm count)
- Azoospermia (no sperm count)
- Viscosity (watery).

Male fertility should be strictly continuous and not cyclical from puberty till extreme old age, a healthy and virile man produces spermatocysts continuously. The fertility is induced and controlled by the follicle-stimulating hormone (F.S.H) and leuteinizing hormone (L.H) of the pituitary gland, just as in women.

**Dr B. Filani is the Chief Consultant of Sound Health Centre, Lagos. You can contact him on 08023422010 or on facebook or email soundhealthcentre@yahoo.com.**

## Coping with diseases with Prof. Dayo Oyekole

### Hepatitis

**H**EPATITIS is an inflammation of the liver. Unless further qualified, the term is usually taken to refer to a virus infection of the liver; also known as "infectious hepatitis". Hepatitis is also (occasionally) a result of a bacterial, protozoan or other microbial infection. There is also Toxic hepatitis which is caused by poisoning of the liver with various chemicals (such as industrial solvents), drugs, or (very rarely) general anaesthetics.

Virus hepatitis occurs in two basic forms, one of which is called infectious hepatitis (or hepatitis A) and the other, serum hepatitis (or hepatitis B), which is also "infectious". It is fairly certain that these two conditions, although clinically similar, are caused by different viruses and the modes of transmission are different.

In Hepatitis B, transmission is mainly by the injection or transfusion of contaminated blood or blood products, or by accidental skin pricks or other injuries caused by contaminated needles or other sharp objects. Transmission also occurs from inadequately sterilized hypodermic needles, syringes, surgical and dental instruments, tattooing instruments and razors. Hepatitis B is also common among narcotic addicts and others who use unsterile syringes for drug injections.

The virus which causes hepatitis A, by contrast, is mostly transmitted in the faeces. Although it can be spread by blood transfusion, the main route is from infective faeces to the mouth via the hands or objects contaminated with the faeces.

The patient with hepatitis may notice little or nothing wrong, but in more severe cases, the patient will have fever, headache, nausea and vomiting, a severe loss of appetite and aching in the muscles. Then jaundice, caused by an accumulation of yellow bile pigment in the blood, appears after a few days or, in some cases, a week or two from the onset of the symptoms. The liver may become enlarged and tender and may develop cirrhosis. The conditions may lead to death from liver failure.

In Holistic Lifecare, hepatitis patients are strongly advised to have adequate bed rest, with proper care in the handling of infected excreta. Alcoholic beverages should be strictly avoided.

The holistic remedy being suggested for total cure of Hepatitis is a combination of natural extracts of Eugenia caryophyllata, Musa cavendishii, Citrus lemonis, Euphorbia unispina and Capsicum frutescens.

For further information and consultation on Holistic Lifecare research and services, especially on Blood Infections, Infertility, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Chronic Debilitating Conditions as well as mental and social problems, please call on: 0803-330-3897 or visit: Mosebolatan Holistic Lifecare Centre, Adeyalo Layout, Ogbere-Tioya, Off Olorunsogo Express Bridge, Ibadan. Website: [www.holisticlifecare.com](http://www.holisticlifecare.com). Distance is no barrier, we can send remedies by courier if need be. We also have facilities for accommodation, admission and hospitalization in a serene and homely environment.

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# PEOPLE & POLITICS

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THE NATION, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2011

ONE item on the itinerary of President Goodluck Jonathan on Monday, August 29 was the swearing in of Acting Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN) as the tenure of Justice Aloysius Katsina-Alu had expired the previous day.

On a good day, it would not have been a thing of much concern to the average adult Nigerian. He would have preferred to go about his daily business because it is simply a ritual designed to ensure continuity in the headship of the third arm of government, the judiciary, often described as the last hope of the common man.

But on that day, many more adult Nigerians, concerned with recent developments in the Judiciary, decided to pay more than just a passing interest to the events taking place in Abuja. They were eager to see, hear and assess the disposition of both President Jonathan and Justice Dahiru Musdapher, the man nominated to the post, whether they shared their concern too.

## Augean stable

The concern shown by Nigerians is understandable principally because the judiciary had of late donned itself with the garb of the mythological Augean stable in dire need of cleaning-up.

According to the Greek mythology, one of their heroes, Heracles, in his "Fifth Labour" did the seemingly impossible of cleaning King Augean stable housing about 3,000 cattle and which had not been cleaned in the last 30 years.

He achieved the feat by re-routing the rivers Alpheus and Peneus through the stable to wash out the demoralising and, in most cases, provocative filth. It was an arduous task meant to be an impossible or humiliating one. Yet through sheer determination, Heracles wrote his name in gold and caused it to be hung in the hall of fame.

For Nigerians, the judiciary is in a state comparable to the Augean stable.

Justice Musdapher's coming into office has been overshadowed by rumbling and internal wrangling in the judiciary between the retired Justice Katsina-Alu as the CJN and Justice Ayo Salami as the President of the Court of Appeal. It culminated in the suspension of Salami in very controversial circumstances and all entreaties to President Jonathan not to dance to the tune of the National Judicial Council (NJC) which recommended Salami's suspension went unheeded.

The leading opposition party in Nigeria, the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) succinctly put the recent happenings in the judiciary in perspective when it declared the suspension of Salami by the NJC as the height of judicial mischief that has only succeeded in putting the country's judiciary, rather than Justice Salami, on trial.

This view was contained in a statement it issued in Lagos penultimate Friday by its National Publicity Secretary, Alhaji Lai Mohammed. It slammed the decision by a few hardliners in the kangaroo NJC meeting who ignored the fact that their action was prejudicial and can denigrate the council - and indeed the Nigerian judiciary - just because of their desperation to get rid of Justice Salami.



## Ag. CJN Musdapher: The task ahead

■ Augustine AVWODE ■  
Assistant Editor

The party held that: "There is something terribly awry in a system in which a body set up to uphold the rule of law and protect the judiciary is the same one that has gone ahead to undermine it. If the President of the Court of Appeal cannot get a fair hearing, as it has happened in this case, what hope is there for ordinary Nigerians?"

"When a body like the NJC ignores the fact that the case on

which it deliberated and took a decision is in court, despite acknowledging receipt of court summons, what does it say of the Nigerian judiciary that has been hailed as towering above the other arms of government despite a few shortcomings? What message is the NJC sending to the international community and the foreign investors that are being daily courted to come and invest in Nigeria?"

The ACN concluded by saying that "It is a sad day in Nigeria that a body set up to protect the integrity of the judiciary has instead

dragged it to the mud."

For the record, the controversies have become the second nature of the judiciary in recent time. Before the decision taken by less than one-third of the number of people that should take it, in which they suspended Salami, there had been uproar following the curious promotion of the same jurist to the Supreme Court. That was, of course, preceded by allegations that the retired Justice Katsina-Alu gave the order which literally "arrested" the judgment of the Court of Appeal that was ready for delivery in the 2007 Sokoto gubernatorial election.

tion petition.

The ACN said: "Nigerians could see clearly that the gratuitous promotion of Justice Salami to the Supreme Court earlier, in a clear departure from tradition, was simply the first part of the orchestrated plot to remove him from the Court of Appeal.

"When that failed, thanks to an overwhelming public opinion that was opposed to it, the plotters moved to the next phase which is to concoct lies against him and make him a villain in a case in which he is clearly the hero just to remove him from the Court of Appeal.

The ACN was not alone in voicing resentment against developments that are seen as portending danger to the dispensation of justice in the country. The Conference of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) also expressed dismay that the "ju-

**The leading opposition party in Nigeria, the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) succinctly put the recent happenings in the judiciary in perspective when it declared the suspension of Salami by the NJC as the height of judicial mischief that has only succeeded in putting the country's judiciary, rather than Justice Salami, on trial**

• Continued on page 56

diciary is failing".

Spokesperson for the CNPP, Osita Okechukwu, said: "If the President of the Court of Appeal is dealt with like this, then which institution will not be bastardized? Our hope is that things will change for the better?" The CNPP National Chairman, Alhaji Balarabe Musa, had earlier described the action of the NJC as "contemptuous and scandalous".

The coalition of opposition parties said the conspiracy against Salami might not be unconnected with his chairing of the Presidential Election Petition Tribunal hearing the petition filed by the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) against President Jonathan's victory in the April 16 election.

A group which goes by the name of the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) even joined in the fray by filing a case against the government and the NJC over the Justice Salami issue. The suit was filed by the chairman of the SERAP, Mr. Adetokunbo Mumuni, before a Federal High Court in Lagos.

Among other things, the SERAP asked the court to reverse the suspension of Salami by the NJC on the grounds that it was carried out without due process.

It also sought a declaration that the NJC action was null and void, as well as unconstitutional and a violation of Salami's right to fair hearing.

The SERAP is also seeking a declaration that Jonathan's approval of the suspension and the subsequent appointment of an acting president of the Court of Appeal, as well as the withdrawal of Justice Salami's police orderlies constituted an abuse of power under Section 238 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended).

Another human rights group, the Access to Justice, also appealed to President Jonathan to reverse the appointment of an acting president of the Court of Appeal and to await the court's determination of the legality of the suspension of Salami by the NJC.

Its Executive Director, Joseph Otteh, the Access to Justice, had registered its displeasure with the NJC action and Jonathan's supposed hasty endorsement, describing it as "thoroughly unfortunate precedent whose consequences will not be long in coming and the judiciary - whose independence and integrity the NJC is established to safeguard - will be one of the ultimate victims of this imprudent decision."

