

Atiku Blasts Yar'Adua

Former Vice President of Nigeria and the presidential candidate of the Action Congress in 2007 election Alhaji Atiku Abubakar has described Alhaji Musa Yar'Adua as a failure since he could not reposition the country in six

months of his administration. According to him the Peoples Democratic Party has no excuse for not being able to place the nation on a fast lane for development as is so wished.

By **Okechukwu Geoffrey**

He therefore called on Nigerians to support the opposition parties in the country to edge the PDP out in the 2011 election while

appealing to the electorates not to allow themselves to be used by these greedy politicians who do not mean well for the country.

Atiku also called on the national assembly to do

everything within their power to ensure that the electoral reform is not treated with kid gloves.

Meanwhile, some PDP stalwarts who reacted to Atiku's recent statement which described the PDP as a failure, said the former Vice President has no bearing in the politics of the country knowing full well that the Obasanjo/Atiku administration has plunged

the country into the mess it has found itself.

They advised Atiku Abubakar to hide his head in shame and stop deceiving the people as Nigerians are not ready to bring him back to Aso Rock.

Atiku, the people maintained ought to be begging Nigerians for all the pains, sufferings and untold hardship his administration has inflicted on the people rather than making noise in the name of opposition parties.

Assembly Aides Cry Out

... As They Face Bleak X-Mas

Despite all the glamour of Rivers State lawmakers, realities on ground revealed that their aides have been dying in silence.

Disclosing their plight to selected Assembly press corps albeit on condition of anonymity the aides comprising Personal Assistants, Pas, Special Assistants, SAs, Secretaries and drivers cried out over the weekend for their delayed salaries and allowances for

upwards of 10 months, a situation, they say has threatened their families.

According to their spokesman "we were given appointment letters which makes us bonafide staff and our salaries imbedded in the budget of the committee.

Even when it eventually came in the past, our bosses would also corner it and those privileged few that are allowed to collect are not allowed to see the exact amount they are receiving," they stated.

By **Joe Kalu**

The aides further stated that they had approached the commission chairman Hon. Elechi Dike who on several occasions assured them that they have prepared the salary schedule awaiting approval from the leadership training of the Assembly adding that they are running out of patience especially with the pressure from their families and in the face of ostentatious living styles of their bosses.

When Hon Dike was

contacted he confirmed the non-payment of salaries and attributed it to the due process.

According to the aides they had earlier written to the House Committee on public complaints but were yet to receive any feedback describing the situation as unfair.

"We work for them and most of us have requisite qualifications and responsibilities but we are treated with disclaim" said one of the aides.



Alhaji Atiku Abubakar



President Yar'Adua

Monarch Hails Amaechi's Developmental Strides

High Chief Stanley .C. Ikenga Nyechi Ali Omunwe Igwuruta in Ikwere Local Government

By **Okechukwu Geoffrey**

Area of Rivers State has hailed the developmental strides of the action governor of the state Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi under two years in office.

In a chat with our correspondent recently Chief Ikenga said the governor has done marvelously well in virtually every sector of the economy and appealed to those whose stock in trade is to distract the present administration from delivering the dividends of democracy to the people to desist forthwith but join hands in transforming the state.

Describing the government of Governor

Amaechi as God's sent he advised those who are yet to believe that the governor has come to stay to toe the line of peace rather than formenting unnecessary trouble.

He lauded the Supreme Court of the land for not only declaring but authenticating Amaechi as the rightful governor of the state while calling on Sir Celestine Omehia and his allies to seek reconciliation and shun any act capable of diverting the attention of Rivers people.

The traditional ruler who sued for peace in the state and Igwuruta in particular however thanked all those who made his coronation a success including the security chiefs in Kelga and the D.P.O in charge of Igwuruta station. Nyechi Ali Omunwe

Igwuruta used the opportunity to call on the state government to address the Igwuruta/Etche road

which he said has plunged the people into serious hardship.

He therefore assured the people of Omunwe that he

would do everything within his powers to justify the confidence reposed in him and called for support.



