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STAR FEATURE

When chicken markets collapse



Pages 24 & 25

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PUBLIC HEARINGS

North-East assemblies may reject 3rd term

Four out of the six states Houses of Assembly in the North East Zone may reject attempts to amend the constitution to provide for a third term for President Obasanjo and other political office holders.

The affected states

Autoerash claims 10 in Sokoto

From Amino Mohammed, Regional Editor, (Sokoto)

Ten passengers died in an accident involving a truck on Monday, along the bridge on the Bagari road in Sokoto State.

The accident which occurred on Monday night resulted in the death of 10 people and the injury of 11 others. The cause of the accident was the overloading of the truck. A 911 emergency call was made by the passengers most of whom sustained various degrees of injuries.

Narrating the story to

Cont. on Pg. 2

From Abdullahi Bego, in Maiduguri, Emmanuel Bello, in Abuja, Tasbikalmah Hallah, in Bauchi & Hir Joseph, in Makurdi

Houses of Assembly are those of Bauchi, Gombe, Taraba and Adamawa.

Daily Trust learnt that this position will be made public at the zonal public hearings on the review of the 1999 constitution holding in Maiduguri.

The Houses of Assembly of Bauchi, Taraba and Adamawa states have adopted a position to oppose the president's third term bid while Gombe and Yobe's

Niger Delta crises may affect 2006 budget

Minister of Finance, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala yesterday expressed concern that the shutting down of operations by Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) in the Niger Delta area has a potential to impact negatively on the nation's revenue and conse-

Houses of Assembly are yet to adopt a position.

The Borno state House of Assembly is yet to discuss the third term agenda but Daily Trust gathered that most lawmakers support the idea because of governor Modu Sheriff.

Our correspondents report that Speakers of some state Assemblies in the North-East have planned to present a joint memoranda on behalf of the zone opposing tenure extension beyond 2007.

However, one of the Speakers told Daily Trust that the stance of the Borno State Assembly "has weakened our

Cont. on Pg. 2

By Anas A. Galadima, Asst. Business Editor

quently affect the implementation of 2006 budget.

The Minister spoke to newsmen at the plenary session of the on-going first West African Investment Forum (WAIF) in Abuja, where



From right, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Trade, Cameroon, Ama Tutu Muna, former Head of State, Ernest Shonekan, First Bank Executive Director (retail banking), Mr. Remi Babalola and Minister of finance, Mrs. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala at the West African Investment Forum, held in Abuja... yesterday.

Mob on rampage in Onitsha

An angry mob on yesterday attacked two mosques and Northern residents in Onitsha, Anambra State, in what is feared to be reprisal attacks of the violent riots that took place over the weekend in some parts of the North.

By Isa Sanusi, Abubakar Haruna in Abuja & Beatrice Onuchukwu in Onitsha

Agency reports said that: "the whole town is in frenzy and people are running in all directions as at yesterday evening."

- Okonjo-Iweala

she said if operations in those stations do not resume on time, the government may have problems meeting its revenue target for this year.

SPDC over the weekend shut down its western opera-

tions in the Niger Delta and also halted loading from an export terminal after militants took nine foreigners hostage and attacked oil facilities in the region.

Cont. on Pg. 2

When contacted on phone yesterday, the Commissioner of Police, Anambra State, Mr. Moses Anegbode confirmed the incident. He told Daily Trust "as at now, we are preoccupied with giving coverage to Hausas who are going into hiding. So many of the Hausa's have taken refuge in barracks."

The Commissioner of Police however, could not confirm the reported death of five people.

The mob is said to have torched two mosques located at the Hausa quarters, leaving behind ashes and burnt out properties. Also destroyed were kiosks and resi-

Cont. on Pg. 2

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News

Public hearings *Cont. from pg. 1*

resolve for a joint memorandum.

Although the Yobe state House of Assembly has not discussed the matter, it is likely the Assembly will support the third term agenda based on the position of the governor, Alhaji Bukar Abba Ibrahim, who favours tenure extension for political office holders. Apart from state Assemblies, indications are that civil society groups within the North-east geopolitical zone would also speak against the third term agenda at the public hearings.

Meanwhile, members of the Joint National Assembly Committee who arrived Maiduguri yesterday, have paid a courtesy call on Governor Ali Modu Sheriff.

The leader of the team, Senator Dalhatu Sarki Tafida, said they chose to hold the hearings in Maiduguri because of Governor Sheriff who was their colleague in the National Assembly.

Governor Sheriff in his speech, observed that the idea to amend the constitution began in 2000, as a result of the imperfections noticed in the constitution currently in use.

Benue State House of Assembly yesterday faulted modalities adopted by the National Assembly review the 1999 constitution.

Also, the state Assembly declared its opposition to the extension of tenure for President Olusegun Obasanjo.

