

## FROM THE STATES

## Post-NYSC Scheme Underway

~ FG  
FCT

A new scheme is in the offing at the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC). *Beam Checks* learnt that the innovation aims at implementing an employment generation programme geared towards solving the problem of graduate unemployment bedeviling the country.

According to the Minister of Youth Development, Senator Olanikanmi Akinlabi, the anticipated job programme is expected to form the last 3 months of the service year.

The Minister who was commissioning a tarred street within NYSC Orientation Ground in Keffi, Nassarawa State in company of Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development, Dr. Hassan lawal disclosed that the scheme was part of the reform introduced by the Federal Government towards repositioning the NYSC.

## Civil Society Supports Govt.

LAGOS

The Lagos State Government which was slammed by President Yar'Adua for wanting to sustain the 57 Development area created by the state instead of retaining the existing 20 local government is attracting a lot of sympathy from civil society groups.

One of the groups that spoke on the issue, PRONACO, whose Director of Security and Logistic is Mr. Linus Okoroji noted that President Yar'Adua appeared to be acting out of vision and without a serious recourse to the rule of law.

According to him, dissolution of the new 37 Development Local Councils which would make administration easier and more elaborate for the governor while making things get better with grassroot governance is not our priority right now, "there are more crucial issues bordering the nation than just that", he almost fumed.

Okoroji was vexed with the President when he (the President) was quoted as saying that he would seek the Minister of Justice and Attorney General's advice on the issue.

According to him, the use of force which was earlier mentioned was a flagrant deviation and an infra-dig act by a President of a country like Nigeria.

"I read in the papers that he was going to seek the advice of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice. It means he did not seek the advice before he took the decision to use force initially," he stressed.

## 2011: Looming Trouble in Benue

Stories by Paschal Agbada  
and Wilson Uchendu

BENUE

All the areas noted for political violence in Benue State are all beginning to wear the tell-tale signs of looming trouble as we approach the 2011 date for the next election.

For instance, politicians in Konshisha and Buruku Councils are now scheming to outdo each other just to claim supremacy ahead of 2011.

In the schemes in Konshisha Council, the trouble looms between a faction which is known to have been in control there and enjoys the backing of the former Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) National Chairman, Barnabas Gemade.

While the other group



Speaker Terseer Tumba

challenging this status quo is led by Senator Joseph Akaagerger from Benue North East and also is from Konshisha Council.

Both camps are known to have mammoth supporters who can let go at any point in time breaking law and order in the interest of whoever is leading them.

In the Buruku area where the state Assembly Speaker Terseer Tumba and another top politician Orker Jev, a member of the House of Representative come from, sign of evil days ahead reared up last week.

In last week's violence, a bus load with thugs suspected to be followers of Akaagerger violently attacked the Konshisha Council Secretariat and set the N20 million legislative block ablaze.

Though no one was hurt in the raging inferno but the attack succeeded in scaring people away from and around the secretariat while all blames followed the group seen as the opposition group which is said to be losing popularity.

However, some people still blamed Akaagerger for not being able to hold his followers in check. Others expressed shock at the development noting that 2011 is still far ahead and wondered what the situation would be like when the elections finally arrive.

## Need To Re-define Citizenship ...Babangida Aliyu

NIGER

The Governor of Niger State, Alhaji Babangida Aliyu has urged members of the National Assembly to re-define citizenship of Nigeria in the proposed constitutional amendment.

Governor Aliyu who preferred being referred to as the "Chief Servant" of the state disclosed this when he granted audience to a group of the Nigerian Governors' Forum (NGF) who paid him a courtesy visit at the Government House, Minna.

Gov. Aliyu stressed that it baffles him that a person who has lived in a particular state for more than 50 years is seen as a non-indigene while some other person who has lived abroad all his life, comes back and assumes an indigene status.

"While the citizenship of a man from Niger Republic is not questioned in the North because he speaks the local language and prays like the

majority of the people there, the citizenship of the Igbo or Yoruba is questioned".

The Niger Governor therefore advised his counterparts from other states to always ensure that everybody is treated equally irrespective of tribe, religion and sex.



Alhaji Babangida Aliyu



Gov. Sullivan Iheanacho Chime

## Airplane On Fire Before Take-off

ENUGU

A Capital Airlines airplane at the weekend attempted to take off while caught fire.

*Beam Checks* learnt that one of the plane's engines was on fire as it wanted to take off at the Akanu Ibiam International Airport, (AIIA), Enugu. It was gathered that twenty-two passengers were on board the 30-seater plane with the registration number 5-BLN.

When *Beam Checks* confronted officials of the airline and Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) on the story that the plane which was parked in front

of the VIP lounge of the airport was dripping water from its body prior to its taking off, they vehemently refused to make any comment.

It was learnt that most of the passengers refused to continue with the journey while a handful of them completed their journey using an Arik aircraft.

Also newsmen were not allowed by security operatives to get near the scene of the incident or that of the affected airplane.

## We' ll Work With Ohakim ...Imo Assembly Members

IMO

The Imo State House of Assembly has reiterated its readiness to continue to support the Imo State Governor, Ikedi Ohakim in development of the state especially now that he has defected to Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) which commands 99 percent membership of the House.

In a statement issued at the weekend in Owerri, the state Capital, the Speaker of the Assembly, Goodluck Opiah pledged to assist the Governor to enhance the quality of life of the masses.

The Speaker stressed that there is the need for the three arms of government to work harmoniously in other to engender stability and peace for the state. The return of the Governor to the PDP according to the Speaker is a good omen since it

would serve as an opportunity to unite the people of Imo State.



Gov. Ohakim