Lagos Introd

#### Daniel's Wife Restates Govt Resolve To Eradicate HIV/AIDS

By Seyi Odubanwo REPORTER, Lagos

Wife of Ogun State Governor and Chairperson of the Gateway Front Foundation (GFF), Olufunke Daniel, has reiterated the commitment of the state government to control and eradicate HIV/AIDS in the state.

She said this at a meeting with the people living with HIV/AIDS in Abeokuta, the state capital.

Daniel noted that the establish-

ment of Ogun State Action Commit-tee on HIV/AIDS as a separate agency from the Ministry of Health

agency from the Ministry of Health is a pointer to the government's resolve to tackle the issue of HIV/AIDS. She emphasised the need for the people living with HIV/AIDS to live a good life and not allow the chal-

lenges to demoralise them.
"Iwant to assure you that the Gate-"Iwantto assure you that the Gate-way Front Foundation will continue to identify with you and encourage you to live a good life. Every man is faced with one challenge or another, so do not regard your own challenge asstrange or too difficult to overcome. "I urge you to keep to your doc-lors' advice. You must adhere strictly with the work for warnity to the con-

to the use of your anti-retroviral drugs and be courageous and prayerful, for with God all things are possible," she

#### **American Varsity Awards Doctorate** To Lagos Lawyer

Emeka Umejei Reporter, Lagos

Lagos based lawyer and human Lagos based lawyer and human rights activist, Chris Nwokobia, has been awarded a honorary Doctoral Degree in Leadership and Public Administration by the Akamai University, Holo, Hawaii, U.S.A.

According to Nwokobia, the award will be conferred on him on August 16, at the University of agos Guest House theatre.

Nwokobia is a lawyer and hu-

man rights activist whose penchant for fighting the cause of the voice-less in the society is legendary. He has consistently stood for the enthronement of democratic ideals

Nwokobia was among human rights activists who suffered inces-sant detention and suppression during the dark era of the Sani Abacha dictatorship for his role in championing the cause of democracy and the rule of law in the coun-

#### Reps Vow To Resist Discussion On Osun **Tribunal Vendict**

By Gbenga Faturoti CORRESPONDENT, Osogbo

Two members of the House of Representatives from Osun State, Ismaila Kolawole and Kayode Idowu, have vowed to resist any discussion on the re-cent verdict of the Election Petitions Tribunal which upheld the victory of the state Governor, Olagunsoye Oyinlola, in the

The lawmakers, speaking to newsmen in Osogbo, the state capital, could not understand what would have warranted such discussion as being championed by some members of the

House.
Kolawole believed that tribunal in Osun was not the only one over whose rulings parties were dissatisfied to warrant its being

dissatisfied to warrant its being isolated for discussion.

Two members of the House, Henry Dickson and Ibn NaAllah, had in a newspaper report, said they would raise the matter on the floor of the House as a matter of urgent national importance when it several. importance when it resumes

next month. But Kolawole, representing Ila/ Ifedayo/Boluwaduro Federal Constituency, and Idowu, representing Borine/Ifelodun/Odo-

## FG Bars Foreign Lawyers In Nigeria

By Wale Igbintade SNR REPORTER, Lagos

The Federal Government has banned multi-national companies from engaging the services of for-

eign lawyers.
Attorney General of the Federa-Attorney Ceneral of the Federa-tion, Michael Aondoakaa (SAN), disclosed this in Lagos on Tuesday at the ongoing National Training Course for Lawyers on Nuclear Safety and Radiological Protection.

The training was organised by the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory

Authority.

Andoakaa said the ban is for a period of two years during which legal practitioners in the country are expected to rise up to the chal-

lenge. He said the decision was taken

#### **Guinness Builds** Mini-water Works In Agege

By Victor Ebimomi SNR REPORTER, Lagos

Residents of Agege in Lagos may soon heave a sigh of relief from prob-lem of water scarcity as the brewing giant, Guinness (Nig) Plc, has in-stalled a mini-waterworks in the com-

stalled a mini-waterworks in the community.

The facility, which will supply water to about 10 streets, has a standby generator to power it in the event of public power failure.

It was gathered that the project, started two months ago, is undergoing test running prior to its opening in a few weeks time.

The facility, built within the complex of Keke Primary School on Abeokuta Street, has continued to generate excitement among the resi-

generate excitement among the residents who are pouring encomiums on the brewery giant for putting up the project.