The House yesterday adopted a motion advising the National Assembly to reconsider the modalities for the conduct of its zonal public hearings, adding that the 1999 constitution does not recognize regions or zones as structures particularly for the purpose of constitutional review.

"It is apparent that the conduct of hurried public hearings will inevitably lead to predetermined objectives which is to foist on the people of Nigeria very unpopular amendments including the ushering in of regime elongation which is totally unacceptable to the people of Benue state."

The resolution also faulted the short period scheduled for the exercise and urged members and the entire people of the state not to attend the Lafia hearings.

Briefing newsmen shortly after the sitting, Majority Leader, Iyorchar, waved aside insinuations that the decision may not be unconnected with Vice President Atiku's link with Governor George Akume and the entire people of Benue State.

Meanwhile Nigerians have expressed mixed reactions to the public hearings billed to start today in the six-geopolitical zones of the country.

While some believe the

exercise is an essential aspect of constitution-making, others share in the apprehension that it will provide the basis for entrenching the alleged third term bid of the president.

The All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), Caucus Leader in the House of Representatives, Rep. Aminu Tambuwal, told *Daily Trust* that the event is a ruse, contrived to facilitate dictatorship.

Speaking to *Daily Trust*, the lawmaker said he is already in court challenging the public hearings.

"I'm in court. We wanted the court to stop the whole event but as all Nigerians can see, the government has disobeyed court orders and is going ahead with their plans.

It is a national contempt and one that follows in a long chain of anti-democratic stance of this government."

Tambuwal questioned the legality of the public hearings, saying they are not in consonance with accepted norms of constitution-making. He said there was no bill before the National Assembly supporting the event, thereby making it unconstitutional.

Another lawmaker, Hon. Emmanuel Bwacha, said there is nothing outlandish about the exercise and supports the view that the event will contribute positively to the nation's growth.

He said the process, if well executed, will gauge the opinions of Nigerians on certain issues and add to the data base to fashion a new constitution.

Rather than facilitate the third term bid, the hearings might derail it as Nigerians would be challenging the issue at the event, he said.

Former Minister of Aviation, Mrs. Kema Chikwe, told *Daily Trust* that the public hearings will afford Nigerians a unique opportunity to deal with the grey areas of the constitution.

She described it as a constitutional exercise and one that has the mandate of Nigerians, stressing that the hearings cannot be stage managed.

"When I hear people say the public hearings will be stage managed and manipulated, I wonder. How can it be with Nigerians numbering over 156 million involved in it? How can you cheat in such an exercise?", she asked.

Mrs. Chikwe, a delegate to the defunct national conference, said the conference had outlined the various areas that need to be amended. She named some of the areas to include, "system of government, the issue of an additional state for the South-East and derivation formula for the South-South." According to her, these and other areas in the constitution deserve to be debated on a wider platform.

On the zonal arrangement adopted for the hearings,

Mrs. Chikwe said it was an intelligent decision, observing that it was the best way to tackle the problem of transportation and time constraints.

She urged people with means to help others to the venue. "I will appeal to those who have the means to please help those who can't make it to the venues. They should sponsor others," she pleaded.

But Alhaji Umaru Dikko, leader of the Northern delegates to the confab, said the public hearings are "futile and useless," adding that they will fail to achieve their purpose.

"These public hearings do not make sense to most of us. They are neither here nor there. If they want a referendum, why not go ahead and have it rather than this parody," he said, adding that it was impossible to sample public opinion in two days.

He said the nation has other problems to grapple with rather than be fixated on constitution amendment.

But, secretary to the Yoruba Council of Elders (YCE), Dr. Kunle Olajide, said he is not opposed to the hearings.

He however observed that the hearings should have been staged in all the 36 states of the federation to give it a wider spectrum of opinion, noting that it was impossible for the federal government to manipulate the event to its advantage.

Also, All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), national chairman, Chief Don Etiebet, said the public hearings are in the interest of Nigerians and urged all party faithfuls to attend the event and make their contributions.

Chief Chukwuemeka Ezeife, former governor of Anambra state, disagrees with Etiebet's sentiments and pointed out that the hearings will not achieve much.

He also said the public hearings will be cosmetic and that irrespective of the discussions, the report will have the "imprimatur of the executive and will be highly doctored."

Autocrash

Cont. from pg. 1

newsmen, the coordinator of the Sokoto State Red Cross Society, Malam Ahmed Iri Asheyi, said the corpses have been deposited at the Usman Dan Fodiyo Teaching Hospital, Sokoto and urged those whose relations traveled from Lagos to Sokoto to go to the hospital to verify whether they are among the dead.

He called on the federal government to resuscitate the already collapsed railway system in order to minimize the incessant road accidents in the country.

Niger Delta *Cont. from pg. 1*

Okonjo-Iweala said the level of inactivity caused by the halt in operations are significant enough in terms of impacting on the revenue flow of the federal government since crude oil was the major source of revenue.

She however expressed optimism that the situation would be properly managed to ensure that operations resume in the affected areas.

