

In the News

Contributed by Kazeem Akintunde and Morayo Badmus
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Birthdays Ernest Shonekan, lawyer, former head of state, 73, May 9. Born in Lagos, he studied in Nigeria, United Kingdom and United States of America. He was chairman, Implementation Committee, Vision 2010. Shonekan is a fellow, Institute of Directors and Nigerian Institute of Management. He is a member, Board of Trustees, Lambo Foundation, Nigerian Conservation Foundation and Lions International Club. He holds the traditional title of Abese of Egbaland. Jim Ifeanyichukwu Nwobodo, former governor of old Anambra State, former senator and former minister of Youths and Sport, 69, May 9. Born in Lafia in what is now Nasarawa State, he was educated at Government Secondary School, Kaduna, Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology, Enugu and University of Ibadan. He was a teacher, Kings College, Lagos and joined Shell BP, now Shell Petroleum Development Company, Port Harcourt. He was chairman and executive director, Link Group International Limited and Jim International Cargo Agencies Limited; chairman, Universal Insurance Company Limited; chairman, Premier Brokers Limited; chairman, Enugu Rangers International Football Club; former board member, Anambra State Sport Council. Olufunlayo Abiodun, educationist and professor of Geography, 73, May 1. Born in Ijebu-Ife, Ogun State, she studied at St. Agnes College, Maryland, Ikeja, Lagos, 1952-1953; Girton College, Cambridge University, England, 1961-1964; Queens Mary College, University of London, England, 1966-1967; Columbia University, New York, USA, 1975-1977. She was appointed tutor, St. Agnes College, Maryland, Ikeja, Lagos, 1957-1958; visiting assistant professor, Barnard College, Columbia University, New York, USA, 1975-1976; lecturer, University of Ife now Obafemi Awolowo University, OAU, 1968-1971; dean, faculty of social science of the university, 1989-1991 and later, director, Centre for Industrial Research and Development, OAU. She was deputy vice-chancellor, of the university between 1992-1994. She is a member, Research Science Association, USA; fellow, American Geographical Society, USA. Abiodun has won many awards and published many books. Khamis Olatunde Badmus, businessman, industrialist, philanthropist, and Islamic propagator, 63, May 9. He is the chairman, Poultry Manufacturers of Nigeria; deputy national president, All Farmers Apex Association of Nigeria, ALFAAN; member-presidential committee for the three multi-commodity development and marketing corporations. Badmus is the executive chairman, Tuns International Holding Nigeria Limited. He holds the traditional title of Asiwaju Musulumi of Yoruba land and Otunba Akayejo of Osogbo land. Sunday Oluwadare Agbi, historian and university lecturer, 64, May 2. He was born in Akure, Ondo State and educated at Government Teacher Training College, Ilesha, 1962-1964; University of Ibadan, 1967-1970; University of Birmingham, England, 1972-1976. He was a senior lecturer, University of Ibadan, 1981-1987 and was appointed professor of history, Ondo State University, now University of Ado Ekiti, in October 1987. He was general secretary, Historical Society of Nigeria as well as general secretary, Nigeria Academy of Arts. **DIED** Ephraim Silas Obot, archbishop of the Catholic Church, Idah Diocese, Kogi State, on April 12, 2009. He was aged 72 years. Born at Adiasm, Ikot Essien Ndot, Akwa Ibom State, on October 6, 1936, he had his primary education at St Ignatius School, Ukana Iba and St Joseph's School, Okon. He moved on to the Queen of Apostles Seminary, Afaha Obong, 1959-1960, and proceeded to the Holy Family College, Abak for his higher education. Obot studied philosophy at Bigard Memorial Seminary, Enugu, from where he proceeded to Urban University, Rome, to read Theology in 1964, and bagged a Licentiate in Theology. He was ordained a priest by Cardinal Agagianian in Rome, on June 29, 1968. Bishop Obot served in several positions in his home diocese of Ikot Ekpene from 1968 to June 28, 1971. After his education abroad, he was ordained the Auxiliary Bishop of Ikot Ekpene Diocese. Obot will be buried on Friday, May 1, after a funeral Mass at St Boniface's Cathedral Church, Idah, Kogi State.