"The judiciary will sooner witness a rash of actions and decisions - particularly by executive bodies - that undermine courts and their powers to adjudicate disputes with dignity, authority and respect."

"Not so long ago, many judges, including the Chief Justice of Nigeria, were among those who decried the climate of impunity in Nigeria that witnessed incessant episodes of disrespect for courts and legal processes by executive branch officials in the same manner as the NJC has done in this case."

"If judicial agencies themselves engage in conduct such as these, how can the judiciary complain when other state agencies show contemptuous behaviour towards legal processes and judicial authority?", Otteh queried.

The body of lawyers in the country as represented by the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), in its reaction to the prevailing situation in the country's judiciary, asked lawyers across the country to boycott all the activities of the NJC, including the 2011 investiture of new Senior Advocates of Nigeria. At its annual conference in Port Harcourt, Rivers State last week, the NBA was literally on the warpath with the NJC.

The fears being expressed by different groups and individuals were triggered off largely by the public perception that the suspension of the



Katsina-Alu



Salami



Agbakoba

**We will face the challenge squarely and make sure that it becomes one of the best in the world. The delays in the dispensation of justice will be reduced to the barest minimum. We'll make sure that we look at the procedural rules and all the laws and make suggestions for the amendment to the laws governing the procedures**

on July 15, next year when he is due to clock 70, the mandatory retirement age.

Hear him: "The downturn in the society has not left the judiciary alone, no doubt about it. God willing, we will do everything to ensure that things are better in the judiciary."

"We will face the challenge squarely and make sure that it becomes one of the best in the world. The delays in the dispensation of justice will be reduced to the barest minimum. We'll make sure that we look at the procedural rules and all the laws and make suggestions for the amendment to the laws governing the procedures."

#### Facing the challenge

Musdapher's pledge might have caused some excitement in some places. But then, there is also an equal amount of fear. If the Acting

the capacity to adjudicate".

Concluding, Ahamba submitted: "The multiple misconduct by Hon. Justice Niki Tobi must not be condoned, lest it leaves an impression of being a representation of what the institution to which he belongs. Hon. Justice Niki Tobi has thus lost the moral basis to sit on a Judicial Bench let alone a Supreme Court Bench. He therefore, richly deserves to be removed from that judicial office under Section 292(1)(b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and should be so removed".

The NJC, in a letter dated July 15, 2009 with Ref. No. NJC/DM/JSC/1/306 and addressed to Ahamba, informed him that the petition was considered at a meeting of the NJC which held on July 1 and 2, 2009 and that "after deliberation, council found that your petition was unmeritorious".

The NJC thereafter wrote to the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), urging it to sanction Ahamba (SAN). The letter addressed to the President of the NBA, dated September 15, 2009 and with Ref. No. NJC/A.7/S.2/XV/27 and equally signed by Danladi Halilu reads in part: "Council found in the petition some remarks made against Justice Niki Tobi as derogatory, hence an act of professional misconduct. I am, therefore, directed to refer this matter to your association for an appropriate disciplinary action to be taken against Chief Ahamba (SAN) for castigating a justice of the Supreme Court for performing his constitutional duties".

Ahamba then told *The Nation* that he was being persecuted against what he called "judicial anarchy".

"I am being persecuted for standing up against judicial anarchy or dictatorship which is fast enveloping the serenity of our professional environment. I did not write a petition against the NJC; now the NJC is accusing me of intemperate or derogatory language. Mark you, not for misrepresentation of facts and I firmly stand by every allegation of fact in my petition and accompanying affidavits, and would be ready to defend them before any panel whose neutrality is guaranteed in terms of my right under Section 36(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Yes, I will also respectfully insist on public hearing".

That was in 2009. Two years down the road, the NJC has again been embroiled in another controversy. Besides, Musdapher must ensure that the body of lawyers are quickly reconciled with the members of the bench. The two bodies must exist harmoniously if the cause of justice is to be served in Nigeria.

Importantly, all characters on the bench whose ways of life are at variance with what is expected of judges must be shown the way out. Judges are men and women who are measured using only the gold standard. They are men and women who are highly read and whose views stick like indelible ink. It is time to restore the dignity of the bench.

Importantly, the "arrested" judgment on the Sokoto gubernatorial election petition should be given because in a way, the allegation that the former CJN gave a directive against it was the beginning of the recent rumble in the judiciary. This is one petition Nigerians would like to hear the decision of the judiciary on. There will not be justice where a governor is allowed to spend eight years in office when he did not qualify to be in office for one day.

Justice Musdapher must summon the courage, determination and wisdom to do the seemingly impossible. He must clean this Augean stable. He must play the Heracles and write his name in gold like him for ever. And the time to act is now as he has precisely just 10 months to stay in office. Here lies the real challenge.

# 'Without SNC, Nigeria will remain the way it is'

**Ola Oduwole is the President, National Association of Yoruba Descendants in North America (Egbe Omo Yoruba). In this interview with OZIEGBE OKOEKI, he stresses the need for integration of the South West now that the progressives have taken over governance in the region. He also speaks on other issues. Excerpts:**

**A**s a Yoruba person in the Diaspora, are you satisfied with the position of the race in the current political arrangement in the country?

Majority of the Yoruba have always believed that Nigeria is a geographical expression. It is a country made up of multi nations. We also believe that the system right now should be the other way round, that is, the different nations or regions should be controlling the resources not the federal government and pay something to the centre, thus reducing the power at the centre. As for the position currently, I don't see anything wrong. We don't have to be speaker or anything; we want to control our own area. And I believe it is good as it is now because this may be the beginning of going back to the system of regionalism. You know, take care of your people at the grassroots; make sure they have what they are supposed to have.

**But at the national level you don't have a very strong foothold? How do you feel about this considering that at a time we were number one?**

I feel good about it because the progressives have taken over Yorubaland and that is what we want because that is how we can progress. We don't have to be at the centre before your people enjoy

good governance or before they live well. And that is why the Yoruba or South West should begin to do integration within the region; they should have a common agenda and goals for the people. They should have common education syllabus, transportation system like rail system and hospitals because they are progressives and they have a common vision. They can even have a regional House of Representatives with representatives from all the states in the region sitting down to deliberate and design these things. They could be technocrats and not necessarily politicians, so that at the end of the day, they would be doing the same thing. They can put about 5 per cent of their annual revenue to a common purse which they will use to execute common projects like roads, hospitals and so on.

**Al-Mustapha recently accused some Yoruba leaders of complicity in the death of the late M.K.O. Abiola. As somebody living outside the country, how do you feel about this?**

I don't think Al-Mustapha is talking sense. He is a drowning man and he wants to drown other people with him. For instance, why it is that he is only mentioning dead people that cannot talk; why



•Oduwole

can't he mention one person that is still alive who can defend himself. I don't believe a person like the late Papa Adesanya would ever take a bribe or Chief Bola Ige. These were Yoruba leaders who had been in the trenches for long. At what age would they be taking bribes, so I don't believe it. I think the long incarceration has affected him; he needs some psychiatric assistance.

**Afenifere used to be the rallying point for progressive politics in the South West, but it has gone underground; how do you feel about this as someone in the Diaspora?**

It is unfortunate that it happened that way, but I trust the Yoruba. They will find a way of getting around it. I am sure the leadership of the race one way or the other will emerge.

**There is also this debate on who qualifies to occupy the position of Yoruba leader. In your own estimation, who do you think the cap fits?**

There are a lot of leaders out there in their own right, but at one point one person will emerge. I know a lot of names have been thrown around. Politically as of today, the de-facto leader of the Yoruba as of today will be Asiwaju Bola Tinubu. That is my personal opinion. Because he has the political pedigree compared with other politicians. But you don't expect everybody to accept that 100 per cent; it has never happened anywhere at any time.

**You live in the US where federalism is practised and things are working. Here, we are supposed to be practising federalism as well, but things don't seem to be working. Why is it working for them and not for us?**

You are absolutely right. First, we have a very defective constitution; they have structures on ground; we don't have any to follow and that is why we need a national conference so that we can have a true constitution that will define and spell out all relationships. There, they practise true federalism because most of the things affecting people are being taken care of by the states and local or municipal councils. Here, it is the other way round. There is over concentration of power at the centre. Let the states control their resources and affairs.

**What do you make of the security situation in the**

**country with the Boko Haram threat and other insecurities that is calling the competence of President Goodluck Jonathan to question?**

It all still boils down to lack of structure. Have you seen any arrested for being a member of the Boko Haram sect or somebody identified as leader of the sect? It is all because our security system is zero. If anyone commits a crime now, you can't trace that person. Do we have data on any Nigerian like they have abroad? However, that does not mean that the president is incapable because he met this situation on ground, but then what has he done about it. That is only where you can blame him.

**What do you think will be the impression of the outside world of our leaders in the light of the current altercation between two former heads of state, Generals Olusegun Obasanjo and Ibrahim Babangida?**

We call them leaders because they were heads of state, but what have they achieved to warrant the people calling them leaders? They are birds of the same feather, so who cares. Let them continue and let us know what is going on. As far as I am concerned, they are past. I am looking forward. What can we do to benefit Nigerians today? That is the issue. We must move forward and think about how Nigerians can get out of poverty. They are not disgracing the country; they are only disgracing themselves.