"But I am optimistic that this is a temporary bleep. I hope they will be able to manage this and stop it so that it doesn't have a long term impact on the budget. Much of our revenues come from these oil flows. That is why it is imperative and in the national interest that this kind of attacks stops because it is actually affecting and imparting the entire country" she said.

Managing Director of Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company Limited, Chima Ibeneche who also spoke to newsmen said the halt in the company's operations results in the loss of about 3000 to 4000 barrels of oil per day both from onshore and offshore operations.

"In terms of barrels we have lost over 300,000 to 400,000 barrels per day across the offshore and in the land operations"

He said the company has

taken precautionary measures to prevent workers from similar hostilities.

"As a responsible person and responsible company, when we think that there is specific threats to our people we take precautionary measures. We moved people from the dangerous zones until it is safe again for them to work".

Asked whether his company was considering increasing output, when it eventually resumes production, as a way of making up for revenue shortfall that the government may face, he said "the revenue for Nigeria should be the worry of the Nigerian government. As a business person and organisation we will continue to do our business to the best of our abilities. Our current business is to produce as much as we can safely and at the best cost".

The nine foreign workers that were taken hostage are employees of Wilbross, an oil service company that works for Shell on a contract basis.

Meanwhile, speaking at the opening session of the West Africa Investment Forum on Monday night, President Olusegun Obasanjo said that the Common External Tariffs (CET) being implemented by West African countries is progressing at a good pace.

Mob *Cont. from pg. 1*

hospitals."

"But we had a difficult time mobilising logistics and vehicles to transport injured victims to the hospital." Many sustained bullets wounds and knife cuts.

Reports say there were skirmishes around the metropolis as some irate youths are still launching attacks in some nooks and crannies of Bauchi town.

BBC described some places in Bauchi town as no-go areas where the dead bodies and injured people are still being discovered in the areas.

It added that the crisis that spread to Tafawa Balewa town was controlled by securitymen, and that normalcy has since restored to the place.

Sources said the crisis was ignited following an alleged mutilation of a portion of the Holy Qur'an by a female teacher at Government Day Secondary School located within the army barracks in Bauchi.

A peaceful protest by students of the Government Day Secondary School at the army barracks was hijacked by hoodlums.

In a related development, the Emir of Bauchi, Alhaji Suleiman Adamu, has directed District and Village Heads to monitor people's movements and prevent further breakdown of law and order in their domains.

He said the regime, which took effect late last year, would further boost the chances of economic growth and development within the region, calling on investors to take advantage of the opportunities that the regime offers.

He called on participants and discussants in the forum to ensure that problems are identified and solutions offered to them with a view to implementing them as a way of tackling such problems.

"We must not go over the same issues at the next meeting but begin to identify problems and how to solve them," he added.



Dr. Okonjo-Iweala

He charged the chiefs to ensure the continued peaceful co-existence among residents in their domains.

Adamu described the incident as unfortunate and assured that adequate measures are being taken to safeguard lives and property.

He blamed the riot on the "evil machinations of some undesirable elements, who manipulated a peaceful students protest to cause mayhem". The emir appealed to christians not to panic, assuring that the crisis has no religious undertones.

Meanwhile, state government demographers and posed an ill in Nigeria are as engineers and Gombe me

two days. The State government Magaji, she very tonic, and will last from 10 a.m. daily.

He said the measure became necessary to ensure the protection of lives and property. The rioters burnt down at least three houses and a place of worship on Sunday and Monday.

The youths were protesting the alleged torture of their colleague 18-year old Abba Lamido, by the police.

Magaji assured the people that the perpetrators of the act would be brought to book and also promised that those who suffered loss as a result of the violence will be compensated.

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News

S/Africa seizes Alamiyeseigha's luxury flats

The South African authorities have seized a luxury block of apartments belonging to impeached governor of Bayelsa state, Chief Diepreye Alamiyeseigha.

The Southern Africa correspondent of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), reports that the Asset Forfeiture Unit of South Africa's National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), yesterday obtained a co-

urt order to attach and place under curatorship, the properties which are worth \$2.3 million.

The order, issued by the Cape High Court sitting in

Cape Town, includes the seizure of all the contents of the apartments, including furniture worth \$250,000, \$31,666 held in trust by Platinum Places and Alamiyeseigha's share certificates held in the name of Royal Albatross Properties.

In the application, the NPA also known as "Scorpions", claimed that Alamiyeseigha bought the property with proceeds from crime.

In granting the order, the presiding judge, Justice Dennis Davis, ruled that Alamiyeseigha and "all persons with knowledge of this order" are prohibited from "disposing of, taking possession of, interfering or dealing in any manner with the property". The court also appointed Stephen Powell as curator, who has the responsibility to sell the property "probably by auction and to repatriate the proceeds to the Nigerian government."

Davis also ordered that anyone affected by the order may return to court to show, within 14 days, good cause why the order should be reconsidered.

