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WEDNESDAY COLUMN

Ahmed Danfulani on:

Colours of the rainbow

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STAR FEATURE

Africa's stolen arts

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Habib Bank launches non-interest product

Habib Nigeria Bank Limited yesterday pioneered Islamic Banking in Nigeria with the official introduction of a new product tagged: "Non-Interest Banking."

Under the new scheme, the bank's lending portfolio is tailored towards mailing lending to entrepreneurs profit-oriented and profit-motivated rather than interest income which is the current practice in the banking industry regardless of whether a business is performing or not.

Unveiling the new product in Abuja, Finance Minister, Mallam Adamu Ciroma, said with the stage set by Habib Bank, there is no doubt that Islamic banking has come to stay in Nigeria.

According to him, the launching could not have come at a better time as there was already growing awareness on the need to institute the Islamic law of *Sharia* in Nigeria.

"With the full implementation of the *Sharia* legal system in some states in Nigeria, it is just a matter of time before we start seeing more banks offering Islamic windows and even full-fledged

Islamic financial institutions operating in the country," he said.

He also stated: "Although it is often claimed that there is more to Islamic banking, such as contributions towards a more equitable distribution of income and wealth, and increased equity participation in the economy, it nevertheless derives its specific rationale from the fact that there is no place for the institution of interest in the Islamic order."

Ciroma pointed out that one of the main selling points of Islamic banking is that unlike conventional banking, it is primarily concerned with the viability and profitability of the project

and not the size of the collateral.

The minister maintained that Islamic banks can play a catalytic role in stimulating economic development as the bank on a profit sharing basis will finance good projects which may be turned down by conventional banks for lack of collateral.

Earlier, the bank's Managing Director, Mr. Abdul-Fatai Akin Kekere-Ekun, said the interest-free concept emphasised a partnership in which the bank, the depositor and the businessman share in appropriate propor

contd. on pg 2



Minister of Finance, Malam Adamu Ciroma (right), BPE Director-General, Nasir el-Rufai (middle) and Habib Bank Managing Director, Mr. Akintola Kekere-Ekun during the launching of Habib Bank non-interest banking product in Abuja... yesterday.
Pix: Felix Onigbide.

NITEL SALE

N120b qualifies investor

The Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), yesterday issued fresh hurdles to potential core-investors in NITEL, saying apart from relevant telecommunications experience, bidders must show evidence of financial solvency of not less than N120 billion in equity/shareholders

By Osborne Adi Jar.

In a statement issued in Abuja by the Deputy Director, Operations, Hassan



Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, NCP chairman

Usman, BPE also insisted that in evaluating the qualifying experience, the size of the artworks, track record of successful network expansion and technical and financial capacity would take precedence.

Hassan, spoke just as the auditors commissioned by the National Council on Privatisation (NCP) to investigate the affairs of Unipetrol indicted the immediate past management of the company for inadequate accounting records, poor treasury management and undocumented policies on investment decisions.

The findings in

Unipetrol, he said, were like the case of African Petroleum (AP) and National Oil and Chemical Company (NOLCHEM) whose reports were earlier submitted.

Apart from their submissions which will include definite details on the composi-

tion of their consortium, Usman said potential core-investors must give certain technical and business evidence, like evidence of understanding of issues facing the company, an understanding of the challenges in

contd. on pg 2

Nigerians stranded on Turkish border

United Nations officials are waiting for permission from Turkey to inspect an area along the Greek border where about 100 African migrants believed to be mainly Nigerians and Ethiopians are reported to be stranded.

A UN refugee agency spokesman said yesterday that about 270 Africans were arrested in Istanbul on July 7 as part of a wider swoop on immigrants that led to about 800 arrests in all.

Turkey's Human Rights Association said the Africans, who included asylum seekers, were held in Istanbul nearly a week in overcrowded and unhygienic

"Those detained were made to sign a statement saying they had moved from Greece to Turkey and they wanted to leave Turkey voluntarily."

contd. on pg 2

FG screens 60 applications for private universities

Obasanjo stresses standard

The Federal Government has received over 60 applications from individuals and organisations seeking to establish private universities in the country even as President Olusegun Obasanjo has advised the existing private ones to adhere to set standards or face prosecution.

The Minister of Education, Professor Babalola

By Suleiman Mohammed and Ikenna Emeka Okpani

Borisade, announced the large number of applications while officially presenting a certificate of approval to the Baptist Convention to establish a private university in Iwo, Ogun State. The university is to be known as Bowen University.

The minister said apart from the four approved pri-

private universities currently in operation, the processing of six other applications was at an advanced stage, adding that all applications that are able to satisfy the set requirements will be promptly registered.

"The establishment of a university is an expensive venture, hence, it cannot be an all-comers affair. There

contd. on pg 2

FG releases N25b for water, irrigation projects

By Danlami Babban Takko

The Federal Government has released the sum of N25 billion for the provision of water and the development of irrigation and drainage systems nationwide.

The Minister of Water Resources, Barrister Muktar Shehu Shagari, made the disclosure yesterday in his opening address during a meeting with heads of River Basin Development Authorities (RBDA) and parastatals under his ministry in Abuja.

Barrister Muktar Shagari assured that the money would be used judiciously to ensure prompt implementation of the ministry's water supply programmes, irrigation, drainage, dams and reservoirs.

To this end, the minister said about 1,200 hand pumps would be constructed and 48 motorised boreholes are underway while 4,000 hand pumps would be rehabilitated.

He warned chief executives of RBDA against politicising the award of contracts on the project and the use of consultants which was gradually draining too much resources.

The minister noted that the ultimate aim of the present administration was to ensure the development of projects that would be beneficial to the people, and therefore, gave the

contd. on pg 2

NEWS

Two sports ministry staff arrested over electoral fraud

By Patrick Andrew

Two staff of the Ministry of Sports and Social Development, Mr. Alex Onyenwenwa and Mrs. N. Eleye, were yesterday arrested for alleged electoral fraud.

They were picked by men of the police intelligence at the Eagles Square, Federal Secretariat, Abuja, venue of the conduct of the elections into the 29 boards of the National Sports Associations.

The duo were alleged to have falsified the chairmanship election result of the Gymnastic Federation of Nigeria (GFN).

Ten board members who voted at the elections raised alarm when Mrs. Eleye an-

nounced 6-4 votes in favour of the incumbent chairman, Maj. General Adamu Dyeri (rtd).

Consequently, they staged a protest insisting that the vote cast was 9-1 in favour of Prince Sam Ejiofor, this development led to fist-cuffs between the voters and the two electoral officers.

Proceedings were disrupted as the protesters insisted on an open recount or recast of the votes in open glare even as Maj.-Gen. Dyeri who is the current Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) President declined to make comment.

However, after several appeals and dialogue with

the officials of the sports ministry, it decided that a recast of votes be carried out even as Dyeri staged a walk-out.

Prince Ejiofor eventually emerged winner with eight to zero votes.

At this juncture, a police intelligence officer, Monday Momoh, insisted on arresting the two ministry staff for questioning.

Meanwhile, Governor Lucky Igbinedion of Edo and Mrs. Nkoyo Ibori, wife of the Delta State governor were floored in the elections.

Igbinedion who vied for the chairmanship of the Boxing Federation was defeated by Mrs. Rotimi George Taylor while Mrs. Ibori lost her

bid to head the special sports association.

Twenty-five new associations chairmen were

elected while only four retained their posts.

Israeli soldiers kill eight Palestinians

At least eight Palestinians, including a senior Hamas official, were killed on Tuesday in what witnesses described as an Israeli attack on an office of the militant Islamic group in the West Bank.

Witnesses at the scene in the Palestinian-ruled city of Nablus gave conflicting accounts of what caused the explosion.

Some told reporters that missiles fired from an Israeli aircraft hit the office, but others said Israeli troops may have fired from tanks or combat helicopters.

Eight Palestinians,

among them two children, were killed in the Israeli bombardment "said an emergency medical in Nablus. Other medical officials confirmed that Jamal Mansour, a Hamas political leader, was among the dead.

The Israeli army said it had no immediate information. Israel has carried out the series of killings, described by Palestinians as assassinations of militants as part of a declared policy to foil bombings in the Jewish state.

Nablus Governor, Mahmoud Aloul, said on Voice of Palestine radio that the eight dead included two

brothers, aged 10 and 12, who were in a nearby shop.

Hundreds of angry Palestinians gathered in front of the office in a six-storey building in the city centre. The blast blew out two windows and left black smoke marks.

Hamas has claimed responsibility for the bomb attacks, which have killed scores of Israelis in past years and has waged a bombing campaign against Israeli targets since the start of a Palestinian uprising last September.

Obasanjo meets GSM licence operators

President Olusegun Obasanjo yesterday in Abuja met with the three communications companies that won licences in February to operate the GSM telephone systems in the country.

Representatives of the three firms — MTN, ECONET and the government-owned NITEL — met behind closed doors with Obasanjo at the presidential villa, with only a few days to the commencement of the GSM operations by some of the companies.

No official statement was released to newsmen at the end of the meeting, which was held less than a month after the operators held a similar meeting with Vice-President Atiku Abubakar.

Controversy had trailed the commencement of the GSM operations in the country, shortly after the end of the bidding process, a situation that led to the withdrawal of CIL, one of the winners of the three licences earlier set aside for sale.

Sharp public reactions also greeted the recent release of tariffs by the MTN and ECONET, which fixed connecting charges at N20,000 and N15,000 respectively, including "SIM" cards, and a monthly access charge of N4,000, in addition to other sundry charges.

It is believed that the meeting with Obasanjo was meant to resolve differences among the stakeholders, especially NITEL which so far has the monopoly of land line exchanges in the country.

NITEL is yet to announce its own GSM tariff structure. Although the communication sector has been deregulated to allow private participation and competitive pricing, many Nigerians believe that the tariffs released by the two private firms were "outrageous" when compared to what obtained in other African countries.

The News Agency of Nigerian (NAN) reports that prospective subscribers had expected that the tariff will be moderate in view of the large market in the country.



President Obasanjo

Habib Bank contd. from pg 1

tion, the success and failure of each business transaction.

He said the combination of the non-interest banking product with the disburse-

ment of the 10 per cent of profit before tax of banks earnings as mandated to be set aside for small scale industries will propel greater participation in and supervi-

sion of business by bankers, thereby raising the success levels.

He also said that under the non-interest banking scheme, there will be current, savings and investment accounts.

N120bn contd. from pg 1

involved in achieving the roll-out target set and the ability to address those challenges.

The immediate past Unipetrol management, he said, acquired assets outside budget, "while the grossly inadequate manual fixed assets registered maintained by the company did not assist in

the location of some assets." Besides, it made the computation of depreciation very difficult and inaccurate.

However, the Deputy Director disclosed that the redeeming feature in the finding was that in spite of the shortcomings, profit margin gradually increased between 1997 and August 31, 2000.

"On a final note, BPE wished to observe that in spite of the limitations of these audits, it has shown again and again that boards and management of public enterprises, whether partially or fully owned by government, have not yet imbibe high standards of responsibility in corporate governance," he lamented.

FG screens 60 contd. from pg 1

fore, only those who meet the stringent requirement of the enabling law will be permitted to operate," Prof. Borisade said.

He pointed out that the Federal Government will, through the National Universities Commission (NUC) continue to closely monitor the performance and conduct of registered private universities. He disclosed that the three earlier registered universities, which have already spent two sessions, were recently been appraised on the orders of the Federal Executive Council.

The minister reiterated the illegality of satellite campuses run by universities, adding that the primary motive behind their establishment was pecuniary without due regard to quality.

"With a total of 25 Federal Universities, 16 state universities, and now four private universities in Nigeria, coupled with the proposed distance education

programme of the Federal Government, there is no further justification for the ill-equipped, and poorly organised satellite campuses run by many universities, which are incapable of effectively running their campuses," Prof. Borisade said.

Earlier in his remarks, the chairman of National Universities Commission's eight-member standing committee on Registration of Private Universities (SCOPU), Mr. C.S Ajayi, said private universities were supposed to be models where members of staff would not go on strike and students not involve themselves in cult activities.

He advised private university operators to fund them adequately and recruit quality staff, adding that they were free to screen candidates sent to them by JAMB.

The outgoing Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission, Prof. Munzali Jibril, advised the Nigerian Baptist Con-

vention, owners of the new university, to re-enact their achievements in the primary and secondary levels at the tertiary level.

Speaking with a delegation from the Baptist Convention, proprietors of Babcock University, based in Iwo, Osun State, Obasanjo stressed the issue of standard in private universities because of the important role they have in the revitalisation of the educational system.

"One of the problems we have today is lack of moral education. This is where institutions like yours (private) must distinguish themselves. They must give academic education plus what others do not. Unless they can do this, they might as well not exist," he stressed.

President Obasanjo observed that private universities in the country, particularly those who could combine their academic curricular with moral education, would help to build a new generation of Nigerians with the right value.

FG releases N25bn contd. from pg 1

assurance that before the end of the year 2003, all dams must be fully functional.

He described the provision of water as a partnership between the federal, states, local governments and the

National Assembly and urged that all hands must be on deck towards the realisation of this noble goal.

Nigerians contd. from pg 1

untarily," the association said in a statement.

It said they were then taken to the Greek border and forced to cross a river dividing the countries, only to be turned back.

The report emerged after some escaped and managed to make their way back to Istanbul or Ankara.

Metin Corabatir, a UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman, said U.N. officials inspected the Greek side of the border last week and found no sign of the migrants thought to be mainly Nigerians and Ethiopians.

"Interviews that UNHCR has carried out with some of the group that made it back to Istanbul and Ankara, including one couple that had U.N. letters of concern, consistently suggest that the group was shuttled across the river," Corabatir said.

He said the migrants said they were forced several times to wade across the river from Turkey before being sent back in boats by Greek authorities.

"UNHCR remains very concerned that there may still be some people down near the border in very uncertain conditions and also

that the reports about the entire group's treatment since the beginning of this incident in early July remains extremely worrying," Corabatir said.

He said the UNHCR had requested permission on Friday from

Turkish authorities to send a mission to inspect the border area — a restricted military zone — but was still waiting for a reply on Tuesday afternoon.

The Interior Ministry declined to comment and police said they could not immediately give any information.

NEWS

FG sets aside N500m for newsprint firm

About N500 million has been appropriated in the 2001 supplementary budget for the reactivation of the nation's ailing Newsprint Manufacturing Company, Oku Iboku, Akwa Ibom State.

The company, established in 1975 with an installed capacity of 100,000 metric tones of newsprint annually, stopped production in 1993 and closed down in 1995 because of the alleged poor funding by the Federal Government.

Industry Minister, Kola Jamodu, said on Monday in Uyo during a courtesy call on Akwa Ibom Governor, Victor Attah that the amount appropriated would be used to "jump-start the reactivation process."

He said: "the Federal Government is committed to the reactivation of the industry in spite of the present state of the factory."

Jamodu, who maintained that newsprint was "strategic" to the economy of the nation, explained that it was for this reason that the Federal Government proposed an initial N1 billion for the reactivation of the mill.

The minister stated that the reactivation of the mill was a "necessary step toward the privatization of the company," adding that it would also assist in

alleviating poverty in terms of jobs for the youth.

Jamodu appealed to the Akwa Ibom government to release its shareholding of N275 million, representing the 5.5 percent equity shares in which the Federal Government had 90 percent and the Cross River government 4.5 percent equity share.



Chief Kola Jamodu

A 23-man delegation of Abia State Council of Traditional Rulers, Monday in Abuja, urged President Olusegun Obasanjo to convene a national conference.

The delegation, led by the Chairman of the Council, His Royal Majesty (HRH) Eze (Dr.) Ezo Ukandu J.P., the Enyi-Na-Obiangwu

Traditional rulers call for national conference

By Hammeed M. Bello

of Imenyi Kingdom, told the president that, "as a means of resolving the multiple problems facing the country, there should be a 'national dialogue' so that different sections of the country would brainstorm on the nation."

While appealing to the National Assembly to initiate a legislation that would give constitutional role to traditional rulers, the delegation also called for the establishment of a 'National Forum of Traditional Rulers.'

The forum, according to the Abia delegation, would meet periodically to discuss matters of national interest, especially as they affect the traditional institution in Nigeria.

The traditional rulers requested the president to site a petro-chemical industry in oil-producing Abia State, adding, "the Federal Government should improve the epileptic power supply to the state, especially in Umuahia, the only state capital, according to them, which does not have a 132 KVA power station.

They further requested the Federal Government to build a federal secretariat in Abia State to facilitate administrative transactions between the state and federal governments and to likewise establish a branch of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in Umuahia.

FG, nurses negotiations continue August 9

By Ikanna Emeka Okpani

budget proposals for 2002 was accepted and billed to commence on Thursday 9th, August.

The nurses, who got three major demands from the government, decided to call off their strike and continue negotiations on other issues.

Both sides had agreed that the minister of health should initiate and conclude within four weeks, the machinery for the payment of 30 percent increase in shift duty allowance for nurses as contained in the approved financial implications for the implementation of allowances of health

Negotiations between the Federal Ministry of Health and the National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives (NANNM) which called off its strike last Monday, are to continue August 9.

In the agreement reached between the two, immediate resumption of negotiations on other grievances of the association with a view to incorporating the eventual agreements into the ministry's

professionals. Furthermore, government accepted that it would take necessary steps to establish a directorate of nursing services in the Federal Ministry of Health as awarded by the Industrial Arbitration Panel (IAPD), the directorate is expected to have full powers like every other department in the ministry. In addition, financial backing for the directorate will be incorporated in the ministry's budget proposal for the year 2002.

Issues which the nurses seek redress included quacks in the system which they claim government is paying lip-service to, and government's refusal to bring nurses and midwives into the mainstream of decision-making in the formulation of health policies and programmes.

National media tour is to reflect credibility – Information minister

As part of efforts to showcase the dividends of democracy, the Federal Government decided to undertake a national media tour to inspect projects implemented at the state and grassroots levels. The Minister of Information and National Orientation, Prof. Jerry Gana, gave the explanation when he called on the Governor of Anambra State, Dr. Chinwoke Mbadinuju, as part of his national media tour.

"We believe that, if democracy is to have the kind of credibility it certainly requires, if democracy is to be rooted deeply in the consciousness of our people, if democracy is to be taken seriously, and defended by the ordinary people of Nigeria, in a developing society, like ours, democracy has to deliver more than freedom," he said.

Gana said freedom and welfare of the people would be properly enhanced when

elected officials embark on projects which affect the lives of the people. "If this happens and the people get to know about it, certainly will add credibility to democracy." This is the essence of this tour," he added.

Gana said so far, the tour had been impressive, but observed that there had been one or two states which did not justify the huge resources they collected with what was on ground. "People have really worked hard to

deliver what I call the dividends of democracy and at the end of our tour, usually we have a people's forum which gives the media men, an opportunity to tell the people of the state what they have seen," Gana said.

Responding, Governor Mbadinuju said his administration was developing a new government village, comprising a new government house secretariat, a House of Assembly, a judiciary headquarters and cenotaph.



Prof. A.B.C. Nwosu

NULGE boss criticizes funding of LGs

By Reuben Yunana

National President of the National Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE), Comrade Deji Akinwalene, has criticized the system of local government funding in the country, saying it is aimed at destroying the third-tier of government.

Speaking exclusively to Daily Trust, the union leader said government policies as regards council funding would stagnate development at the grassroots if not checked.

"The funding is inadequate, but it goes beyond that. It is an orchestrated, premeditated strategy aimed at destroying the local government service and to blackmail and discredit practitioners at that level of

government," he said. He accused the Federal Government of imposing the payment of teachers' salaries on the councils contrary to the provision of the decree establishing the National Primary Education Commission (NPEC).

Said he: "The deduction is a deliberate policy to destroy the councils because council chairmen have challenged the legality of the deduction at source because the decree establishing NPEC states clearly that deduction of teachers' salaries should be done from the federation account and not from local government account.

Space policy not for rocket launch -Obasanjo

By Suleiman Mohammed

President Olusegun Obasanjo yesterday declared that the newly introduced space policy of the Federal Government was not aimed at launching space rockets and landing Nigerians in the moon, but for the exploitation of the nation's mineral resources.

The president made the clarification while inaugurating the Honourary Presidential Advisory Council on Science and Technology at the State House, Abuja.

He said the programme was rather "an adaptive programme to make use of what space research has already established, in the areas of remote sensing, weather forecasting and satellite communications, for the exploration and exploitation of our mineral resources, and for the

development of ICT," he declared.



President Olusegun Obasanjo

President Obasanjo said training, and human resource development has now become necessary to cope with the programme, and charged the advisory council to proffer

possible ways of attracting government attention to use science and technology as a tool for rapid socio-economic development.

According to him, Nigeria, like any other developing country, was fully aware of the fact established throughout human history, "which is that technology is a most powerful tool for human development and poverty reduction."

He recalled that government has made attempts at a coordinated policy on science and technology through the establishment of a ministry for that purpose. "Like most good ideas in this country, these efforts have suffered set-backs in the last two decades due to bad governance, and by extension, ineffective management."



Prof. Jerry Gana

NEWS

Former military leaders should apologise to the nation – Gen. Adebayo

Former Military Governor of the defunct Western Region, General Adeyinka Adebayo (rtd), on Monday called on past military heads of state in the country to apologise to the nation for the damage and wounds they have inflicted on the country.

Gen. Adebayo, who was delivering a lecture at the 35th Fajuyi memorial celebration held at cultural center, Ibadan, also called for the resuscitation of the Westminster system of government that was practiced in the First Republic.

The former governor who succeeded Lt. Col. Adekunle Fajuyi as the governor of old Western Region said that in the spirit of reconciliation the leaders and officers of the first coup of January 15th, 1966, including the then military governors should tender their apologies for the damage they have done to the nation.

“General Yakubu Gowon, the military head of state from July 1966, his military governors including myself who accepted to be a successor to Francis Fajuyi

From Yinka Oladoyinbo, in Ibadan

and those senior officers who participated in July 1966 coup should also apologise to the nation,” he affirmed.

