

News

NEWS EDITOR: NOSIKE OGBUENYI

BRIEFLY

Electricity: Yar'Adua Returns Makoju as Adviser

President Umar Musa Yar'Adua has re-appointed Mr Joseph Makoju as the Presidential Adviser on Electricity, a position he held until around March when he was moved by former President Olusegun Obasanjo, to the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) as Managing Director. His posting to the PHCN was greeted with mixed reaction, as many viewed his return to the position of (MD PHCN) which he held for over seven years before his appointment as Presidential Adviser as a demotion.

AC Lawmakers Arraigned over Arson

Three Action Congress (AC) members of the Osun State House of Assembly arrested on Monday by the State Security Service (SSS), were yesterday at Osogbo Chief Magistrate's Court, granted bail. The lawmakers, who were arraigned before Chief Magistrate Jide Falola, faced seven-count charge. They were Honourable Folarin Fafowora, representing Ilesa West, Akintunde Adegboye, Osogbo State Constituency, and Ajibola Olaide of Olorunda State Constituency.

Out of School Children: Nigeria Tops List

Education for All (EFA) global report, yesterday revealed that Nigeria is top on the list of 28 developing countries with more than half a million out of school primary school children. The report of the 2004 survey which was released yesterday in Abuja, stated that Nigeria, Pakistan, India and Ethiopia have 23 million children who were out of school, while Saudi Arabia, Niger, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Ghana, Mozambique, Turkey, Yemen, and Iran also had reasonable number of out of school children. Other countries in the category are Brazil, Colombia, Nepal, Chad, Philippines, Myanmar, Vietnam, Senegal, Tanzania, Iraq, Mexico, Guinea and Burundi.

Atiku Condemns Arraignment of AC Youth Leader

Atiku Campaign Organisation (ACO), has condemned the docking of Mr Frank Timi, Action Congress (AC) Director of Youth, on terrorism-related charge the second time in the last three months. In a statement, the ACO alleged that the State Security Services, (SSS) yesterday through the Ministry of Justice, took Timi to court for the alleged charges. It expressed regrets that the SSS in particular and other security agencies have for the past two years been harassing former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, and anyone suspected to be associated with him, adding that it finds "it totally incomprehensible that Timi, a young man should be associated with such a heinous crime ascribed to him."

MASSOB Condemns Killings By Soldiers, Police

Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), has condemned in strong terms, the killings of more than 13 Igbo traders and the arrest of 26 others in Ekoli Edda, Ebonyi State, by a combined team of soliers and policemen. MASSOB also expressed its displeasure in the spill-over effect of the act to Mkpoto and Isiana in Ohafia Local Government Area of Abia State, demanding immediate withdrawal of the troops.

Sylva Sacks Jonathan's Former Aides

Special Advisers and Senior Special Assistants to the former governor of Bayelsa, Dr Goodluck Jonathan, have been sacked. The Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Mr Ebimo Amungo, issued a statement which announced the sack yesterday in Yenagoa. The statement said Gov. Timipre Sylva thanked the political appointees for their service and wished them well in their future endeavours. Jonathan appointed 19 Special Advisers on Feb. 20, 2006 and 53 Senior Special Assistants in September.

Yar'Adua's Relation Becomes SSG

Katsina State Governor, Barrister Ibrahim Shema, has in his first function of appointing members of his cabinet, approved the appointment of President Umaru Yar'Adua's relation, Ahmed Yar'Adua, as the new Secretary to the State Government (SSG). Also, the newly elected House of Assembly members for the state have been inaugurated with Hon. Ya'u Gajogojo elected Speaker, and Comrade Bilyaminu Birni as Deputy Speaker.

Court Orders Freezing of Akwa Ibom Govt Accounts

The Federal High Court in Lagos has ordered the freezing of the bank accounts of Akwa Ibom government over allegations of money laundering. Justice Tijani Abubakar yesterday granted an ex parte application by EFCC which alleged that the Akwa Ibom Investments and Industrial Promotions Council laundered more than N25 billion belonging to the state. Abubakar ordered the directors of Access Bank and First City Monument Bank (FCMB) to furnish EFCC with the mandate card, particulars of referees, photographs of the operators and statements of accounts of the council with their banks.