Head of the forfeiture unit, Wille Hofmeyr, said the seizure was the biggest anti-graft co-operation between South

Africa and any foreign authority to combat corruption internationally. NAN reports that the EFCC and the NPA

have been working closely to track down the assets of corrupt public officials in South Africa.

NPA in huge contracts debt

-Ribadu

By Joe Oroye

The Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), has been accused of awarding some contracts without due regard to extant rules and regulations in the country.

The chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Malam Nuhu Ribadu, revealed this in his committee's report submitted to President Olusegun Obasanjo in Abuja yesterday.

This, the chairman stated, has resulted in NPA accumulating huge contract debts running into billions of Naira without corresponding value to the authority.

His committee, Malam Nuhu Ribadu added, has established that the outstanding contract bills for the period under review stood at N9,264,411,707.94, US\$1,634,772.60, GBP2,920,575.40, Euro 919,001.76 and DM41,052.28. The committee, he ex-

plained further, has also established that the Nigerian Ports Authority awarded a total of 24,252 contracts during the period under review with a total value of N46,946,402,776.13, US\$236,913,986.84, GBP24,905,588.23, DM461,936,65, Euro 147,926,957.99 and Sek 4,087,918.70.

His committee, Malam Nuhu Ribadu stated made strong recommendation including the recovery of misappropriated funds, prosecution of culprits, structural and administrative changes which was the believe that it will assist in sanitizing the operations of the Nigerian Ports Authority and forestall future occurrence.

Guided by the terms of reference, the committee within the time frame given to it, assiduously and diligently investigated the contracts awarded by the NPA during the period under review.

Public hearings: Tight security as Katsina shifts venue

The Katsina state government has beefed up security as the venue for the public hearings which begins today was shifted from the State House to the state's secretariat complex.

Daily Trust correspondent who monitored the situation yesterday, discovered from the police officers at the House of Assembly entrance that the government has decided to shift the venue to the new secretariat for security purposes.

Our reporter observed at the new state secretariat complex a heavy security comprising plain clothed and uniformed police officers stationed at the main entrance of the secretariat conference hall, while some staff of the

From Lawal Ibrahim, Correspondent (Katsina)

National Assembly were seen making some finishing touches along with the office of the state's sirector of protocol.

Already, the committee of the Senators and House of Representative members led by one Senator Osubo, arrived the state capital in the late hours of the evening and were lodged at Liyafa palace Hotel Katsina, amidst tight security.

Daily Trust further discovered a strange movement of police personnel drafted to strategic locations within the city. One of them confided in Daily Trust that their team was posted from Kano on

special duty to ensure the prevalence of peace and normalcy for the period of the event.

Local Government Chairmen were mobilized to ensure their people participate in the event.

Daily Trust observed that key officials of the All Local Governments Chairmen Association of Nigeria (ALGON), from the state, were seen mobilizing and contacting their colleagues to ensure the success of the event as directed by the state government.

Meanwhile, there is still uneasy calm in the state capital over the public hearing.

Efforts to reach the Special Adviser to the Governor on Media and Public Relations for clarifications proved abortive as his phone kept saying that he was not available.

Lagos calls for two tiers of govt

The Lagos state government yesterday made its position known on the review of the 1999 constitution, saying that revenue sharing should be based on constitutional mandate, specific requirements and should recognize the principles of derivation. The government also proposed two tiers of government in the country.

The official position of the state was made known at a public hearing on the review of the 1999 constitution which took place at the state House of Assembly complex, Alausa, Ikeja.

Represented by his Solicitor-General, Mr. Fola Authur-Worrey, hinged mote on true federalism, with a proviso that there should be two tiers of government as the local councils are an integral part of the state government.

The state posited that there should be an official sharing of exclusive, legislative and executive powers and a sharing of revenue sources between the two tiers of government depending on defined mandates.

It stressed that revenue sharing should be on the basis of constitutional mandate and specific requirement, and should recognize the principles of derivation: "Place of transaction, place of consumption and place of landing [exports] in calculation of share of federal taxes due to the state.

From Olumide Bajulaiye, Correspondent (Lagos)

"An office of the Accountant-General of the federation should be created to manage the federation account as a separate and distinct office from that of the Accountant General of the federation."

According to Lagos State, Section 162[2] of the constitution should be amended to extend the concept of derivation to all revenue accruing into the federation account.

The state also demanded a special grant because of its category 'A' status and asked for it to be enshrined in the constitution just as it demanded a more equitable model for the basis of representation at the Senate and the House of Representatives.

According to the paper, representatives to the National Assembly should be paid by the state in order to remind them of their true functions and to ensure loyalty to their local constituents.

"There is a clear need for the judiciary to have its own enforcement arm [sheriffs] with police powers to wean it away from reliance on the police who might have a different agenda in relation to the enforcement of court orders."