He further stated that subsequent heads of state alive should equally apologise to the nation.

Gen. Adebayo also indicted the civilians that aided the military, “all the

most senior civilians who served under the military or whose services were influenced by the military, and our traditional fathers throughout the country must take their blame for not using their royal position and respect to give proper advice to the heads of state,” he said.

He, however, proclaimed that the country should revert to the regional system of

government, based on the parliamentary model as handed over to the nation by the British.

Gen. Adebayo equally said that the parliamentary or Westminster model is better than “the present almighty oppressive and expensive presidential model which encourages and allows for the domination of the progressive majority by a handful of lords either in military uniform or *Agbada* or *Babanrigo*.”

Crisis in Celestial church

For the timely intervention of the Ogun State police command, the dissolved Board of Trustees and church workers under the umbrella of Shepherd Council of Nigeria Diocese of the Celestial Church of Christ (CCC) would have clashed at Imeko, headquarters of the CCC in Ogun State.

An impeccable source within the church informed *Daily Trust* correspondent in Abeokuta that what could have led to a big clash resulted when the dissolved board of trustees called a meeting of heads of diocese of the church worldwide at

From Olumide Bajulaiye, in Abeokuta

Imeko.

At the same time, the head of CCC's Nigerian diocese, Superior Evangelist Gilbert Jesse had convened a meeting of church workers to deliberate on matters affecting the church and had gone ahead to inform and sought protection from the state police command of their meeting.

The board of trustees had equally applied to the state command on Thursday evening about the two-day meeting intended to hold at Imeko.

Sensing danger and a possible backlash that may

arise from the two bodies holding a meeting simultaneously at the same venue, the state Commissioner of Police, Udom Ekpudom, invited representatives from both sides for a meeting.

Apparently not satisfied with the impression given by both parties, the police commissioner advised that they both shelve the meeting. While the Shepherd Council of Nigeria Diocese had complied with the directive to shelve the meeting, some members of the trustees stayed back at Imeko, but could not hold the meeting due to the insistence of the police force that they leave.

In a telephone interview with *Daily Trust*, Chairman of the Shepherd Council, Senior Evangelist Segun Adesanya said, “the dissolved trustees had no right to convene a meeting.”

“The constitution of the church does not give them that right. It is the head of diocese, Jesse who has the right to convene a meeting in the absence of the pastor.”

A new Guardian in the offing

As the *Guardian* newspaper crisis over the demands by its workers for improved welfare package is on hold, there is a strong indication that some of the aggrieved workers, who are apparently not comfortable with the agreement reached between management and staff before calling-off the strike, move towards the establishment of an alternative newspaper.

This was made known to *Daily Trust* in Abuja by an authoritative source who said that the workers who have consistently complained of their deplorable condition of service to no avail are consolidating effort to establish a new print medium with the possible titles, *Nigerian Guardian* or *National Guardian*.

Our source, who is a staff of *Guardian* newspapers, said that even though the proprietors of

By Hammel M. Bello

the medium had said that *Guardian* newspapers had grown beyond the control and ownership of one individual and needed to be decentralized, the reality is that the outfit is still a capitalist venture where the enormous profit accruable to the company as a result of the industrious nature of its staff is not evenly distributed.

He cited a case of a worker who served in the *Guardian* for about 17 years only to be paid off with the sum of N30,000 after retirement without any form of gratuity or pension, even though the said worker had

served *Guardian* meritoriously.

Further investigation has revealed that the politics in the print medium is in favour of *Guardian* as it has the goodwill and patronage of bureaucrats.

He gathered that *Guardian* newspaper which enjoys corporate adverts that brings it sustainable growth as a result of its representation in government is under Guardian Press Limited with Chief Felix Ibru's wife as the Chief Executive.

Similarly, we gathered that *Guardian* which has paid correspondents in all the states in the South-West, considering the attention that

is given to that region in view of the politics of the print media, has correspondents only in a few states in other parts of the country like Kaduna, Calabar and Jos. In other states, the paper has only stringers and freelancers, even though those auxiliary staff produce big stories that could make front page.



Prof. Jerry Gana

CHANGE OF NAME
I, formerly AVEREHI AFOLABI EZEKIEL, now AVEREHI EZEKIEL OLATUNDE, former documents remain valid. UNICAL and Public note.

Sokoto donates N50,000 to amputee

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru

The Sokoto State government has donated the sum of N50,000 to the first amputee in the state since the commencement of the implementation of the *Sharia* legal system early this year.

According to a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Hausa Service report monitored in Abuja, the state Commissioner for Justice, Barrister Aliyu Abubakar Sokoto, disclosed that the government took the measure in order to assist the victim in taking care of his family and also not to commit a similar offence in the future, “we are equally making arrangements to offer him employment,” Barrister Abubakar added.

In his remark, the amputee, Malam Umar Aliyu, expressed his happiness over the gesture,

adding that this will help him in conducting his daily affairs. “I am a Fulani herdsman, I will use the money in buying cattle for rearing, I have no regret over the *Sharia* punishment I faced,” he said.



Gov Attahiru Bafarawa

Cleric calls for unity

By Austin Odo

The Pastor, Christians Reformed Church of Nigeria, Rev. Joseph U. Ajaver, has called for more unity among Nigerians as a requisite for rapid progress of the nation.

Speaking at a celebration marking the 50th anniversary of the church on Sunday, Rev. Ajaver noted that for Nigeria to succeed as a nation, “we must all be united, with one purpose to move ahead to the promised land.”

According to Rev. Ajaver, those who worked for the country from the past had planted, and the present generation of Nigerians are waterers who needed to work together as partners.

“The planters and waterers are working as a team with the

same purpose, let us work together as partners who belong to God, let us break camp and move forward,” he said.

Pastor Ajaver pointed out that like the Israelites, Nigerians should recongnise the present time as the time to forge ahead into the promised land.

The CRCN is an outreach church that has many ministries which work for the improvement of the society. The church has taken the challenge to establish a Christian Reformed influence in Abuja. It is also involved in other cities outreach such as Jos, Maiduguri, Makurdi and is working towards other major cities in Nigeria.

Minister inaugurates education forum

By Ikanna Emeka Okpani

The Minister of Education, Prof. Babalola Borisade, last Monday inaugurated the National Education for All (EFA) Forum in Nigeria and flagged-off the year 2001-2002 UBE pupils enrolment at separate occasions.

At the inauguration of the EFA forum at Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Abuja, the Education Minister described the forum as, “a deliberate effort to bring together all stakeholders in education in order to address one of the most crucial issues of our time,” adding that a baseline 2001 project meant to provide data on educational indicators on EFA was underway.

According to him, basic education for all means that

people, whatever their age, have an opportunity, individually and collectively, to realize their potential. “Classes continue to be too large, there is a constant lack of educational materials, teachers are not appropriately trained, schools

are poorly supervised and many children are still relegated to environments that discourage learning.”

He noted that it is only education that can prepare the individual with knowledge, skills and attitude necessary for mental liberation and gainful employment. The minister expressed optimism that the National Education for All Forum will achieve its objectives and address issues of resource mobilization.

The EFA forum is essentially a consultative and coordination body that brings together representatives of all those with a stake in basic education. It comprises development partners like UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Bank, DFID and the Civil Society Action Coalition on Education for All (CSACEFA).



Prof. Borisade

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

Indonesia: Of dictators in democracy garb

On Monday, July 23, Megawati Sukarno-Putri, 54, emerged Indonesian president. She succeeds Abdulrahman Wahid, the partially blind president whose five-year tenure was cut short by the country's parliament for alleged incompetence and corruption. Megawati Sukarno-Putri's father, President Sukarno, led Indonesia to independence many years ago, and this is a burden, albeit a glorious one, on the new president who, being a woman, may have a desire to prove her mettle.

Interestingly, the emergence of the new president of has surprising parallels with the rise of Gloria Arroyo to the presidency in the Philippines. On January 20th 2001, Arroyo emerged new president of the Philippines as a result of popular protest against the then President Joseph Estrada who had been accused of receiving millions of dollars in bribes from illegal gambling syndicates and excise taxes. As in Indonesia the police and armed forces in the Philippines withdrew support for the president.

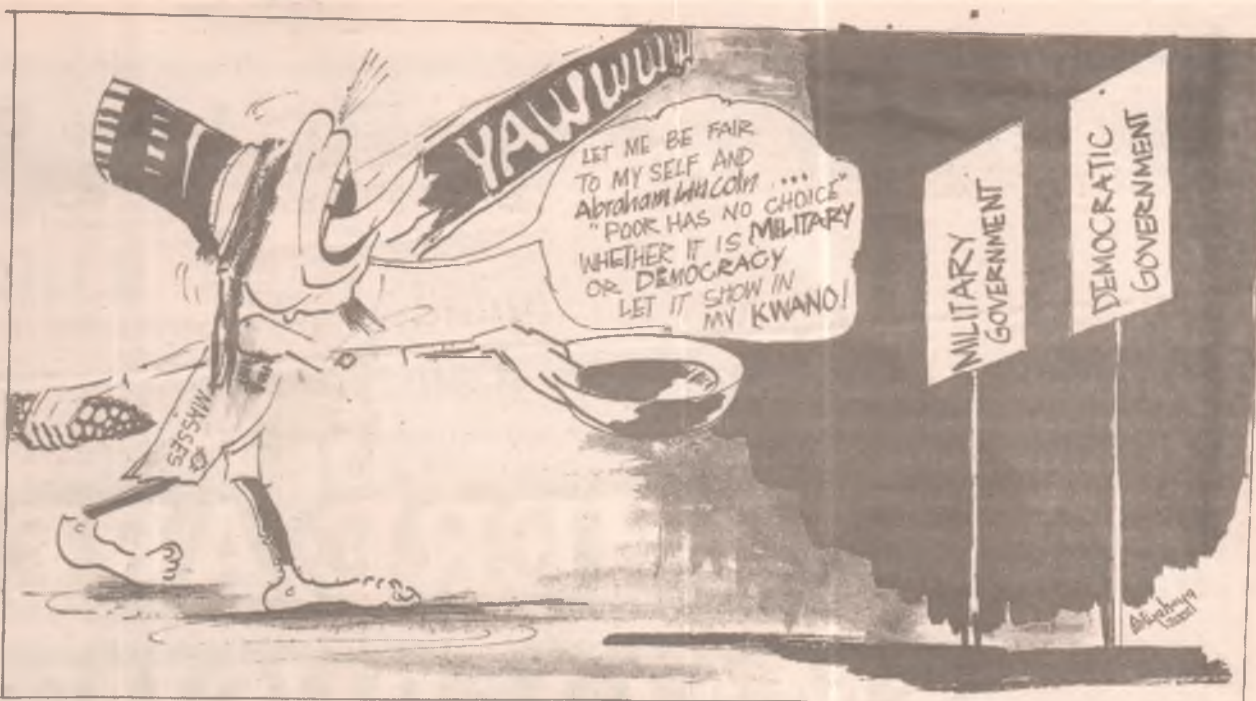
Like Nigeria in Africa, Indonesia has the most complex economic and political terrain in Asia. It is made up of isolated islands and a restive population of about 210 million people. This is one social behemoth which President Sukarno-Putri must confront headlong. Years of military rule and instability have left the economy in a pitiable state, while separatists and sectarian violence, also threaten to wreck the country altogether.

Clearly, the new president has, for now, a nationwide support, but no one can say for sure how long the honeymoon will last. Apart from an influential military, Megawati herself has no proven record of administrative and political savvy to be able to hold on for too long. How long she stays will depend on how she can use the magic which the name Sukarno has come to signify in Indonesian politics.

The democratic structures in Indonesia must have matured to such a degree that it could democratically and non-violently dismiss a president when this becomes necessary. This is a message to the new and fledgling democracies in Africa, which often seek solutions radically different from the Indonesian example. Our democratic institutions should be encouraged by this change to play the political game as it should be, instead of employing the military option whenever a political deadlock is reached.

Nigeria and Indonesia share identical social and political problems. We both have bustling populations most of which wallow in abject poverty. Although one of the Asian Tigers, Indonesia also has massive unemployment, religious and ethnic tensions and a stifling debt problem. Both countries are witnessing a transition from authoritarian military regimes to democracy.

Wahid, like most civilian dictators are wont to do, tried to play the bogey of a threat to national unity if he was removed. The people and the parliament did not think so and proved that no leader is indispensable. He has been replaced and the Heavens have neither fallen nor Indonesia disintegrated. And therein lies the lessons for dictators dressed in democratic garb.



WEDNESDAY COLUMN

Colours of the rainbow

By Ahmed Danfulani

This piece commences our intended regular weekly appearances under the main column title, with subheadings based on the nature of subject of interest as events unfold under the gracious tips of our humble pen. Expectedly, we invoke the blessings of God (Allah), the Mighty, the All-knowing to provide us with the strength and capability indispensable to the fulfillment of this golden opportunity. It is not quite common for a non-career journalist to be as fortunate as to be honoured with a precious space intently designed to contribute to national development through one's expertise: knowledge. In line with this "uncommon trust" therefore, we owe a debt of gratitude to our host for offering us a honour, which with time, we pray to honour the offer as judiciously as possible.

Honouring the offer to contribute to the exchange of knowledge and ideas in a society like ours, where the reading culture is next to suicide, is but a confirmation of our belief in the nascent democratic order. Quite frankly and for the benefit of those outside the trade of academia, it must here be acknowledged that the Nigerian press - based on our exposure to other cultures - is about the freest, if not the best of the freest in the global planet village. Oh, sorry if a heresy has here been committed! But let us leave the debate about the nature, effectiveness and utility of our press for a more robust occasion. Still, it imposes on our conscience to boldly acknowledge the very high quality of contribution and commitment to objectivity and at times blatant subjectivity emanating from our 'gurus' of the Fourth Estate. Which ever camp any one wishes to pitch a tent on this issue is quite admissible a factor of democratic stability, since in principle, a culture of democracy is but sustained on freedom of expression, opinion, dissent, conviction and consensus.

There may perhaps be no better a place to lament on the poverty of our reading culture. Several reasons have been painfully adduced. To some, the phenomenon emanated from the gradual decline in our educational institutions, due principally to a 'faux pax' in policy appraisal and in explicable misrepresentation of national priorities. To others, our declining culture of consistent learning, search for knowledge, and therefore - a positive rapport with the press, is but a product of our new craze for money and material well-being. And even to others, it is basically a result of the seeming penury of the 'ink', and most unfortunately the penury of the mind. Nobody cares to think again; no one or perhaps, the vast majority is only concerned with the basic necessity - what to eat, where to get the money when and from whom? Whether the solution to this is wholly or partially solved says much of the state of the mind. Why should anyone read when the information factory is a possible living skeleton of the disorder of our polity? The latter itself a victim of the rampaging poverty, in its widest connotation.

Poverty has been described as a condition of insufficiency, and sometimes a complete lack, of the basic ingredients of survival. So when the citizenry or the entire socio-political system is said to be under the throes of poverty, the greatest victim is the individual, the mind, the psyche and eventually the family. If the family cannot hold, the polity is in danger, the system in disarray and by extension the values, norms and mores of the nation are in disorder; instability will be acknowledged. Where due to a badly informed or inadequately enlightened citizenry, the system could be sustained by the use of force, the polity is the immediate victim resulting from authoritarianism: regimes, administrations etc. Also

where the citizenry enjoys the basic privileges of choice, freedom of expression and association in a democratic system, there is the imperative of consistent and clearly organised and well packaged information. Poverty of the latter - that is qualitative information, evidently produces a lack of democratic stability. Let us resist, once again the temptation of continuing with this debate - our initial attempt was aimed at linking the poverty of our reading culture to its national socio-cultural, political and economic implications.

Insha Allah (*Si Dieu le Veux*), we shall have a field day in future to enter into details of this issue as the column advances in age and readership.

Suffice it, to explain that poverty can be material and non material. The former, as we had earlier alluded has to do with the basic necessities of life. The latter, our point of interest has to do with the nonphysical personal, environmental or socio-cultural milieu of man. Thus, we can aver to the poverty of the intellect, poverty of character, poverty of the dignity of self. A man may have all the wealth in the world, yet poor, in terms of his culture, social dispensation and character.

A man can be extremely poor, living in abject poverty but such a fellow could possess the entire wealth of the planet in the person of his dignity, disposition and fair-mindedness. Unfortunately the more a person, a society or a nation gets richer in monetary and material pursuits, the poorer, he or the society becomes in appreciation of human moral values particularly in the realm of character, culture and truthfulness. When therefore a nation, or a collection of nationalities like we have in Nigeria, pursue material wealth to the detriment of societal moral values, it goes for admission, that poverty will be on the increase. Morality, pursuit of knowledge, excellence and distinction will be jettisoned for the craze for money, wealth and property.

Explicitly, a man without the values of probity and the distinction of the self will place none on the person of others, or his society. By extension, he becomes asocial, acculturated, insensitive and a misfit whose life ambition may be to live on the fast track, to cheat or to defraud! This analysis is intended to demonstrate the misfortune of our society arising from a disregard of the reading and learning culture! This issue and others within our beautiful country will form part of the subject that this column will address.

The colours of the rainbow are unique in presentation and extremely beautiful in conception, one of the bounties of the Lord God, in His mercy over humanity. A detailed interpretation of the Rainbows still remain an enigma in the books of astrology and science of nature. Our adoption of these colours for our first outing is explicitly to acknowledge our intentions to join the rather rich terrain of discourse on the pages of our Newsprint; an unfortunately delicate terrain full of land mines and flowers depending on character of the messenger and the nature of the message.

Words are weapons and often times are more deadly and devastating than missiles and rockets in the battle field. As we go into this marriage of thoughts expansion, exchange of ideas and public enlightenment, we intend to be guided by the crucial imperative of the survival of our nascent democratic system. Several issues of interest bordering on our specialisation in the areas of public administration, International law and relations, defense, national and international security, strategy and diplomacy will all combine to enrich our rainbows and with one single objective: providing a lively intellectual support for our democratic stability.

Danfulani is a Professor of International Affairs and writes from Abuja.



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Opinion

Maduekwe and his bicycle

By Abdulazeed Abdullahi

The Minister of Transport, Chief Ojo Maduekwe took the nation by surprise recently when he embarked on that historic bicycle ride from his ministerial quarters home to the federal executive council meeting at the Aso Rock Villa in Abuja. Before then, he had called on Nigerians to imbibe the bicycle culture, that is, resorting to the use of bicycles as a veritable means of transportation.

From the minister's point of view, some of the advantages to be derived from this shift in attitude and subsequent adoption of the idea include the cheapness of bicycles compared to the prices of cars. What this invariably translates into is that more Nigerians would be able to afford bicycles than they would cars. Another plus may be that when it becomes fully entrenched, it will help a great deal in reducing the rising level of environmental pollution in the country as a result of fumes emitted from cars, hence, ours would be a cleaner and healthier environment.

After the first bicycle ride show, many Nigerians thought the honourable minister would have gotten back to his senses and perhaps has shelved the idea altogether, more so, considering its seeming outright rejection by majority of Nigerians who took time to express their views on the issue either through radio and television talk shows or on the pages of newspapers. But as it turned out, the minister proved he was indefatigable in his quest to win the hearts of many on the need to resort to riding bicycles.

He took to the road again and as if to further drive his point home and prove just how serious he was, he decided to go it alone this time around without his security detail. But as fate would have it, that turned out to be his greatest undoing, the dispatch riders and pilot cars were not at hand to signal his approach to other road users and clear the road for him to ensure his safe passage to his destination. As a result, he became exposed to the horrors and hazards that many Nigerians, especially bicycle riders, face everyday, so much so that it has become a part of their lives. The minister got knocked down and in the process, fell into a ditch as two buses collided. Not that one wishes that such incidences occur, it is, however difficult to push away the feeling that Providence was indeed at work and reinforce the belief that certainly everything that befalls man is for a reason. As it is and as the minister's misfortune has proved, bicycle riders in this country are and have always been at the mercy of car users, many of whom at all times behave as if they own the road.

A few have towed the minister's line of argument as is to be expected, arguing that if China with its over one billion people could conveniently adopt the bicycle option, why not Nigeria with its meagre 120 million people? Certainly the argument goes deeper than this. For Nigerians to do the minister's bidding, to my mind, would be like taking a giant step backwards which will mar our efforts to catch up with the developed countries of the world in economic and technological advancements. Many countries have developed their rail transport systems into a fully functional and viable sub-sector in transportation industry, one wonders why Nigeria can't do the same. The car manufacturing industry has suffered neglect over the years and is now comatose, a little attention from the government, perhaps, would lead to the realisation of the dream of a 'made in Nigeria' car. And when that is achieved, such cars would help a great deal in alleviating the problems faced by many Nigerians who it is expected would be able to purchase cars of their own at relatively less cost. What wouldn't I give to have the picture of the minister? In the ditch.

Abdulazeed is a staff of Daily Trust.

Produce, buy made-in-Nigeria goods

By Ifeanyi Chukwuka

It is an undisputed fact that colonial mentality contributed in no small way to erase from the minds of Nigerians, the much-needed acceptance of our national values. Nigerians were unfortunately made to believe that there is nothing good in any Nigerian-made goods. As a matter of fact, the colonial masters exploited our goods, cash crops, exported them home overseas and transformed them into different products and brought same back to us. We were actually singing for them for their magnanimity and benevolence. But that was surely when Nigeria was technologically backward and uninformed.

Today, the nation has made formidable technological advancement. There is very little that is not fabricated and manufactured in this nation. But one sad aspect of this our technological advancement is the low patronage for made-in-Nigeria goods by Nigerians.

Even in the textile industry where considerable exploitable advancement has been achieved. Nigerians still prefer Senegalese, Hollandis etc to our made-in-Nigeria goods.

There is no doubt that some of our goods may not for now meet with world standards.

