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## Briefly

### Jonathan bans congratulatory adverts, solidarity visits

ACTING President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan has asked Nigerians to stop placing congratulatory adverts in the media over his assumption of office as the acting president.

He has similarly placed a ban on solidarity visits.

He said that the nation was at a critical juncture where we must begin to focus on solutions to the daunting challenges that confronted us.

The acting president described as invaluable, the wise counsel and suggestions of Nigerians from all walks of life on moving the nation forward.

"Their advice continues to bring value to governance in our country, and such counsel remains indispensable as we forge ahead to attaining the Nigeria we have all wished for," he said.

**Okoye Muogbo, Abuja**

### 4 burn to death in auto crash

TRAGEDY struck in Enugu State at the weekend, as four persons were burned to death in a motor accident that occurred at Ochiima, a community in Igbo Etti Local Government Area of the state.

The vehicle involved was a petroleum tanker and was conveying diesel to the Northern part of the country before it ran into ditch along the 9th Mile/Makardi Express way.

It was gathered that shortly after the vehicle somersaulted; it went into flame for more than two hours killing all the occupants before any help could reach the scene.

A Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) official in the rescue team from Nsukka unit of the commission said at the scene that "we have taken three survivors to the hospital but we were told by eyewitnesses who saw it when it happened that four persons have been burnt to death in the fire."

A woman who identified herself as Agnes spoke to the *Nigerian Tribune* saying she saw it all and that one of the deceased whose body was not completely burned initially moved out of the fire, but that somehow, he fell back, perhaps being dizzy, and got consumed.

**Jude Omal, Enugu**

## We didn't advise Jonathan to dump 7-point agenda — Shagari

**Ishola Michael, Bauchi**

FORMER President Shehu Shagari has denied insinuations that President Goodluck Jonathan, has been advised by eminent personalities including himself to dump the seven-point Agenda of President Umaru Yar'Adua-led government declaring that, "there was no time such advice was given to the Acting President by us."

The former President who was reacting to media reports on the discussions that took place last week when they met the Acting President at the Aso Rock Villa, Abuja, said that, "when we met the Acting President, no journalists were there, therefore do not know where they got their information that we advised him to trim down the seven-point agenda to two or three. We never said anything like that."

He added that, "how can we ask him to dump the seven-point agenda when we were not the people who made them up for him, he did the agenda and he has his reasons for doing so, we only hope that they will make the country great and better."

Shagari who spoke on a *British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Hausa* service, said that, "you may wish to know that I don't read newspapers but we decided to lend our voices to the political happenings in the country because, as citizens have a stake and we owe it a duty to intervene in order to get the country and the people out of the political quagmire we found ourselves in at that time. We visited him and

we gave our useful advice on the way out and we are happy that we are out of it for now."

He added that on the second visit, "to Acting President invited us to Aso Rock and we went there on his invitation, after all we then offered our various candid advice and opinions on what should be the

focus of the administration. These were discussed between him and us and who will possess got the hint of what we discussed and then concluded that we asked him to trim down the agenda, I don't know."

Asked if he didn't fear that acting President Umaru Yar'Adua would feel bad if he heard what

happened behind him, the former President said, "no, what we did was in the interest of the country and we were daily praying for him to get better and come back to assume his leadership responsibility of the country, after all we did not hear from him again since his interview with the *BBC Hausa* service about a month ago. We wish him well wherever he is now."



•From left, Oluyin of Iyin Ekiti, Oba Ademola Afekeye, State Commissioner for Women, Youth and Social Welfare, Mrs. Marohunmba Boyode and Director, MTN Foundation, Prince Julius Adesoji-Adeluyi, during the donation of food and household items to the Erelu Adebayo Orphanage, Iyin Ekiti, recently.

### Budget implementation: FG to sanction ministries, depts, agencies

**Gbola Subair, Abuja**

THE Federal Government has flayed the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA) for poor

implementation of the budget as it resolved to sanction any MDA who failed to implement the budget to appreciable level.

Minister of Finance, Dr. Mansur Muhtar dis-

closed this on Monday, in Abuja, at a workshop organised by the Budget Office of the Federation.

Giving the importance of the federal budget, the minister said it was not surprising that budget implementation, monitoring and evaluation had attracted much interest in recent years.

However, he said while a few MDAs were able to achieve relatively high rate of capital budget implementation, many more were unable to effectively utilise the financial resources placed at their disposal to deliver on the priorities of government.

"This poor performance from some of our MDAs is inexcusable," the minister remarked.

"Nigerians have patiently waited for dividends of democracy in terms of critical infrastructure, uninterrupted power supply, qualitative education and health care, physical and food security, job creation and wealth creation. It is now imperative that we accelerate our efforts to deliver on this administration's commitment under the Vision 20:2020 to stimulate economic growth and launch us into trajectory of development that will place Nigeria among the 20 leading economies by the year 2020," he said.

Mark said since the world had become a global village, computer technology had become indispensable.

### Globacom is committed to growth of Nigeria's economy — Adenuga

**Oluwaseun Ayantokun, Lagos**

THE Chairman of Globacom, Nigeria's national telecoms operator, Dr. Mike Adenuga, has restated his commitment to bringing the benefits of telecommunications to Nigerians, while promoting a holistic development of the Nigerian economy and changing the telecoms landscape across the continent.

Dr. Adenuga made the commitment while being conferred with the "Man of the Year 2009" award by the *Daily Independent newspapers*, at a ceremony held last week at the Sheraton Hotel in Lagos.

The Globacom chairman, who was conferred with the award along with the executive governor of Akwa Ibom State, Chief Godswill Akpabio, was represented at the occasion by the Group COO of

Globacom, Mr. Mohamed Jameel and the Executive Director, Human Resources, Mr. Adewale Sarigunwa.

According to a statement from Globacom, Dr. Adenuga, while accepting

### Don't bring sentiments into legal issues — David Mark

**Ayodele Adesamul, Abuja**

THE President of the Senate, Senator David Mark, on Monday in Abuja, disclosed that sentiments had overtaken legal issues in the country.

He also proposed an end to the use of the federal character principle in determining legal issues.

The senate president, spoke while declaring opened, a public hearing on two bills: A Bill for an Act to amend the Evidence Act 2004 and a Bill for an Act to provide for

the prohibition of Electronic fraud 2009.

According to him "Often times, there is too much sentiment brought into our legal issues. And the result is that we end up tilting to one group or the other, not based on what is before us, but purely on sentiments."

"Sentiments that are primordial, sentiments that clearly don't have a role to play in our society. Sentiments that are even based on federal character."

"I think we must get out of that thing and begin to do things that are in the



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