The state demanded financial independence for the judiciary, proposing that the

minimum operational cost of the court should be treated as a monthly first line charge and released periodically and unfailingly for the smooth running of the system.

"The need for state police can also not be over emphasized. The states need their own police to enforce their laws."

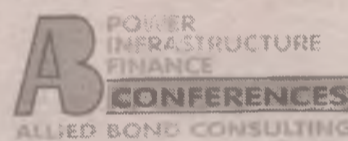
In his speech, Speaker of the House, Mr. Adeyemi Ikuforji, noted that the forum would help engender democratic institutions that would sustain the nation now and in the future.

According to him, numerous conflicts in the socio-economic, religious and political sectors of the country has made it imperative that the constitution be reviewed.

Such issues, according to him, include the political structure, the secular nature of the country, the status of women, revenue allocation, human rights, the military and the state-federal government relations.

"Others include indigeneship, constitutionalism, police force, political forces, land use decree and local government, among others."

"In spite of various approaches to constitution making in the past, the various past constitutions have remained elitist documents which failed to serve as the basis of democratic governance."



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News

MUP condemns weekend violence

The Movement for Unity and Progress (MUP), has called for the resignation of President Obasanjo. In a statement signed by the organisation's chairman, Colonel Abubakar Dangiwa Umar (rtd.) and made available to *Daily Trust*, the MUP hinges its call on what it termed "the inability of government to stem the growing disaffection in the country."

"All through last week, the police and security agencies struggled hard to put down violent uprisings that broke out in several parts of the country. They had to deploy tanks, machine guns, and even bombs to prevent the crises from escalating into a full blown insurrection that could lead to the collapse of civil authority."

Referring to the crisis in parts of the country, the MUP said that there has been substantial loss of lives and properties. "In Maiduguri, Bauchi, Katsina and Gombe, the crises led to the death of many innocent people plus the destruction of valuable properties. In the Niger Delta, nine foreign oil workers were

By Emmanuel Bello,
Political Editor

kidnapped and are still being held hostage."

According to the MUP, the Maiduguri riot was not religious as the agitation cannot be attributed to the Islamic faith. "Religious fanatics have been blamed for the mayhem in Maiduguri. These charges were made mainly by government officials and the world has so far accepted this version. But it is a version of a story that is only partly true. Still, nothing can excuse violence or the attack and murder of innocent people. So clearly, the rioters that poured out onto the streets of Maiduguri last Saturday were not religious zealots as they are being described nor could they have been acting on behalf of their religion. Our religions forbid the transfer of punishment from an offender to a scapegoat."

The statement further said that the crisis are a highlight to the troubling condition of the nation, noting that the civil society is on the brink of total collapse. "These spates of

riots and disturbances highlight several troubling facts about the current Nigerian condition, firstly, that civil authority in the country is steadily and tragically collapsing. Secondly, the simmering undercurrents of anger and frustration and discontent of the people seem to be boiling over. Thirdly, it is a matter of time before the crises degenerates into a civil war and total anarchy."

It also raises an alarm that the government is downplaying the crises and blaming religious fanatics for the uprising. MUP, in its opinion, says that the whole country may soon be engulfed in some internecine skirmishes that could eventually terminate the nation's civil rule.

Riots recently broke out in parts of the North with a heavy toll of casualty recorded. Although official interpretation of the riots puts it down on religious crisis, observers say the protests are aimed against the planned public hearings.

MUP also in its comment on the hearings, said that it is a ploy to afford the president an extension of tenure. It noted that the cities where the riots took place were all venues for the hearings starting today, February 22. "Significantly, all the cities in the North where riots broke out are the venues chosen by the Mantu committee that is pretending to hear out the views of the people

before removing the clauses in the constitution that terminates Chief Obasanjo's tenure on May 29, 2007."

Lamenting the spate of riots and the loss recorded, the MUP warned the Presidency not to lose sight of the message Nigerians are passing across. "And we should go back to the question. What is it that is driving the people to the point of death through rioting? It is

for us to search for it."

Accusing the President of nursing a life-president ambition, MUP says that the nation's leader will stop at nothing in achieving his bid, "and he could do so through repression and bloodshed. What is worse, it has since become evident that Chief Obasanjo will split and dismember Nigeria whether or not he becomes a life-president."

Panic in Katsina over riot

— Yar'Adua pleads for calm

From Lawal Ibrahim,
in Katsina

Governor Umar Musa Yar'Adua of Katsina state has appealed for calm and assured of his administration's determination to unravel circumstances that led to last weekend's violence.

Yar'Adua, in a state-wide broadcast on Monday, commiserated with families of those who lost their beloved ones, assuring that government will fully investigate the circumstances in which an apparently

peaceful preaching turned violent resulting in the loss of lives.

He said the state security committee meets daily and will continue to monitor the situation and take measures to prevent a further breakdown of law and order.