But if we realise the fact that practice makes perfect and that Rome was not built in a day, we will thus begin to see why we should have a change of attitude by patronising made-in-Nigeria goods. By so doing, our industries will obviously be challenged to research more into how best to improve upon the quality and standards of their goods.

In the early thirties and forties, Great Britain was the technological giant of the whole world. Any good that was not from Great Britain was considered inferior and attracted overt rejection. But today, the Japanese, the Taiwanese, the Chinese and recently Dubai, have all taken over and have become the world super powers in manufacture. Even when the standard of some of their goods, especially the Taiwanese and Chinese, are much more inferior to some Nigerian produced articles, the uncontrollable craze for these overseas made goods and indeed colonial mentality have robbed us of our much needed sense of patriotism.

Against this backdrop therefore, Nigerians should as a matter of immediate priority have a change of attitude and patronise made-in-Nigeria goods. These

goods are made by Nigerians for Nigerians. It is only when we find values in them that Ghanaians and even Koreans will come to buy them. Low patronage of these goods obviously will not encourage the manufacturers and indeed will cause the industries to fold up and the workers thrown out into the ever-increasing unemployment situation in this country. But by encouraging these industries, employment opportunities will be created for the teeming unemployed graduates of this nation and thus the impact of democracy felt by Nigerians.

Let us therefore change, buy goods made-in-Nigeria. Nigerian brocades, Nigerian waxed wrappers and indeed Nigerian made goods so that this country will depend less on the purchase of the dollars for economic growth.

Let's call a bluff to this dollar craze by Nigerians, except where very necessarily needed. Made-in-Nigeria goods are for Nigerians and made-in-Senegal for Senegalese. Once in a while, we can exchange these goods for national integrations cultural exports

Chukwuka is the Director General National Orientation Agency, Abuja.



YOUR LETTERS

Probe of Katsina LG finances welcome

Words cannot adequately express my happiness when I read in the Daily Trust of 19th July, 2001, a news item captioned: "Katsina state House of Assembly probes local governments' finances. The resolution by the assembly members to investigate the financial activities of all the local government councils in the state, with a view to find out how they have been spending their monthly statutory allocations, and internally generated revenue is a development welcomed by all concerned indigenes of Katsina state and is in the spirit of accountability, probity and transparency which is the tag name of Katsina State government under the able leadership of Governor Umaru Musa Yar'Adua. It also raises hope for the masses and indicates a sense of concern for the masses as well as grassroots development.

While the state governor and the state House of Assembly are making tireless efforts in ensuring speedy development in the state such that people can appreciate the gains brought by the present democratic setting, some local government council leaders on the other hand, are busy under developing their domains. They proved most recalcitrant in ignoring any call for refocus cum renaissance, and their dastardly practice continues, leaving their electorates in shackles of poverty, deprivation and hopelessness.

There is nothing wrong with the exercise to those

who have nothing to hide, but those with no projects to justify all the huge allocations they received, certainly, will have sleepless nights for fear of being exposed. The latter are those I would like the honourable members to beware of as they can go to any length to sabotage this effort. It is hoped that the honourable members will conduct a thorough and unbiased

investigation into the financial activities of these happy-go-lucky local government council leaders as many of them have nothing to showcase except failure and unfulfilled promises.

May Allah guide and protect you in conducting this task, amen.

Umar Kafindangi, Kankia Local Government, Katsina state.

Where are the investors?

Since the inception of this administration two years ago, President Olusegun Obasanjo toured many foreign countries in the name of inviting investors to the country. But unfortunately up to now we are yet to see investors in any sector of the Nigerian economy. In fact, many Nigerians describe these foreign trips as uncalled for.

Moreover, President Obasanjo should know that it is only when the environment is conducive that foreign investors will be attracted into the country. Because you don't expect any foreign investor to invest his resources in a country that

has constant power failure, inadequate water supply, high rate of crime and corruption. So I advise President Obasanjo to solve all these problems before inviting any foreign investor into the country.

I appeal to President Obasanjo to please stop wasting our resources in all these foreign trips, because Nigerians have not seen any dividends of the foreign trips up to now. Nevertheless, we are still keeping our fingers crossed to see the so-called foreign investors.

Isyaku A. Jibrin, Mna, Niger State.

Pambeguwa thanks Makarfi but ...

We the people in the catchment areas of Pambeguwa School of Health Technology express our gratitude to the state governor, Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi for rescinding the decisions to transfer the institution to Makarfi town.

Rescinding the decision indicates the foresight of the governor and his concern as well as determination to work towards meeting

the yearnings and aspirations of the people.

Such characteristics of the governor are highly commendable and we therefore commend him for responding to our need.

We assure the governor of our readiness to help the institution (the only state government project in Pambeguwa) to excel.

We are however appealing to government to redeem its pledge to establish a general hospital in

Pambeguwa, because such a hospital would go a long way in enhancing the health status of the people in the area and environs.

We hope that the governor has not forgotten about the proposed ultra-modern dam which he promised, last year, to construct in Pambeguwa.

Malam Haruna Shuaibu, Youth Movement Forum Association, P. O. Box 31, Dutsen Wai, Kaduna State.

Superior: Where is our luggage?

Many are left anguished for patronising the Superior International Airlines for their Umra journey, in December 2000. The untold hardship before the takeoff at Kano is ever memorable. And the quantum of anxiety, distress and hunger experienced by the passengers at Jeddah Airport, who spent about five days, before being airlifted back to Nigeria, was unfortunate. What is more is the suspense most passengers were plunged into waiting in vain, since New Year, for their luggage.

It will be difficult to quantify the amount of disservice the airliner did to the already tainted image of Nigerian pilgrims in Saudi Arabia. I am more concerned with the abandoned piles of luggage in Jeddah, for the fact that majority bought copies of the Holy Qur'an and other religious books, these are all rotting away in Jeddah, along with other presents the pilgrims bought for members of their families and friends.

Of course unlike the luggage, the substantial number of abandoned passengers eventually, some how found ways of returning home, after the holy trip.

Officials of the Superior International Airlines have never cared to publish a statement on the situations of the luggage or apologise to their valuable passengers. Superior Airlines should please explain to us, apart from the 'superior' services that we got from them, whether we have also lost our dear luggage? Remember that there are many copies of the Holy Qur'an in that luggage which should not be left to be devastated by rain or sun.

Engr. Tukur M. Lawal, Box 156, Bisije, Funtua, Katsina State.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Africa's poverty to worsen unless... - Ogunkelu

The Minister of Cooperation and Integration in Africa, Chief (Dr.) Abimbola Ogunkelu, has warned that Africa's overall economic decline is likely to



Chief Abimbola Ogunkelu

By Musa Aliyu

continue unless it initiates an alternative strategy to make gains in the current globalisation process.

The Minister, whose keynote address at the workshop on "African states and the challenges of globalisation" in Abuja, yesterday, was delivered by Ambassador Dede on his behalf, also urged African states not to opt out of the globalisation process.

According to him, there must be a means by which the continent will adjust to globalisation, hasten recovery and sustain the growth of the economies of

the various states.

This, Dr. Ogunkelu said, requires working together towards common developmental challenges of our time.

Globalisation, he further posited, may preclude those policy initiatives needed to stop and eventually reverse Africa's marginalisation in the global economy.

"It would also generate substantial gains for the developed countries at the expense of the less developed ones," he said.

To forestall this trend, "Africa must develop strategies to address the problems of poverty and underdevelopment," he

advised.

In a related development, Dr. Sunday Ochoche, Director-General of the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, the organiser of the workshop, also called on Africans to resolve the problems of insecurity and instability so as to properly tap from the benefits of globalisation.

According to him, the opportunities and challenges derivable from globalisation are numerous, especially to developing countries.

Dr. Ochoche also noted that Africa's fragility is a direct product of its underdevelopment.

He also blamed Africa for evading facts by blaming entirely its woes on others.

Mugabe's party wins by-election

President Robert Mugabe's ruling ZANU (PF) party has won a by-election in a northern Zimbabwe district, state radio has reported.

It was considered a serious setback to the pro-democracy opposition.

After a marathon 12-hour counting process, electoral officials declared that ruling party candidate, Elliot Manyika, 46, had won with 15,864 votes in the constituency of Bindura about 100km north of Harare, to 9,456 ballots cast for the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) candidate Elliot Pfebve, 32.

ZANU (PF) more than tripled the majority it won in Bindura in parliamentary elections in June last year.

A total of 25,849 votes, including 529 spoilt papers, were cast. The 51 per cent

turnout was marginally higher than the June ballot.

MDC executive member, Tendai Biti, immediately announced that he would challenge the result in court, on the grounds that the ruling party had won as a result of violent intimidation. Victory for the MDC in ZANU (PF)'s rural heartland would have dealt Mugabe a severe blow and badly damaged his party's chances in presidential elections next year.

The by-election was called after the death in a car accident in May of ruling party's chief political commissar, Border Gezi.

It was Pfebve's second attempt to take Bindura, and the political battle held deep emotional meaning for him. His brother, Mathew, was murdered last year by thugs who mistook him for the candidate.

The MDC seized all but one of the country's urban constituencies in last year's elections, as well as nearly all of the western provinces of Matabeleland, home of the minority Ndebele-speaking people. ZANU(PF)'s support lies now only among the dominant Shona speaking people of the rural eastern half of Zimbabwe.

Congolese police break up opposition demonstration

Congolese police broke up a demonstration by opposition groups in the capital Kinshasa on Monday despite moves to liberalise political activity in the country, news reports said.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reported that police moved in to break up the peaceful protest on Kinshasa's main thoroughfare moments after demonstrators unfurled a banner. About 40 people were arrested, the BBC said.

The protest was organised by a coalition of parties demanding that the government negotiate a transition to democracy with opposition leaders and with armed rebel groups occupying the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the former Zaire.

Congolese President Joseph Kabila officially lifted a ban on political parties earlier this year, soon after taking power in the wake of his father Laurent's assassination in January.

Arafat in Saudi Arabia for talks

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat arrived in Saudi Arabia yesterday to drum up support for an Arab summit on the escalating violence in the Middle East, the Palestinian ambassador to the kingdom said.

He told Reuters by telephone that Arafat would hold talks with King Fahd. The Palestinian president is touring Arab countries to rally support for an emergency summit.

It was Arafat's second visit this month to oil-rich Saudi Arabia, a key source of political and financial support for the Palestinians who are waging a 10-month old uprising against Israeli occupation.

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TRUST INTERNATIONAL

Foreign & Diplomatic



The new non-resident High Commissioner of Denmark in Nigeria, H.E., Mr. Proben Steen Selersen (L) presenting his Letter of Credence to President Olusegun Obasanjo at the State House, Abuja... recently Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje.

Diplomatic Licence



The land question in Zimbabwe

By Kevin Ebele Adinnu

Brought up in the best tradition of objective journalism, I have watched, listened to and read with dismay various foreign media employing unacceptable subjective and value-laden adjectives in news reports.

Nothing best exemplifies this bias as the coverage of the Zimbabwean land crisis. They use such adjectives as 'despotic', 'dictatorial', 'sit-tight', 'autocratic' to qualify President Robert Mugabe and "repressive" to describe his policies on land redistribution.

It becomes very worrisome when the media in Africa shamelessly serve as conduits passing on these stereotypes to their viewers, listeners and readers. They simply regurgitate these reports from foreign news agencies without questioning them professionally.

Again, the increasing scarcity of petroleum products in Zimbabwe and the sanctions imposed on her by Western donor agencies have been reported as 'fruits' of Mugabe's "dictatorship" and "repressive" policies.

The introduction of extraneous political issues into the land question is aimed at shifting focus away from Britain's responsibilities.

Any discerning mind should sniff beyond all these deliberate misrepresentations to understand the Zimbabwean conundrum.

The decision of the OAU summit that just held in Lusaka on the land question in Zimbabwe has thrown more light on the crisis.

We now know that 6,000 white farmers (about 1 per cent of the population) own 70% of the arable land forcefully expropriated from blacks in the colonial period.

We now know that Britain promised in 1979 to mobilise funds to enable the Zimbabwean government buy land from white settlers to resettle blacks.

We now know that the "fast track" land acquisition policy of President Mugabe is a reaction to Britain's refusal to honour its commitment.

We also know that the categories of land targeted for acquisition are under-utilised land, land belonging to absentee landlords, land in excess of standard farm sizes (A Zimbabwean white farmer owns an average of 3,000 hectares while the average in UK is 64 hectares), and land adjacent to communal areas (which is compensated with choice land.)

As the OAU summit observed, "the introduction of extraneous political issues into the land question is aimed at shifting focus away from Britain's responsibilities."

Britain and Zimbabwe should find ways of resolving this problem without further hurting their bilateral relations. It could be Africa's last liberation war after Apartheid.

English court overturns ban on Farrakhan

U.S. black Moslem leader Louis Farrakhan saw a 15-year ban on entering Britain overturned in a London court yesterday, although he will not be able to enter the country immediately.

Successive home secretaries had denied Farrakhan, who is accused of making anti-Semitic remarks, the right to enter Britain from 1986 onwards.

The court ruled that the ban had to be quashed and said reasons would be provided at a later date. It ordered a stay on the ruling, allowing Home Secretary David Blunkett, time to appeal against the ruling.

Farrakhan, the head of the Nation of Islam, is 67 and reported to be battling cancer. He is internationally known for organising the 1995 Million-Man march in Washington.

The government argued it was entitled to maintain the ban because of fears that his presence could lead to public

disorder in response to apparently anti-Semitic remarks he made in the past.

Hilary Muhammad, British spokesman for the Nation of Islam, welcomed the ruling.

"Now the citizens of UK will have a chance in the near future to see, hear and judge the honourable Minister, Louis Farrakhan for themselves," he said.

In November, the then Home Secretary, Jack Straw, kept the ban in place after a review of the case, saying Farrakhan had expressed "anti-Semitic and racially divisive views."

Given the tensions in the Middle East, a visit by Farrakhan would pose "an unwelcome and significant threat to community relations and a threat to public order," Straw said.

Nicholas Blake, lawyer for the Nation of Islam, said Farrakhan was "an extremely prominent spiritual, religious and social leader and significant spokesperson in the black community in the U.S."

His exclusion was "an unlawful and disproportionate interference with his right to communicate freely with his followers and supporters in this

country," Blake said, adding that the ban was contrary to English common law and to European human rights rules.

He conceded Farrakhan had made "sensitive remarks" about blacks and Jews, and about U.S. support for the state of Israel, some of which appeared "eccentric" and "certainly in poor taste and offensive," but which had to be set in the context of the U.S. tradition of "vigorous free speech."

Farrakhan had now "moved on" and his present message to the black community concerned "self-reliance, dignity and discipline," Blake said.

Clinton settles in Harlem

Harlem's 125th Street turned to a party ground Monday as the African-American community gave former President Bill Clinton a rousing welcome to his new office.

Hundreds of well-wishers showed up festooned with colourful balloons and wild costumes. New York City's

television Channel One said the party in honour of Clinton was similar to "the arrival of a rock star."

"I am really honoured to be here in Harlem," Clinton told Channel One. "I got a wonderful reception today. People here, in New York City, in the state have been really great to me and to Hillary. I am really grateful, I feel good about it."

Some groups such as the Black Panthers are unhappy about Clinton's presence, saying it will "gentrify" Harlem for white people and drive up neighbourhood rents out of the reach of black residents and shopkeepers.

Indirectly addressing the criticism, Clinton said he had worked hard as president to get \$600 million of investment into Harlem, which is driving a renaissance in poor neighbourhoods.

"I kept my word to Harlem," he said. Clinton told the crowd that New Yorkers voted for him in 1992 and 1996, and for his wife Hillary in last year's U.S. Senate election campaign, in which she won a seat.

"You were there on the darkest and the best days," he said. "I want you to know that I will be a good neighbour." "I love it, I love Clinton and I don't mind it at all," a woman

earlier told a local television channel covering Clinton's arrival.

Along with other local residents interviewed, however, she said she was concerned about the increased traffic and congestion, resulting from the contingent of Secret Service and staff that travel with Clinton. Even under normal conditions, the street is clogged with traffic and double-parked vehicles.

Democrat Clinton and his staff will settle down in a penthouse suite on the 14th floor of Adam Clayton Powell building, which has a sweeping view of Manhattan and surroundings.

The suite costs about \$300,000 a year in rent, paid for by U.S. taxpayers.

The peripatetic ex-president, who travelled the world since leaving office in January, was strongly criticised when he first considered renting a larger office in mid-town Manhattan costing more than \$800,000 a year. That was when he shifted his focus to Harlem.

The Harlem office is smaller, with a total of 720 square metres, and away from affluent areas in Manhattan, but Clinton is admired and has remained popular among Harlem residents.

Odd World

Woman spends one month with 2,700 scorpions

A Malaysian woman set a record yesterday by sharing a glass cage with thousands of scorpions for a month, saying she never thought of giving up despite repeated stings.

Nor Malena Hassan, 24, was cheered by a huge crowd in Kota Baru, capital of northern Kalantan State, for persevering to stay in the 12-square-metre (130-sq-ft) enclosure despite being stung several times.

"No problem, happy," she told Reuters by telephone when asked how she felt leaving her 2,700 roommates.

Nor Malena had lived with 2,000 of the arachnids for 19 days, then added 700 more to increase the challenge, which earned her a place in the Malaysian Book of Records.

Two weeks ago, Malaysian newspapers carried pictures of her apparently unconscious after suffering her latest sting.

But on Tuesday she said she never thought of giving up the attempt, during which she said she had to stay in the cage for 24 hours a day except for a 15-minute bathroom break.

Malaysians regularly undertake feats, both exotic and mundane, to get their names in the country's six-year-old record book.

Last weekend, food vendors in Penang State set a record by arranging their stalls in a 1.7km (one mile) line and last year a woman made it into the book after spending 31 days living with 90 snakes.

BUSINESS \$ DAY

Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE) Price List as at 31/07/2001

COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE
7UP	5.90	5.90	0.90	7	29,100	171,749.00
ABOSELAB	0.67	0.67	0.00	1	400	268.00
ACADEMY	0.90	0.90	0.00	1	1,900	1,710.00
ACCESSBANK	1.30	1.30	0.00	6	33,000	43,500.00
AFPRINT	0.97	0.97	0.00	9	105,597	1002,429.09
AFRIBANK	8.61	9.04	0.43	34	239,412	2,154,028.84
AGIP	30.10	31.00	0.90	19	40,167	1,209,272.56
AGLEVENT	1.18	1.18	0.00	6	9,456	11,158.08
AIICO	3.11	2.97	0.14	7	79,070	234,937.90
AP	19.34	19.34	0.00	3	1,634	31,601.56
ASHAKACEM	17.25	18.11	0.86	11	135,489	2,435,749.95
AVONCROWN	1.45	1.40	0.05	1	5,000	7,000.00
BERGER	2.60	2.60	0.00	3	23,000	59,800.00
C&ILEASING	1.32	1.28	0.04	6	70,000	90,412.00
CADBURY	23.60	23.00	0.60	42	159,446	3,710,354.20
CAP	2.55	2.50	0.05	3	32,006	80,015.00
CCNN	3.07	3.07	0.00	1	80,000	245,600.00
CFAO	3.00	3.00	0.00	1	104	312.00
CHARTERED	7.40	7.15	0.25	15	54,546	398,190.40
CMB	0.64	0.64	0.00	2	2,000	1,280.00
CONFIDINS	0.60	0.62	0.02	3	7,000	4,340.00
CORNERST	1.47	1.47	0.00	1	1,800	2,646.00
COSTAIN	1.14	1.10	0.04	3	44,000	48,400.00
DELTGLAS	6.25	6.00	0.25	3	90,234	541,404.00
DNMEYER	6.80	6.46	0.34	1	1,000	6,460.00
DUMEZ	2.58	2.60	0.02	1	10,700	27,820.00
DUNLOP	3.50	3.40	0.10	13	52,904	182,007.84
EKOBANK	1.55	1.55	0.00	7	206,911	311,496.27
ETERNAOIL	1.50	1.50	0.00	4	110,800	166,200.00
EVANSMED	1.33	1.30	0.03	3	4,154,427	5,400,755.10
FIRSTALUM	1.71	1.71	0.00	4	25,000	42,750.00
FIRSTBANK	25.45	25.10	0.35	94	406,442	10,194,784.08
FLOURMILL	14.30	14.30	0.00	23	133,243	1,927,114.00
FSB	7.50	7.87	0.37	11	404,979	3,187,184.73
GROMMAC	0.68	0.65	0.03	1	5,500	3,575.00
GUARANTY	5.70	5.70	0.00	6	41,500	236,550.00
GUINNESS	37.50	38.00	0.50	28	108,707	4,125,405.00
IGL	6.99	5.90	0.09	3	8,000	47,200.00
IMB	1.69	1.70	0.01	11	74,100	124,735.00
INLANDBANK	1.43	1.43	0.00	1	11,000	15,730.00
INTBREW	1.200	1.20	0.00	2	2,000	2,400.00
IPWA	1.20	1.15	0.05	1	30,000	34,500.00
JBERGER	52.05	54.65	2.60	7	16,803	885,316.65
JOHNHOLT	1.98	1.97	0.01	1	1,400	2,758.00
LASACO	0.92	0.88	0.04	2	60,000	53,200.00
LEVIBROS	24.04	24.04	0.04	47	359,319	8,538,797.96
LIBERTY	2.51	2.51	0.00	1	2,000	5,020.00
LONGMAN	4.75	4.75	0.00	1	2,300	10,925.00
MANNYBANK	1.72	1.80	0.08	5	145,000	249,800.00
MOBIL	64.35	64.36	0.01	7	15,215	983,751.15
NAL	5.23	5.40	0.17	41	889,105	4,711,019.73
NB	27.10	27.20	0.10	27	354,487	9,632,257.80
NBC	20.51	20.99	0.48	23	112,818	2,341,675.27
NCR	1.72	1.72	0.00	2	980	1,685.60
NESTLE	63.30	65.00	1.70	32	392,639	25,107,555.77
NIG-GERMAN	2.90	2.90	0.00	3	16,000	46,400.00
NIGERCEM	0.54	0.54	0.00	1	3,000	1,620.00
NIGERINS	5.01	5.25	0.24	7	3,111,100	15,611,835.00
NOLCHEM	29.70	29.70	0.00	9	11,577	343,836.90
OWENABANK	2.90	2.90	0.00	9	124,560	364,124.00
POLYPROD	0.50	0.50	0.00	1	6,000	3,000.00
PRESTIGE	2.28	2.17	0.11	1	7,186	15,593.62
PZ	13.10	13.19	0.09	26	127,689	1,679,586.40
ROYALEX	6.80	7.14	0.34	3	1,195	8,593.30
RTBRISCOE	1.27	1.27	0.00	4	2,589	3,288.03
SAVANNA	1.35	1.30	0.05	6	158,912	206,705.60
SCOA	2.28	2.38	0.10	1	300	714.00
SKBEECHAM	2.20	2.10	0.10	12	152,100	336,470.00
TEXACO	62.30	62.50	0.20	7	53,692	3,355,728.96
TIB	2.56	2.68	0.12	12	304,725	798,101.06
TOTAL	67.10	67.10	0.00	6	11,050	741,455.00
TRIPPLEG	1.35	1.35	0.00	2	35,147	47,448.45
UAC-PROP	2.89	2.85	0.04	35	1,097,400	3,125,205.00
UACN	3.50	3.60	0.10	25	201,054	723,978.40
UBA	13.91	13.90	0.01	38	225,858	3,117,078.40
UBN	24.00	24.49	0.49	95	589,874	14,230,928.16
UNIC	2.25	2.25	0.00	1	2,052	4,617.00
UNIONDICON	17.50	16.63	0.87	4	11,250	187,142.50
UNIPETROL	41.01	42.00	0.99	26	41,299	1,713,972.93
UNTE	4.00	4.00	0.00	9	10,652	42,608.00
UPL	3.29	3.29	0.00	2	5,150	16,943.50
UTB	4.70	4.63	0.07	8	75,383	340,218.61
UTC	1.31	1.25	0.06	4	12,000	15,420.00
VITAFOAM	4.25	4.11	0.14	17	136,057,290	578,240,302.50
WAPCO	21.00	21.50	0.50	20	33,069	702,131.50
WAPIC	1.81	1.83	0.02	4	15,734	28,478.56
WEMABANK	2.74	2.80	0.06	14	709,227	1,950,403.46
TOTAL				1,011	152,597,764	718,150,455.57

Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE) Gainers/Losers as at 31/07/2001

Gainers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
JBERGER	52.05	54.65	2.60
NESTLE	63.30	65.00	1.70
UNIPETROL	41.01	42.00	0.99
AGIP	30.10	31.00	0.90
ASHAKACEM	17.25	18.11	0.86
WAPCO	21.00	21.50	0.50
GUINNESS	37.50	37.00	0.50
UBN	24.00	24.49	0.49
NBC	20.51	20.99	0.48
AFRIBANK	8.61	9.04	0.43
FSB	7.50	7.87	0.37
ROYALEX	6.80	7.14	0.34
NIGERINS	5.01	5.25	0.24
NAL	5.23	5.40	0.17
TIB	2.56	2.68	0.12
NB	27.10	27.20	0.10
SCOA	2.28	2.38	0.10
UACN	3.50	3.60	0.10
PZ	13.10	13.19	0.09
MANNYBANK	1.72	1.80	0.08
WEMABANK	2.74	2.80	0.06
DUMEZ	2.58	2.60	0.02
WAPIC	1.81	1.83	0.02
CONFIDINS	0.60	0.62	0.02
IMB	1.69	1.70	0.01

Losers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
UNIONDICON	17.50	16.63	0.87
CADBURY	23.60	23.00	0.60
FIRSTBANK	25.45	25.10	0.35
DNMEYER	6.80	6.46	0.34
CHARTERED	7.40	7.15	0.25
DELTGLAS	6.25	6.00	0.25
VITAFOAM	4.25	4.11	0.14
AIICO	3.11	2.97	0.14
PRESTIGE	2.28	2.17	0.11
SKBEECHAM	2.20	2.10	0.10
DUNLOP	3.50	3.40	0.10
IGL	5.99	5.90	0.09
UTB	4.70	4.63	0.07
UTC	1.31	1.25	0.06
CAP	2.55	2.50	0.05
SAVANNA	1.35	1.30	0.05
IPWA	1.20	1.15	0.05
AVONCROWN	1.45	1.40	0.05
C&ILEASING	1.32	1.28	0.04
COSTAIN	1.14	1.10	0.04
LASACO	0.92	0.88	0.04
UAC-PROP	2.89	2.85	0.04
GROMMAC	0.68	0.65	0.03
EVANSMED	1.33	1.30	0.03
JOHNHOLT	1.98	1.97	0.01

Summary of Transactions

DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE	No. OF COMPANIES
1,011	152,597,764	718,150,455.57	87

Source: NSE, Abuja Area Office

15.25m shares valued at N718.15m traded at NSE yesterday

Trading reports collected from Abuja Area office of the Nigerian Stock Exchange indicated that a total of 15.25 million shares valued at N718.15 million in 1,011 deals were traded on the floors of the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

There were no transactions in the Industrial Loans/Preference Stocks sector and the Federal Government Development Stocks sector.

Price Movement:

The bulls tied with the bears on the floor, with a total of 25 companies gaining and losing in their share prices.

Gains were recorded in the Construction, Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Petroleum Marketing, Building Materials, Breweries, Banking, Insurance and the Conglomerates sub sector.

JBerger Plc led the price gainers, as it appreciated by 260 kobo to close the day at N54.65 per share, followed by Nestle Food Plc, which appreciated by 170 kobo to close at N65.00 per share.

Other price gainers include Unipetrol (99 kobo); Agip (90 kobo); Ashakacem (86 kobo); Wapco and Guinness (50 kobo apiece); UBN (49 kobo); UBC (48 kobo); Afribank (43 kobo); FSB (37 kobo); Royalex (34 kobo); Nigerins (24 kobo); and NAL (17 kobo).

Losses were recorded in the Food/Beverages & tobacco, Banking, Chemicals & Paints, Packaging, industrial and Domestic Product, Insurance, Healthcare, Automobile and Tyre, Conglomerates, Managed Fund, Construction and the Real Estate sub sectors.

Union Dicon Plc led the price losers, dropping by 87 kobo to close at N16.63 per share followed by Cadbury Plc, which lost 60 kobo, to close at N23.00 per share.

Other price losers include Firstbank (35 kobo); DN Meyer (34 kobo); Chartered and Deltglas (25 kobo apiece); Vitafoam and AIICO (14 kobo apiece); Prestige (11 kobo); SKBececham and Dunlop (10 kobo apiece); IGL (9 kobo) and UTB (7 kobo).

BUSINESS DAY

Stable power by December not feasible - Electricity workers

The National Union of Electricity Employees (NUEE) has alerted Nigerians that the uninterrupted power supply promised Nigerians by the Federal Government as from December 31 this year, is not feasible.

Comrade Precious Kiri-Kalio, the General Secretary of NUEE, who made this disclosure at a press conference at the Union Secretariat, in Lagos, stated that there was nothing tangible on ground to show for the realisation of the dream.

According to him, there are only seven power stations in the country out of which three are idle. The three idle stations are Kanji-Dam, Tames and Egbin Stations.

Comrade Kiri-Kalio disclosed that for the dream of uninterrupted power supply by December 31 to be, "there is need to generate additional 4,000 megawatts of electricity" which, however, the union doubts if the present NEPA technical board can attain.

Said he, "the plan to achieve 4,000 megawatt by the Technical Board is largely based on hydro-power stations and since the output of these stations are

From Samson Ojo, in Lagos

dependent on climate condition, it means in effect that Nigerians would continue to experience power fluctuation as soon as dry season sets in and there is drop in water levels in the dams.

The NUEE scribe further alleged that some members of the technical board are novices, in energy generation. He also criticised the board's mode of awarding contracts.

He said NUEE is afraid that some of the contracts hurriedly awarded by the technical board are worrisome. "They have embraced the culture of contracts award for the construction of these stations for no just cause."

He condemned the board for serving as conduits pipes to drain the meagre resources of the authority.

According to Comrade Kiri-Kalio, one of such companies being used in these fraudulent acts is LAHMEYER International Company. The company, he revealed, is owned by a member of the NEPA management. He alleged that LAHMEYER did not possess the necessary requirements to be registered as a

company, not to talk of being selected by the technical board for a contract job.

Most of the jobs been contracted to these companies were those that can be handle by NEPA operating engineers and local management teams, but the technical board preferred to contract such out at inflated amounts, he stated.

The union called on President Olusegun Obasanjo to investigate the activities of the board in order to forestall a situation whereby having sunk enormous taxpayers money into rehabilitation and re-engineering of NEPA, not much would be achieved at the end of the day.



Liyel Imoke, NEPA Boss

Air transport workers to go on strike August 7

The National Union of Air Transport Workers (NUATE) has threatened to embark on strike action from August 7, if the management of the Nigeria Airways fails to implement the agreed welfare package and discontinue the casualisation of workers.

The workers are also protesting the planned privatisation of the authority, vowing to resist it because

the proposal "is not in the best interest of the nation."

In a protest letter addressed to the management of Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), a copy of which was made available to Business Day, the workers lamented that in spite of several appeals, the management was reluctant to implement the welfare package and instead, has been offering unsatisfactory explanations to justify the delay.

In the letter, the workers under the aegis of National Union of Air Transport Employees (NUATE), FAAN branch, said the explanation offered by the director of administration/finance (DAF) on behalf of the management was laced with ambiguity and contradictions and, therefore, gave a 14-day ultimatum within which their demands be met or face a nation wide strike.

In the letter signed by NUATE secretary-general, Alhaji R. A. Saidu, the workers requested for an immediate payment of an outstanding two months salary arrears owed them, shelving of the plan to privatise the authority, harmonisation and promotion of long stagnating staff and the refund of the deducted fund for national housing fund scheme.

Other demands, as claimed by the workers include the stoppage of further payment of pensions by the authority of NAMA pensioners and stoppage of further casualisation of the personnel.

The Union scribe explained that consequent upon their discussion with the management, "tempers rose and there was frustration and apathy boldly written on workers' faces so much so that if the situation is allowed to degenerate further, the management will be faced with a nationwide industrial action."

He claimed that the union has been working tirelessly to sustain industrial peace and harmony in all the airports, but the management has been displaying a lukewarm attitude to the plight of the workers."



Kema Chikwe, Aviation Minister

NUATE protests NAMA MD's removal

By Hassan Idris

The National Union of Air Transport Workers Employees (NUATE) members have protested the removal of the National Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) former

Managing Director, Alhaji Ibrahim Auyo.

In an open letter to Mr. President issued last week, titled: "That NAMA would live," signed by the chairman and secretary, NAMA branch, Chris Adamu and Ade Adekoya, respectively, they stated that NAMA was appealing to Mr. President to come to their aid by reinstating the former MD.

They stated, that it is necessary in order that NAMA does not die prematurely because of the action taken by the Aviation Minister, Dr. Kema Chikwe in removing the NAMA former MD, recently.

The member expressed dismay over the unceremonious and premature removal of the pioneer MD, Alhaji Auyo, without any reason barely one and half years in office.

"This type of action is capable of negatively reflecting on the agency internationally, the members said.

Also removed was the Director of Safety and Electronics Services, "without any reason," the members claimed.

Banks commit N4b to SMIDA's take-off

By Rakiya A. Muhammad

Banks in the country have so far set aside about N4 billion for the take-off of the Small and Medium-Scale Industries Agency (SMIDA).

The amount was a result of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)'s directive that all banks should set aside 10 percent of their pre-tax profits for the initiative.

The Chairman, Board of

Directors, First Bank of Nigeria Plc, Alhaji Umar Mutallib who disclosed this at the bank's annual general meeting (AGM) in Abuja, said an increasing number of banks are taking a cue from the CBN initiative to promote SME programmes.

According to him, they are either launching or strengthening their SMEs portfolio through joint ventures or independently.

Alhaji Mutallib who stated that First Bank had a long standing commitment to SME financing, disclosed that the bank was pursuing both alliances including joint ventures and independent schemes.

First Bank has so far transferred the sum of N620 million to a reserve for small and medium scale industries.

In the year ended 31st March 2001, it provided total loan and advances of N7 billion to that sector.

Check excess borrowing by states, NCI tells FG

By Ahmed Shekarau

The Federal Government has been called upon to take urgent steps to stop states and local governments in the country to desist from borrowing money from banks for execution of unviable projects.


The 13th meeting of the National Council on Industry drew the government's attention to this in Makurdi, Benue State after a week-long deliberation on the situation in the nation's industrial sub-sector.

A statement signed by Bawa Mokwa, press secretary in the industry ministry disclosed that, the chairman of the council, who is also the Minister of Industry, Chief Kola Jamodu, expressed the council's concern on how governors and local government chairmen go about securing loans from financial institutions to execute projects "that are not self-liquidating." This, according to the minister, makes the governments

uncomfortable and mortgage their future.

Chief Jamodu said the council considered 29 memoranda during its deliberation under the following classifications: Industrial Policies and Strategies, Small and Medium Industries, and Infrastructures. He said the council also agreed that the Industrial Inspectorate Department of the Federal Ministry of Industry should establish an Industrial Data Bank, while the department of planning in the ministry should be strengthened with active support of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) in order to provide the required data.

The council also welcomed the need to provide an elaborate training programme to unemployed youths in foot wear, leather and leather products so as to aid government's programme on poverty eradication.



TENDER NOTICE

CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA NIGERIAN TREASURY BILLS

Notice is hereby given by the Central Bank of Nigeria that 91-day Federal Government of Nigeria Treasury Bills amounting to N31,870.637 million will be issued by an auction-based system on Thursday, 09/08/2001.

Interested Authorized Dealers (Commercial/Merchant Banks, Designated Discount Houses and Brokers) are invited to submit tenders to reach the Public Debt Office, Central Bank of Nigeria, Lagos, not later than 1.30 p.m on Tuesday, 07/08/2001.

Each tender must be in multiple of N1,000, subject to a minimum of N10,000 per tender. Authorized Dealers are allowed to submit multiple bids and quote multiple rates. A tender may be for own account of Authorised Dealers or made on behalf of interested members of the public, who are advised to apply to their banks or Brokers for the Bills.

Tenders for the Bills should be submitted on the prescribed printed forms in duplicate and in sealed envelopes clearly marked "TENDER FOR BILLS". The result of the tender will be announced before the close of business on Tuesday, 07/08/2001. The Bank reserves the right to reject any tender in part or in full.

Allotment letters will be issued to successful tenderers on Wednesday, 08/08/2001. Payment in full for the amounts of the accepted tenders must be made to the Central Bank of Nigeria not later than 1.30p. m on the issue date 09/08/2001. This will normally be effected by direct debit to the accounts of the affected Authorized Dealers which should ensure that their accounts with the Bank are adequately funded for this purpose.

**PUBLIC DEBT OFFICE
CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA
TINUBU SQUARE
LAGOS.**

Africa's stolen Art

Africa's cultural treasures are now prized by collectors and connoisseurs the world over, but this popularity is fuelling looting and illicit sales.

The digging began early in 1995. A farmer who had uncovered a sculpted terracotta head sold it to a travelling antiquities dealer for \$30, nearly twice what he could make in a month by growing and selling yams. Word of the windfall quickly spread and locals began tilling the ground around Kawu, a village of some 3,000 people 50 km north-east of the Nigerian capital, Abuja. Other prospectors soon arrived, and within a

month more than 2,000 diggers were burrowing through Kawu's stony earth. Dealers bid against each other, pushing up prices. Bars and brothels opened. Newly rich locals bought motorcycles and reroofed their houses. Palm-wine producers' brewed around the clock. "Everybody was looking for money," says Abubakar Sala, the local primary school teacher, who headed to the fields after classes to try his luck. "Farmers let their crops rot because they were too

busy digging for terra-cotta."

Africa, already plundered of its people by slavers, its animals by big-game hunters and poachers and its mineral wealth by miners, is now yielding up its cultural heritage. Across the continent, art and artifacts are being looted from museums, universities and—as at Kawu—straight from the ground. Most of the objects—ancient terra-cotta and stone sculptures, brass heads, wooden grave markers, masks and doors—end up in

By Simon Robinson, Kawu and Aisha Labi, London

Europe or the United States. The figurines unearthed in Kawu were remnants of the Nok culture that flourished in present-day central Nigeria between 500 B.C. and 200 A.D., and they are among the most sought-after items.

Long dismissed by the Western art establishment as primitive and of interest only to ethnographers and anthropologists, African art has slowly come to be valued for its intrinsic beauty and artistic merit. A flurry of activity at major museums across Europe is evidence of its enhanced stature. After nearly 30 years in "temporary" accommodations, the British Museum's African collection returned triumphantly this spring to a new setting at the museum's London headquarters. The Sainsbury African Galleries can accommodate only 600 of the museum's inventory of more than 200,000 African objects, but some of these have been in the collection since the museum's founding in 1753, and the new showcase marks the first time they have enjoyed such prominence.

Even Belgium's Royal Museum for Central Africa, which houses one of the world's largest collections of African art and has long been a monument to that country's brutal colonial legacy, has mounted an exhibition, that attempts to address some of the wrongs of the past. Entitled "Exitcongomuseum," the show illustrates how indigenous valuables were looted with impunity as the colonial masters imposed their rule. The 125 objects on display were included in a travelling exhibit that returned to Belgium last year after a successful four-year tour of museums in the U.S., Canada and Europe.

"An African should feel proud that his art, his heritage is being displayed in the Louvre," says Nureldin Satti, a senior official with the United Nations' cultural organization, UNESCO, in Nairobi and an enthusiast for the ancient arts of his own country, Sudan. "It helps raise awareness of the inventiveness and creativity of African man - that he is not the savage that people think."

Paradoxically, though,

that greater appreciation has placed many African art objects in jeopardy from looters. Few cultures have been spared. Three-quarters of Mali's archaeological sites, including most of the graves built into the cliffs along the World Heritage-listed Bandiagara escarpment, have been looted. During the past decade thieves in Niger have damaged more than 90% of all known Bura sites, where 1,500-year-old terracotta figures have been found. Ethiopia is struggling to protect its oldest silver Coptic Christian crosses and medieval manuscripts. Over the past 30 years, illegal traders in coastal Kenya and Tanzania have carted off hundreds of *vigango*, or Swahili wooden grave markers. When fighting broke out in the Somali capital of Mogadishu in 1991, one of the first casualties was the National Museum. Within weeks many of its prized exhibits, including ancient Egyptian pottery, were on sale to tourists in neighbouring Kenya.

Perhaps the hardest-hit country is Nigeria, where over the past two decades museums have been robbed of hundreds of their most valuable items. In one infamous break-in at the National Museum in Ile-Ife in 1994, thieves working with a museum guard drugged the other guards and then smashed the glass of 11 unalarmed display cases. Their haul, which included some of the best-known examples of 12th and 13th cen-

tury Ife terracotta and brass heads—albeit uninsured—was worth an estimated \$200 million. It was the third burglary at the museum within a year. Nigerian traders also target villages like Kawu, buying artifacts from locals or encouraging rudimentary digging in areas likely to yield treasures. "It's not exactly excavation," says Abiye Ichaba, an archaeologist and head of research and documentation at the Abuja Council for Arts and Culture. "There's nothing systematic about it, no pattern to it. We call it plundering."

Some of that plunder ends up in tourist markets like the one at Lekki in Nigeria's business capital, Lagos. The rarest pieces aren't prominently displayed, but ask the right questions and you can get 150-year-old Tiv wooden village posts used to protect against spirits (\$3,000); a pair of 1,200-year-old husband-and-wife Nok figurines (\$10,000); or a 95-year-old Ijaw water-spirit mask (a bargain at \$100). Across the continent, in the Masai market in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, collectors can place orders for Swahili grave pillars (\$400-\$1,300, depending on the size) or much larger Sudanese grave posts (\$20,000). Delivery can be arranged in less than two weeks.