High Chief Stanley .C. Ikenga

Nigerian Police batters a Journalist On duty

The Nigerian Police on Friday 11th December around 11 am once again showed their act of beastly and brutality on one Nigerian Journalist. The Journalist Mr. Desmond Utomwen is a Senior Correspondent with The News Magazine.

According to the Victim, Desmond Utomwen while narrating his ordeal with the Police, said that on that fateful day, while he was driving towards the premises of Guaranty Trust Bank situated at Plot 1072, J.S. Tarka/Faskari Street, Area 3 Garki Abuja, that he observed a kind of peaceful protest by a woman and some other person and he decided to stop in order to carry his statutory function as a journalist. On getting there he approached the woman who narrated a story of an alleged fraud by Guaranty Trust Bank. According to Mr. Utomwen he said that from the woman's narration, that the woman said that in her account she maintained with GTB, that a total of N490,000.00 almost half a million naira was fraudulently withdrawn from the GTB Automated Teller Machine(ATM), in one single night. According to the woman, she said that is a known fact that the laws of the GTB bank that an individual maintaining an account with them cannot withdraw more than N60,

000.00 with an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) in a day as stipulated by the bank. And that she was surprised how such colossal, amount of almost half a million could be withdrawn from an ATM, when the GTB Bank law does not accept that. In her narration she said she suspected a foul play by the bank as she alleged that such fraudulent withdrawal couldn't have been successful without the knowledge of an insider that is a bank staff of that branch. The woman said that to her utmost dismay, when she went to the Bank to lodge her complains, they refused to give her a listening ear as they told her that she should go and sought her self out saying that they are not liable for that and they don't

have time to entertain her. After the narration of the story to Mr. Utomwen, he said that in order to balance his story, which the ethics and practice of journalism ensures he then made his way into the bank, seeking to speak to the bank manager or any one who is in that capacity to talk to him, but they refused to talk to him and wouldn't want him to see the branch manager. He then left and was making way to where his car was parked, in company of some other journalists. Just as he was going with other journalists, he saw policemen in company of the GTB bank security men that now stopped him, and demanded that he should do not his Digital Camera he was holding, and he asked them why he should bring, before he know it one of the policemen by name Onaji Abah who is with the Garki Village police station and the GTB security, elbowed him with his hand, bruised his lips and brushed him down and started beating him. In the process he lost his camera, digital recorder and some money in his pocket. Not done with that they dragged him into their car and took him to their station. However, after investigation the police man in question was reprimanded by the DPO of the Garki Village police station for his action which was beastly and barbaric.



Desmond Utomwen,

REFUTAL

We refer to our publication of October 13-19, 2009 vol.7 No42 with the Headline...

"Ejected Land Owner Cries Out ...as imminent death stares him and family," which tended to embarrass the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Dumnamene Deekor, Representing Khana Constituency I, in the Rivers State House of Assembly.

We regret the embarrassment our honest assistance has caused the Honourable member as it was not our intention to do so.

The public should disregard the story as we have since discovered the true version.

Every inconvenience is hereby regretted.

Signed Editor

Obrikom: Chairman Peace Reconciliation Committee Explains Security Situation

The Chairman Peace and Reconciliation Committee in Obrikom recently bared his mind to the security situation in Obrikom giving details of developments, efforts of his committee and the journey so far.

His words: "Life is a journey and heaven is the destination. I feel privileged to intimate respected men of the fourth estate of the realm like you, on the state of affairs in Obrikom Community, the base of oil and gas that is propelling the nation's economy in the recent past and now.

Obrikom community was polarized by cult terror and killings by armed cultists. Many media houses, print and electronic houses had been publishing events in Obrikom which portrayed awesome readings and listening by the general public.