It was part of the firm's corporate

social responsibility in the community.
They advised other corporate organisations operating within the local government and its neigbouring councils to emulate the gesture of Guinness.

Guinness.

A community leader and politician in the area, Temidayo Adeyemi, hailed the company for providing the facility, saying, "We need to give thanks to them."

According to him, if other companies can follow the example of Guinness, they will not only be endeaved to their hast community but will also continue to enjoy strong

will also continue to enjoy strong brand loyalty.

It was learnt that like several other

romunities in Lagos State, water communities in Lagos State, water scarcity is one of the major problems confronting the council area, forcing residents to rely onwater supply from surface tanks at prohibitive prices.

at a meeting with foreign compa-nies who were in the habits of em-ploying the services of foreign law-yers to protect their contractual agreements in the country. Aondoakaa stated that Presi-

dent Umaru Yar' Adua forwarded a petition written by a Senior Ad-vocate of Nigeria (SAN) to him complaining of the influx of foreign lawyers into the country without regard to the Nigeria's Legal Practitioner's Act.

According to Aondoakaa, the two-year ban was to enable indigenous legal practitioners acquire knowledge and experience re-quired for privatisation and commercialisation. "The President took it seriously

and forwarded the petition to me. And I invited all the agencies that

are in the habit of engaging foreign lawyers without regard to the Legal Practitioners' Act. They all voluntarily agreed to stop the prac-

The minister, however, said the ban

The minister, however, said the ban should be seen as a temporary protection by the President, warning that if indigenous legal practitioners failed to rise up to the challenge the President would be forced to lift the ban.

"I am not only protecting Nigerian lawyers but am also protecting myself; but in as much as we have gotten a temporary protection from the President, if in the next two years we don't rise to the challenges you cannot blame the President. He would be forced to look elsewhere and take action that will liberalise the bar", he stated.

It will be recalled that the Bureau of

Geographic Information By Stella Odueme SNR REPORTER, Lagos Public Enterprises (BPE) had on several occasions placed adver tisements seeking for both lo-cal and foreign attorneys.

cal and foreign attorneys.
Reputable multinational law firms like Clifford Chance,
Thelen Reid & Priest and Cameron & McKenna, were retained by the Bureau as legal consultants/advisers in technical and complex areas like tele-communications, petroleum, energy and power supply. However, indigenous attor-

However, indigenous attor-neys were incensed by the em-ployment, arguing that allow-ing foreign lawyers to practice in Nigeria is contrary to the Nigeria's Legal Practitioner's Act 1962, which governs ad-mission to practice law in Ni-ceria geria.

Lagos Governme duced the State Ent duced the State Ent-graphic Informat: (LAGIS) to genera base needed to atta able development, p management of the State Commission

ence and Techno Hamzat, said the pu LAGIS project was data in an easily according for the develop ning and manager state. He added that L

fully operational, we formation pertaining ping and Geograph tion System (GIS) or which would be us ronmental monitor neering and construction estate developmen portation/road ne

Hamzat, who spo holders forum orga Office of the Surve in conjunction with Technologies, main the state's geospatia ture can be fast-trai ping and GIS proje conceived and pro-

mented.
"The project is
Governor

Administration's achieve a mega city state, as the project vide comprehensive formation peeded." formation needed.

Earlier in his w dress, state Survey Monsurudeen Durc on stakeholders to tage of the forum contributions that w ful for the project.

He said the stake

rum, which is the s series, was to sens pants on the import ping and the GIS pr as to identify sta needs for the dévelo

#### Lagos Assemb **Enjoins Resid** Use Pedestriai

By Akinwunmi Kinş Trainee Reporter, La

Lagos State Flouse on Tuesday called on istry of Information mass enlightenment the need by Lagos re

pedestrian bridges.
Sanai Agunbiade,
stituency, while moventitled, "Call for the that government ha tax payers' money to pedestrian bridges

roads in the state. The construction according to Agunt protect lives and enh

of traffic in Lagos. He noted further rie noted further ing construction of a destrian bridges in c of the state is in respoing demands by the The lawmaker e. with the huge funds bridges, they are sti for all manner of columestic activities demestic activities.

domestic activities, trians continue the habit of road cross

defeating the very pridges.