The tourist market, though, is limited and the farther from their source such objects are purchased, the higher the prices they can command. In Manhattan, for example, a Swahili grave post may cost as much as \$10,000 while an Ijaw mask can go for \$1,000. In Africa, the best artifacts are bought by more sophisticated dealers who specialize in filling orders from Europe, the U.S. and South Africa. The European dealers "usually want to see photos so I'll email them some," says Chinedu Idezuna, a Lagos art dealer. "Scanners and cameras, that's what's bringing [the costs of] my promotion down." Once Idezuna gets the nod from his European contact—he uses several, including, he claims, Amsterdam gallery owner Paul

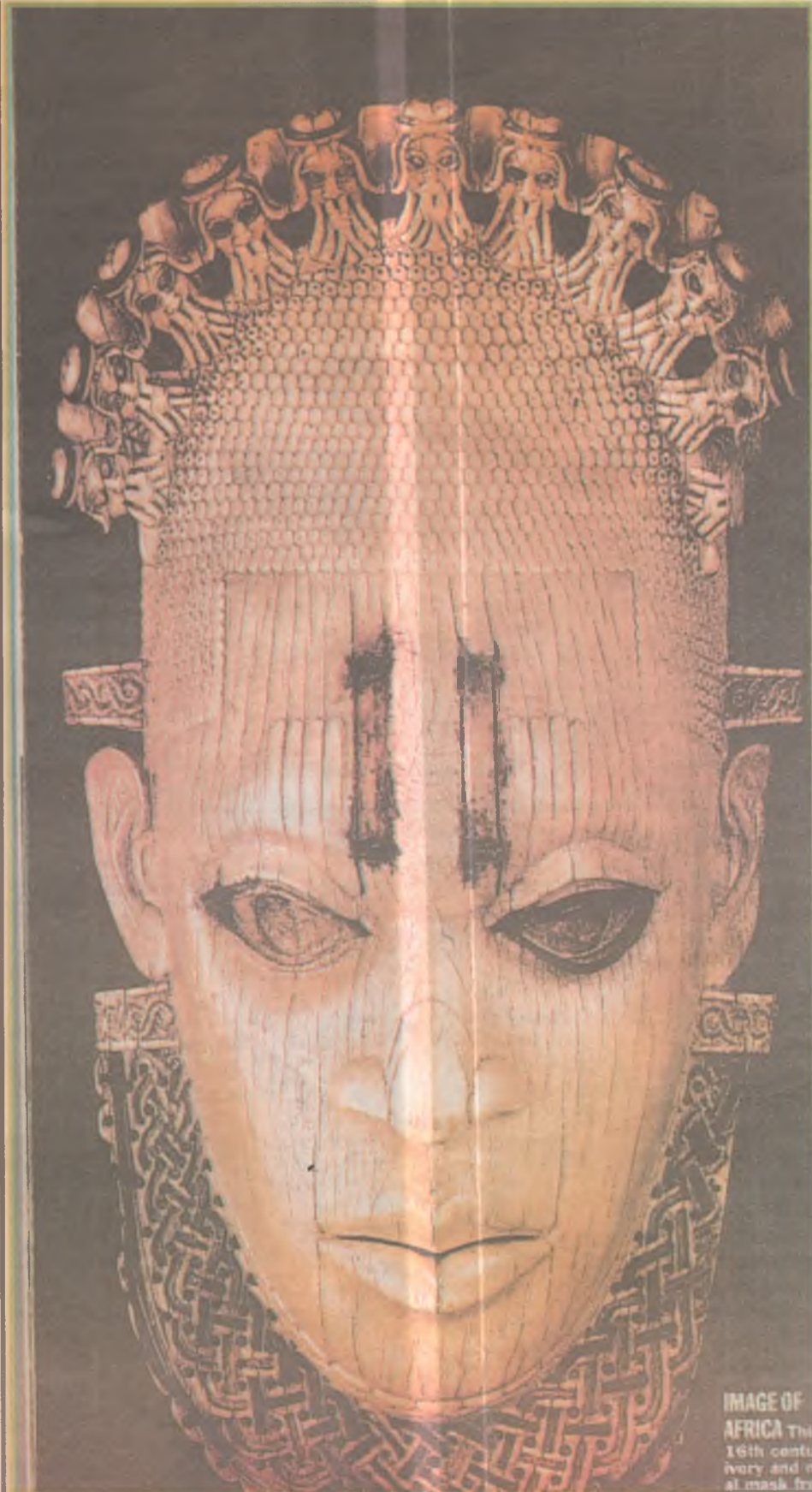


IMAGE OF AFRICA. This 16th century ivory and metal mask from Benin is part of the British Museum's vast African collection.



MAN WITH A MISSION. Omotosho Eluyemi, head of Nigeria's National Commission for Arts and Culture, is one of the items he hopes to recover.

Africa's stolen Art

Africa's cultural treasures are now prized by collectors and connoisseurs the world over, but this popularity is fuelling looting and illicit sales.

The digging began early in 1995. A farmer who had uncovered a sculpted terracotta head sold it to a travelling antiquities dealer for \$30, nearly twice what he could make in a month by growing and selling yams. Word of the windfall quickly spread and locals began tilling the ground around Kawu, a village of some 3,000 people 50 km north-east of the Nigerian capital, Abuja. Other prospectors soon arrived, and within a

month more than 2,000 diggers were burrowing through Kawu's stony earth. Dealers bid against each other, pushing up prices. Bars and brothels opened. Newly rich locals bought motorcycles and reroofed their houses. Palm-wine producers' brewed around the clock. "Everybody was looking for money," says Abubakar Sala, the local primary school teacher, who headed to the fields after classes to try his luck. "Farmers let their crops rot because they were too

busy digging for terra-cotta."

Africa, already plundered of its people by slavers, its animals by big-game hunters and poachers and its mineral wealth by miners, is now yielding up its cultural heritage. Across the continent, art and artifacts are being looted from museums, universities and—as at Kawu—straight from the ground. Most of the objects—ancient terra-cotta and stone sculptures, brass heads, wooden grave markers, masks and doors—end up in

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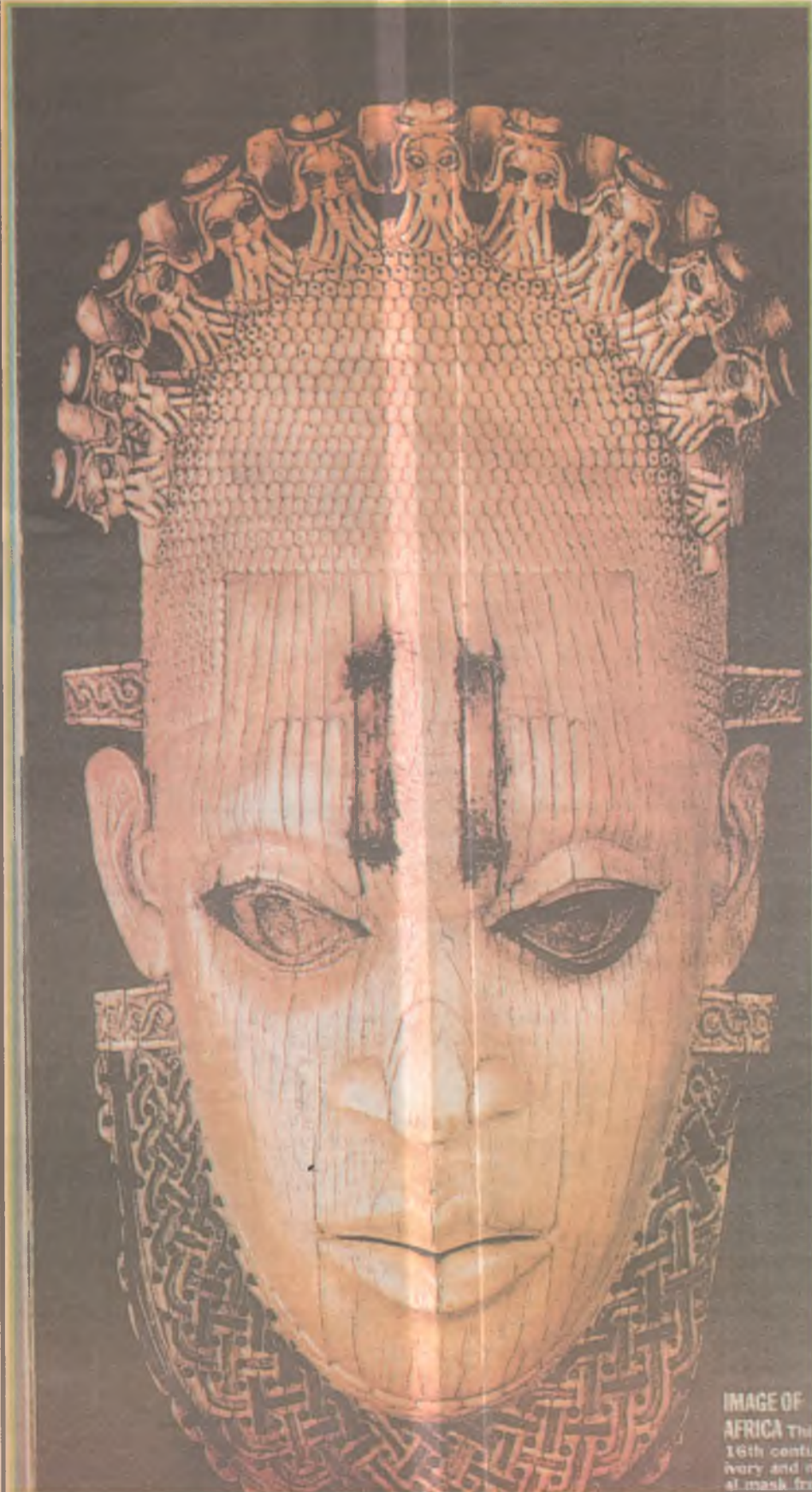
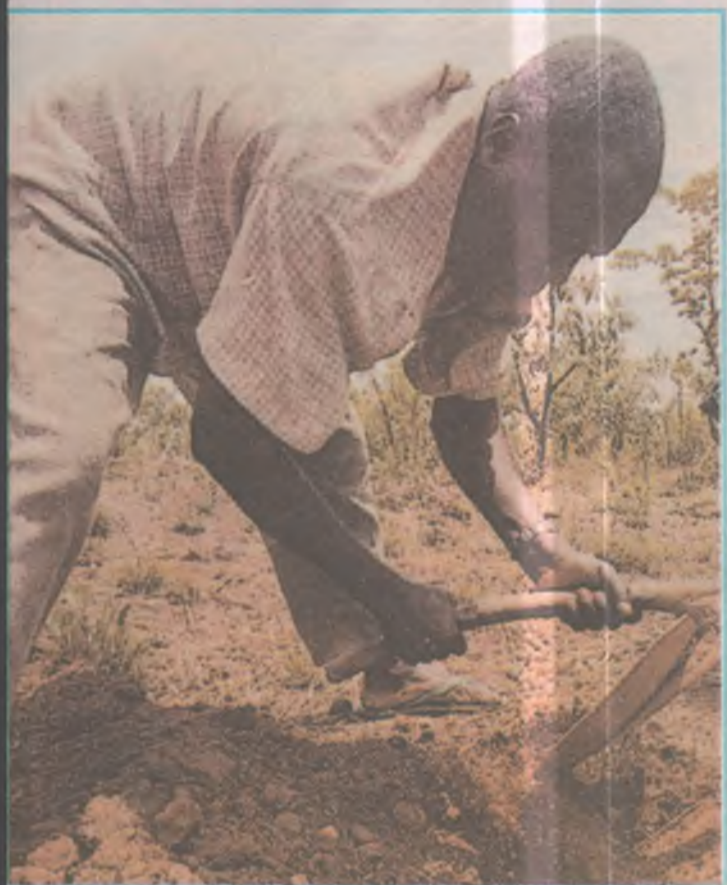


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Feature



MOTHER LODE. Primary school teacher Abubakar Sala, is among those who have tried their luck in the terra-cotta filled fields around Kawu

Rutten—he wraps the works in a thin foam cushion and carefully packs them into a handmade wooden box. Using a letter from the N.C.M.M. permitting him to export contemporary arts and crafts—but not antiquities—Idezuna books the crate onto a KLM flight to Amsterdam. “Customs check the shipment for narcotics, for this and that, but because I’ve got the letter I’m fine,” he says. “Our government doesn’t permit it, of course. They discourage it. But we gallery owners get [objects] out by telling them that we are having a show of African culture. Then you make your money by selling it once you’re in Europe.”

Rutten, for his part, states that he has no recollection of doing business with Idezuna and says he deals mostly with six or seven runners with whom he has an established relationship and whose integrity he trusts. “Maybe the runner gets the goods from the person who is really the supplier, that’s possible,” he concedes, but says that is beyond his control. Rutten deals mostly

in Asian art-African objects account for roughly a third of his inventory—and he points to the complete ban on the trade in Cambodian and Thai art introduced in 1971 as an example of how unyielding art importation laws have become. “In Holland we have very strict customs regulations,” he says. “If they believe something is illegal, they will confiscate it.” He bemoans the “many precautions we have to take nowadays in the art world,” but insists that he scrupulously adheres to the law. In any case, says Rutten, much of the problem lies not in Europe but in Africa: “Many people who should be concerned with their heritage are more concerned with money.”

Often it’s not a simple matter of choice. The single

biggest factor behind the booming trade is poverty. Villagers, many of whom have turned to Islam or Christianity and reject the idols of their forefathers, see little point in holding on to useless artifacts when they cannot afford to send their children to school or buy enough food for the family. “Why do you think we sold them? We need money,” says primary school teacher Sala. “There’s nothing those things can do for us here, better we sell them.” The lure of quick cash can be too much even for museum staff members whose salaries are rarely more than \$1,000 a year.

“People come in and offer these colossal sums,” says Blanche N’guessan, curator at the National Museum in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. “One must be very strong and really love these objects.”

Porous borders and political unrest fuel the trade. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, as in Somalia, years of fighting have left many of the country’s museums nearly empty. “For soldiers who aren’t paid, starving, anything in front of them is good for sale,” says George Abungu, director general of the National Museums of Kenya and chairman of the international Standing Committee on the Traffic in Illicit Antiquities. “Lack of order is a perfect breeding ground for people who want to collect art.” Lagos dealer Idezuna, an artist himself, says he is forced to sell works overseas because artists in Nigeria don’t make enough money to survive. “My aim is to promote and protect African culture. That is my mission statement,” he says. “But as a businessman, what do you think?”

Luckily for him, Americans and Europeans are only too happy to buy, and acquiring top quality African art and artifacts has never been easier. The single largest transit point for wholesale African art in the U.S. may well be New York City’s Chelsea Mini-Storage facility, an enormous warehouse whose ground floor resembles an African bazaar. Hundreds of traders, most of them from West Africa, have set up stalls, a makeshift mosque and a kitchen where women prepare traditional African meals. But only a sampling of their wares is on immediate display. In response to a request for Nok figurines, Moussa Cissokho, a dealer from Senegal who has been doing business out of the warehouse for more than 10 years, escorts a visitor upstairs to a secure storage unit—one of 5,000 such spaces that rent for about

\$200 a month. The presentation is modest—the figurines Cissokho unpacks are still caked with soil and the small space is crammed with boxes and wooden crates—but the price is right. For a figure approximately 15-cm long that would—if it is the genuine Nok Cissokho says it is—command perhaps tens of thousands of dollars at a gallery, he quotes a bargain price of \$3,000.

While the busy warren of activity at Chelsea Mini-Storage is one offshoot of the West’s growing appetite for African art, the Louvre Museum’s Pavillon des Sessions is another very different aspect of the same phenomenon. Here, in temperature-controlled serenity, sit two 2,000-year-old Nok terra-cotta sculptures purchased in 1999 from a Belgian dealer for nearly \$400,000. They are among the centrepieces of an exhibition that was inaugurated by President Jacques Chirac over a year ago, and the reverence with which they are displayed demonstrates the Western art establishment’s growing appreciation of African art. But

In the softly lit marble rooms of the Louvre the Nok are displayed with a respect uncommon in African museums, where many exhibits are dusty, unlabeled and all but forgotten. Moreover, they are safe. “Most of our museums are really a shame,” says UNESCO’S Satti. “You find objects thousands of years old. Anywhere else they would be real treasures, but in Africa they’re almost thrown in a corner.”

One of the Western world’s foremost authorities on Nigerian antiquities, Frank Willett, has reluctantly recommended that disputed items already in museums should not be returned to Nigeria unless they can be properly protected. In an essay for the *Journal of Museum Ethnography*, Willett said it was “depressing” that the very officials who are charged with protecting the antiquities “are not only not taking care of their heritage but are exploiting this irreplaceable material by allowing its illicit export to dealers and collectors in the West.”



QUEEN MOTHER. A 16th century bust of Queen Idia, one of five surviving memorial heads commissioned by her son, is one of the most famous images in African art.

the exhibition, which came about through Chirac’s own instruction that the Louvre devote gallery space to ethnic art, is clouded by allegations surrounding the Nok’s acquisition. Nok terra-cottas are on the International Council of Museums’ Red List of objects “banned from export, [that] may under no circumstances be put on sale” and Nigerian law prohibits their export.

Willett, Nigeria’s chief government archaeologist from 1958 to ’63, expresses modest optimism over recent developments like the appointment of Eluyemi, an academic, as director general of Museums and Monuments in Nigeria, but he compares the illicit art trade to the drug trade. “The stimulus for all of this, of course, comes from the West,” he says. “If collectors and mu-

seums were not interested in acquiring these pieces, there wouldn’t be an illicit trade in them.”

Some attempts to stem the trade in Africa may be working. Authorities in Mali have cut illegal exports by three-quarters over the past few years by enlisting villagers as informants. The Kenyan government has set up an office to work with Swahili village elders to slow the trade in grave posts. In Nigeria, Eluyemi has begun talks with a group of illegal traders—who insist on being called vendors and have even formed a union—to work out “compensation” for works they find. The digging frenzy in Kawu in 1995 slowed after six months, partly because of visits by police and cultural officials, but also because most of the artifacts were gone. “The best works” were being smuggled out to Europe leaving us with the broken ones, the ones the dealers rejected,” says Ichaba of the Abuja Council for Arts and Culture. “We had to stop it before we lost everything.”

When that happens, “we are left without context, without history,” says the Kenya National Museums George Abungu. “Why should we have the symbols of Africa’s identity shown in a glass case in Europe when they could be here where they were made? They’re not meaningless objects. They were made for a reason.” In Lagos’ Lekki market a trader pulls a water-spirit mask from under a box, holds it up to the light and explains how it is used during the annual fish festival in Nigeria’s delta region. “Everything I sell has a story,” he says. “But you Westerners are buying it for the fancy of it, not the story.”

Art dealer Idezuna recently prepared to send four more worn but beautiful Nok sculptures to Europe. Laid out on the reed-matting floor of his one-room museum they looked fragile and dainty, their texture slightly granulated, as if built up by sand and glue. Idezuna paid \$450 for the lot and expects to make \$15,000 when he sells them to one of his European contacts, who in turn will sell them for as much as \$30,000. “It concerns me that we are losing our cultural heritage,” he says, without a hint of irony. “But I don’t blame myself. If I had the money to collect them I wouldn’t sell them. But they are more protected in Europe. Here we are yet to know the value of what we have.” And as long as they are valued elsewhere, Africa’s remaining riches will continue their exodus from the treasure-filled continent.

Culled from TIME



ional Commission for Museums and Monuments, with a photograph

Features

Immigrant beggars in Abuja city

The city of Abuja has in recent times witnessed an influx of immigrant beggars from neighbouring countries. One interesting thing about the movement of these people into Nigeria is that they were neither forced out of their home countries by war or political situation or a violent crisis of any sort.

It is easy to identify them. They wear long silky hair of brown and, in some cases black or grey colours. They are generally light-skinned and are mainly slender in structure and most of them found in long gowns. Their pattern of dressing reveals a people who indeed have come from relatively dry tropics. They are slow, when they walk and from whoever they beg for money, they approach slowly and at times, hold your hand or cloth. The young ones among them just would not leave you until either you give them money or shout at them or force their hands off your cloth. The adults will trap you and may even be interested in sharing jokes with you provided he/she is sure that money will come out of your pocket at the end of it all.

The large turban usually worn by the men, *Daily Trust* gathered is meant to protect the individual against the dry dust of the desert in their country of origin. Although it appears very much like the traditional Islamic turban. Basically, some of them who

By Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman

dress alike are not muslims.

In a fact-finding mission round the city of Abuja, *Daily Trust* gathered that the immigrant beggars come mainly from two west African countries. These are Niger Republic, a country bordering Nigeria from the North and Mali, bordering Niger republic from the west.

The two countries just like Nigeria are located in the tropical region.

These beggars are traditionally known as the Buzu. It would most likely surprise many people who are familiar with the name Buzu that these beggars are Buzu as well. This is because the Buzu that most people are familiar with are dark in complexion. In fact there are two categories of Buzus. We have the black Buzus and the white Buzus, both of whom are basically foreigners. Perhaps the colour difference is caused by exposure to different weather conditions. The black Buzus are most commonly employed as security guards by individuals or communities, or organisations, while the white Buzus are commonly found on the streets begging.

In most cases, these beggars do not accept food from people and they beg mainly for money. As

immigrants who were neither victims of war or catastrophes, there is no special provision by the Nigerian government to accommodate them and ensure their economic security. Hence, it is either they are housed or employed by interested individuals or groups or they beg on the streets

and squat in some places like uncompleted buildings. Some of them who have stayed long in Nigeria have been able to rent low profile houses and even engage in petty business with which they get on with their lives. One thing that is very certain is that Nigeria has been very accommodating to these people all of whom did not come into the country through Visas but rather by free movement. This was confirmed by Taratutsha, a 36-year-old immigrant beggar from Niger Republic. "We came into Nigeria freely and we don't have any problem here. Nobody disturbs us," Mrs Taratutsha, who could speak English and Hausa apart from her traditional Buzu language, said. Although she has no knowledge of western education, her understanding of English and Hausa was a result of prolonged stay in Nigeria, which is some 14 years now.

Taratutsha informed *Daily Trust* that she is in Nigeria with her husband and children - Alhassan, Fatima and Binta. "My husband is at home in Mabuchi. He works here in Abuja as a "Mai guard" (Security guard). I had all my children in Nigeria except Binta, my first born who is now 16 years."

As a matter of fact, it is easier for the immigrant beggars from Niger Republic to enter Nigeria through Chad or Borno or even Katsina in the extreme north where Nigeria borders Niger Republic. But those from Mali have to travel a long distance, to get to Nigeria. Basically, these people came by land transport. This was confirmed by Mammodou, a Malian immigrant beggar also encountered by *Daily Trust*. Just like Taratutsha, Mammodou was forced out of his country by poverty. According to him, life has been a little easier since he came into Nigeria.

Mammodou speaks a little of English and Hausa but he does not possess



Ibraheema asks for money from a passer-by



L-R Binta, Alhassan, Fatima, Taratutsha from Niger Republic



Mammodou and his son, Ibraheema

western education. In fact, he was suspicious of the encounter with *Daily Trust*. Hence, he was not very friendly despite all mild approaches attempted to sustain discussion. 52-year-old Mammodou is here in Abuja with his wife and one son, Ibraheema, who mainly does the begging on behalf of the father. Perhaps the athlete's foot being suffered by Mammodou had prevented him from moving around like his son to beg for money. Apart from begging, Mammodou is not engaged in any form of economic activity.

The immigrant beggars are most often found around motor parks, traffic light points and market areas. These people could hardly afford educating their children in Nigeria. For example, Binta, the 16-year-old daughter of Taratutsha told *Daily Trust* that she attended French school in Niger Republic before coming to Nigeria. Fatima and Alhassan did not attend school and are not willing to do so, but they are able to speak Pidgin English.