Sometime last year, the councillor representing Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government ward five (5) Honourable Lucky Ahiakwo

(Alias Abacha) a native of Obrikom was brutally murdered by armed assassins here in Obrikom. This ugly incident triggered off reactionary forces from a cult group who alleged that it was their rival cult group and their sponsors that killed the late councillor Lucky Ahiakwo. They went on rampage and killed a graduate from Obrikom who was doing his youth corps service in one of the states in the country and roasted him in his room. They did not stop there, rather they went and burnt many houses within the community. This incident forced people to flee the community for safety as a result and they began to squat with their relations and friends in various towns in the area as refugees. On December 18th and 25th there was serious

sporadic shootings that led to the death of Mrs. Abali China. Consequent upon that, on the 27th December, 2008 the Obrikom community leadership constituted a peace and reconciliation committee to bring about peace in Obrikom.

A day came when a burial ceremony was going on in the community, the cult group in their continued retaliation shot and killed two young men and an old woman. In short, they feasted in shootings and killings of innocent people within this period. The suspended Chairman of the Council, Hon. Chris Ochijie proscribed youth activities in Obrikom, to check the excesses of the killings in the community.

This unbearable situation spurred the Obrikom council of Chiefs to form a peace and

By **Our Reporter**

reconciliation committee which they made me the chairman. I spent my hard earned money to go extra miles



Hon. Chris Ochijie

to get at the cultists to appeal to them to rescind their inhuman acts. At a time when the expenses were weighing on me, the community had to commission me, the councillor representing ward five (5) Hon. Messiah Eluozo who replaced the slain Lucky Ahiakwo and the secretary of the council of chiefs, Hon. Innocent Ajadi to make collection of what was due Obrikom community from the multi national companies around Obrikom community to run the errands the peace and reconciliation committee designed to bring about peace in Obrikom and other assignments to uplift the community. This was to give me some relief over the expenses I was running with my personal money.

It was a Herculean task for my committee to come to agreement with the cult groups to denounce their membership through traditional juju oath-taking since they said that the oath they took was a traditional oath to ensure that none of the groups turned back to attack the other. Gentlemen of the press; we sacrificed our precious lives at the altar of seeking for a lasting peace in Obrikom community. Members of my committee include, Catechist Christopher A. Onyije, Chief Amanah Eke and Chief Benneth Osere.

As one of those who feed in crisis saw this Agenda of ours, permit me for a matter of clarity, a chief in the community who is not the traditional ruler of Obrikom or even a member of Obrikom council of Chiefs, Chief A.N. Osoh who was appointed by the Oba of Ogbaland, Sir Dr. Chukwumela Nnam, Obi II, as Eze Usomini cashed in to campaign for his son to aspire as a member of the Rives State House of Assembly come 2011, his second son to be the youth president of Obrikom and for his younger brother to be the CDC Chairman and was calling for the lifting of the ban on youth activities in Obrikom. In the course of this unwarranted calls while the peace process has not been concluded the second son of the same Osoh, who he is rooting to be the youth president told some people who in turn told me that he would attack me and destroy my family. When the acting Chairman of Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government, Hon. Ikechukwu Awari Nwabirije invited Obrikom community for a meeting, which was attended by prominent citizens of Obrikom including Professor Nsirima, Engineer Chris Ahiakwo, Pharmacist Chief I.N. Ohia, Dr. Dollar, Chief S.I.A. Ajoku, Chief Christopher Adube, one time CTC Chairman of ONELGA, the

