

ACROSS THE NATION

AREWA NEWS

Sherrif asks ICPC to reject frivolous petitions

YOLA—GOVERNOR Modu Sherrif of Borno has called on ICPC not to entertain petitions with political undertone.

Sherrif made the call yesterday in Yola at a three-day national conference on corruption organised by the National Assembly committee on corruption.

He recalled that early this year, the anti-graft agency invited more than 30 officials of Borno government to its Abuja office over a petition.

He said that Borno Government declined to send the affected functionaries to Abuja but advised ICPC to send its officials to the state.

Sherrif, represented by Alhaji Baba Njidda, the Secretary to the State Government, said it would have been difficult for the operatives to move the officials to Abuja without being compromised.

The governor said the anti-graft agency did not send its officials to the state because the petition was later found to have political undertone.

He, therefore, urged the commission to refrain from inviting innocent government functionaries to Abuja over frivolous petitions.

According to the gover-

nor, public funds were usually spent on such trips, adding that most petitions alleging financial impropriety against public office holders were motivated by malice.

Earlier, ICPC Chairman Emmanuel Ayoola had said that the conference was organised to enable anti-corruption committees at the national, state and local government levels to brainstorm on how to energise the crusade.

Ayoola said that apart from the prosecution of suspects, he believed the war against corruption would only succeed when Nigerians were made to regard corruption as an evil act.



COMMISSIONING: Chairperson of EFCC, Mrs Farida Waziri (left) chatting with Charge d'Affaire, Embassy of Switzerland, Mr Fabio Baiardi during the commissioning of EFCC Data Centre at the Commission's Headquarters Abuja. Photo by Gbemiga Olamikan.

Minister laments lack of land policy

By Demola Akinyemi

ILORIN—THE Minister of Environment, Housing and Urban Development, Mrs. Halimat Tayo Alao yesterday lamented that 48 years after Nigeria's independence, the nation was yet to prepare any comprehensive land policy document. The minister said this in Ilorin during the 27th conference of directors of land

in federal and state ministries.

According to the Minister, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary of her ministry, Mr. Otaki Oyigbenu, said this was undoubtedly a major issue to be addressed in the land reform agenda of the Federal Government which was underway.

According to her, many Nigerians especially the farmers are disadvantaged

because of the absence of marketable titles to their farm lands adding that the Housing delivery system has also performed poorly because of the absence of registrable title to most land holdings which was part of the cause of the estimated 17 million housing deficit in Nigeria.

The minister noted that, "There is need for a conscious management and administrative effort that will effectively harness

the vast potentials in our national land resource to put it to its highest and best use."

She disclosed that the Presidential Committee on affordable Housing is working out a programme to ensure that all Nigerians have access to decent and affordable housing adding that all perceivable impediments are being addressed to reduce the burden of financing housing development entirely from equity capital.

International Youth Day: Jang speaks on climate change

GOVERNOR Jonah Jang of Plateau State has said the effect of climate change across the world occasioned by technology and industrial activities on the environment was becoming a threat to human life.

He stated this in a message yesterday to the commemoration of this year's International Youth Day in the state noting that the change was also having effect on the pattern of life of the youth who are unconsciously yielding and losing out on measures to make the environment better.

Represented by the Commissioner for Information and Communication, Mr. Nuhu Gagara the governor described the theme of the celebration "Youth and Climate Change: Time for Action" as important to ginger change and re-orientation among the youths towards making the environment safe for human habitation.

Kaduna Assembly to pass motion on computer literacy

ALHAJI Abdullahi Ikara, Speaker Kaduna State House of Assembly yesterday said the House would pass a motion to make computer education compulsory in public schools.

Ikara, speaking in Kaduna during the House plenary session, said this followed a notice on motion raised by Mrs Esther Abba (PDP-Zango).

The proposed motion seeks to promote the teaching of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the primary and post-primary schools.

Reports say that the House had earlier adopted its proceedings of Aug. 7 and adjourned till Aug. 13.

Meanwhile, the harmonised report of its investigation on the procurement and distribution of fertilisers to farmers was however, deferred to tomorrow.

HOW HOSPITABLE ARE YOU?

A fast growing Fast Food Restaurant with Head Office in Lagos and Vacancies exist for enterprising individuals in our new outlet in Delta state. Successful Candidates will undergo orientation/training in Lagos before resuming duty in Lagos

MANAGER-IN- TRAINING

Applicants should possess a minimum of B.Sc/ HND in Catering & Hotel Management, Food Science and Technology, Business Administration or any Science oriented course. Applicants must have at least two years working experience in the hospitality/fast food industry or related industry.

SUPERVISORS

Applicants should possess a minimum of B.Sc/ HND in Catering & Hotel Management, Food Science and Technology, Business Administration or any Science oriented course. Applicants must have at least one year working experience in the hospitality/fast food industry or related industry.

AUDITORS/ACCOUNTANT

Applicants should possess a minimum of B.Sc/HND in accounting. Applicants must have at least one year working experience. Proficiency in Excel is very important.

STOREKEEPER

Applicants should possess a minimum of B.Sc/ HND in accounting, statistics, Business Administration or any Science oriented course. Applicants must have at least two years post graduation working experience.

Interested applicants should apply and submit/send application and CV to bidiod@gmail.com or The advertiser P.O Box 15728 Ikeja Lagos not later than two weeks from the date of this publication

Gov Aliyu orders public officers to publish phone numbers

ABUJA—GOVERNOR Babangida Aliyu of Niger has directed all the state's public officers to publish their mobile numbers and e-mail addresses.

The governor disclosed this while speaking at the "Jema'a Forum" held for indigenes of the state resident in Abuja.

He said that the state lawmakers and council chairmen had been sensitised to comply with the directive.

He said that the move became inevitable in efforts to empower the people to hold the public officers directly accountable for their actions.

He said that the new policy would also encourage the people to participate in agenda-setting processes for the state's development through regular contacts.

"For instance, the Chief Servant's (governor's) telephone numbers are 08033140161 and 08055000755, while my e-mail address is talbanminna@yahoo.com.

"We are also establishing call centres in Minna, where citizens of the state can call on the government," he said. Aliyu said that his government was already working with a telecommunications firm to provide free wireless Internet service in Minna, the state capital.

"We have instituted the due process in the conduct of government business so that people can understand that government is not a secret cult or an individual's personal property," he said.

Jigawa NAPEP boss seeks FG assistance

By Tina Akannam

DUTSE—JIGAWA State Coordinator of National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), Alhaji Usman Alto Roni has called on the Federal Government to complement the state's poverty alleviation effort through priority attention.

Alhaji Alto made this appeal during a civic reception organised for him by the staff of NAPEP. He assured that he will

not relent on effort to eradicate poverty in the state at all level.

He noted that though Jigawa is said to be one of the poorest states in the country, it is endowed with highly skilled manpower, natural mineral resources and fertile land that make the people self reliant.

His words, "It is common knowledge that our people are some of the poorest in the country. This is unfortunate and we must work hard to reverse the situation. With the unwavering commitment of

our Governor, I assure you that we shall reverse the situation in a very short time."

Speaking during the occasion, the state secretary of NAPEP in Jigawa, Mr Joseph Shehindemi, described the appointment of the former state chairman of Jigawa PDP as the new coordinator of National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) as a good thing that will complement Governor Sule Lamido's effort to eradicate poverty in the state.