Another good confession of the immigrant beggars is that things are better for them in Nigeria as in a day, a family could make as much as N500 -N600 from begging. They also enjoy the Nigerian weather better than that of their home country, which is

hotter. However, their experiences in Abuja just as in other places they go are not without ordeals. As a people who do not have special accommodation and who depend on free income to live, their women often fall sex victims to some Nigerians. They sometimes submit willingly to sexual exploitation in order to be given money. In this case, those of them who cannot afford to terminate pregnancy, gives birth to babies, which further worsen their sufferings. Those who are able to bring up their female children do not give them out for prostitution.

Amina and Mariame, 10 and 11 years old respectively, from Niger Republic, also encountered on separate occasions by *Daily Trust* spoke: "Our mother is not here in Wuse. We came from Mabuchi, when we leave here, we will go back to Berger Container in Mabuchi where

we are living with our mother and father." Most of the immigrant beggars live by buying and eating food because they do not have an organised accommodation where they could do their own cooking. However, a few of them who have lived in Nigeria for a reasonably long time and are accommodated do their own cooking. Virtually all of the beggars encountered by *Daily Trust* indicated their interest to nationalise and become citizens, as majority of them have not visited their home countries for a long time.



Maryame and Amina playing



Taratutsha and her children encounter a motorist

Pixs by Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman

NEWS

Quelea birds invade Birnin Kebbi

One of the most dangerous birds suspected to be Quelea birds have invaded fadama farmland in Kebbi State, devastating grown rice.

The birds that constitute a lot of nuisance to the farmers were cited in large number along Argungu, Ambursa, Gwadangwaji, Bunza and other major

From Kabir Dogon-daji, in Birnin Kebbi
places of rice cultivation in the state.

The presence of the birds, according to a farmer, Mallam Nagogo Ambursa, is causing a lot of agony for the farmers as it clearly indicates poor harvest.

He explained that the birds only feed on rice as a

result of which the stems get broken, "in fact, last year we jubilated due to the absence of the birds as we had a bumper harvest," he told *Daily Trust*.

Similarly, a cross section of rice farmers along the river bank narrated their ordeals on the presence of the birds while appealing to the state government to, as a matter of urgency, hasten the annual spray of pesticides against the birds so as to ensure good harvest.

When contacted, the State Commissioner for Agriculture, Alhaji



Gov. Adamu Aliero

Abubakar Sadiq Yelwa, confirmed the reports and disclosed that the state government has already made good its pledge of counterpart funding of N5 million to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture.

According to him, the said amount would be used to acquire chemicals and helicopters for the exercise.

Alhaji Yelwa, however, assured farmers in the state that the government was committed to food security, adding, "we will leave no stone unturned in seeing that farmers in the state are carried along in order to improve their productivity."

Adamawa to assist private schools

The Adamawa State government has pledged to assist private schools to upgrade the standard of education in the state.

Governor Boni Haruna,

The National Orientation Agency (NOA) is to collaborate with the Market Women Association (MWA) to find a lasting solution to the high cost of food items in the country.

The Director-General of the Agency, Dr. Ifeanyi Chukwuka, who made this known when the Abuja chapter of the Market Women Association (MWA) paid him a courtesy visit, said the Federal Government is worried as despite all efforts made to provide food and other essential commodities for Nigerians, the desired changes are yet to be felt by most of them.

He said NOA would organise rally for the market women to march to Aso Rock to explain to the president the circumstances surrounding the sudden price hike of food items and the solution.

His words: "We will put to shame those who think

NOA to find solution to cost of food items

that Nigeria will crumble because of hunger. We will tell them that we have mothers in this nation who will not keep quite and watch helplessly while starvation and hunger come back to the country."

Dr. Chukwuka attributed the current high prices of food items in the country to the activities of middlemen who form mushroom market associations.

He appealed to the women to reciprocate the gesture of President Olusegun Obasanjo who introduced the Universal Basic Education and the Poverty Alleviation Programme, by in turn ensuring that the prices of goods are sustainably reduced to fall within the reach of ordinary Nigerians.

In her remark, the President of the Market Women Association, Mrs. Amina Sani, attributed the high cost of garri to the unpatriotic activities of some influential Nigerians who export raw cassava to foreign countries.

She expressed concern over the escalating prices of food items and pledged that the organisation would find immediate solution to the problem.

Mrs. Sani noted with regret that the middle men through their activities have set harsh and stringent conditions for producers, thereby making it difficult for them (producers) to sell their commodities in the markets, adding, "in a situation where a garri seller who wants to sell her product is asked to pay a huge amount of money as registration fee before selling is not acceptable to us."



Dr. Ifeanyi Chukwuka

Yobe constitutes c'ttee to probe printing corporation fire

Yobe State Governor, Alhaji Bukar Abba Ibrahim, has constituted a 13-man committee to investigate the circumstances that led to the fire outbreak which destroyed the state printing corporation on Monday, July 16, this year.

Inaugurating the committee, Governor Bukar explained that the purpose was not to witch-hunt or victim-

From Hadiza Abba Musa, in Damaturu

ise anybody, but to find out the remote and immediate causes of the fire and proffer solution to avoid future occurrence.

He stated that there was no reasons to suspect foul play, but as a democratically elected government, they owned it to the citizens to investigate the incident.

NITEL's tariffs criminal, undemocratic - NUJ

NITEL's new phone tariffs for local and international calls have been described as "criminal, vicious, callous and undemocratic."

The Kwara State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) in a statement signed by its chairman, Alhaji Muhammad Tunde Akanbi, said the coming of the new tariffs at this time of economic hardship was depressing and disappointing.

According to him, "the media industry is the worst affected by the new tariffs judging from the importance of communication to our day to day job, while the masses, who are the end users of our products, are also adversely affected."

While expressing grave concern over the recent hike in NITEL tariffs, Alhaji Akanbi asked the Federal Government to intervene and prevail on the organisa-

From Abdul Laro, in Ilorin
tion to cut down the tariffs in the interest of the media and the masses of the country.

He wondered how Nigerians could cope with the new tariffs when most people "can hardly afford the new N9,000 installation fee for phone lives" and queried what NITEL intended to gain from the new tariffs.

Alhaji Akanbi berated NITEL for unsatisfactory services rendered in Kwara State despite the N36 million accruing to it monthly from the state, adding that "by the new tariffs, NITEL has started dancing to the dictates of foreign interests."

He said Nigerians must benefit from the dividends of democracy, and making telephone services available and affordable to the people, would go a long way in making President Obasanjo's administration more popular and acceptable to them.

Benue varsity liaises with Queen Margaret University

Benue State government is determined to explore all avenues towards ensuring the success of the linkage between Benue State University (BSU) and Queen Margaret University College, Edinburg, United Kingdom.

Governor George Akume gave the indication at Government House, Makurdi, when he received in audience Dr. Margaret Leppard of Queen Margaret University.

Mr. Akume expressed appreciation to the University of Edinburg, for finding the state's university worthy to have linkage with it, hoping that the department of psychology, the initiator of the relationship, would benefit tremendously from the programme.

He assured that his administration would properly address the infrastructural inadequacies of the state university to put it on a sound footing, in order to achieve

its set objectives.

Governor Akume, who said health is central to the present administration, announced that government is constructing eight additional hospitals in the state.

He added that by the year 2002, all local government headquarters would have got secondary health institution to cater for the health needs of the people.

Earlier, Dr. Leppard had intimated the governor that the visit was occasioned by the developing link between Benue State University and Queen Margaret University College, adding that the link had been pursued by the Benue Health Fund and the Department of Psychology at the University.

The focus for the linkage, according to her is to strengthen the Advanced Diploma in Health Management (ADHM), adding that a preliminary situation analysis had been carried out involving the ministry of health and the private sector.

Emir commissions computer, commercial, Sharia college

A five million naira computer, commercial and Sharia college building was commissioned at the Islamic Training Centre, Madallah, in Suleja Local Government Area of Niger State last Sunday.

His Royal Highness, the Emir of Lafia, Nasarawa State, Alhaji Isa Mustapha Agwai, commissioned the college building during the 8th speech and prize giving day ceremony of the centre.

Apart from science subjects studied by the students of English and Arabic studies, the N5 million naira building would provide facilities, equipment and other academic materials for qualitative knowledge in the three different areas.

Kano gives contractors deadline

Contractors handling the desilting of Ruwan Kanya reservoir and the west branch canal I and II of the Kano River Irrigation project have been given two weeks to complete the work or forfeit the contract.

The Chairman of the Hadejia Jama'are River Basin Development Authority, Alhaji Danladi Abdullahi Sankara, gave the warning after an inspection tour of the site.

Alhaji Danladi Abdullahi Sankara discovered during the tour of the site that only

By Habiba Adamu

Speeches were delivered and prizes were given to three best students of the nursery/primary and secondary stages of the centre.

Also, the best students of Arabic Language received prizes from the management of the centre.

During the occasion, Islamic songs were rendered by the pupils/students of the centre with a short drama also conducted by the students.

Meanwhile, the school magazine *Al-Hikmah* (the wisdom) was launched at the occasion.

The Emir of Zazzau Suleja, His Royal Highness, Mallam Muhammad Awwal Ibrahim, among others, graced the occasion.

From Jamila Nuhu Musa, in Kano

less than half a kilometre out of the 6.5 kilometres was desilted.

The chairman expressed displeasure over the development and promised to take appropriate action by re-awarding the contract to more competent contractors if the work is not completed within the two weeks.

The chairman expressed disappointment that the desilting work was being carried on the canal manually without relevant machinery.

Public Announcement

BOOST FOR YOLA TO ABUJA AND ABUJA TO YOLA PASSENGERS

Your favourite Airline, Albarka, has added a 44 seater HS-748 aircraft to its fleet to enable passengers on the Yola to Abuja route travel more regularly and more comfortably.

Beginning from Thursday, July 26th, 2001, Albarka Air will depart Yola Airport daily for Abuja at 8:00am and return to Yola in the evening at 4:00pm.

These daily flights cover all days of the week except Saturdays.

The 44-seater aircraft is also available for charter.

Now, you don't need to rush out of Abuja before concluding your business transaction. Albarka Air now departs Abuja for Yola daily at 4:00pm

YOLA TO ABUJA
8:00am Daily

ABUJA TO YOLA
4:00pm Daily

Fly Albarka... The People's Airline

INSIDE POLITICS

2003: APP must be agent for change, says Ali

National chairman of the All Peoples Party (APP), Alhaji Yusuf Ali, has reiterated that as the 2003 general elections draw close, the party must be strategically positioned to be an agent of change by snatching power from the PDP.

Declaring open the party's national executive committee meeting held in Birnin-Kebbi at the weekend, the APP national chairman said as the party begins to prepare for the 2003 general elections, it must clearly define its targets.

"The APP must be an agent of change not change as a slogan, but functional and desirable change that will provide succour to the teeming masses of this great country. Change that will make life more meaningful to all," he explained.

Accordingly, the APP chairman called for all hands to be on deck to reposition the party for the arduous task of winning the 2003 council elections and ultimately, capturing power at the federal level come 2003.

Said Ali: "For the APP to realise the aforementioned and noble objectives for the benefit of our people, we must work hard to acquire power."

"It is appropriate, therefore, that at this meeting we should begin to work on our strategies for overwhelming victory in the next round of general elections," he added.

Adamawa govt suspends LG Boss, councillors

The Adamawa State government has suspended the chairman of Hong Local Government Council, Reverend Eric Thema, and all his councillors from office following what it called "the breakdown of law and order in the area."

A press release signed by the state Director of Press, Mr. Sam Leneke, said Governor Boni Haruna "suspends the council with immediate effect."

Consequently, he said, the Head of Service of the local government council would take effective control of the council.

"For the avoidance of doubts, all supervisory councillors and the secretary



Gov Haruna

By Henry Omuu
The party's national chairman revealed that there was no automatic ticket for APP governors, stating that



Yusuf Ali, APP chairman

it was the performance of governors in delivering democracy dividend to their people, which will assure them a second term.

He told the meeting that an amendment of the party's constitution had been completed and that the amended document makes provisions for the creation of party caucuses, zonal structures and functions, including zonal and state working committees.

The amendment constitution will however, be satisfied by the national executive committee of the party, at its next meeting slated for Ilorin in September.

Alh. Ali equally said that the national secretariat of the party has concluded plans to set up standing committees to assist in the smooth-running of the party.

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, in Yola

to the council are hereby relieved of their appointment," the statement added.

The statement further maintained that the governor used the power conferred on him by Section 28(2) of the state law to sack the council chairman and all those affected.

According to him, the decision to suspend the chairman followed the breakdown of law and order in the area as a result of a protracted crisis in the council.

Speaking on protests, which have bailed the state congresses organised by the party, the chairman appealed to aggrieved party members to exercise patience as the national secretariat has set up an appeals committee to review all cases brought before it.

...Bafyau, four others to know fate Sept.

Four national officials of the All Peoples Party, including former Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) president, Mr. Pascal Bafyau suspended by the party for anti-party activities will have to wait till September, to know whether they have a future in the APP or not.

This was the outcome of the national executive committee meeting of the party held in Birnin-Kebbi at the weekend, where it was equally decided that the APP hold its national convention at Sokoto in December, 2001.

According to the communiqué issued at the end of its executive committee meeting, the party said it could not review the suspension order placed on Bafyau and others, because

Daily Trust learnt that protesting party members from Lagos, Osun, Adamawa and Kaduna had stormed the venue of the Kebbi meeting alleging various irregularities in the conduct of the congress.

He assured that when the appeals committee concludes its assignment, the report will be dispassionately assessed by the NEC to ensure justice and fairness.

the disciplinary committee investigating the allegations levelled on the suspended national officers and chaired by Zamfara governor, Alhaji Ahmed Sani could not submit its report at the Kebbi meeting.

Instead, the party agreed that the report of the Governor Sani committee be reviewed at its next national executive committee meeting slated for Ilorin, the Kwara State capital in September, 2001.

Expectation had been that, the meeting would lift the suspension slammed on Bafyau and his three colleagues, especially when the group had been persuaded to withdraw the suit filed by them at an Abuja high court, challenging their suspension.

Afenifere demands equal representation in INEC

Chief Ayo Opadoku, the General Secretary of the Afenifere and a chieftain of the Alliance for Democracy (AD), has demanded for equal representation for all registered political parties in the composition of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

He made this demand in an exclusive interview with Daily Trust in his office recently.

According to the Afenifere scribe, for state electoral commissions to be allowed to function, necessary arrangements must be put in place to accommodate all parties, because "it is the only way through which free and fair elections can be guaranteed."

Opadokun, pointed out that the present composition of INEC gives room for

From Samson Ojo, in Lagos

electoral manipulations to be perpetuated by the ruling PDP.

The Afenifere chieftain stated that; state and local governments were in the habit of officially exhibiting clear discriminatory practices against opposition parties.

He described the recent boycott of the by-election in Akwa-Ibom State, by members of Alliance for Democracy (AD) and All Peoples Party (APP) as proper alleging that the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) dominated the state electoral body and was partial in the conduct of the election.

Opadikum emphasised that allowing equal representation of all registered political parties in the composition of the electoral body will enhance the confidence of all parties.

Gov Nyame declares second term ambition

Taraba State Governor, Reverend Jolly Nyame, has declared his ambition to secure a second term in the 2003 election, saying that there is no vacancy in the state governor's lodge.

He told journalists in Kaduna yesterday that as far as 2003 election was

From Dare Oyewole, in Kaduna

concerned, "the governorship seat in Taraba State is not vacant."

The governor was answering questions from



Gov Nyame

journalists shortly after signing a N709 million contract for the construction of Jalingo bypass with the Sterling Construction Company in Kaduna.

"As far as 2003 is concerned, I want to assure everybody that the seat is not vacant. As long as I am alive, as long as I want to contests the seat of governorship in Taraba State, the seat is not vacant," he said.

According to him, he is well aware of the "magic" needed in securing a fresh mandate in 2003 and that he was already using it by embarking on projects that have direct bearing on the lives of the people of the state.

"This is my second time of coming and if I want to come back the third time, I will have it because I know the magic," Nyame said.

He said that even if he was not re-contesting the 2003 election "anybody who wants to be governor would have to get my blessings."

Nyame also chided the PDP governor who attended the recent Benin meeting, convened by Governor Lucky Igbinedion of Edo State, saying that there was no good intention behind the meeting.

According to him, because the governors of the meeting had bad intention, the meeting was bound to fail, adding that if it was an all PDP governors affair "all the PDP governors ought to have been there, but because they selected only a few governors that was the beginning of their failure."

Beware of anti-democratic groups, Obasanjo warns Nigerians

President Olusegun Obasanjo, Monday alerted the nation of the existence of anti-democratic groups, which he alleged are bent on returning the country to the past.

The president, who raised the alarm when members of the Nigeria Defenders of Democracy (NDD) paid him a visit at the State House, did not, however, elaborate but called on Nigerians to stand firm against opponents of democracy.

"Let us never be tired of defending democracy. We have no alternative to democracy, so we must not

allow them (anti-democratic elements) to succeed," he declared, stressing that the nation's watch-word now must be democracy at all times.

"No matter what anybody must say, or do, we must be clear where we are going, but sooner than later, we will be there," he assured, adding that although democracy has its weaknesses, the skirmishes been experienced are parts of the beauty of democracy.

President Obasanjo then pleaded with Nigerians to respect all democratic institutions upon which democracy is built, stressing

that although the constitution may be imperfect for now, and needed amendment, "yet it must be defended until there is a way to amend it."

"Anybody who wants to go away from that should be cautioned," he warned, and urged all those perpetrating evil against democracy to hold their activities in the nation's interest.

Earlier, the NDD national president, Otumba Omosebi, said the association was established specially to defend democracy in the country, and pave way for a second term for this

administration in 2003.

He said, the association, currently been funded by members, was in need of assistance, to propagate its activities across the country, adding that it planned to establish a news magazine called "Democracy News", intended to be used to educate Nigerians on sustenance of democracy.

Otumba Omosebi who conferred on President Obasanjo, the title of "defender of democracy", commended government for its programmes, particularly the anti-corruption crusade,

the setting up of Oputa Panel on Human Rights Violation among others.



President Obasanjo



Lifeline

BRITAIN

Scientists from Britain believe they have caught living extra terrestrial bugs on the edge of the atmosphere, it was disclosed yesterday.

If confirmed it would be the first definite proof that life exists beyond the Earth. The microbes, stuck together in clumps, resemble bacteria found on Earth.

But the height at which they were found, and their distribution, indicates strongly that they were not swept up in air currents but fell from space, say the scientists.

About a third of a tonne of the space bugs fall over the entire planet each day, the researchers estimate.

The findings were presented at a meeting of the International Society for Optical Engineering in San Diego, California, on Sunday.

High altitude balloons, launched from a research facility in Hyderabad, India, earlier this year, were used to collect the air samples. Sophisticated sampling devices were employed which kept the air in highly sterile conditions to avoid any chance of contamination.

MOSCOW

Six persons drowned in Moscow ponds and rivers on Sunday, bringing the death toll from drowning to 276 so far this summer, the city ambulance service said yesterday.

Only in July, the hottest month over the past decades, 255 Muscovites have died in rivers, lakes and ponds while swimming to escape the rare torridity, said the service.

On Saturday nine people drowned while enjoying weekend holidays in water, and five people drowned with another three rescued on Friday, an ambulance official said.

Russians love swimming in summer and hundreds of them die in water accidentally every year. Over this summer, the number of drowning fatalities is expected to beat all the previous grim records and exceed 300, the official said.

TEHRAN

Just days after a serial killer who murdered 19 prostitutes was arrested in a north-eastern Iranian city, the bodies of two other prostitutes have been found in Tehran, newspapers reported yesterday.

In what appeared to be copycat crimes, the women had been choked to death with their own headscarves last week. A police report said one body was abandoned on a Tehran highway and the other one found in a western district of the capital.

Last Wednesday, a 39-year-old married man with three children was arrested in Mashad, capital of Khorassan province, and accused of the killing spree, which the press has dubbed the "spider killings."

The man said during interrogation that he had had a list of 150 prostitutes whom he planned to kill to "clean up" the district.

The serial killings have caused political uproar because the murders had been linked to an organised group committed to "cleaning up" Mashad, a holy city, of "immorality".

Prostitution is forbidden in Islamic Iran, but exists in most of the big cities and is gradually getting out of government control.

The *Daily Iran* reported that 36 prostitutes belonging to a prostitution ring were arrested in the town of Astara in the northern Caspian sea province of Gilan, which is a summer resort for Iranians.

Police in Mashad had to acknowledge last week that they were aware of the sex trade when they were forced to round up 500 prostitutes and lodge them in welfare centres to prevent further killings.

USA

A team of U.S. scientists concluded that for every gene there is an average of 14 different versions in the world population.

The finding, announced by scientists with Genaissance Pharmaceuticals in New Haven, Connecticut, is a breakthrough that makes feasible the development of personalised medicine.

"By being able to define gene versions, we can now determine those versions that predicts drug response and, hence, change the current drug paradigm that one drug fits all individuals," says Ruano, CEO of Genaissance in a statement reaching Washington on Saturday.

The Genaissance scientists analysed 313 genes from 82 unrelated people from different ethnic backgrounds. They found 14 versions on average for each of those genes and have found the same level of variation.

From a medical treatment perspective, such variations probably explain why different people respond very differently to the same medications.

The pharmaceutical industry has been investigating specific gene variations called single nucleotide polymorphisms, or SNPs, and compiling a shared database. The goal is to develop "personalized medicine" for patients.

The notion is that patients have a genetic test that shows which variation they possess and have a doctor to determine which medicine is best based on those variations.

The new research by Genaissance takes research on genetic variation a number of steps further by identifying the relationships between specific SNPs and different versions of a gene. The group says that it can develop a genetic profile for an individual containing all of his or her specific gene variations.