Regent of Obrikom Community, Chief Ikenyiri, the DPO, Omoku, the SSS Boss ONELGA, the JTF Commander and a host of others, I reported the threat Osoh's son, Ikechukwu Osoh, made on me, but the Acting Chairman Hon. Ikechukwu Awari dismissed it with a wave of the hand, by telling me to forget about the threat. Since he was fraternizing with Chief Osoh, his emotional intention to please this self-centered and greedy Chief after paying deaf ear to the advise the prominent men of Obrikom gave to him was to give the peace and reconciliation committee till the end of October 2009 to wind up their assignment so that the youth election and the CDC could take place. He however stated that before the elections that the most important thing was for the repentant cultists who form the bulk of the youths surrender their arms. He specifically stated that they should do so before the expiration of the deadline given to the Niger Delta militants to surrender their arms. This has not been done; he called for the elections of the CDC and the youths and formed an electoral committee to conduct the elections. When he saw that the community was to vote against the candidates they wanted to impose on the community, he suspended both the CDC and the youth elections indefinitely. While these were going on that son of Osoh, Ikechukwu, in a group of other youths attacked the committee for constitution drafting and other dignitaries of Obrikom and threw chairs on them in a community meeting. This was reported to the acting Chairman but he did not do anything on this. He later wrote me a letter stating that the Obrikom peace and reconciliation committee has been dissolved. The Acting Chairman did not appreciate that we did his work to restore peace in Obrikom and flagrantly made a rash decision on my committee, without any reason. He also forgot that he did not constitute the committee; neither was he financing it as to say he has powers to dissolve it.

Why I am letting the world know what is happening is that his action could bring a breakdown of law and order in the community and truncate the peace we suffered to achieve. More so, the State Government during the day it proscribed the Omoku Youth Association, as well as the Omoku Youth Federation made it clear that the government will not bring development to any community that is ridden in crisis.

I hereby call on the federal and state governments and the amnesty and disarmament committees and the State House of Assembly to wade into this situation before things go wrong again in Obrikom.

Tension, Anguish In Abia State

...As Women Are Forced To Pay Tax

By **Joe Kulu**

There is palpable tension in Abia State as the issue of Aba Women Riot of the 1929 led by late Madam Margaret Ekpo of blessed memory is rearing its ugly head again.

However, the former battle was won by the women group which earned them accolades all over the world but the women of the present Abia State are not only losing the battle but bloodier it has turned.

The present administration of Chief Theodore A. Orji has been fighting the women to a stand-still just to have his way in the imposition that each woman trader in the market irrespective of whatever the trader is selling

or the volume of her trade must pay a development levy of N3,000 (Three thousand naira only).

This is despite the fact



Gov. Theodore Orji

that there are various types of levies imposed on the people in the face of decaying infrastructure in the state.

The traders organized themselves last week and protested to the Government House, Umuahia as usual.

Though they were received by a government official who promised to pass their grievances to the appropriate quarters but no sooner had they returned to base at Aba than their leader was traced and kidnapped and has never been seen till the time of going to the press.

That goes to show the type of suffocating atmosphere the citizens of God's own state are as they 'suffer' the dividends of democracy.

The traders have been

coerced into accepting to pay the tax albeit reluctantly.

According to one of them who spoke to our reporter under cover "we don't have any alternative than to pay the levy but we know that one day, that same God that led the Israelites out of Egypt will deliver Abians from the hands of the few clicks who are suppressing us and make the state truly God's own state where the people's desire and aspiration will be respected", she lamented.

She further disclosed that despite what the outsiders are made to believe Abians who have alternative views to that of the click are dispatched daily and kidnapping has become the order of the day in the state.

Rivers PHCN Needs Overhauling

By **Okechukwu Geoffrey**

People of Rivers State have said that the only way Governor Amaechi will achieve his target in the power sector is to overhaul the state branch of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria otherwise his effort in that regard will prove abortive.

Residents of Port Harcourt who spoke to our correspondent recently said the PHCN in the state is like the police force where bribery and corruption have eaten deep into the fabric of the force saying that the governor's latest plans to transfer the corrupt rank and file in the force should also be done in Rivers PHCN if the government must

succeed.

According to them, NEPA officers in the state are responsible for the problem of electricity in the state adding that the people have become neck deep in collecting illegal levies from the residents.

Residents of Mgbuoba who were seen complaining bitterly on the attitude of PHCN to the area wondered why PHCN has decided to keep the area in total darkness when other surrounding places like Rumuokuta, Rumuigbo, Ada George Road and Rumuola have constant power supply.

The people who said PHCN officers are deeply

involved in corruption maintained that the best way to revive PHCN in the state is to send the senior staff on transfer.