Governor Yar'Adua said his government is not unaware of the heightened tension pervading the state because of

the public hearing on the review of the constitution, but said however, that government will not allow a repeat of what happened as all security measures are being put in place to ensure the success of the public hearing in the state.

He said his government will not hesitate to ask that the hearing be cancelled if security conditions deteriorate, but tasked the people of the state to ensure that normalcy returns to the state capital.

ANPP faction suspends Sokoto Dep. Gov

The crisis in the Sokoto State All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) has taken a new dimension following the expulsion of the state's Deputy Governor, Alhaji Aliyu Wamakko, from the party.

A statement signed by the chairman of the party, Alhaji Mohammed Aliyu, said the decision to expel Wamakko was taken during a meeting of the party's state executive committee on Monday.

According to the statement, the party, after considering the report of its committee set up to investigate allegations of anti-party activities against the deputy governor, resolved to expel him. Wamakko is accused of "disrespect to the party and state leadership as well as causing disaffection among party members, thereby creating a parallel party organ".

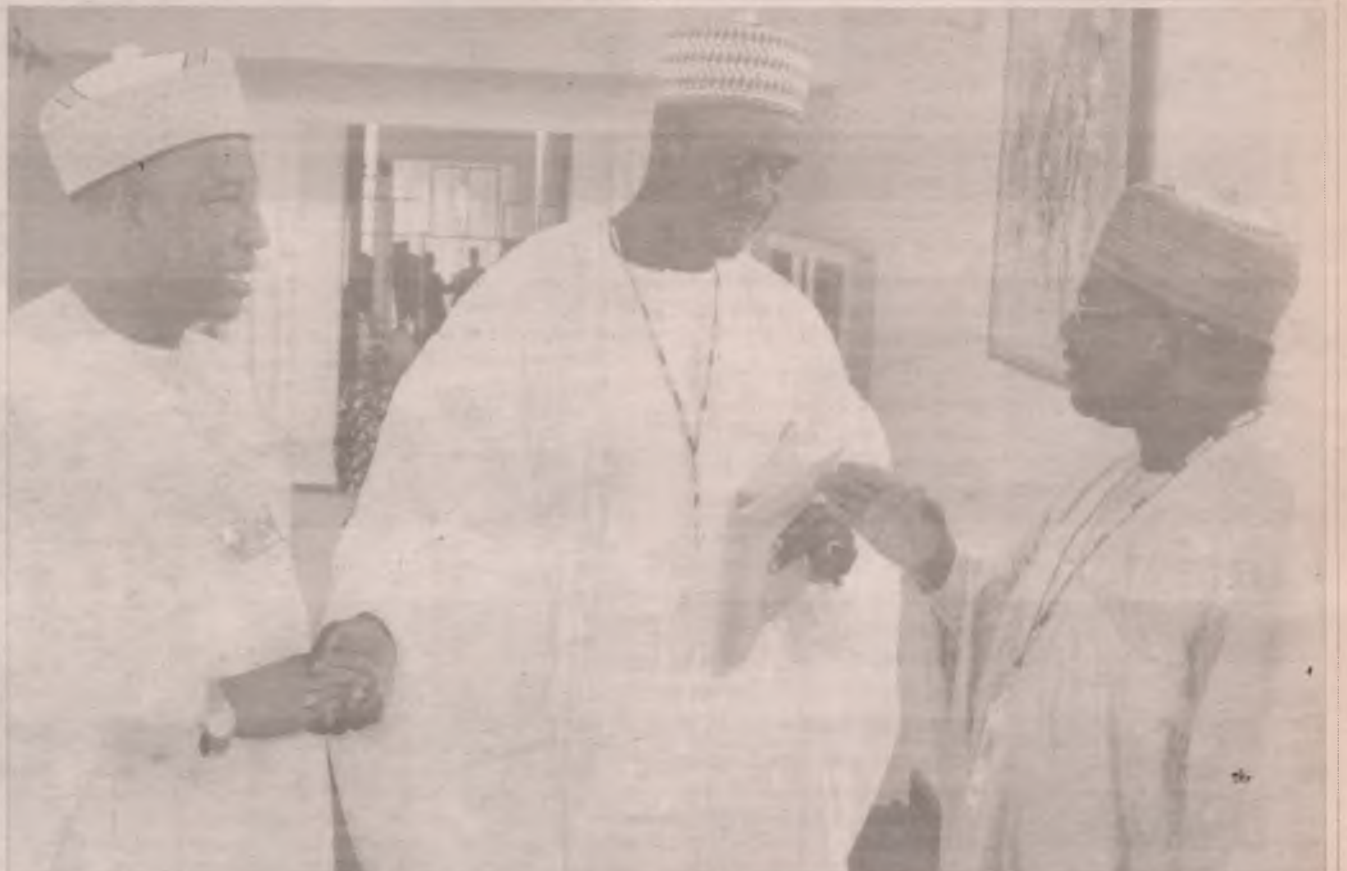
He was also accused of threatening the lives of the

party leadership, disloyalty and acts capable of causing chaos and misunderstanding among party members.