# 'Jonathan was wrong to have approved Salami's suspension'

**Prophet Ekong Ituen is the founder and president of Christ Deliverance Ministries (CDM) Lagos. Besides, he is a human rights activist and social critic. He told AUGUSTINE AVWODE on Tuesday during a chance encounter that President Goodluck Jonathan should not have approved the suspension of President of the Court of Appeal, Justice Ayo Salami which he described as illegal and unconstitutional. Excerpts:**

**T**HE judicial arm of government has been on the spotlight recently principally because of the face-off between the former Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN), Justice Aloysius Katsina-Alu, and the suspended President of the Court of Appeal (PCA), Justice Ayo Isa Salami. The role of the National Judicial Council (NJC) and more importantly, the decision of President Goodluck Jonathan on Salami. What is your view? Was Justice Salami's suspension justified?

I am totally disappointed by Mr President for endorsing illegality. The entire process was a charade and stands condemned in totality. As far as I am concerned, Justice Salami's suspension is illegal and unconstitutional. I am embarrassed that President Jonathan could allow himself to be part of the conspiracy to frustrate Justice Salami out of the Appeal Court. He was wrong to have approved Justice Salami's suspension.

To me, President Jonathan has lost his respect on the side of due process and rule of law. He allowed himself to be used by cabals who

are surrounding him to realize their selfish purpose and not the interest of Nigerians. I had expected him to play a fatherly role in all matters affecting this country and display neutrality, especially in a matter that has to do with the judiciary. I urge him to reverse Salami's suspension in the interest of the country.

**And what would be your take on the worsening security concern in the country?**

The security situation in the country really calls for concern. It is not a thing that started today, but it has progressively deteriorated over the years. I still remember vividly well that early this year, I advised Mr. President on how to tackle the Boko Haram menace. Honestly, human efforts have failed us; we need God's intervention because we all know that it is the spiritual that controls the physical. My prayer is that the security situation in the country would not lead to the disintegration of the country.

**Were you amused by the recent spat between two former presidents - Obasanjo and Babangida?**

To be sincere with you, I was not amused. For one, it was not too good for the im-



age of the country. But most importantly, it was very wrong for Obasanjo to have addressed Babangida as a fool at 70. On the contrary, I expected him to be grateful to Babangida. If not for

anything, but for the fact that the former military president played a vital role in releasing him from jail. He led a delegation to persuade him to join the presidential race.

**I am totally disappointed by Mr President for endorsing illegality. The entire process was a charade and stands condemned in totality. As far as I am concerned, Justice Salami's suspension is illegal and unconstitutional**

He rode to power on the goodwill of the people of Nigeria. Regrettably, he squandered the goodwill. Obasanjo had the chance on a platter of gold to leave indelible marks on our socio-political and economic lives, but by sheer carelessness, he threw the opportunity away.

His activities in his last days in office rubbed off all the records that would have made him a messiah. During those last hours, he behaved more like a tiger in a china shop, charging at every target with the aim of destroying it and, in the process, Nigerians woke up from their seeming slumber and had cause to look into the records and review a lot of issues.

The end result was that, to the chagrin of most of us, it

was laid bare that his eight years in government were nothing, but the most parochial and marked by monumental failure in the history of this country. His government made more money than all past governments from 1960 till date, but because he lost the third term plot he left the nation in confusion and chaos.

Imagine what followed the failure of the third term - the worst election in Nigeria. The winner of that election became a problem because of his health condition. If God had not helped this country, the constitutional crisis that was technically avoided could have thrown this country into real chaos, but God took control. He should not be the one calling people names.

**T**HE European Union (EU) yesterday lifted series of sanctions on Libya which include ports, oil firms and banks. This is just as the foreign ministers met to discuss how to help the country's transition from four decades of ousted Muammar Gaddafi's rule.

EU's official journal listed 28 Libyan entities that have been freed from restrictions. The journal named the ports of Tripoli, Al Khoms, Brega, Ras Lanuf, Zawiya and Zuara.

Also listed were Libyan Arab Airlines and energy firms including the Ras Lanuf Oil and Gas Processing Co. and the Sirte and Waha oil companies.

Banks listed were the National Commercial Bank, Gomhouria Bank, Sahara Bank and First Gulf Libyan Bank.

The formal lifting of the sanctions came a day after world powers meeting in Paris freed up billions of dollars to help Libya's new rulers rebuild the nation after almost 42 years of Gaddafi's rule and six months of civil war.

The EU foreign ministers meeting in the Polish seaside resort of Sopot on Friday and Saturday were to discuss how to help to stabilize the north African Libya after the conflict.

Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski said the United Nations would have a leading role in helping to demilitarize Libya and ensure safety after the conflict ends, but Europe had shown it has capabilities in this area.

"The way the EU will assist Libya depends firstly on what the Libyan authorities want," he stated.

## Libya looks to oil as rebuilding begins

**L**IBYA is counting on quickly restoring oil production to revive its economy and five international oil firms are already back and working to resume operations, senior officials in the interim council's reconstruction team said Friday.

Libya's interim government's reconstruction minister, Ahmed Jehani said during a meeting with donor groups and post-conflict rebuilding experts that the technical expertise of foreign contractors would be key to getting oil flowing again.

"The issue of damage is not much and you can get procurement very fast. This is helped by the fact the producing wells are under contract to international firms, if they feel they can deploy



Delegations pose for a family photo during the "Friends of Libya" conference at the Elysee Palace in Paris September 1, 2011. Photo: REUTERS/Philippe Wojazer

## EU lifts Libya sanctions, discusses future help

"WE have a trust credit among the new authorities and we will want to use it to support peaceful transformation toward a democracy in Libya," he said, adding that oil-exporting North African state was a valuable ally for Europe.

"Libya is potentially a

wealthy country, key because of Europe's drive to diversify energy sources," he said.

EU member states have been discussing the possibility of helping Libya with security sector reform and in police training. The transitional administration has called for help in reforming

the judiciary reforms and improving governance.

"Everybody agrees this has to be a United Nations-led involvement, which is not likely to be of any military nature. Libyans have said no to both military observers and any peacekeeping mission," said Finnish Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja.

"A police mission looks perhaps the likeliest possibility at the moment," he added.

Earlier this week, NATO allies, most of whom are EU members, started mapping out ways the military alliance could support Libya's

ruling interim council in ensuring a peaceful transition.

One option being discussed is for NATO to deploy forces to maintain an arms embargo in Libya, even after a no-fly zone mandated by the United Nations is lifted and hostilities cease.

NATO has conducted an air campaign that includes enforcing the no-fly zone and a ban on weapons imports to Libya since late March to protect civilians during the civil war.

During the Paris talks with Libya's National Transitional Council on Thursday, France, Britain and other

powers vowed to keep up their military backing as long as needed, but said the focus was now on reconstruction.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy said on Thursday a total of \$15 billion would be freed out of the Libyan assets frozen under sanctions. The figure included \$3 billion the U.N. Sanctions Committee has approved for release in the United States and Britain and 1.5 billion euros (\$2.16 billion) in France.

It also includes 2.6 billion euros of assets in Italy, a billion in Germany and 700 million euros in the Netherlands.

## Schools reopen in Tripoli as normalcy gradually returns

**R**ESIDENTS of Tripoli, the Libyan capital have started savouring the return of normal life. A group of municipal street sweepers in high-visibility vests were picking up litter and spent bullet casings on Martyrs Square, formerly known under Gaddafi as Green Square.

NTC fighters had removed some roadblocks on a main road along the shoreline and more foodstores have opened, although water supplies and power remained

erratic.

On a billboard, the NTC had posted a public announcement: "For A United And Free Libya." Among other notices was one asking people not to fire in the air in celebration. Occasional volleys could still be heard, though.

NTC education chief Soliman el-Sahli also announced that schools would reopen on September 17, despite some bombed-out classrooms, scarce transport and a curriculum until this year based on Gaddafi's personal "Green Book" — an eclectic account of the "Brother Leader's" views of the world.

However, one thing that remains unknown in the process of installing an elected president and parliament is when the timetable will start running. The document says the process would begin once the NTC declares Libya "liberated" from Gaddafi. But its leaders have said the war will not end until he is found "dead or alive." So it remains uncertain when they might declare "liberation" achieved.

Last Thursday was the 42nd anniversary of the military coup which brought Gaddafi to power as a 27-year-old army captain. He is now 69

and used the occasion to declared his defiance in messages broadcast on satellite television. NTC commanders in turn declared that they think he is hiding in the tribal bastion of Bani Walid, some 100 miles southeast of Tripoli. There are also suggestions he may be in his hometown of Sirte on the coast, or indeed elsewhere.

Part of his message on Thursday was: "Let it be a long battle. We will fight from place to place, from town to town, from valley to valley, from mountain to mountain."

"If Libya goes up in flames, who will be able to govern it? Let it burn," Gaddafi urged his supporters.

In further comments broadcast later, he vowed to prevent oil exports, in the kind of threat that stirs fears of an Iraq-style insurgency. "You will not be able to pump oil for the sake of your own people. We will not allow this to happen," Gaddafi said. "Be ready for a war of gangs and urban warfare."

NTC commanders say they are taking their time trying to cajole pro-Gaddafi holdouts like Bani Walid and Sirte into surrender, in the interest of sparing further bloodshed.