At NTA and Treasure FM, the *Beam Checks* revealed that the staff of the organizations are not happy at all as PHCN has equally extended their 'generosity' of

not giving power to them despite several pleas.

While residents of Mgbuoba are commending the governor for the attention he has given to their road they are also begging that the power sector should not be left out as nothing is happening in the area due to lack of power supply.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known, called and addressed as **TARIYE MAKURAI**, now wish to be known, called and addressed as **BENJAMIN CHIMENEMAMADI**, The general public should be take note:- **BENJAMIN CHIMENEMAMADI**,

Not minding the assurances from government that by December 2009, the nation would enjoy power stemming from a generation of 6,000 megawatts of electricity, the senate committee on power in a press briefing last month expressed fears that the

6,000 Megawatts Not Feasible ...House Committee On Power



Obasanjo

promise and target may not be met.

Even though the minister of power Dr. Lanre Babalola was optimistic when he appeared before the Senate Committee on Power last Tuesday to defend the Ministry's budget, he knew deep down that the December target was unrealistic.

From feelers coming into *Beam Checks* it has been talk, talk, talk and no bite as it has been revealed that the Nigerian factor has again played its joker.

During Obasanjo's regime, the National Independent Power Project (NIPP) was established to give bite to the effort by injecting 4,800 megawatts to the national grid if

completed.

This would ultimately raise the power generated to 10,000 megawatts.

Somehow, when the current government came on string, the project was temporarily halted.

Two years after, the project has taken off again but things are no longer as they were then. For instance, all the budgets then were

By
Paschal Aghadah

planned and calculated based on the existing price regime in the international market. Painfully, such prices do not stay stable. Again, some of the components required to fix parts of the power generation plant are most of the time bought through orders and not usually kept or mass produced for any

buyer. And since there is no lack in orders being placed, manufactures will only look in the area of those who are serious. Furthermore, to commence talks on new orders would require valuable time which has been lost, negotiation and fresh budgets, but unfortunately the state of the nation now with the president uncertain when to come back,

everything points to December 31st not being able to click as the time the nation would begin to enjoy enhanced power generation.

The House Committee on their deliberation after being briefed by the Power Minister were not amazed in spite of his grandstanding on the issue as a lot of the minister's postures seemed empty and not convincing.

At the end, the House Committee appeared to have resigned to fate over the issue as they kept mute towards the end of the interactive briefing.

Women Group To The Rescue

By
Joe Kulu

A group of Christian Women leaders under the aegis of "Women of Influence, WOI" says it is determined to intercede on some identified challenges

militating against women families and churches which often has hindered them from attaining their potentials.

The president of the group and wife of JABEZ House of prayers General Overseer, Pastor Deborah Jones Erue made this declaration Sunday December 13, 2009 at JABEZ House of prayers, Rumuolumeni Port Harcourt during the group's end-of-year dinner organized for couples.

Pastor Debby Jones disclosed that the group was born out of a desire by women of God who are talented but are not opportuned to give expression to it.

"We decided to come together to reach out to other oppressed women at the grassroots in the form of evangelism and intercession.

Pastor (Mrs.) Joy Obasi in her address at the occasion lamented that women are treated as second-class citizens all over the world and often times violated.

She disclosed that her group, WOI has also

discovered painfully that divorce is on the increase especially among the families of the so-called men of God.

Again, that they have also discovered the need to go against the demons driven out from the cities that have found their ways and are tormenting children of God at the hinterlands.

She said that all these factors prompted the group through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to form the organization for the betterment of the society.

In her preaching, a Liberian woman of God, Pastor Matilda Tarr admonished women to be up and doing in their God-given duties to not only keep their homes but to encourage their husbands to greater heights.

She also advised the men folk to respect and appreciate their spouses, adding that God expects us to work out our marriages. "Keep your husband's company, support and encourage them by cleaning

the house and yourselves, for his attraction".

Mrs. Tarr made it known that "Love and Sex" are two important inseparable factors in marriage.

In his own contribution the host, Prophet Jones said women should be satisfied with their complementary roles in the society and church.