Babatunde Ogal stituency, in his chinted that the newl bridges have been thankers.

"Apart from enda life in the process o expressway, it also

# Ekiti Assembly Begins Probe Of Councils Ekiti State House of Assembly on Tuesday began investigations into the financial transactions of the the financial transactions of the financial

EFCC Chairman, Farida Waziri (right), and a representative of the Embassy of Switzerland, Fabio Bainidi, at the inauguration of the commission's data centre in Abuja...on Tuesday. Photo: Jide Oyekunle

the 16 local government caretaker committees in the state in the last 14 months.

The committees were ap-pointed on June 11, 2007, by the state government, following the inability of the Ekiti State Inde-pendent Electoral Commission (ESIEC) to conduct elections into the councils.

The Assembly also summoned the state Auditor General to sub-mit all relevant documents on the financial transactions of the local governments during the period.

directors of administration of the lo-cal governments submitted their records to the ad hoc committee. Chairman of the House commit-tee, Adebayo Morakinyo (PDPtee, Adebayo Morakinyo (PDP-ikole), said the probe was not meant to witch-hunt anyone but a part of the Assembly's statutory role of per-forming its over-sight function. While seeking the cooperation of the chairmen for the success of the probe, Morakinyo promised to en-sure financial prudence at the third tier of government.

tier of government.
"The House did not approve any

cils but we expect you to keep in line with the budget you personally set for yourself. "We have also asked the state Auditor General to sup-ply us with all relevant docu-

ments to corroborate the fig-ure you gave us through the Joint Account Allocation

Committee.

"But if we find anything not in line with that of the Auditor General, we would have to apply the Nigeria Penal code, which stipulates pun-ishment for fraudulent acts," he said.

### Arewa Youth Hail Edem's Suspension As NDDC Boss

By Yemi Akintomide CORKESPONDENT, Akure

Arewa Youth Consultative Foum (AYCF) on Tuesday hailed the Federal Government for suspending the chairman of Niger-Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Sam Edem, over his alleged role in the faile. assacrination attempts on Governor Gosiswill Akpabio of Akwa-

Ibom State and the Managing Director of the NDDC, Timi Alaibe.

The group also threw its weight behind the arrest and detention of the former NDDC boss, but tasked the police to begin his prosecution immediately.

In a statement by AYCF President. Yerima Shefima, in Akure on Tuesday, the group described the alleged attempt on Akpabio and Alaibe as a deliberate intention to create chaos in the oil rich region.

"The Federal Government action is

welcome by us and other well-mean-

welcome by us and other well-mean-ing Nigerians.

"We, however, urge President Imaru Yar'Adua to compel the police authority and other relevant security agencies to investigate the attempts on lives of these important personalities, and the funding of the rituals purport-

edly to terminate the lives of the said personalities to the tune of N270 million by the detained chairman.

"The prosecution of Ambas-sador Edem must not be handled with kid gloves, as the end result of the case will have a great im-pact on the resolution of the current crisis that engulfs the Niger-Delta region.

#### Nigeria Ought To Have Negotiated Bakassi have made wider consultations, open a national debate on the is-With Cameroon, Says Kokori

By Olisemeka Obeche Reporter, Lagos

Barely 24 hours to the official hand-over of the contentious Bakassi Peninsular to Cameroon, ex-Secretary General of the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), Frank Kokori, still believes that the lost ter-nitory would have been recovered egotiating table inch

court verdict, Nigerian government should have appealed to the con-science of the Cameroonian govern-ment and the world on the need to place more emphasis on the lives and welfare of the people of Bakassi than that parcel of land.

"Normally, the international community is always sympathetic to the issue of refugees which the displacement of Bakassi people it been that our government did the right thing," he said. Kokori spoke in Lagos on Tuesday at an exclusive interview with Daily In-

dependent.

He blamed the Bakassi hand-over saga on decades of bad leadership which had tied the country's development to the apron-strings of the ruling oligarchy who, he believed, exploited their positions to ensure imposition of

sue before it takes a decision.

"But in this case, Bakassi chiefs and their prominent leaders were not even consulted nor ers were not ever consulted nor did they take part in the nego-tiations before the decisions were reached." Kokori, who indicted Niger Delta political leaders for keep-ing mum on the issue while

former President Olusegun Obasanjo single-handedly ceded the land, also faulted the