

Military To Use NHIS For Health Care

By Femi Ogbonnikan
REPORTER, Lagos

Beginning from January 2009, all military personnel enrolled in the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) are to use its Identity Card for accessing health care services.

Making the disclosure at the second NHIS/Military Stakeholder's Meeting held on Monday, at the Excellence

Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos, the Managing Director, Defence Health Maintenance Organisation, Commodore Bola Sanni (rtd), said in the past two years, the military had been using Services' identity cards to access health care, but that the sector would soon embark on a nationwide re-registration of all military personnel and their families, beginning from the first week of Sep-

tember.

However, the retired Commodore solicited the co-operation of all members of the military towards the success of the exercise, noting that it would determine future disbursement of capitation to all health care providers.

The implication of this, he said, is that the more personnel registered by a health care provider, the more capitations it would receive.

He equally warned military personnel to desist from registering with a different health care facility, saying this would no longer be tolerated.

To achieve the desired goals,

Sanni averred that the DHMO had undertaken monitoring visits to all Primary Health Care Providers' facilities and educated the Health Care Providers on grey areas identified in the course of implementing the scheme, especially the referral procedure.

At the moment, he explained that the remaining five zonal offices of DHMO had been fully equipped and were now operational, while construction work on the Abuja Corporate Headquarters would soon commence.

Four Die As Bus Runs Into Market

By Femi Ogbonnikan
REPORTER, Lagos

Tragedy struck at the weekend, when a commercial bus lost control and killed four persons.

The incident occurred along Tom Jones Road, Lagos Island, on Sunday.

It was gathered that the commercial Mitsubishi Mazda Bus, marked EQ 322 LND (Lagos), driven by one Kolawole Olakunle, was about to take off when it suddenly lost control.

The vehicle skidded off the road and ran into a crowd of traders, who were displaying their wares by the roadside at the popular Dosumu market, Lagos Island.

However, the Lagos State Police Command Public Relations Officer, Frank Mba, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), confirmed that four persons died on the spot, while others received varying degree of injuries.

He gave the names of the deceased as Mohammed Sanni, Ramotu Mohammed, Shade Olaoluwapo and Sherifat Sarumi.

Mba said the corpses of the victims had been removed by policemen from Ebute-Ero Divisional Police Station, Lagos Island and deposited at an undisclosed public mortuary for autopsies. Similarly, a bus conductor was at the weekend sent to an early grave, when a tipper rammed into his vehicle.

The incident, involving the tipper lorry marked XH 932 MUS (Lagos) and a Coaster bus, with registration number DK 398 AAA (Lagos), occurred on Saturday at Ile-Epo Bus stop, along Badagry Expressway.

It was learnt that the bus conductor, identified as Ugochukwu Nwogwu, died on the spot.

Meanwhile, Mba disclosed that the police had launched a manhunt for the hit-and-run driver of the ill-fated tipper lorry, while the corpse of the victim had been removed and deposited at a public mortuary for post-mortem examination.

Akunyili Inaugurates First Mega Drug Depot In Ekiti

The first Unified Drug Revolving Fund Mega Depot in Nigeria was on Sunday inaugurated in Ekiti State, by the Director-General of the National Agency for Food Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Prof. Dora Akunyili.

She declared that wholesale drug distribution by Ekiti State government is a national benchmark that ought to be emulated by all the states in the federation.

In a statement by the Senior

Special Assistant to Ekiti State Governor on Public Communications, Moses Jolayemi, Akunyili said the establishment of the outlet would greatly reduce the circulation of fake and unwholesome drugs in the state.

Commending Governor Segun Oni for blazing the trail, Akunyili added that her agency had raised proposal for the setting up of such outlets all over Nigeria since 2001.

Akunyili, who said she was

impressed by the achievements recorded by Oni in the health sector, since he came to office last year, urged him not to relent in transforming Ekiti into one of the most progressive states in the country.

Speaking further, she said the spate of development already witnessed in the state had rekindled the hope for having a good and dependable health delivery system in Ekiti State in particular and Nigeria in general.

She commended Oni for allowing non-indigenes to benefit from the

state's health intervention programmes, adding that this would further strengthen the unity of the Nigerian state.

Oni said the establishment of the drug mart was part of efforts of his administration to provide qualitative health care service, comparable to others globally, for the people of the state.

He explained that development in any sector was all about ideas and the ability to make things happen.

Five Docked Over Sale Of Two-month Old Baby

By Wale Igbinade
SNR REPORTER, Lagos

Five persons arrested by the police for allegedly selling a two-month old baby have been arraigned before a Yaba Magistrate's Court.

The five accused are Nwakego Thomas, Helen Woma, Chinyere Ndubuisi, Abraham Josiah and

Okorie Chidi.

Addressing the court, police prosecutor, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), Okoronhwo Okorie, said the defendants on April 22, at 19, Essien Street, Ijebu, Satellite Town area of Lagos, allegedly conspired to sell two-month old Victor Ezeugwu for N60,000.

ASP Okorie argued that the

offence is punishable under section 516 of the Criminal Code Act, Cap C17, Vol. 2 Laws of Lagos State, 2003.

He informed the court that the defendants intended to use baby Ezeugwu for an immoral purpose, adding that such action is punishable under section 21 of Trafficking in Person (Prohibition), Law of the Federation and Administration Act 2003.

The defendants, however, pleaded

not guilty to the charges and were subsequently granted bail in the sum of N100,000 each, with two sureties in like sum.

In a related development, 28-year-old Abiodun Abiola and one Olatunbosun Effi have been arraigned before an Igbosere Magistrate's Court for alleged forgery and altering of documents.

Police Kill Pregnant Woman, Injure Others In Ipaja

By Wisdom Patrick
SNR CORRESPONDENT, Lagos

The tranquil atmosphere of Ipaja township was on Monday morning disrupted, when a pregnant woman was allegedly shot dead by a trigger-happy policeman.

The identity of the victim was still unknown at the time *Daily Independent* visited the scene of the incident.

A police source at Idimu Police station confided that the shooting was accidental, a statement eyewitnesses dismissed as "stupid."

The killing, according to one of them (name withheld), occurred at Car Wash Bus-stop, on Idimu-Egbeda Road, where policemen allegedly mounted illegal roadblock and were extorting N20.00 from commercial vehicle operators.

It was gathered that the driver of the bus in which the diseased was travelling, had told the policemen that he was

his first trip and that yet to make money; and that on his way back, he would settle them (policemen).

It was gathered that this plea was ignored by the policemen.

"Our driver at this point had tried to move his bus away, because one of the passengers went and discuss with one sergeant, and it was assumed that they had agreed to let us go. But as the driver was veering into the main road, we heard a gun shot and a woman sitting on the back seat started screaming and there was blood everywhere in the bus."

The witness stated further that as soon as the policemen sensed the panic in the bus "all of them jumped into their patrol vehicle, marked RSS 014 and zoomed off, abandoning the woman everybody in the bus."

"One other person (a man), was also injured on the forehead. The woman however died on the way to the hospital."



APPOINTMENT OF REGISTRARS

We hereby inform our esteemed shareholders, Capital Market Regulatory Authorities, licensed Stockbrokers, other capital market operators and the general public that **Springregistrars LIMITED** has been appointed the new Registrars of Stokvis Nigeria Plc with effect from 2nd July 2008.

Accordingly, all enquires relative to the shareholder's register of Stokvis Nigeria Plc should be directed to:



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