## Gaddafi son near Tripoli, sees victory —

**M**UAMMAR Gaddafis son, Saif al-Islam is alleged to have been travelling around, close to Tripoli, meeting tribal leaders and preparing to retake the Libyan capital, his spokesman said on Friday.

In a telephone call to from what he said was a "southern suburb of Tripoli", Moussa Ibrahim derided the ability of the National Transitional Council (NTC) to run the country after its rebel fighters forced Gaddafi into hiding and urged their Western backers should negotiate with the ousted leader.

Sounding relaxed and speaking English in tones familiar from his many televised news conferences at Tripoli's Rixos hotel during the past months of civil war, Ibrahim declined to be specific about where he was calling from — though it was obvious he was using a Libyan number which appeared on the caller-ID screen.

"I move around a lot and I

don't have an internet connection at the moment," he allegedly said, after giving his current location as "a southern suburb of Tripoli".

"Actually," he went on, "only yesterday, I was with Mr Saif al-Islam. I joined him on a tour circling Tripoli from the south."

London-educated Saif, long seen as Gaddafi's heir apparent, had met tribal leaders and other supporters, he said.

"We are still very strong," he added, giving no information on the location or condition of Muammar Gaddafi.

There was no way to verify his comments which, like those

broadcast this week by Gaddafi himself and by Saif, serve as a public reminder to Libyans that the man who ruled with his family for 42 years remains at large and may pose a threat, at least by means of a guerrilla war, to the new authorities.

NTC officials say they believe Saif al-Islam and his father, both facing international war crimes charges, have regrouped around the desert town of Bani Walid, which lies 150 km (100 miles) southeast of Tripoli. The area, like Gaddafi's home town of Sirte on the coast, is not in NTC control.



## LAGOS STATE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION (LASIEC)

### AMENDED NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

Pursuant to Section 21(1) Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission Law 2008, Notice of Elections is hereby given as follows:-

- (a) Elections into the Office(s) of Chairmen and Councillors for the Twenty (20) Local Government Councils and Thirty-Seven (37) Local Councils Development Areas of Lagos State shall be held on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2011.
- (b) All Registered Political Parties are required to collect Nomination Forms on behalf of their candidates at the Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission hereinafter referred to as the (COMMISSION) at its Headquarters 2, Birrel Avenue, Sabo, Yaba, Lagos.

S/N.	DATES	ACTIVITIES	S/N.	DATES	ACTIVITIES
1.	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> July, 2011	Issuance of Notice of Elections by the Commission		Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> October, 2011	centers.
2.	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July, 2011	Meeting with the Political Parties for the release of the Elections Guidelines.	7.	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October, 2011	Closing date for submission of nomination forms of "substituted and "only candidate" by the Political Parties.
3.	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July, 2011	Publication of Elections Guidelines by the Commission.	8.	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October – Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October, 2011	Validation of Candidates documents by the Commission.
4.	(a) Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> July – Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2011  (b) Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> August – Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> September, 2011  (c) Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> August – Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September, 2011  (d) Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> August – Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> September, 2011  (e) Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> September, 2011  (f) Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> August – Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> September, 2011  (g) Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September – Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> September, 2011	<b>Commencement of Political Activities.</b> (a) Commencement of Campaign by Political Parties (b) Conduct of Party Primaries by Political Parties and Observation of same by the Commission. (c) Collection Of Nomination Forms by Political Parties. (d) Submission of Nomination Forms by Political Parties. (e) Display of nominated candidates and persons nominating them. Names of Chairmanship and councillorship candidate at the local government headquarters and ward collation centers respectively. (f) Period for withdrawal and substitution of candidates by Political Parties. (g) Period for withdrawal by candidates through his Political Party.	9.	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October, 2011	Display of list of validated and invalidated candidates at the commission's headquarters.
			10.	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> October, 2011	Final validation of documents for substituted invalidated candidates by the Commission.
			11.	Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> October, 2011	<b>FINAL Publication of list of validated candidates at the Commission.</b>
			12.	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October, 2011	Publication of Notice of Polls at Ward collation centers (Day and Hour).
			13.	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October – Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Submission of names of party agents for the elections to the Commission.
			14.	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2011	End of electioneering Campaign.
			15.	Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2011	Elections into 20 Local Government Councils And 37 Local Council Development Areas.
			16.	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2011	Run-off/Re-run Election(s), if any.
					Signed: <b>HON. JUSTICE FATAI.A. ADEYINKA (Rtd)</b> <b>CHAIRMAN,</b> <b>LAGOS STATE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION</b> <b>NO 2, BIRREL AVENUE, SABO, YABA, LAGOS</b> <b>DATED: FRIDAY THE 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011</b>
5.	Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> September – Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> September, 2011	Extension period for nomination where there is only one candidate. (only candidate).			
6.	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> September –	Display of voters register for the elections at Ward collation			



## LAGOS STATE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION (LASIEC)

### AMENDED GUIDELINES FOR 2011 LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL AND LOCAL COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT AREAS ELECTIONS

The following Guidelines are to be adhered to by all Political Parties intending to field candidates for the forthcoming elections into the Twenty (20) Local Government Councils and Thirty-seven (37) Local Councils Development Areas (LCDA) in Lagos State, on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2011:

#### I. CONDUCT OF PRIMARIES BY POLITICAL PARTIES AND OBSERVATION OF SAME BY THE COMMISSION

All Political Parties should invite the Commission to the conduct of their Party Primaries.

#### II. COLLECTION AND RETURN OF FORMS:

Political Parties are required to obtain LASIEC FORMS 001, 002, 007, 007A AND 008 for their candidates between Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2011 at the Commission's Headquarters 2, Birrel Avenue, Sabo, Yaba, Lagos.

Form LASIEC 001 must be completed by all candidates. All nomination forms are expected to be returned to the Commission by the Political Parties not later than Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2011.

#### III. Each candidate is required to attach copies of the following to his completed form:

- (i) Curriculum Vitae
- (ii) Birth certificate or sworn affidavit of age;  
(Minimum age for Chairmanship position is 30years, while that of Councillorship is 25years)
- (iii) Party membership card;
- (iv) Voter's registration card;
- (v) Educational qualification (up to secondary school certificate or its equivalent); and

#### N.B- PLEASE NOTE THAT NO CANDIDATE IS REQUIRED TO PAY ANY FEES OR LEVY TO THE COMMISSION IN RESPECT OF THE ELECTIONS

IV. A candidate for the position of Chairman must be nominated by 20 registered voters in at least two-thirds of the Wards in his Local Government or Local Council Development Area.

V. A candidate for the position of Councillor must be nominated by 10 registered voters in his ward.

#### VI. VALIDATION OF CANDIDATES PARTICULARS

Every registered Political Party shall deliver to the Commission the complete list of the names and the relevant particulars of all candidates the Party proposes to sponsor for elective offices in respect of the elections. Validation of candidates will be undertaken Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October-Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2011 by the Commission.

#### VII. VALIDATION FOR SUBSTITUTED INVALIDATED CANDIDATES

Substitution for invalidated candidates must be made not later than Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2011. Validation for substituted invalidated candidates takes place Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October. The final list of eligible

candidates shall be published on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2011.

#### VIII. WITHDRAWAL OF NOMINATION

A Political party may withdraw the nomination of its candidate by a notice in writing, signed by the Secretary of the Political party and delivered to the Commission by him. In the case of a candidate withdrawing, he shall indicate in writing to that effect to his Party which shall forward same to the Commission.

#### IX. DISPLAY OF VOTERS REGISTER

The voters register would be displayed in each of the ward collation centers from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September– Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2011

#### X. ELECTIONEERING CAMPAIGN

Subject to the provisions of any enactment relating thereto, candidates shall campaign in the Elections in the following manner:-

- i. Electioneering campaign shall commence on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2011.
- ii. A political party shall not hold its rally within 500 meters of the location of another party's rally.
- iii. Abusive and inciting words should be avoided;
- iv. Campaign shall be within the Ward or Council Area in which a candidate intends to contest the election;
- v. Political Parties' rallies should focus on Party Manifestoes and programmes;
- vi. Bribery or other forms of inducement to voters, either directly or indirectly, must be avoided by political parties, candidates and their agents;
- vii. Campaigns or addresses shall not be carried out in Schools, Churches, Mosques or other Religious places, Military or Police barracks or Stations, Public offices and any other place the Commission may forbid from time to time;
- viii. Campaigns or addresses shall not be based on sectional, ethnic or religious sentiments or prejudices;
- ix. No person shall provide for the use of any other person, any government vehicle or boat, belonging to a public corporation for the purpose of conveying such person to a polling station except in respect of a person who is ordinarily entitled to use such vehicles or boat in an emergency involving an Electoral Officer.
- x. Political Parties rally must not extend beyond 6.00pm on any day within the specified period.
- xi. Electioneering campaign must end on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2011 by 6pm

#### XI. PENALTY:

Failure to comply with any of the above guidelines and other provisions of the law will attract appropriate sanctions.

Signed:  
HON. JUSTICE FATAI. A. ADEYINKA (Rtd)  
CHAIRMAN

LAGOS STATE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION  
NO 2, BIRREL AVENUE, SABO, YABA, LAGOS  
DATED: 3<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2011

**T**HE Coalition of Democrats for Electoral Reform (CODER) yesterday berated those castigating it over its stand on the suspension of the President of the Court of Appeal (PCA), Justice Ayo Isa Salami.