"No matter how powerful a woman's anointing is she is subject to the man's".

He made it known that women have special gifts to make the man attain his full potentials and should not be neglected.

He however, regretted that when women make their plans it will go on undisturbed but in the case of the men, they will always want to be in control of affairs.

Highlights of the occasion was the special dance session and competition by couples.

Guests were later entertained by a comedian known as Bozide and served with sumptuous dinner.

Change Of Attitude Is The Answer To Nigeria's Problem

By
Joe Kulu

Attitude change on the part of Nigerian leaders and indeed the entire citizenry has been identified as the solution to the country's problems and not the tinkering of the constitution or creation of more states and local governments.

According to Hon. (Chief) Appolos Amadi, a one time House of Rep member representing Ikwere/Emohua Federal Constituency in Rivers State in a chat with newsmen at the Hotel Presidential, venue of the South/South Senate Committee on the Constitutional review, "the Nigerian citizenry have to change their attitude towards everything for the better.

There should be justice and equity in whatever anybody does".

Hon. Amadi who is also the chairman of Host Communities (oil & gas) representing Rivers State made it known that though states and local government councils creation brings development nearer to the people, but infrastructure, true federation remains the best option where the people will control their resources to develop themselves the way they want.

Chief Amadi who was the Rivers state gubernatorial candidate of the National Democratic

Party, NDP in the last general election lamented that there is no electoral law in the country as at now and hoped that after three abortive attempts, the leaders should get it right this time around.

"There should be electoral laws that will punish offenders of electoral malpractices to deter others".

He recalled that it was only in 1999 general election that there was a resemblance of election, the subsequent ones of 2003 and 2007 were no elections.

He further stated that the younger generation of Nigerians should not be made to believe that rigging is the way of election, that rigging is part of our tradition.

"It does not matter whoever wins, but the right and acceptable candidate should be allowed to win an election through the choice of the people".

He however, conceded that those at the grassroots are the ones who cause the confusion the more as they would do anything to ensure that their candidate win, sometimes without the knowledge of their master.

On those who are still challenging the present administration of Governor Chibuike

~Hon. Amadi

Amaechi, like Chief Bekinbo Soberekon, Hon. Amadi said it was natural that the Accord Party guber candidate fights on to a logical conclusion.

"Chief Soberekon could either fight to a logical conclusion in court or surrenders if he wants" Chief Amadi used the opportunity to give the State Chief Executive Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi a pass mark in his performance these past two years especially in areas of infrastructure development.

Ubima People Restate Support For Amaechi

By
Okechukwu Geoffrey

The people of Ubima in Ikwere Local Government Area of Rivers State have restated their earlier support for their son and the incumbent governor of the state Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi.

Speaking to our correspondent at Ubima, the people said the governor has done marvelously well by transforming the state pointing out that the governor has made the people of Ubima and the Ikwere ethnic nationality proud.

According to them,

what the State Chief Executive has been able to put in place within the shortest possible time are enough to convince the doubting Thomases and his detractors that he is being led by God and expressed confidence that the governor has a lot to do for the state.

On the call by the Accord Party governorship candidate in the 2007 election (Bekinbo Soberekon) to nullify the election that brought Chibuike Amaechi to power the people said Soberekon may not be doing his party and the state any good as

his continuous plea through the court is tantamount to adding more years to the incumbent's tenure.

The people therefore reminded the Accord Party boss in the state that only God can do the contrary but not to the leaders he has chosen by himself noting that Amaechi was chosen by God to stir the ship of the state at this point in time and called on Soberekon to stop being used by the so called Abuja (Rivers) based politicians who have refused to return home to

join hands in the development of the state.

The people also appealed to their son Sir Celestine Omehia to come back home and support his cousin take the state to greater height.

Describing those calling for the nullification of the election as noise makers, the immediate past Caretaker Committee Chairman of Kelga Hon. Simeon Asiobi alias 'Contro' said the only alternative left for them is to forget the past and support the governor.