Abuja's "Indian Bazaar"

The Berger junction area of the federal capital city, Abuja, is akin to a place like Oshodi in Lagos, Dugbe in Ibadan, or Kawo in Kaduna.

At any point in time particularly during the day and before midnight, the place is a beehive of various activities including the serious and the mundane.

Here in Abuja, the Berger junction at its peak period is a place you walk with your hands in your pockets, else another smart Nigerian may help to deplete them.

However, apart from the sunshine, the Berger junction can boast of very serious trading that can be compared to something like the Indian Bazaar.

At Berger junction, Abuja, one can do virtually all the shopping needed for

the home even though the bazaar is an illegal one because the municipal area council

has not approved the place for a market but Nigerian have a way with it.



The shoe line at Berger

Let Tyna rest in peace

By Chioma Maduka

Saturday is always a restful day for my entire family as we gather round to watch entertaining programmes on television, especially the Charly Boy Show. But, we never knew what was to come next on the programme only to be hit by the painful death of one woman people admired in every way... Tyna Onwudiwe.

Tyna was one vibrant, brilliant and energetic beautiful woman who entered the Nigerian music industry with her own genre of music which music lovers couldn't resist, especially her rhythm, and style of performance. She had a world of her own.

As a trained journalist, Tyna's love for music made her to produce an album, which gave her a unique identity of being referred to as 'African Onyibo.' This didn't stop Tyna's quest for knowledge and adventure as she later became a textile designer and an ambassador to her country in South Africa by launching a project to redeem Nigeria's battered image which she called 'Operation Save Nigeria's Image.'

This project went a long way

in giving South Africans and foreigners a better notion of Nigerians and Nigeria, making life more comfortable for Nigerians in South Africa and abroad.

Tyna's strength and courage were shown on her sick bed where she refused to allow death to set in. Even when her doctors in South Africa told her that she had few days to live, Tyna still fought, holding on to her belief that she won't die and to the surprise of many, she miraculously lived from days to month.



Tyna

Everyone that knew and loved Tyna shared her belief and lived with her every single day on that sick bed, praying that the episode of pain would be over, but the sting of death played a fast one on all of us.

Tyna who suffered from asthma at a tender age was diagnosed with pneumonia last year when she started feeling pains in her chest until early this year when she was told she had lung cancer. That came as a shock to the doctors who believed that Tyna was still very young at 47 to suffer from lung cancer.

But the shock in many is eliciting contempt, and antagonism from individuals, public commentators, and groups who hurriedly make their comments on the pages of newspapers and magazines without showing the slightest degree of respect for the deceased and members of her family. They go on the usual wild goose chase by categorically linking Tyna's untimely death to cigarette smoking.

The long cherished African tradition and culture teaches us that the dead are to be respected. It smacks of cowardice and hypocrisy to raise issues and un-

necessary controversies only after Tyna's death. If Tyna's father categorically stated that Tyna in her adolescent years never smoked and concluding his statement by saying that her close associates Charly Boy and Onyeka Onwenu whom she lived with never saw her smoke, then why are these anti-tobacco attention seekers rushing to make the inference.

It is quite unfortunate that unpleasant stories are itching to be built by people's selfish and unfounded ideas, forgetting that not all cases of lung cancer are tobacco-related. Amazingly, there are some who are chain and protracted smokers who do not contact lung cancer, while most do, and some who never smoked cigarettes end up with the deadly disease.

A typical example is the hale and hearty Oba of Lagos who only recently, celebrated his 90th birthday would have longed passed away to join his ancestors considering the fact that he remains to date a cigar smoker. Likewise Monsignor Pedro Martins who is also over age 90, once jocularly remarked that prolonged cigarette smoking have not succeeded in killing him at his age, and the health warning that cigarette smokers are likely to die young is not applicable to him.

I implore these attention seekers and opportunists to stop playing God as we all are mortals. We do not know how, where, and when to answer the inevitable call of death.

Tyna has made the entire *Ndigbo* and myself proud of our rich heritage as it is worthy of note that she never for once denied her roots, despite the fact that she is a mixed blood. Therefore, concerted efforts should be channelled towards taking care of her kids whom she left behind, for us to nurture and love.

Please let us respect and honour the dead by leaving Tyna to rest in peace.

Chioma Maduka writes from 12, Ogunsola Close, Orile-Iganmu, Lagos.

Ajibola defends First Lady's large entourage to U.K.

Amidst intense criticism of the First Lady, Mrs. Stella Obasanjo's 54-member entourage to London, Nigeria's High Commissioner to the UK, Prince Bola Ajibola, has said that the large number of the delegation was in order.

In a chat with the western Europe correspondent of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in London last weekend, the high commissioner said that the delegation was not only representing Nigeria but Africa as well, because Nigeria was the only country outside the Caribbean region invited to "Caribbean Expo 2001."

He said that the large delegation was necessary to "make a lasting mark" and showcase "our culture in terms of dressing," stressing that the country gained a lot from the First Lady's atten-

dance at the exhibition.

He, however, admitted that his initial feeling was that the delegation was "rather large, wondering about the essence of such a delegation" but in retrospect, "it is better that it was large enough to make a lasting mark."

He said that participants at the exhibition displayed a lot of made-in-Nigeria goods, stating that the exhibitors included Zamfara State and Nigeria's All Africa games committee.

Prince Ajibola stressed that if handled effectively, the tourism industry in Nigeria could generate revenue more than oil, disclosing that Cuba earned more than eight billion dollars a year from tourism.

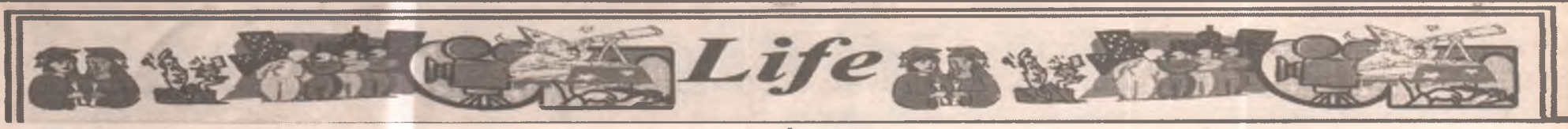
The first lady and her entourage attracted uproar and curiosity at the exhibition and at a cocktail party before the com-

mencement of the exhibition at Excel, Docklands, South-East London.

The delegation included the Minister of Culture and Tourism, Chief Executive of Nigeria Tourism Development Corporation, wives of state governors, ministers, service chiefs, among others.



Mrs. Stella Obasanjo



Ladies join advance fee fraudsters in Abuja

The mere mention of Suleja, Niger State could evoke a lot of sad memories in the minds of some Nigerians particularly those residing within the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and its environs.

Until recently, advance fee fraudsters held sway in the ancient city of Suleja, but now all

By Uwem Umo

that is no more as most of the operators of the advance fee fraud business seem to have relocated to various places regarded as "fertile areas" in their parlance.

One of such places the advance fee fraudsters have relocated to is a place called Jabi dis-

trict within the FCT.

For many unsuspecting Nigerians, Jabi is synonymous with the practitioners of advance fee fraud.

Just recently, one Helen Ezenwanyi otherwise known as Helen - Oliver cleverly deceived one Fatima Ahmed by telling her that she could introduce her to a herbalist who could make her financially buoyant.

In the process of wanting to improve her finances, the 32-year-old Fatima lost N55,000 to Helen and rather than her financial situation getting better, she found herself fleeced of some already hard earned money.

The matter has reached the Abuja Upper Area Court where Helen pleaded not guilty before Alhaji Aliyu Abdulrahman, the Upper Area Court judge.

She was arraigned on charges of criminal conspiracy and cheating contrary to sections 97 and 322 of the penal code, granted bail and the matter adjourned to August 14, 2001 for further mention.

The interesting thing is that two men alleged to be her accomplices are on the run but sources revealed that the syndicate members were very much around during the court proceeding and had even arranged to bail Helen.



Eng. Abba Gana, FCT Minister

Situation vacant; Man wanted urgently for marriage

By Idang Alibi

A young, strikingly beautiful, adorable, intelligent and ready-to-be-submissive lady, between the ages of 25 and 30, who is now anxious to settle down, desires for immediate marriage, a man with the following qualifications:

Age: The man of my dream should be between 35 and 40 years of age.

Physical Attributes: (a.) **Facial appearance:** He should have a strong well-formed face consisting of a straight nose, high cheekbones, full lips and a well-groomed sideburns and moustache. (b.) **Height and Build:** The applicant should be six feet tall and well proportioned, with his two halves giving the overall impression of balance. The upper portion should not be heavier than the lower trunk, making him look like an improper fraction. (c.) **Complexion:** The man should be light in complexion or at least with a coffee brown colour. Any man with a "sexy yellow" complexion will have a slight advantage.

The overall picture of the kind of man being sought is a tall, light complexioned slender man of muscular build with a strong and firm body, flat tummy and broad and hairy chest. On this would sit a round head and handsome looking face.

Note: Any man who is dark and short, with a blunt nose, a protruding stomach and flabby body need not apply.

Love Status: The applicant should be totally unencumbered. He should not be a divorcee, widower or an aspiring polygamist. Nor should he have a history of having been an "Impregnator" (a man who having impregnated a lady, runs away). No applicant should have "Love children," whether living or dead. He should not in any sense, be a second-hand man.

Disposition: The man I am looking for should not be a typical African male chauvinist who

thinks it is abnormal to express love to a woman. Rather, he should be an ardent romantic who will perpetually woo me and show me that he loves me. He will be as generous to me with gifts as he is with compliments. He should be the kind of man who will make our marriage a perpetual honeymoon. He should be a man who knows how to treat a woman real good.

Socio-Economic Status: Since it is not my desire to share any man's sorrows with him, the intending applicant should be certain that he is economically viable. He should measure himself by the following indices:

Habitation: If he lives in Abuja, his residence should be in Asokoro, Maitama, Wuse II or Garki II and if in Lagos, his abode should be in Ikoyi, Victoria Island and Lekki Peninsula. Applicants who live in Ajegunle or Ijora Badia or Karimou and Mararaba in Lagos and Abuja should not bother to apply.

Garage: His garage should sit such state-of-the-art cars like Lexus, Jeep, Mercedes Beast, B.M.W. and Stretch Limousine.

Occupation: He should either be a Senior Civil Servant, a high profile political appointee or an international businessman. He should not be a teacher or the kind of Civil Servant who relies solely on his salary.

Social Acceptability: He should be the kind of man who goes in and out of Aso Rock and is on first name terms with the number one occupant of that fortified enclave.

Monetary Possession: He should be a proud owner of several bank accounts none of which is ever in the red. One with a Swiss bank is an icing on the cake.

Upbringing: The man who intends to share his life with me should be the product of a good home. His father and mother

must not have been separated or divorced but lived as husband and wife till death did them part.

Academic Status: Although I have been decorated with the medal FSS (Failed Senior Secondary) by WAEC and NECO, my dream man should be a university graduate and from one of our first generation universities. And he should have graduated before 1987 when things started falling apart in our educational system. Because of my modest academic attainment, I want a partner I can really be proud of, one who will make up for my sad failure.

Ethnic Affiliation: It does not matter whether the Mister Right I am looking for is Ibo, Hausa or Yoruba, given my readiness to adapt to what custom or tradition his people practice. What is however of paramount importance to me is that he should belong to the ethnic group of "haves" and especially to the tribe of the "few who get the most."

Religious Belief: The religious faith of my prospective husband does not matter since I am prepared to convert to any faith my man believes in, provided he meets the requirement specified in (1 - 8) above.

Note: The above requirements are just a rough idea of the kind of man I desire. The sum of it is that only an established or a young upwardly mobile man is needed. Any dreamy-eyed young man who lives in a face-me-I-face-you apartment in a neighbourhood that looks like "the valley of the shadow of death" and deludes himself by thinking that "the young shall grow," is not eligible to apply.

Any man of any race who thinks he meets these requirements should apply to:

The Confident Lady
P. O. Box 1,
Abuja,
Nigeria.

Ladies' Line

From Jamilah Nuhu Musa

Abortion; matters arising

Dr. Sani Oladokun a consultant gynaecologist once had the misfortune of operating on a 22 year old girl whose intestines were pulled out by a quack doctor in an attempt to terminate a pregnancy. She did not survive the ordeal.

According to reports at least 610,000 pregnancies are terminated yearly in Nigeria with 60 percent of the abortion performed by non-physicians under unsanitary conditions.

A South-Western Nigerian study by the Campaign Against Unwanted Pregnancy (CAUP) and the Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI) of New York indicate that only 18 percent out of the doctors that perform abortion in registered health institutions (private and public) are obstetricians and gynaecologists.

The study also showed that most of the abortions were performed in private clinics, in doctors homes, in maternity-nursing homes, in homes of respondents, government hospitals as well as traditional healers.

Further findings indicate that 63 percent of women terminating pregnancies are not married and about one-half of them are students and young persons aged between 15 and 24 years, while 30 percent of the abortion seekers are married women.

This write-up is an attempt to look at the issue of abortion and unwanted pregnancies from various perspectives. This is because the issue touches lives at the individual level, it affects families and communities and by and large the nation as a whole.

Mrs. Stella Obasanjo in her address to the National Conference on reducing morbidity and mortality from unsafe abortion in Nigeria last July 2000 said the educational system, non-governmental organizations, religious leaders, the media and social role models should focus attention in eliminating or minimising the menace.

Viewed from a religious perspective the Quran makes clear reference to the progressive development of the foetus as occurring in three stages each lasting forty days, the semen, the blood like clot and the lump of flesh.

At the end of these stages Muslims consider the foetus as en-souled. All schools of thought within the Muslim community make a distinction between these stages before and after ensoulment, thus every school agrees that abortion after the first 120 days is forbidden except to save the mothers life. There is however no consensus on abortion before the period of ensoulment.

The Zadis a small Shiite sect maintain that an ensouled foetus is the same as semen and abortion is possible unconditionally. Some other schools clearly distinguish between abortion and contraceptive practice and most Moslems consider abortion at any stage to be an offence. Gazali in his presentation of this view said "contraception is not like abortion, abortion is a crime against an existing being."

In 1971 when an international Islamic conference was held in Morocco the views of various jurists on abortion before ensoulment include permission to abort without dependence on any reason according to the Zadis, some Hanafis, some Shafi'is, some Malikis and some Hanbalis. For some others of the same schools of thought abortion may be granted depending on a reason. Abortion before ensoulment was looked upon with disfavour by yet some Malikis and still disapproved of by many of the Shi'i sects.

On the Christian side Pastor Kunle Ogunyemi shares the same view with Gazali he described the "killing of the unborn as a strong demonic sponsorship." According to him the defenceless unborn child is not allowed to enjoy the love of a parent or to have the first taste of breast milk.

However, contemporary scholars argue that modern science has different understanding regarding the beginning of life and suggests that the formation of the zygote should be considered as the beginning of life rather than the quickening stage.

Whatever the viability unsafe abortion worldwide is a public health problem of considerable magnitude. A study suggested that for every maternal death approximately ten to fifteen women suffer pregnancy related morbidity.

It is therefore possible that there are 5-7.5 million women worldwide who suffer from non-fatal but serious pregnancy related health problems like infertility, which is virtually a death sentence for women in some African societies. Ectopic pregnancy which results from partial blockage of the tubes following infection from unsafe abortion, injuries to abdominal structures for example VVF, anemia, genital injuries, pelvic pain among others.

Numerous factors are responsible for the twin problems of unwanted pregnancy and abortion. Essentially men contribute to it by ensuring that the sugar-daddy syndrome still thrives. They also deceive women by falsely promising them marriage. Migrant workers add to the burden by having multiple sex partners wherever they go. The macho image of men, their failure to meet up material and moral obligation to their families and general poverty.

Other factors include low esteem as exhibited by some women resulting in the lack of motivation to work towards achieving a bright future for themselves, peer influence in the case of youths, sexual abuse and unequal gender relations.

In the area of law, majority of people are not aware whether there is an abortion law in Nigeria or not. This confusion arises out of the fact that there is no single body of legislation called abortion law or regulating abortion.

The criminal code and the penal code does not really specify this. Thus, according to the Campaign Against Unwanted Pregnancy (CAUP) a non-governmental organisation, the absence of a detailed abortion law means that there are no regulations on how the law should be carried out by health practitioners. The CAUP therefore advocate the need to create an enabling legal environment for the protection of women's reproductive health and rights. It emphasizes that this should not be misunderstood to be promoting decriminalisation of abortion or abortion on demand. What is being advocated is the expansion of instances under which legal abortion is permissible to include instances such as rape, incest, fatal abnormalities and so on.

Nevertheless, the situations of unwanted pregnancies and abortion are preventable through various strategies. Education for instance is by far the most important factor in the promotion of health. It empowers and provides opportunity for self-esteem, employment opportunities and offers access to services and related issues. A comprehensive sexuality education will lead to the appreciation of the body, the development of self-confidence and skills necessary for coping with life.

Men should have appropriate knowledge and the skills needed to adopt a more responsible behaviour and attitudes. For instance, they should encourage dialogue with their wives on sexual matters.

The low status of women makes it difficult for them to play a decisive role in checking the incidence of unwanted pregnancies. However, they should be able to initiate actions and adopt strategies on the issue. The efforts of Justice Mary Odili the Rivers State first lady towards this end is commendable.

Her "TAP" the adolescent project through which young girls and counselled, enlightened, educated and properly guided to identify and avoid dangers of unwanted pregnancies would go a long way in eliminating the social menace.

Features

Dialoguing on the electoral bill

By Musa Aliyu

A fundamental problem that has continuously plagued Nigeria's electoral process is, perhaps, the inability of an elected government to successfully conduct a free and fair election. From the first republic whose attempt in 1965 eventually plunged the country into a costly civil war to the failed efforts of the federal electoral commission, records abound to buttress this.

While the trend persists, Nigeria and indeed the mass of Nigerians have remained the worst for it. The implication has always been that every general election midwived by a civilian regime in power often lead not only to its entire failure but to the actual collapse of the republic. In other words, all successful transitions to democracy through electoral processes are, to say the least, a direct input of the military.

Further, the military desperately wanting to assuage its yearning for power capitalises on crises fuelled by the failure of such civilian governments to allow for proper elections, to seize power. This has for instance led to the institutionalisation of military rulership for an uninterrupted period of 15 years after the sack of Shagari government in 1983.

Given this dimension, the argument, especially advanced by supporters of, and/or, beneficiaries from military rulership is that the military have succeeded where civilian elected governments failed. This, perhaps, gives the military the encouragement to

swoop on democracy and defile it through a coup d'etat.

Now that Nigeria is back on the democratic pedestal, thousands of unanswered questions are asked daily. Will this republic survive? Will INEC be able to conduct a successful, free and fair election come 2003? What will Obasanjo's regime do to ensure the peaceful conduct of the processes? And many more.

An attempt to provide answers and allay the fears of Nigerians may have obviously been behind the convergence of forces among the civil society organisations in Nigeria.

The first was in June when the International Human Rights Law Group in concert with Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA) and John Hopkins University's Centre for Communications (JHU/CCP) convened an advocacy meeting of civil society organisations to debate on the draft Electoral Bill and appropriately make recommendations.

The result of the two-day debate was as requested by the National Assembly, the input of stakeholders in the vanguardship of the enthronement of democracy, human rights and good governance.

Accordingly, they rose from the meeting lauding the "second estate of the realm" for making such a request. In the same vein, they rejected the bill submitted by INEC, arguing that it was

doomed to truncate the electoral process given the wide and excessive powers INEC enjoys.

They also rose in opposition to the powers of INEC to register political parties, the conditions for

registration of prisoners and others with similar status who are not expressly barred by law to vote in elections, and the marginalisation of women.

Against the above backdrop they proposed



Abel Guobadia, INEC Chairman

such registration, especially fees attachment that they argue will monetize the process, sections 28 (12) and (79) that empower, without questioning INEC to disqualify candidates and section 88 (4) for the approval or disapproval of INEC.

Other provisions of the electoral bill considered undemocratic by the groups are the prohibition of independent candidacy contained in section 77 (3) and 116 (d), the absence of any provision for electoral officials, security agents and election observers on duty to cast their votes, lack of guidelines for the

that about 30 per cent of the political posts should be reserved for women while calling for a detailed interpretation of sections to be included in the bill to cast away ambiguities and controversies when it comes into operation.

In a nutshell, they rejected and asked to be expunged, all provisions were in contradiction to the provisions of the constitution.

Leaving no stone unturned, the civil society organisations consequently presented their positions to the National Assembly.

At their second meeting in Abuja between 20th and

21st July, they appraised the National Assembly's response, speaker after speaker. Mr. Tom Adambara of the International Human Rights Law Group, reacted to the draft bill which he described as counter-productive to democracy. He accused the Senate of wanting to work only with INEC draft bill. He advised that the civil society group use the occasion to deliberate properly and device an approach to the situation.

Godwin Odo, who stood for Constitutional Rights Project, faulted all efforts of transition from civil to civil regimes. Working on the premise that another election (2003) was round the corner, he posited that it was only timely and wise if the current democratic regime steals the shine by buying the civil society's idea of the need to draft a new bill so as to successfully conduct an election by the year 2003.

The Kaduna Forum for Legislative Reform, which was properly represented by Miss Maryan, had no trouble holding on the contentious issues. A coalition of six NGOs, it also condemned the anti-democratic antics of the INEC bill and emphasised on the need for the civil society groups to work together in order to enhance a change.

Dr. Sam Egwu, a lecturer with the Political Science Department, University of Jos, representing AFRIGOV, counselled on popular participation and the establishment of a plain ground for a free and fair poll, in 2003. He also called for stronger party system viz-a-viz less domineering electoral bodies as well as fashioning a way to make elected leaders accountable to the electorate.

Another remarkable contribution was by Dr. Jibrin Ibrahim of the Law Group, who insisted on a stronger constitution derived through general contribution and a well-monitored political process. His wisdom is that Nigeria's future depends greatly on a successful civil to civil transition.

