

**THE** Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola (SAN) has described the state's immediate past Head of Service, Alhaji Yakub Abiodun Balogun as a quintessential leader who had done a great job for the State Public Service and Government.

Speaking at a Pen's down ceremony to mark the exit of the Lagos State Head of Service, Alhaji Yakub Abiodun Balogun on Friday May 14, 2010, his last day in office, the Governor said that Mr. Balogun and his last two predecessors had helped to restore the glory of the State Public Service adding that the State Public Service has become a model to other States.

He commended Mr. Balogun for spear-heading so many initiatives that aided the development and wellbeing of the State Public Servants. He added that the State Government and the entire Public Servants of Lagos State would surely miss him.

Earlier in his farewell

address, the Head of Service, Mr. Yakub Abiodun Balogun thanked the Governor, for the confidence reposed in him by retaining him as the Head of Service on his assumption of office as the Governor of the State.

He however declared that his last four years as the Head of Service that witnessed alots of events had been fulfilling.

He further thanked members of the Body of Permanent Secretaries for their support during his tenure and paid special tributes to the high quality of the state workforce.

Balogun said "Personally, I have found members of Staff of the Lagos State Public Service as extremely dedicated and loyal and always willing to share experiences and knowledge for betterment of service delivery. I salute your dedication and professionalism which have no equal in our dear Nation."

In her welcome address, the

Permanent Secretary in the Public Service Office, Mrs. Doyin Olusoga commended the Head of Service for exhibiting absolute commitment to the development of the State Public Service and the well

being of the Public Servants.

She added that Mr. Balogun had taken the State Public Service to an enviable height such that his tenure shall remain a reference point for measuring standard of performance.

The event which was the Grand Finale, brought to climax the series of ceremonies organized in his honour.

Earlier, Mr. Balogun was feted by various Agencies and organizations. Amongst them were Association of National

Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN), National Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE) and Parastatal Organizations.

Others were Directors of Administration, 57 Local Governments and Local Council Development Areas and Public Service Office.

## FASHOLA HAILS EX-HOS



Minister of Information and Communications, Prof. Dora Akunyili, Lagos State Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr. Opeyemi Bamidele, Executive Chairman of Newswatch Magazine, Mr. Ray Ekpu, Mr. Rotimi Obamuwagun and the Lagos State Chairman of NUJ, Alhaji Wahab Oba during the celebration of NUJ's 150 years of Journalism in Nigeria in Lagos. Photo: OJO AWE

## Lagos woos tourism investors

**THE** Lagos State Government has opened its doors to investors to develop and mange resorts and other attractive tourism facilities in the state as part of move to further accelerate the development of the tourism sector.

The state commissioner for Tourism and Inter-Governmental Relations, Senator tokunbo Afikuyomi gave the hint during a ministerial press briefing on the activities of the ministry in the last 365 days.

He emphasised that the tourism market in the state is huge when one considers its population, couple with the arrivals in to Nigeria through Lagos.

Represented by the Permanent Secretary in the ministry, Mr. Asamu Sewenu Fadipe, the commissioner noted that the state is making progress in vital areas of infrastructural renewal which transform into economic advantage.

Afikuyomi emphasised that the Fashola administration is improving significantly the quality of life of residents through tourism, while adding that hotel operators can attest to the profitability of the tourism market.

The commissioner added that the state government has accorded tourism development a priority as parts of efforts to turn the state into a mega city by putting in place infrastructural development, security improvement through the establishment of security Trust Fund.

Other on-going initiative according to the commissioner

include amendment of hotel laws with the State House of Assembly, opening up of islands in the state, review of tourism policy, improvement of tourism heritage Museum in Badagry, major campaign to clean up beaches, among others.

## AC seeks probe of Yar'Adua's health crisis

**THE** Action Congress (AC) has urged the Federal Government to set up a probe panel to investigate the health crisis of the late President Umaru Yar'Adua was managed to serve as valuable lessons to other Nigerians.

Describing the late President's health crisis that caused a lot of disaffection among Nigerians as unfortunate issue, AC contended that the Senate was wrong in shooting down a motion tabled to investigate how Yar'Adua's

health was managed, especially since he was flown to Saudi Arabia Nov. 23rd 2009.

In a statement issued in Ilorin by its National Publicity Secretary, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, the party said since the President of a country is an institution, anything that affects him/her can change the fate of humanity not just that of the country involved. It read, "We cannot afford to sweep this issue under the carpet for whatever reason.

This is because the late

President's health crisis was definitely mismanaged, pushing Nigeria to the edge of the precipice and making the country a laughing stock in the comity of nations".

"Therefore we need to know who was behind the false information being put into the public domain over the late President's health, why the true situation of his health was hidden from Nigerians, especially principal officers of state,

and why he was hurriedly flown back to Nigeria when it was glaring he had not recovered enough for such a journey", it added.

According to the AC spokesman, "It will be a great disservice to the memory of the late President and an insult to all Nigerians if the issue is not probed. What happens tomorrow if, God forbid, the current President takes ill and had to be flown abroad?"

AC said the inquiry being sought is not with a view to

punishing anyone but to honour the memory of the departed by ensuring that useful lessons are learnt and that such a situation is never allowed to recur.

It also said the probe does not offend any religious sensibility, as claimed by some Senators, since it is not about the cause of Yar'Adua's death but about the management of his health crisis.

We are not asking for what killed him. We are asking why information about the health of a sitting President was known to only members of the cabal that held him hostage, instead of the people that supposedly voted him into office.

"Therefore it is wrong for anyone to hide behind a religious façade to sweep crucial issues of state under the carpet. There are Muslims and Christians in AC and the PDP as well as in other parties.

"As far as the conduct of public office holders is concerned, the Constitution is supreme and it should remain so. No one should resort to religion to muddle the waters," the party warned.

## 2 sand loaders die ... As they fell from truck

**TWO** sand loaders have met their untimely death, as they fell from a moving truck which somersaulted along Igbonla road, in Epe council area of the state.

This happened, just as one Edward Osaghele who was injured while separating a fight between two friends in Ikurudu area of the state have been reported dead.

The victims identified as Adamu Lukudu 18 and Mani Kamaru 30, were said to have died on the spot, while another sustained severe injury and current receiving treatment at an undisclosed hospital.

It was reliably gathered that the incident occurred when the truck, a Mack trailer tipper marked XB 847 KIR, driven by one Joseph Subairu of 1, Sango street, Ibadan, Oyo state, somersaulted at about noon on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2010.

Though the cause of why the truck somersaulted could not be ascertained at the time of the report, but sources said it may have resulted from a burst tyre which occurred while the vehicle was on motion.

The tipper, which took off from Igbonla sand loading shore, was said to be fully

loaded at the time of the sad occurrence, while the sand loaders were sitting on top.

It could also not be ascertained if the driver of the truck died in the fatal accident, but our correspondent gathered that traffic policemen from Epe police station visited the scene and taken the corpses to public mortuary for autopsy.

In the case of Osaghele, our correspondent reliably learnt that he sustained severe injury while separating a fight between one Andrew and one other person who engaged themselves in a bloody brawl.

The incident as gathered

happened on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at 9<sup>th</sup> Awogbowo Street, Ikurudu while the victim died some days later in a hospital where he was receiving treatment.

The police public relations officer, Lagos command, Mr. Frank Mba, confirmed both incidents in a bulletin made available to our correspondent in his office.

He said the corpses have been deposited at public mortuary for autopsy while the cases have been transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Pantj for further investigation.