CODER also condemned the recent suicide attack on the United Nations building in Abuja.

The Director of Research, Planning and Strategy of CODER, Prince Segun Bada, in a statement in Abuja, said: "The Coalition of Democrats for Electoral Reform's attention has been drawn to the repeated advertorials in the electronic and print media criticizing CODER, Campaign for Democracy (CD), Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) and other civil society organizations for insensitivity in the Justice Ayo Salami suspension saga."

"This action by the Presidency sponsored by a latter day democrat and activist, has become one of the repeated episodical pattern of reactions by the commanding height of governance using sophistry to justify what has obviously snowballed into a national embarrassment."

"We ask the following questions, where was this latter day democrat and his cohorts when CODER, SNG, CD, NBA and civil society organisations were at the forefront of the struggle for the then acting President Goodluck Jonathan to assume full recognition and powers of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the year 2010. In the course of this struggle, we lost men travelling to the FCT through road mishaps.

"Our vehicles were vandalized and our personnel were harassed. It was our belief then that there was no sacrifice too much to bear for the sustenance of our democracy. The Presidency never

## 'UN House bombing, result of bad governance'

■ Abike HASSAN and ■ Amidu ARIJE

**N**ATIONAL convener of the United Action for Democracy (UAD), Jaye Gaskia, said the UN House bombing was as a result of bad governance.

He said this during a world press conference held by the UAD in Lagos.

"Nigeria has lost close to a 1000 lives within the past one week to bombings in Abuja and some other parts of the north."

"We shall oppose injustice everywhere in the country, initiate and work with others to undertake mass actions towards ensuring popular participation in decision making".

"For the avoidance of doubt, the rising insecurity in the country was brought about by inconsistencies dictated by the Brentwoods institutions."

"The policies are anti-people. That is why we are against these policies. We have consistently underperformed in 12 years of our democracy which has been plagued by the concepts of godfatherism and godmotherism," Gaskia said.

# CODER flays critics over stand on Salami saga

## • Condemns suicide bomb attack on UN House

■ Sanni ONOGU, Abuja ■

went on air to condemn our actions at that point in time. This press release has become necessary due to incessant calls and visits to our office by citizens of goodwill.

leaving office with the controversial decision of the NJC to suspend the second highest judicial officer in the land without due process. As human beings, it is very important we realize that whatever we do in office, whether right or wrong, lives after us. We must hold firmly to the sanctity of the rule of law, for the law rules and nothing else."

Bada further stated: "We believe that the UN Housing bombing is a dastardly act perpetrated by cowards and enemies of our great country. We sympathize with the families of the victims and wish all those being treated for various degrees of burns and injuries speedy recovery."

"Nothing happens without a clue; no crime is trace free; and our intelligence gathering should be improved upon. Nigerians are

peace-loving people; suicide bombing is completely alien to us; and our security should not be left alone for security agencies and operatives. It must be a collective effort.

"We advise that security should be beefed up at our public institutions and their parameters should be well secured.

"We commend the efforts of security agencies and personnel recently in Abuja and encourage them to be more

proactive.

"We urge all citizens to be vigilant and report all persons of shady character to the police. We commend the efforts of the government, health workers and citizens who donated blood to the blast victims."

## SUDOKU

### 1ST STEP IN SOLVING PUZZLE 323:

Look at the 3 right vertical (ghi) 3x3 boxes. The top box has 8 in cell Bg, while the bottom box has its own 8 in cell Ii. The middle box must, therefore, have its own 8 in column h, where there is only 1 vacant space cell Dh.

Thinking along these lines, try and fill in all the other vacant cells.

**SOLUTION TOMORROW.  
HAPPY PUZZLING!**

### PUZZLE 331

A									
B		7	5	6	2	8			
C	9		1		7				5
D				4					
E	7						9		
F	1		6	3			4		
G		3				1			
H			4	6					
I	6		7	5	1				8
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i

### SOLUTION TO PUZZLE 330

6	1	9	3	4	5	7	8	2
5	7	4	2	1	8	6	3	9
8	2	3	9	6	7	1	4	5
2	3	8	1	5	4	9	7	5
1	4	6	7	9	2	8	5	3
9	5	7	5	3	2	2	1	4
4	6	5	8	7	9	3	2	1
7	9	2	4	3	1	5	6	8
3	8	1	5	2	6	4	9	7
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

### SOLUTION TO PUZZLE 331

## PUBLIC NOTICE PILLAR AND WAY OF TRUTH EVANGELICAL MINISTRY

The general public is hereby notified that the above named church has applied to the corporate affair commission for registration under part 'c' of companies and allied matters act 1990.

### THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Prophet Akingbesote Olakunle John
2. Ayodele Omowumi Roseline
3. Hon. Olorunyolemi Jerome
4. Brother Akingbesote Lawrence
5. Brother Olagundoye Abiodun
6. Evang. Ifijunmilayo Jide
7. Sister Olorunyolemi Victoria Fola

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To propagate the gospel of our lord jesus christ
2. To deliver the oppressed through prophetic ministry
3. To show to the lost world the way back to the father
4. To cater for the poor and the less privileged
5. To demonstrate a practical christian life

Any objective to this publication should be forwarded to the registrar-general, corporate affair commission, ndola square, wuse, abuja within 28 days of this publication.

*Signed:*

Samuel Folorunso Esq  
Akins & Akins Solicitors  
20 Miller House, Oneretu, Ondo

## OSUN STATE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, ILA-ORANGUN IN AFFILIATION WITH UNIVERSITY OF UYO, UYO, AKWA IBOM STATE



### POSTPONEMENT! POSTPONEMENT!! POSTPONEMENT!!!

### POSTPONEMENT OF 2011 POST-UTME SCREENING EXERCISE

This is to inform the general public especially candidates who have applied for admission into Osun State College of Education, Ila-Orangun degree programme, in affiliation with University of Uyo, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State that due to situation beyond our control, the screening exercise earlier scheduled to hold on Saturday, 3rd September, 2011 has been postponed. The new date and time are as follows:

**DATE:** Saturday, 10th September, 2011

**VENUE:** Osun State College of Education, Ila-Orangun.

**TIME:** 9.00 a.m.

All candidates are reminded to report at the screening hall with the following items:

- 1) UTME result slip
- 2) Application Acknowledgement Form
- 3) Three (3) passport-size photographs with red background
- 4) HB pencil, eraser and sharpener
- 5) Completed screening form

All candidates who are interested in the programme can still purchase their scratch cards between now and Friday, 9th September, 2011 from any of the following retail outlets:

- 1) FIN Bank, Opposite Fakunle Comprehensive High School, Osogbo.
- 2) FIN Bank, Osun State College of Education, Ila-Orangun
- 3) Pathfinder Microfinance Bank, Ila-Orangun.

Finally, any inconvenience in the postponement of this 2011 Post-UTME Screening Exercise is highly regretted.

Thank you.

**ALHAJI G. O. KOLAWOLE**  
ACTING REGISTRAR

## THE NATION Saturday Mart

### ARE YOU A MAN?



Dr. Ashiri  
08035070883,  
08067428676

BEFORE YOU CALL YOURSELF A MAN NATURALLY, IT IS WHEN YOU WIN YOUR PARTNER

2-3 ROUNDS OF SEX & AT LEAST 20 MINS, BEFORE EJACULATION AS A REAL MAN

IKEJA OFFICE: 128, Obafemi Awolowo Way, Balogun Bus stop, Ikeja, Lagos. 07054317046	KADUNA OFFICE: No. 18, Gwandu Rd. (07055867117)
CALABAR OFFICE: Marian Market, Shop 255, B Line. 08023965939	JOS OFFICE: St. Michael Junction, by Yanshamu Rd. (08067441885)
OKOKA OFFICE: No. 116, Alhaja Agbeye Str. By Femi-Killa B/S, Ago Palace Way, Okota, Lagos. 07055867117	PORT-HARCOURT: 58, Airport Rd., Rumuodoma by 2nd Transformer. (08067428676)
LAGOS ISLAND: 3, Luther Str., Lagos Island. (08035070883)	UYO OFFICE: 9, Okpon Str., By no.70, Ikot Ekpenye Rd. (08033949148)
BENIN OFFICE: 22, Uselu Lagos Rd., By Texamin Junction. (08023534732)	ABA OFFICE: 54, Asa Rd., By shopping center (08033949148)
IBADAN OFFICE: Shop 24, Core-Ofe, Jesu Shopping complex Annex monoton b/stop two Rd. (08023534732)	DELTA OFFICE: 259 Nnebihi Road, by Ibusa Junction, Asaba. 08067441885
ISOLO OFFICE: 43, Kogberge Street, Isolo- Lagos. 08023965939	ENUGU OFFICE: 59, Onwudike Str., along Ohafia Str. Enugu. 07055867117
DICK A & B (for organ enlargement and lengthening). SEX SWEETNER CREAM & SOAP for sex sensational. All these products are well packaged with 100% pure herbs not oynbo pills without any side effects. With good response from our customers since 1990.	ABUJA OFFICE: Shop F 38, Nyanyan shopping plaza, Along keffu rd., By Mr. Bings. (07055867117)
For courier & Home Delivery Service: Zenith Bank Acc: No. 2000463340 Name: Salau Tijani Call: 08033949148 before and after payment	EBONYI OFFICE: 5 Awka Str., Abakaliki. 08035070883
KANO, AKURE, OGUN, AGBOR & WARRI: Call: 08033949148	ILORIN OFFICE: Shop 23 Crystal Plaza along Airport Rd. Idota-Ilorin. 08035070883