Dr. Ibrahim also

advocated for a sufficient civil education for all citizens, stable democracy and the need for the democratic institutions to facilitate a smooth election process.

At the close of talks on the 21st, agreements were sealed after extensive debate. These were put in form of a communiqué.

As a strategy, they agreed to meet with the legislative and executive arms of government, and even the general public and others concerned to discuss the necessity for such amendments in the bill.

The need to have a free and fair election in 2003 was the focal point of the whole meeting. In pursuance of this the civil society groups advised the lawmakers to carefully study the memorandum as it has the capacity to restore public confidence and lead to a credible electoral bill. This will in turn break the jinx suffered by all past civilian regimes at the end of their first four years.

Broader democratic space, liberal party regimes, enhanced peoples' participation, and stronger democracy, are among the gains the groups argued would be made if their inputs are adopted.

To match words with action, they vowed to put in place an electoral reform network whose main objective would be to ensure the inclusion of civil society input in the electoral bill.

A vigilant observer may not find it hard to understand the thrust of this argument by the civil society groups. If indeed Nigeria at over 40 years has seen enough of political instability, it becomes simply explainable why anyone should expend so much energy and resources to ensure a hitch-free civil to civil government transition.

The biggest threat in 2003 as argued by the civil society advocates is not in having an election conducted by the incumbent government, but of having it done amid controversies in the electoral processes as symbolised by the draft bill of INEC.



Participants at the advocacy meeting

BUSINESS DAY

Cow thieves invade Abuja

Perhaps for fear of sharia judgement in most states of the north and the far north, thieves generally have fled those areas and have descended on the Federal Capital Territory.

While burglars, house breakers, conmen, robbers and what have you may have arrived the FCT, another new dimension is staring Fulani herdsmen in the face within and around Abuja.

Right now, Abuja has been invaded by cow rustlers who seem to be giving the Fulani men around here some sleepless nights.

Recently, one Ahmadu Auta was arrested on a tip off by the police on reasonable suspicion of belonging to a

gang of thieves specialising in cow rustling.

During investigations, Ahmadu Auta was able to lead detectives from the FCT C.I.D. to Anchau local government area, Kaduna State where five big cows and two calves were recovered in possession of one Abubakar Mohammed Kyauta, a notorious receiver of stolen cows now standing trial for culpable homicide with the state C.I.D., Kaduna.

When arraigned in court for theft under section 219A of the penal code, the cow rustler pleaded guilty before the Abuja Upper Area Court judge, Alhaji Aliyu Abdulrahman who sentenced him to six months

in prison or on the alternative pay a fine of N2,000.

Meanwhile, four men have been sentenced to two years in prison each without an option of fine for also stealing four cows belonging to one Sale Baushem in Sheda village along Gwagwalada - Lokoja highway, Abuja.

The four men, Usman Umaru from Gwagwa village, Abdullahi Umar from Dei-dei, Jebbi Ibrahim and Tukur Lawal both of Jabi village went all the way to Kwali Area Council where they stole the cows and were transporting them to the city centre when the police intercepted them and the deal blew open.

When Mr. Osmond Adina arraigned the four men before the Upper Area Court Judge, Alhaji Aliyu Abdulrahman on July 27, 2001, they all pleaded guilty to the charge and bagged two year each.

Police arrest four

robbers in Makurdi

A gang of four armed robbers believed to have been causing the inhabitants of Makurdi metropolis sleepless nights has been arrested by the state police command

The command Police Public Relations Officer (ASP), Emmanuel Oeobom stated this while parading the suspects before newsmen in Makurdi.

While describing the four robbers as terrorists he said their arrest was the result of the efforts of the police command to rid the state of

Mike Elaigue - Makurdi crime.

According to the command spokesman, the robbers during one of their operations on July 14, 2001, robbed a lady at the new GRA of cash worth N300,000 and property valued at hundreds of thousands of naira.

The arrested suspects include Okwe Ogechukwu, Victor Azambe and two brothers, Friday and Ogenigwu Itodo.

He appealed for public cooperation to the police in its assignments.



Dika Bwala, FCT Police boss

Technician attempts to steal N1.5m

A 36 years-old technician whom the police gave his name as Bashir Olalekan of number 29 Aromire Street, Mushin, Lagos has been arraigned before an Abuja Upper Area Court for attempting to steal N1.5 million.

According to the police prosecutor, Mr. Osmond Adina, the accused person had forged the signature of one Alhaji Bello Azeez on a stolen cheque book belonging to the said Alhaji Bello who operates an account with Zenith International Bank both in Abuja and Ikeja, Lagos respectively.

The accused person was said to have presented the forged cheque at the Area 7, Abuja branch of the bank where he also produced a forged identity card purporting him to be the said Alhaji Bello Azeez.

The accused person was charged on a four count allegation of criminal conspiracy, forgery, impersonation and attempt to

commit an offence contrary to sections 97, 364, 132 and 95 of the penal code law.

Meanwhile, one the Tajudeen Jinadu who allegedly aided the accused person to commit the offences is said to be on the run.

However, the accused

person pleaded not guilty to the charge but the presiding upper area court judge, Alhaji Aliyu Abdulrahman objected to his bail plea and ordered him remanded in prison custody and adjourned the matter to August 15, 2001.

Dismissed LG boss vs ZMSG: Hearing fixed for Sept

Hearing in the case between the dismissed Tsafe Local Government Chairman, Alhaji Ikra Aliyu Bilbis and the Zamfara State Government and five others scheduled to begin last Monday has been fixed for September 2001.

According to high court III Gusau, hearing into the case was to have begun last Monday 30th July, 2001 but has to be shifted to September 11th 2001, because three out of the six defendants were not in the court as they were not served with the summons owing to

From Salisu Zakari Madarun, in Gusau

the fact that they were out of the state.

Contrary to speculation, that the state governor, Ahmed Sani, might not attend any court, other than Shariah court, his counsel Barrister Kabiru Umar was at the court together with Alhaji Ikra Aliyu's counsel, Barrister C.S. Anosike.

When the Daily Trust visited the court's premises, it discovered that only few people were at the venue to witness the trial as the date for the hearing was not publicised.



Mr. Femi Falana, counsel to the Abiola family at the Oputa Panel, Abuja recently. Pix by: Kennedy Egbonodje

40th day prayer for Sanusi holds Sept 5

The 40th day prayer for the late Personal Assistant (PA), to the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Sunusi Ajani Taofeek who died on July 13, 2001 is slated to hold on September 5, simultaneously in Lagos and Abuja.

The late Mr. Sanusi, a Superintendent of Police (SP), died in a London hospital on July 13, and has since been buried on Friday July 20, 2001 at Alagbado near the African Independent Television (AIT), Lagos while the 8th day prayer took place on Friday July 27.

Mr. Sanusi, a graduate of Psychology from the University of Ibadan was born in 1963 and enlisted into the Nigeria Police on March 1, 1990 and was a course 16

cadet at the Police Academy Annex, Kaduna.

During his professional years, Mr. Sanusi was posted first to Kano State on graduation for a year attachment before he became a personal assistant to Zakari Haliru, then Commissioner of Police in Kano.

At one time, Mr. Sanusi was also P.A to former Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG), Mr. Bappa Jama'are, a post he held before he became P.A to the incumbent Inspector-General of Police Mr. Musiliu Smith in 1999.

A great sports lover, Mr. Sanusi played active football for his various alma matters and also during police games where he also captained the table tennis



Late Sanusi A. Taofeek, (SP) team.

Meanwhile, his colleagues and course mates are planning the introduction of a tennis cup within the police force for competitions in his memory.

He was married and had three children.

Man sues Total for breach of contract

Total Nigeria Plc has been dragged to court for breach of contract involving the lease of a petrol station located at plot No. 7 in Funtua, Katsina State.

The plaintiff, Alhaji Ali Gote, in a writ of summons filed before the High Court in Funtua is claiming 1.5 million naira as unpaid rent from 1973 to 2000 and 1.5 million as damages for breach of contract.

Alhaji Ali Gote is also seeking a court declaration that he is the rightful owner of plot No. 7 Funtua, site of the Total filling station, Funtua, Katsina State.

In an affidavit in support of the motion, the plaintiff averred that he was allocated the plot of land in Funtua in 1963 by the then Northern Province, Kaduna and was granted right of occupancy by the Ministry of Lands and Survey, Kaduna on the 9th April, 1965 and a certificate of occupancy No. 10365.

He stated that Total Nigeria Plc then Total Oil leased the said plot of land for

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Kano

use as a filling station under a tenancy of 20 years with an option for 5 more years at one hundred pounds per annum. The agreement signed by both parties on 24th July, 1964 was however breached after the initial payment of rent for ten years by Total Nigeria Plc.

In 1994, according to the writ of summons, Total Nigeria Plc was alleged to have allegedly applied for a certificate of occupancy with the Katsina State Ministry of Lands and Survey on the plot of land they rented from Ali Kote and obtained the certificate entered between the company and Alhaji Ali Gote, the original owner of the land. The oil company is now seeking to renew the expired certificate of occupancy with Katsina State Ministry of Land and Survey and the rightful owner, Alhaji Ali Gote sought the court injunction to restrain the ministry from granting their request for renewal and also declare that

the ownership of the said plot of land belongs to the plaintiff, Ali Gote.

When the case came up for hearing last week only the Funtua 'Total' dealer, Mr. Philips Aduko appeared in court. He told the court that he was served the summons to appear but was not representing Total as he was not aware of the case. He urged that the summons be served on the Total representative in Kano who oversees Funtua filing station.

Mr. Saidu Audu from Ibrahim Umar & Co. Chambers who represented Ali Gote in court told Daily Trust that Total has not responded to any of their letters or the summons served on them. Instead, he said Total sent the Funtua dealer, Mr. Adoku to tell the court that they can only respond when served at the regional office in Kano.

The case has been adjourned to 17th September, 2001 to allow proper service of summons to the Total representatives in Kano.

NEWS

Abuja residents flay sale of alcohol in motor parks

Residents of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have called on security agents in the federal capital especially members of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) to enact laws that can stop sale of alcohol in motor parks, just as they blamed some of the road accidents on the consumption of alcohol by the drivers.

The residents complained that most of the drivers take alcohol to a level that they cannot even locate their houses and yet handle the steering only to end up destroying lives due to the influence of the alcohol.

Mr. John Ojeme told *Daily Trust* that strong alcohol like 'ogogoro' and gins are displayed in all the motor parks and that it had become a permanent habit for drivers to drink before starting their journey, a situation he described as unpatriotic and senseless in a democratic environment.

He said that about 80 per cent of drivers are addicted to strong alcohol, adding that all the security agents in the country should take decisive action to abolish the sale of alcohol in motor

By Emmanuel Ande

parks.

Mr. Samson Okon, an employee of Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA), in a brief chat with our reporter maintained that Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) should arrest alcoholic dealers and charge them to court and that any driver caught taking alcohol should have his driving license withdrawn and charged to court for further legal action.

Mallam Adamu Bello, a trader in Area One Shopping Centre told *Daily Trust* that the main offenders are those selling the drinks and that the security agents should be harder on them, noting that if alcohol is not displayed in motor parks drivers will not have easy access to it.

When *Daily Trust* visited

Area One motor park, alcoholic drinks of different brands and colours were displayed on tables with customers drinking and singing songs of joy.

A dealer of the alcoholic drinks told *Daily Trust* that the business boomed in motor parks more than any other places, she added that: "you know drivers like to take something strong before starting long journeys."

In Karu motor park, the situation was better imagined than told, because strong alcohol like 'ogogoro' and dry gin were displayed both at the main gate of the garage and inside the park.

All efforts to see the Public Relations Officer of the Federal road Safety Corps to comment on the trend proved abortive.

Stella Maris School makes progress

By Hammeed Bello

The saying that, 'the result of hardwork is success,' was re-enacted last week at the Stella Maris Primary and Nursery School, Durumi, Abuja, with the excellent performance of its pupils on the occasion of the maiden graduation ceremony of the school.

The proprietress of the school, Mrs. Uche R. Anyaene disclosed that, even though the school is graduating its first set, efforts were being made to improve the competence of staff and pupils for the school to maintain the good academic and moral record it has set.

She stated that at the inception of the school five

years back, a deliberate policy of the highest standard was formulated which facilitated in getting the school registered.

Vital to the school, she said, is the philosophy of hard work, discipline and high sense of morality, adding that the healthy and peaceful environment obtainable in the school is as a result of the strict adherence to that philosophy.

The proprietress also said in consonance with the high academic standard of the school, the graduating pupils came out the best in the 2001 NECO conducted common entrance examination.

The distinguished pupils, according to her, got scholarship to study in choice secondary schools in Abuja. She added that of the 71 pupils who sat for the common entrance examination, Stella Maris pupils scored above the cut-off mark.

In spite of the academic uniqueness, the school is located in an undeveloped District of Durumi, Abuja, making accessibility difficult.

The Management of the school, the proprietress said, is requesting for assistance in the area of good roads, telephone services and power supply from individuals and government to uplift the school and maintain the standard set.



Engr. Abba-Gana, FCT Minister.

Yayale presents cheques to retirees tomorrow

By Austine Odo

The Head of Civil Service of the Federation, Alhaji, Mohamud Yayale Ahmed, will tomorrow, present cheques to some retired civil servants in Abuja.

The cheques are for the payment of pensions and gratuities of the retired civil servants.

According to the Chief Press Secretary to the Head of Service, the presentation, which is a monthly exercise, will come up at 10.00am at the Olusegun Obasanjo Hall, Federal Secretariat, Phase II, Abuja.

It would be recalled that

the Head of Service in a speech during this years celebration of the civil service day, gave his word for the prompt payment of pensions and gratuities as a way of improving the living standard of retired civil servants and encouraging serving ones. Alhaji Yayale has among other things has been striving for a refocused and reformed civil service which, according to him, would be a pride of the nation.

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SPORTS



Fans want present Eagles squad retained

Fans have said that the Super Eagles squad, as currently constituted and which defeated Ghana's Black Stars 3-0 at the Liberation Stadium, Port Harcourt on Sunday should represent Nigeria at the World Cup.

A cross-section of fans and football commentators who spoke after the match said that the feat had shown that Nigeria's soccer fate could best be entrusted in the hands of indigenous coaches.

Collins Nbata, a football commentator, said "Bonfrere Jo, whoever he is today will be ashamed of himself."

Mr. Lolo Ibieneye, a Senior Special Assistant to Governor Peter Odili of Rivers State said "the team was business-like from the start, only the coaches have to work on Victor Agali and Justice Christopher."

"Apart from this, this team should be kept intact to represent us in the World Cup finals and this I am sure it will do well," he said.

Dr. Odili, on Saturday while receiving an award from the Nigerian Football Supporters Association, said, "the time has come for the nation to fully exploit the soccer talents which abound in the country."



Oliseh

Do not tamper with Eagles technical crew - Odegbami

Segun Odegbami, the former skipper of the senior national team, has warned against tampering with the technical crew of the Super Eagles.

Reacting to Sunday's 3-0

Keshi: I'm happy to be part of the coaching crew

Super Eagles Assistant Coach, Stephen Keshi, has said he was happy to be part of the coaching crew, which would take the Nigerian team to its third World Cup appearance.

Keshi told newsmen in a post-match interview shortly after the Super Eagles humbled



Keshi their Ghanaian opponents 3-0 in the 2002 World Cup qualifier that he dreamt of the feat few months ago, adding "I am glad to be part of history."

"I am very glad to be part of this historical feat, frankly I dreamt about it few months ago," he said and commended the chief coach, Amodu Shuaibu and his assistant Joe Erico for their wonderful handling of the team.

On what he thought gave him the courage and inspiration to go on, Keshi said. "I owe my fortune to my wife and children for their support, they spurred me greatly." Commenting on the match and the performance of the entire team, Keshi said the team was superb in its performance.

victory of the Super Eagles over Ghana's Black Stars and the team's subsequent qualification for 2002 Korea/Japan World Cup, Odegbami said that nobody should ever think of tinkering the Nigerian coaching crew, who led

the Eagles to win the ticket.

"The players gave their life to the first 45 minutes of the game, which was our plan to pressurise Ghana in the first half and score as many goals as we can. I am happy they played to instruction," he explained.

Odili donates N90m to Eagles

The Rivers State governor, Dr. Peter Odili, has announced a cash donation of \$75,000 (N90 million) and a plot of land for members of the Super Eagles and all the officials.

The plots of land are seated at the highbrow Government Reserve Area (GRA) in Port Harcourt. Odili said this was in appreciation of the superlative performance of members of the national team who triumphed over their Ghanaian counterpart Sunday in Port Harcourt.

Governor Peter Odili made the announcement of the cash donation at a dinner organised by the state government member of the team and the Black Stars of Ghana on Monday.

The governor noted that by their performances in all the three matches, in Port Harcourt, they have displayed great prowess, leading to their qualification for the 2002 Korea/Japan World Cup.

Odili, however, charged them to redouble their efforts as they go to the World Cup Championship, stressing that "the eyes of Nigerians from now are on you and you have no choice than to deliver," he stressed.

He also stated that the government and the people of Rivers State were solidly behind the

team on its quest for Korea/Japan and pray the Almighty God to remove any obstacle from their way and grant them a resounding victory.

He recalled that, years ago, it was unthinkable for the Black Stars and the Super Eagles to play against each other and finish the contest on a banquet table, adding, "collectively, we have all today laid the foundation for the new spirit that will guide future sporting relationship."

Dr. Odili maintained that with this development, the two countries have decided to blaze the trail for the renaissance not only in the West African coast but for the entire African continent.

In a related development, while congratulating members of the supporters club, for their steadfastness throughout the trying period of the Super Eagles, Dr. Peter Odili announced a N2 million donation to the association.

Odili also expressed his appreciation to President Olusegun Obasanjo for the special spice he gave to the team by being physically present to cheer up the boys.

ship in Burkina Faso as a result of the CAF ban.

"We are lucky that we have the Nations Cup," declared the former skipper, who is also a sports marketing consultant.

Odegbami said he was optimistic that the Eagles would do well in the World Cup, adding "our qualification will lead to sports revolution in the country."

He also noted that the presence of President Olusegun Obasanjo at the Liberation Stadium to cheer the players was a morale booster for the team, adding jokingly, "I endorse him for 2003."

Meanwhile, in a related de-

velopment Dr. Tijani Yusuf, the Secretary-General of the NFA has said that friendly matches would be organised as part of the build up for the 2002 Korea/Japan World Cup.

He said in Port Harcourt shortly after the Super Eagles defeated Ghana 3-0 to grab the lone group ticket to their third consecutive World Cup appearance, that it was not true that it was difficult to organise friendly matches.

He said that the programme of the coaches would guide the association in determining when to organise such tune-up matches.

From Wisdom-Uduak Patrick, in Port Harcourt



Thumped up: Super Eagles chief coach, Shuaibu Amodu, (left) with former boss, Thijs Libregts. He will head the team's coaching crew to Korea/Japan 2002 World Cup.



NSL N1,000,000.00 LOTTO JACKPOT DRAW

WEEK 1 GAME 1 WINNING NUMBERS:

8 17 33 41 46 50

WEEK 2 GAME 1 WINNING NUMBERS:

9 14 18 33 35 43

WEEK 3 GAME 1 WINNING NUMBERS:

3 7 11 20 33 36

WEEK 4 GAME 1 WINNING NUMBERS:

4 19 20 29 44 50

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No more foreign coach - NFA as Amodu bags the plum job

Super Eagles chief coach, Amodu Shuaibu will remain in charge for next year's World Cup after taking them to the finals, the Nigeria Football Association said on Monday.

Amodu's appointment had only been seen as a temporary measure following the sacking of Dutchman Johannes Bonfrere in April for a string of poor results.

But Amodu has since led the team to five wins in five games and saw them clinch the sole African Group B World Cup finals berth with a 3-0 win over Ghana on Sunday.

"Amodu Shuaibu and his assistants will be in charge of the Nigerian team to the 2002 African Nations Cup and World Cup finals," Nigeria Football Association (NFA) Secretary-General, Tijani Yusuf told Reuters in Port-Harcourt.

"I'm not carried away by the euphoria of victory. By qualifying Nigeria for the World Cup, this is a statement that local coaches are good enough and we will not change the team's coaching crew again.

"We've done enough experiments with foreigners as coaches of our national team," he added.

Nigeria has had 21 foreign coaches since the 1950s. Amodu, however, is the first Nigerian coach to take the national team to World Cup finals.

Dutchman Clemens Westerhof qualified the Eagles to their debut World Cup outing in 1994 in the United States, while Frenchman Phillipe Troussier was in charge when the side

By Ismaila Umaru Lere, with agency report

reached the 1998 finals in France.

Nigeria's World Cup qualification hopes were in tatters following their shock 1-0 defeat by Sierra Leone when Amodu and his assistants, Stephen Keshi and Joe Erico, took over in April. But, they turned Nigeria's fortunes around with victo-

ries in their remaining qualifiers against Liberia, Sudan and Ghana for third consecutive World Cup finals.

NFA Vice-Chairman, Nwabufor Obiefor, said: "You can say this is a remarkable achievement for Amodu and his assistants. It won't be right to employ another foreigner as coach of our team. We're sticking with Shuaibu and his assis-

stants all through to the World Cup this time."

Apart, from a 2002 World Cup spot, Amodu's team has also booked a

place at next year's 16-team African Nations Cup tournament, to be hosted by Mali between January 19 and February 10.

Yusuf said: "The Nations Cup will be a fitting testing ground for Amodu and his assistants to prepare for the World Cup finals. But before then, we intend to send them on a coaching course to broaden their knowledge in the game."



Lady golfer Annika Sorenstam (above) teamed up with Tiger Woods to beat the duo of David Duval and Karrie Webb in the Bigort II contest at the weekend.



Super Eagles celebrate victory over Spain at the France '98 World Cup finals.

Strands of Fate: written & illustrated by Babunsa Mustapha



Amodu