In his reaction, Wamakko described the allegations as "baseless, null, void and of no effect".

"This is just a child's play," he said, adding that the "ANPP as a party has one headquarters. The national executive council of the party met last Friday in Abuja and took certain decisions," he added. He said such decisions included the dissolution of the Sokoto state executive council of the party as well as the appointment of a caretaker committee.

He wondered how he can be suspended from the party by a dissolved body and appealed to party members in the state to be law abiding and peaceful in their conduct, adding that the crisis will be peacefully resolved.



From left are: Alhaji Ja'afaru Faki, the Special Adviser to President Obasanjo on Petroleum, Engineer Adamu Ibrahim Gumel and Professor A.S. Sambo, Director-General and Chief Executive Officer, Energy Commission of Nigeria, during the inauguration ceremony of the Committee on Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority held at the State House, Abuja ...yesterday
Pic: Joe Oroye

Aborted strike: AIG reminds police of ethics

By Shuaibu Yahya,
Reporter

The Assistant Inspector-General of Police zone 7, Abuja, Sir Kieran Z. Dudari, has warned officers and men of the zone to comport themselves according to the ethics of the profession and avoid laziness or mingling with dubious persons.

He said, "build yourself as an officer and avoid crime as law will not take

it kindly with you if caught."

The Assistant Inspector General gave the warning yesterday while addressing his men at a lecture organised by *Trust Fund*, one of the organisations certificated on Monday by President Obasanjo to manage the national pension funds.

He condemned the aborted nationwide strike by junior officers which was to take on Monday, pointing out that the ill-motivated action was caused by a big gap in communication between the rank and file and their senior officers.

Sir Kieran Dudari who called his men to order, informed them that President Olusegun

Obasanjo is very serious about the conditions of the police, hence he has embarked on various reform programmes to improve their lot.

As regards the disparity in the deductions made presently between the other armed forces and the police in their various pension funds, he averred that the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Sunday

Ehindero, is pursuing the matter with the federal government.

He advised the policemen to regard their call to duty as a way of rendering their personal sacrifices to the nation as no amount of salary can be commensurate with their job if quantified, putting into consideration their exposure to all forms of risks.



Governor Bafarawa

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

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Policeman shoots colleague, two others over N20

A mobile policeman in Port Harcourt Monday was said to have shot his colleague through what witness said was an accidental discharge. The incident happened at about 9pm close to the slaughter house.

The two were said to be on "Stop and search duty when a vehicle loaded with satchet of water arrived and the witness said the driver proved "uncooperative with regard the N20 toll gate fee."

One of the mobile policemen cocked his gun and in the process the gun were off and some bullets hit his colleague. When the policemen noticed that something had seriously gone wrong as his colleague laid on the ground, he allegedly turned his rifle on the driver and his conductor.

A crowd, mainly made up of commercial motorcyclists took to their heels hearing several shots of gun fire.

"We ran for our dear life because we were afraid that he may be mad and could begin to shoot anything at sight" a witness told our reporter when he arrived at the scene.

The witness said the argument between the driver and the policeman in question started like a joke with the driver telling him that he thought the police were supposed to be on strike and then went further to say that the trip was his first.

The witness, a commercial driver waiting for passengers near the scene said the policeman simply asked him to stop and to pack his vehicle well.

"Just then he lifted his gun and cocked it and in the process he released a shot which hit his colleague on the other side of the road.

From Ikenna Emeka Okpani, Bureau Chief, Port Harcourt

The policeman slumped to the ground and the other one who shot screamed and quickly shot the driver and

police public relations officer, DSP Ireju Barasua to comment on the issue failed, as her number could not go through but an officer who spoke on condition of anonymity said the police

a member of a task force who refused to release a motorcycle seized from his friend. The military man who had arrived at the task force office in Mile one pleaded with the members to release

them lay in the pool of his blood.

The police public relations officer in the state who later announced the arrest of the officer in question said the man was attached to a military formation in Sapele



This is dangerous: A woman, baby and heavy load on a motorcycle, a same sign of poverty in the land

the conductor" the witness said but he could not say whether any of those shot had died neither could he say where they were taken.

Efforts to get the state

headquarters in the state was yet to be briefed on the development.

A similar incident had occurred in Port Harcourt last year when a military man shot

the motorcycle to him but they refused prompting him to draw his gun and shoot one of the members. Other members of the task force took to their heels as one of

and was only on a visit to Port Harcourt. The incident had led to the disbandment of various taskforces in the state.

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

Osun gov donates bullet proof vests to police

Governor Olagunsoye Oyinlola of Osun State on has donated 250 bullet proof vests to the state police command. He said the gesture is to enhance police performance. The governor said investors wishing to participate in the development of the state could do so once there is adequate security. He played the acquisition of sophisticated weapons by criminals to outwit security agents, adding that the government has decided to support the police with necessary equipment to combat crimes and counter the criminals. Responding, the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Suleiman Fakai, commended the government for the donation and he assured that the vests will be used judiciously.