**EQUITIES****NIGERIAN STOCK EXCHANGE****DAILY SUMMARY AS AT 26-08-11****2ND-TIER SECURITIES**

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
ADSWITCH PLC	1	1.71	318,869	545,265,99
CAPITAL OIL PLC	3	0.50	150,162	75,081,00
MCNICHOLS PLC	1	1.02	2,487,408	2,537,156,16
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>2,956,439</b>	<b>3,157,503,15</b>

**AGRICULTURE/AGRO-ALLIED**

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	1	0.50	373,626	186,813,00
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	11	0.50	2,855,573	1,427,786,50
PRESCO PLC	21	7.60	485,500	3,705,644,00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>33</b>		<b>3,714,699</b>	<b>5,320,243,50</b>

**AIR SERVICES**

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
AIRLINE SERVICES AND LOGISTICS PLC	12	2.02	435,500	896,224,20
NIGERIAN AVIATION HANDLING COMPANY PLC	39	6.63	374,051	2,347,527,76
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>51</b>		<b>809,551</b>	<b>3,443,793,96</b>

**AUTOMOBILE & TYRE**

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	37	0.50	7,128,655	3,504,327,50
R. T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	13	1.31	102,402	134,446,64
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>50</b>		<b>7,231,057</b>	<b>3,698,774,14</b>

**BANKING**

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
ACCESS BANK PLC	222	5.91	20,183,906	117,760,839,71
DIAMONDBANK PLC	146	4.20	13,080,839	53,905,660,06
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	37	2.95	1,820,418	5,131,537,37
FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	31	5.26	687,627	3,602,235,02
FIDELITY BANK PLC	50	2.03	2,502,775	5,049,350,89
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	566	11.05	14,208,229	156,487,703,04
FINNAFRIC BANK PLC	247	0.50	51,253,50	2,570,129,50
GTBANK PLC	39	1.33	1,891,508	258,778,329,07
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	30	0.70	536,412	5,003,204,84
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC	84	1.15	11,551,674	8,086,171,80
OCEANIC BANK INTERNATIONAL PLC	85	5.64	5,063,764	5,823,328,60
SKYE BANK PLC	23	1.44	1,621,086	2,307,396,84
STERLING BANK PLC	18	1.43	9,307	38,949,17
UNIBED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC.	69	2.09	1,661,707	3,472,967,63
UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	17	0.55	753,709	416,402,64
UNITYBANK PLC	45	0.78	2,317,771	1,737,285,17
WEMA BANK PLC	450	12.94	17,040,037	219,843,044,42
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>2,715</b>		<b>125,421,010</b>	<b>901,230,388,56</b>

**BREWERYES**

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
CHAMPION BREWERIES PLC	1	4.46	1,000	4,670,00
GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC	60	218.00	220,210	47,959,881,20
INTERNATIONAL BREWERIES PLC	7	5.85	136,875	800,718,75
JOS INTERNATIONAL BREWERIES PLC	1	2.26	1,000	2,150,00
NIGERIAN BREWERIES PLC	104	82.61	1,597,930	131,711,080,13
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>173</b>		<b>1,957,015</b>	<b>180,478,500,08</b>

**BUILDING MATERIALS**

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	65	19.39	841,008	15,947,917,11
CEMENT CO. OF NORTHERN NIGERIA PLC	5	7.36	29,712	216,818,40
DANGOTE CEMENT PLC	44	104.00	401,805	41,574,997,87
LAFLARGE WAPCO PLC	25	42.00	232,534	9,729,042,30
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>139</b>		<b>1,505,059</b>	<b>67,468,775,68</b>

**CHEMICAL & PAINTS**

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
AFRICAN PAINTS (NIG.) PLC	1	3.16	11,100	33,411,00
CHEMICAL AND ALLIED PRODUCTS PLC	7	26.50	33,386	885,772,00
DN MEYER PLC	2	1.32	66,638	83,963,88
NIGERIAN-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC	3	10.53	36,000	360,360,00
PAINTS AND COATINGS MANUFACTURES PLC	20	1.07	52,000	55,640,00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>28</b>		<b>199,124</b>	<b>1,419,146,88</b>

**COMMERCIAL/SERVICES**

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
SECURE ELECTRIC TECHNOLOGY PLC	2	0.84	203,000	170,520,00
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	10	2.65	409,200	1,066,200,00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>612,200</b>	<b>1,236,696,00</b>

**COMPUTER & OFFICE EQUIPMENT**

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
TRIPPLE GEE AND COMPANY PLC	6	3.25	48,240	149,061,60
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>48,240</b>	<b>149,061,60</b>

**CONGLOMERATES**

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
A. M. GENTIS (NIGERIA) PLC	6	1.99	16,691	22,078,00
JOHN HOPKINS PLC	1	0.31	16,925	6,715,75
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	53	22.25	360,687	10,778,727,95
SCOA NIGERIA PLC	2	6.11	4,986	28,968,66
TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATION OF NIGERIA PLC	48	0.80	4,206,497	3,246,644,19
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	56	39.00	287,770	10,928,988,82
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	72	27.10	819,584	22,365,786,30
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>238</b>		<b>5,795,069</b>	<b

# Yakubu insists Blackburn will escape relegation

**F**ORMER Nigerian international, Yakubu Aiyegbeni has insisted that his new Premier League side Blackburn Rovers will not be relegated at the end of the season.

The former Everton forward expressed confidence bearing in mind the potentials inherent in the club, especially coupled with the new signings.

The 28-year-old forward, who joined Rovers from Everton on transfer deadline day, said there is no need for panic at Ewood Park despite the club losing their first three games of the season.

Yakubu told *Sky Sports*: "There is a long way to go and when we get our first win we will be back, we are not panicking about going down or staying up."

"Blackburn have been in the Premier League for a long time and with the quality we have we will be fine."

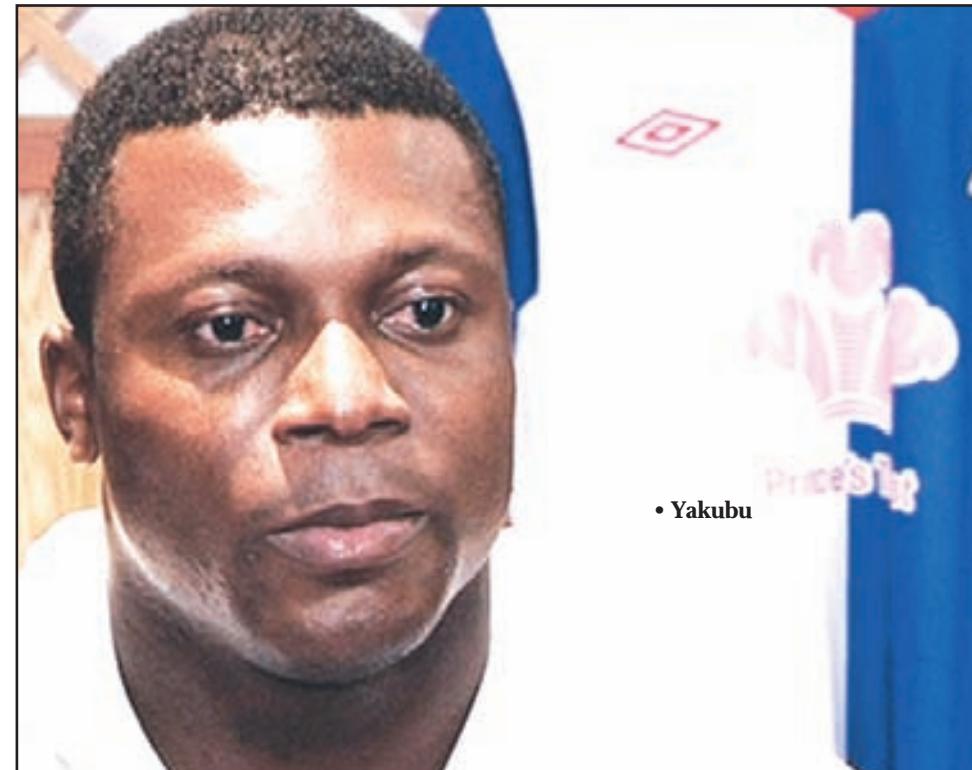
"They struggled against

relegation last season but it would be nice to finish in the top half this season and I

believe we can do it."

As well as signing Yakubu on deadline day, Rovers

also completed a deal for Birmingham City defender Scott Dann.



• Yakubu

## 'Schalke made late bid for Musa'

**G**ERMAN Bundesliga side, Schalke 04 has been revealed as one of the clubs that tried to lure Nigeria international, Ahmed Musa from Dutch outfit, VVV-Venlo.

There is also an unnamed Russian club that also signified interest in signing Musa before the transfer window closed on Wednesday.

*SuperSport.com* also learned that the German side made a last-minute approach for the 18-year-old on August 31 when the summer transfer window shut down.

But the bid came just too late and fell through.

When asked of this development, Musa's representative, Tony Harris, refrained from making comments on the attempt of Schalke 04 to get the service of his client.

"Musa is attracting lots of interest across Europe but I can't comment further because he's still with Venlo," said Harris.

