In the News

Contributed by Kazeem Akintunde and Belinda Mbonu
Sunday, 12 July 2009

Oluwole Akinwande Soyinka, playwright, professor of literature, poet, Nobel Laureate and political activist, 75, July 13 Birthdays Oluwole Akinwande Soyinka, playwright, professor of literature, poet, Nobel Laureate and political activist, 75, July 13. Born in Isara, Ijebu-Remo, Ogun State, he was educated at the University College, now University of Ibadan and University of Leeds, England. He was a lecturer in English, University of Ife, now Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife; senior lecturer and acting head, department of English, University of Lagos; director, School of Drama, University of Ibadan. He was a visiting professor in drama at the Sheffield University, England, and the University of Ghana, Legon. He was pioneer chairman, Federal Road Safety Commission, FRSC, Nigeria. Lanre Arogundade, journalist and pro-democracy activist, 47, July 13. Born in Osi Ekiti, Ekiti State, he studied at the University of Ife, now Obafemi Awolowo University. He worked with the now rested Concord Newspapers and was also on the editorial team of the Vanguard Newspapers. He was a former chairman, Nigerian Union of Journalists, NUJ, Lagos State Chapter. Arogundade is the co-ordinator, International Press Centre, IPC, Lagos. Olayinka Oladimeji Omilani, senator, chartered insurer and former national vice- chairman of People’s Democratic Party, PDP, South-West, 73, July 18. He was educated at Baptist Day School, Ode-Omu in 1948 and later transferred to Baptist Central School, Ile-Ife, Osun State, where he completed his post primary education in 1952. He also attended the City of London Polytechnic, Moorgate, where he studied Insurance and Shipping. Omilani worked with P& O Shipping Company Limited, Willis Fabber & Dumas Lloyds, Broker Corporation of Lloyds, London, all in the United Kingdom. He, along with others, founded the Institute of Loss Adjusters in Nigeria. He won the West Senatorial District Seat of Osun State and later emerged the leader of the south-west caucus in the Senate until 1993, when General Sani Abacha dissolved the National Assembly. Olusegun Osoba, journalist and former governor of Ogun State, 68, July 15. Born in Osogbo, Osun State, he was educated at the University of Lagos, Indiana University, Bloomington, US, and Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts, US. He was managing director, Daily Times Nigeria PLC from 1984-1989 and former president, Newspapers Proprietor Association of Nigeria, NPAN. Osoba was a member, board of directors, Nigeria Newsprint Manufacturing Company, NNMC, Oku Iboku, Akwa Ibom State; member, International Press Institute since 1984. Moffat Ekoriko, journalist and publisher, 42, July 18. Born in Ukanafun, Akwa Ibom State, he was educated in Nigeria and the University of Leeds, Wolfson College, University of Cambridge, UK. Ekoriko was chief reporter, Nigerian Tide, Port Harcourt, Rivers State. He was an assistant editor, Sunray Newspapers, Port Harcourt, a principal staff writer with Newswatch, Lagos. Ekoriko was regional editor, Africa Today. He is the publisher, News Africa magazine, London. Stephen Anthony Ukpo, retired brigadier-general, former military governor of Rivers State and former minister of information, 62, July 16. Born in Okpoma, Ogoja, Cross Rivers State, he studied in Nigeria and attended several courses in the United States. He was appointed company commander, 1968; battalion commander, 1969 and 1971 to 1973; brigade major, 1970; instructor, Nigeria Defence Academy, Kaduna, 1973 to 1974. He became deputy director, Defence Intelligence Agency, 1985; appointed minister of information and culture, 1985-1986; military governor of Rivers State, 1986-1988; principal staff officer to former President Ibrahim Babangida, 1988. Ihechukwu Madubuike, educationist, administrator and former minister of health, 65, July 9. Born in Isuochi, Abia State, he was educated in Nigeria, Canada, United States and France. Madubuike was a minister of education in the second republic. He was executive director and chairman editorial board, Champion Newspapers Limited. Madubuike holds the chieftaincy title of Onune kwuruoha 1 of Isuochi. Awarded This year’s Caine Prize for African writing has been won by E. C. Osondu, a Nigerian writer. He won the award with a story titled “Waiting”. His winning was announced at the Bodleian Library, Oxford, United Kingdom, UK. The writer takes home the prize money of 10, 000 pounds or about $15,000. Osondu beat four other writers from Africa to win the award. Osondu worked in the Nigerian advertising sector before moving to New York to study creative writing at Syracuse University. He had earlier received the Allen and Nirelle Galso prize for fiction for his first story, “A letter from Home”. It was recognised as one of the best Internet stories of 2006. Died James Oluleye, on Thursday, July 2, in his country home, Efon-Alaiye, Ekiti State. He was aged 71. Born in October 14, 1937, he was educated at St Luke’s College, Ibadan, and the Nigerian Military Training College, Kaduna, as well as the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, India. Oluleye, a former military governor of the old Kwara State, Western and Mid-Western Regions and member of the defunct Supreme Military Council, SMC, the highest decision-making body in the then administration of the late Murtala Mohammed regime. He is survived by his wife and children