But Schalke are not the only side in the hunt for Musa.

Borussia Dortmund, Udinese, Genoa, Tottenham and Everton are also interested in the Nigerian speedster.

*SuperSport* is also aware that Schalke and the hosts of clubs will continue their chase for Musa in the January transfer window.

**T**ELECOMMUNICATIONS giant, Globacom has tasked Super Eagles players to approach the Nations Cup 2012 qualifier with the *Barea* of Madagascar scheduled for this Sunday in Antananarivo, with determination to scooping the maximum points.

A statement from Globacom yesterday exhorted the Nigerian team to go for outright victory in order to boost their chances of qualifying for the next Nations cup. The Match is a must-win for Nigeria.

"It's a crucial encounter from where the Eagles must emerge victorious for a

comfortable return to commanding position in the group," the statement added.

"We are pleased with the preparation being made by the Nigeria Football Federation(NFF), to fly the team to the match venue and put the players in good mind before the match and we are calling on Nigerians to support the team."

Globacom, which is a major partner of the NFF as well as sponsor of the national teams, recently launched Glo-branded jersey for the Super

Eagles in London. Meanwhile, Globacom has commended the Super Falcons on the team's 2-1 victory over the *Lionesses* of Cameroun in last Saturday's London 2012 Olympics qualifier at the Abuja National Stadium.

The company stressed that it was indeed proud of the success recorded by the female national team, stating that the team's determination to win the game was commendable.

"We acknowledge that African female football has witnessed development in recent times such that the days of minnows are increasingly coming to an end," the statement further said.

"It is for this reason that we expect Nigerians to

## Siasia changes training plan over pitch

**S**AMSON Siasia took one look at the training pitch in Antananarivo and immediately changed his training programme for the day on Thursday.

Patches everywhere, bumps in other areas, and even holes in places had the Super Eagles coach shaking his head in despair.

And after consulting with his assistants, Siasia promptly changed the training schedule. Rather than have the boys do any serious ballwork, they focused on fitness drills and a dynamics session.

That was followed by a head tennis keepy-uppy session, which was round-off with the team breaking up into two groups to compete in foot tennis.

"This is a really bad pitch, but it is similar to what we will find in the



• Siasia

main stadium, so we have to make the best use of a bad situation," Siasia said. "Thank God we came early so we could experience this. You can't play good football on a pitch like this."

The squad will hold their first session on the match day pitch on Saturday afternoon.

The game comes up at 2:30PM local time (12:30PM Nigeria time) on Sunday.

## Yobo could still leave

**E**VERTON can still get rid of want-away defender Joseph Yobo despite the UK transfer deadline passing on Tuesday. The Nigeria cap-

tain seems determined not to play for Everton again and is still desperate to rejoin Fenerbahçe before the Turkish transfer window closes on Monday.

## Glo charges Eagles, hails Falcons

that the team's determination to win the game was commendable.

"We acknowledge that African female football has witnessed development in recent times such that the days of minnows are increasingly coming to an end," the statement further said.

"It is for this reason that we expect Nigerians to

appreciate the effort of the Falcons and keep supporting the team with prayers and goodwill so that Nigeria can sustain the tempo in the return leg."

Globacom therefore advised the Super Falcons to maintain the score line in Yaounde in September, to sail through to the London Games as one of the two African representatives.

## All hail Mikel Obi

• Continued from back page

relate with the players about his plans. I also want to see what he would do to the dissidents in subsequent matches, given the hurry in which he dealt with Osaze Odemwingie.

I may be wrong, but I feel strongly that the players are subtly telling Siasia a story. He had better heed it or fail woefully because he would be judged not by his abilities but how well the players execute his instructions during matches.

If the players had reservations with the traveling arrangement, shouldn't they have informed their coach? What do they really tell Siasia during their meetings? Or is it that Siasia has cowed them into submission? The players' refusal to join others when they left the hotel amounts to a failure of Siasia's leadership.

Two critical issues come out of these disturbing scenarios. The first is the urgent need for the President Goodluck Jonathan administration to fund a national carrier. Our country is perhaps one of the few whose sports ambassadors don't travel with the country's national carrier.

Flying into another country in your national carrier has many advantages. It shows a government that understands that sport is a big public relations tool just as it reassures the players or athletes that the government cares about them.

Secondly, watching athletes from visiting countries alight from their national carriers intimidates those at the airport. It emboldens the players or athletes to give their best on competition days and underscores the importance of sports to the government and the governed.

The Jonathan administration must address this issue very quickly. We cannot afford to send our sports ambassadors to other countries like orphans. We have seen Egyptian clubs come into the country with their national carrier. We have seen Europeans, Americans and indeed the Asians come here for international competitions with their national carriers parked at the airport, in some case, and, in others, go back to their country for a return journey after the sporting event.

Passengers at the airport have this tinge of envy anytime these organised countries' athletes come into Nigeria neatly dressed in their national colours before sporting events. Their presence reassures the fans about the need to watch such an event to support their ambassadors.

Unfortunately, the sports minister has been hijacked by the hawks in the National Sports Commission (NSC). We are being told that our athletes are going in batches to Maputo for the All Africa Games. Is that how the South Africans will storm the place? We have been disgraced at the World Athletics Championships, yet no word has come from either the NSC or the minister. It is only when football totters that committees-for-the-boys are constituted. We are poised to watch the All Africa Games; let's hope that this multi-sports event that falls exclusively within the purview of the NSC leads to a successful outing. If it doesn't, we will call for some heads to be knocked for the seeming bad planning especially with the way our contingent heads for Maputo in batches. This is an event that the NSC men knew would happen four years ago. Yet, the NSC men chose to sleep.

## FIFA BEACH SOCCER WORLD CUP

### Russia drubs Nigeria 8-4 in opening clash

**R**USSIA team has defeated the Nigerian sand Eagles 8-4 in Group C under cloudy skies at the Stadio del Mare. The Europeans continued their good form after winning the Euro Beach Soccer League Superfinal last month and will be full of confidence after defeating a strong Nigerian side.

The Russians took early control of the match by making use of their quick passing skills to establish a 4-1 lead in the first period, which helped them to control the rest of the game, they made sure to control throughout the rest of the match for a solid 8-4 win.

Egor Eremeev opened the scoring with just three minutes on the clock, with Yury Gorchinskiy doubling the advantage a minute later. Nigeria did pull one back through Isiaka Olawale, but then Russia's No9 Egor

Shaykov began to exert his influence by netting twice in the period, his second being a sublime volley.

The Russian team extended their lead to four goals in the second period, despite a mini-fightback from Nigeria who went from being 6-1 down to 6-3, thanks to two well-worked strikes from Victor Tale and Musa Najare. However, 22 seconds later, the four goal cushion was re-established when Ilya Leonov scored his first of the match.

Both teams added another in the final period, with Nigeria's fourth being something out of the ordinary. Russian keeper Alexander Filimonov juggled the ball to the edge of the box and tried a speculative effort. However, Ogbonnaya Okemmiri was on hand to head the ball away, but his clearance sailed the full length of the pitch over Filimonov and into the net!

# Transition to Glory



**Mrs. Omabonu Omojo Adeline Ejiga  
1947-2011**

I sincerely commiserate with my brother and friend, senior colleague and political associate, **Major General Geoffrey O. Ejiga** (rtd) and the entire Ejiga family over the painful exit of our dear sister, wife and mother, **Mrs. Omabonu Omojo Adeline Ejiga**, who slept in the Lord on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2011.

We were touched by the shocking news of her death but comforted by the enduring legacies and evergreen memories of her exemplary life.

We love you so much, but the good Lord loves you most.  
May your gentle soul continue to rest in the Lord. (*Amen*)

Signed

**Senator (Dr.) David A. B. Mark, GCON, fnm**

President, Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

*Burial Arrangement as announced by the family*

"People like Salami will have to go through the furnace of fire to really prove to the world that Nigeria still has good breed of humans. The sad aspect of it is when the furnace of fire are the so called "DEMOCRATS" and the last hope of the common man", Aikore AKIN, Ibadan, **07033614023**.

"May the Almighty God bless you and your pen", Adolf, **08023001194**.

"Segun your write up of 27<sup>th</sup> reeks of who you are, a pure biased ethnic jingoist. Just because you are privileged to express your opinion in a national tabloid does nt give you the moral latitude to claim right where it does not exist. Salami has been in the thick of everything but never told us what transpired in Sokoto till his muted promotion. Amaechi was pronounced as governor by whom? You talk about Katsina Alu as if he darkened the judicial sphere with all his actions. At least Salami's legacies are clear for all to see. Mind what you put on paper because one day your offspring both born and unborn might see your views and despise the father they had. Cheers, **07034518294**.

"Sir, Re: Appreciating Katsina Alu. I like and concur with your submission. Fantastic! Is it also obligatory on the President that he approves the recommendation? Is he not aware of the background to the self serving recommendation? Whose interest is he serving? His or the nation's?, Japhet Ogunbiyi, **08034099699**.

"Mr. Segun Ayobolu, you are an Esq. You are great as I strongly conceded to your article on Justice Katsina Alu – a cabal in the judiciary organ", Comrade S. Ukusare, **07031662302**.

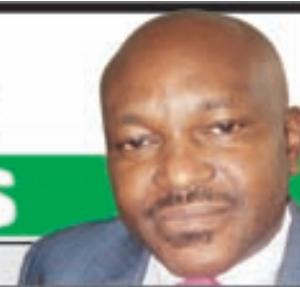
"Uncle Segun, your treatise on appreciating Justice Katsina Alu was most superb, solid and scintillating. Such lines as 'a remarkably unremarkable mind' etc are apt", **07032697991**.

"I just finished reading your article on Katsina Alu and how you totally vanquished Abati. What has really become of Abati? Please keep up the good work. As for Katsina Alu, he is the latest member of the fools club at 70", Barrister Ubiworo, Warri, **08095600285**.

"So if you are the President, could you have spared Ayo Salami? Is he not party to all this imbroglio?", Mike, **08034659378**.

"Dear Segun, there is something in a name. Alu in Igbo language means abomination and we have seen how abominable his tenure was as the CJN...But Mother nature has shown Katsina Alu the face of nemesis. History always repeats itself. My only pain is beyond the two of them but the temple of justice being desecrated", **08033533884**

segunayobolu2@yahoo.com  
**Segun Ayobolu**  
**ILLUMINATIONS**  
 07032777778




•Katsina-Alu

"Your write up on Justice Katsina Alu, which I would have enjoyed reading was marred by the second sentence in the first paragraph which started by referring to the CJN as the Tiv jurist. Your reference to the CJN as such only shows how sectional or tribalistic you are. Was the CJN trained by any Tiv university? The answer is no. Were his services as the CJN only for the Tiv nation? The answer of course is no. May God save Nigeria from sectional minded people like you who see nothing good in other tribes, Yeke Cornelius S. Makurdi, **08065658160**.

"I am Adeyinka Oshin, 51 year old lawyer and avid reader of *The Nation*. I read your piece 'appreciating Katsina Alu yesterday. No doubt you did not know GEJ until his presidential endorsement of the filth pervading the judiciary personified by Mr. Injustice Katsina Alu. The fish can't operate outside its habitat lest it dies. GEJ is of PDP, he is condemned to act the way he does though he has the looks you describe as 'deceptively simple'. What sickens me more is the apostacy of once loved Abati. Believe me it is

increasingly difficult for me to breathe again as Nigeria stinks from the presidency with the stench cascading down all arms of government, **08033339665**.

"Hello Segun, just to commend your write ups in *The Nation* newspaper. I enjoy them, especially that of yesterday on Justice Katsina Alu. Your use of language is superb and your analogy is something else. My prayer is that the good Lord will continue to give you the wisdom to carry on well and enlarge your coast, **08063476746**.

"Appreciating Mr Injustice Katsina Alu; I appreciate your appreciation. Kudos. How did such lawless characters, self-confessed fools and gangsters become our leaders? Big question, **07025778125**

"Your write up on Katsina Alu is a good one but you dented it with uncomplimentary adjectives in your description of Baba Iyabo. It is not customary to so describe an elder in Yoruba land", **08056230950**.

"You always write on the bad side of PDP led government; does it mean they have not done anything good that you can write on?", **08054972047**.

"Segun, I am one of your fans. I read you regularly every Saturday. Your analysis of issues is profound and illuminating. You captured the essence of the Jonathan presidency in the suspension of Salami. Jonathan is not the saint people think he is. Thanks for being a courageous journalist. For Reuben Abati he is finished", Nwakabe Udoboaku, **08184885512**.

"Appreciating Justice Katsina Alu was insightful and educative. It was actually a master piece. You made my day", **08033184429**.

"Segun, Justice Katsina Alu is in retirement. Allow him peace please. Have you forgotten that Salami is in court?", Abel Afolabi, **08065623287**.

## Tomorrow in THE NATION

Nigeria as a multiethnic and multireligious country cannot afford to wobble under the shadow of an organisation that has engendered more suspicion among ethnic and religious groups

—Ropo Sekoni

"Segun Ayobolu, the illuminations man of *The Nation* newspaper, reading you sometimes is an indication of paid attempt to mislead society. Why did Salami refuse his elevation to the apex court? Is there any law that prohibits the President, Court of Appeal from any elevation? That's an act of disloyalty and also a source of suspicions on Salami's perceived romance with his friends in A.C.N. Stop your attacks on Mr President if you are objective enough, Mr. Ofonih, Port Harcourt, **08033361312**.

"It is a shame for the whole country which has nurtured a system that threw up such a CJN who does not believe in the judiciary he is supposed to be its custodian and guardian. His mission throughout his uneventful tenure was to extinguish the only leading light in the most corrupt firmament. It is a disaster", Akin Ogundipe, Ilaje Ilesha, **08030455802**.

"Your piece today "Appreciating Katsina Alu" was a master piece. Your watch dog role is evident", Paul Osarenkhoe Esq, Benin City, **08064698234**.

"I read with discomfort your article on appreciating Justice Katsina Alu today and to say you are one of Nigeria's enemies with the pen power to destroy this nation", **08033410783**.

"Segun, Katsina Alu, NJC, The President are being clever by half. Their real target is the CPC petition. That was why Jonathan quickly appointed an Acting President, Court of Appeal. Jonathan is a pretender. We must prevent him from turning Nigeria into a banana republic where anything can happen", Alhaji Adeboye Lawal, Ibadan, **08034648879**.

"Is the President a jurist? You will have done no better were you Jonathan. Ayo Salami got what he asked for. No sympathy for him Segun", **08139010472**.

"May the ink in your pen never dry up. Beautiful piece – Appreciating Justice Katsina Alu. Whatever a man sows that he shall reap", **08036080223**.

"Your ILLUMINATIONS titled appreciating Justice Aloysius Katsina Kaluis yet another master piece. God bless you and enrich you the more, M.A. Shuaibu, Ife-Olukotun, **08032183727**.

"Many thanks Segun for your incisive, brilliant and illuminating article. By the way, can you imagine how hypocritical and opportunistic Nigerians are? Abati was one of you until recently when he was appointed as Federal Government's spokesman. Against his robust background as a critical, objective columnist, how morally justifiable is his present defence of government position on CJN/PCA face off". Olakunle Oladapo, Ibadan, **08056682922**.

## Ade Ojeikere on Saturday All hail Mikel Obi



JOHN Mikel Obi showed maturity on Monday when he became the first person to report at the Super Eagles camp in Abuja, ahead of the September 3 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier against Madagascar in Antananarivo, after overcoming the trauma of his father's kidnap.

Mikel incurred the fans' wrath for avoiding Nigeria's crucial away games due to injuries, which often come in the week before such games. The popular thinking is that the timing of his injury may have been a product of collusion with his English Premier League side Chelsea.

Mikel had played for Chelsea the week before the cancelled international fixture between Ghana and Nigeria at the Watford Stadium, but couldn't have made the game, if it had been played, due to a knock that he sustained.

A fan called to chastise Mikel, but I asked

him if he watched the game. During the friendly, Mikel was hacked from behind and was held off the pitch by one of Chelsea's medics. He was treated immediately. This showed that it was slightly serious.

A few other Mikel critics suggested that he arrived early because he wanted to kill two birds with one stone. They reckoned that his early arrival was to seek Samson Siasia's permission to see his father.

I thought this latter school was being cruel because Mikel's dad's kidnap was widely reported. Siasia wouldn't have queried him, if he went straight to Jos.

Happily, Mikel has said that he won't visit his father, until after the September 4 clash in Antananarivo. This is the new beginning, which our players must imbibe. Nigeria comes first, especially as we are only united whenever our soccer teams are winning games.

It was also nice seeing Mikel sit closely with President Goodluck Jonathan. It didn't matter what they would have discussed. What was paramount was that our President showed love and care to a worthy citizen. I

look forward to how Mikel would play against the Madagascans on September 4.

### Eagles' aircraft protest

Where do I start to apportion blame over our players' refusal to board the 'small' Air Nigeria aircraft that took them first to Brazzaville and then Antananarivo for the September 4 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier against Madagascar?

There is the temptation to chide the players because of their last experience in Conakry where they waited for over eight hours for the bigger aircraft that brought them to the Guinean capital. They insisted on a bigger aircraft that caused them pain. Many of them couldn't meet their international flight schedule in Nigeria because of the aircraft's late arrival.

The shame associated with other nationals watching some of our soccer stars sleep on benches and others wandering about like stray goats at the lounge of the Guinea airport compelled the NFF to look for another airline. Would you blame the NFF?

The argument in Conakry whilst our players were being humiliated was that perhaps the chosen airline had used the aircraft to run other routes for cash, despite being on a contract for a two-legged trip.

It was easy for NFF to pick another airline since the preferred option, which had marooned the team in Conakry, was too expensive. They chose the one that they could afford.

What I don't understand is the players' complaint that the team should fly into Antananarivo on Friday for the game on Sunday? When Nigeria struggled to hold Ethiopia to a nerve-wrenching 2-2 draw in Addis Ababa, the players blamed their sloppiness on the late arrival in a high altitude area. The resolve was that they would hit Antananarivo much earlier to get used to the altitude.

Why a few chose not to accompany the team, until they were persuaded to, is still a puzzle because one feels strongly that Samson Siasia ought to have rubbed minds with them on the plan to storm Madagascar. It sounded very interesting when one was told that Siasia called their bluff and asked the driver to take others to the airport.

I don't want to believe that Siasia doesn't

•Continued on Page 62