Police arrest five suspects over killing of priest

The Niger state police command has arrested five suspects in connection with the recent killing of an Anglican priest in Bida. Archdeacon Elijah Yisa, an Assistant Administrative Officer to the Bishop of Bida Diocese of the Anglican church was murdered three weeks ago. The state commissioner of police, Mr Ernest Ibhaze, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), in Minna on Monday that more suspects will be arrested. "We have been able to find out during our investigations that the cleric was killed in error. "There are reasons to suggest that the real target of the assailants was the Bishop of the church," he said.

Police foil oil pipeline vandalism

The Taraba state police command has foiled six attempts to vandalise oil pipelines in the last eight months. The state Commissioner of Police, Mr Greg Anyating, said the incidents happened at Namnai Sabongida, Natirde, Gorko-Kombi and Kwara-rafa villages. He told NAN on Monday in Jalingo that jerrycans and tankers loaded with fuel were also impounded. Anyating also announced the arrest of eight robbery suspects who allegedly robbed the chairman of the state's UBE board, Mr Timon Maisamari and others.



Former Governor of Bayelsa State Chief Diepreye Alamieyeseigha alighting from the Black Maria at the Federal High Court, Ikoyi, Lagos to face trial on money laundering charges ...recently. Pix: Oladipupo Odunewu

Money laundering: Case against Alamieyeseigha adjourned to March 29

A federal high court in Lagos has set March 29 for ruling on the application by impeached governor of Bayelsa state, Chief Diepreye Alamieyeseigha, seeking a stay of proceedings of his trial for money laundering charges.

By Mohammed Shoshanya, Lagos

The former governor wanted the stay granted pending his appeal challenging the decision of the court on December 20, last year that it has jurisdiction to entertain

the case. Ruling on the application for the stay which was delayed for weeks by the presiding judge, Justice Mohammed Shuaibu, due to the protracted illness of the former governor. When the matter came up again for hearing at the weekend, Professor Alfred Kasumu (SAN), counsel to Alamieyeseigha submitted that "in view of the not too impressive health" of his client, the court should adjourn the ruling indefinitely.

According to him, Chief Alamieyeseigha is still in the hospital, adding that his appeal has been entered by the appellant court which has granted accelerated hearing to his prayers. "The court of appeal stood over our appeal for injustice to restrain the prosecution from continuing with the trial until the appeal is determined. It also directed the prosecution not to proceed with the trial in view of this have I asked the court to adjourn

the matter indefinitely pending the out come of the appeal. While opposing the submission of Professor Kasumu, prosecution counsel represented by Barrister Adeniyi Adebisi, said it was incorrect that the appellate court directed that the prosecution should not proceed with the two months trial. He said though the appeal court granted accelerated hearing of the appeal, there is no application before the same court praying that ruling should not be given. The counsel urged the court to discountenance the request of the defense counsel for indefinite adjournment. But in his decision, the judge held that he would not grant the request for indefinite adjournment in view of the fact that the accused is still in the hospital receiving treatment. He held that his court can entertain a fairly long adjournment which he fixed for March 29, 2006.

POLICE COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE NUMBERS

1. Abia State	088-222868, 088-220073
2. Adamawa State	075-674012, 624012
3. Akwa Ibom State	085-200008, 201711
4. Anambra State	048-550022
5. Bauchi State	077-6542621
6. Bayelsa State	089-490060, 490132
7. Benue State	044-532962, 044-553015
8. Borno State	076-232915, 232043 ≤
9. Cross River State	087-231101, 230663
0. Delta State	956-281485, 280441≤
11. Ebonyi State	043-25134, 20325
12. Edo State	052-253798, 253520
13. Ekiti State	030-250000, 250709
14. Enugu State	042-250335, 042-256257
15. Gombe State	072-223135, 221158
16. Imo State	083-233343, 083-2307113
17. Jigawa State	064-721138, 721128
18. Kaduna State	*062-249762, 062-245653
19. Ka no State	064-645862, 646469
20. Katsina State	065-431703, 430914
21. Kebbi State	068-321585, 320254
22. Kog i State	058-220999, 250709
23. Kwara State	031-221612
24. Lagos State	01-4960200, 4962157
25. Nasarawa State	047-221349
26. Niger State	066-221496, 066-221903
27. Ogun State	039-241500, 243117
28. Ondo State	034-240109
29. Osun State	035-243363, 240330
30. Oyo State	02-2412824, 2412322
31. Plateau State	073-457969, 073-451968
32. Rivers State	084-23347, 236471
33. Sokoto State	060-232896, 2335375 080-34228561
34. Ta raba State	079-222550, 223124
35. Yobe State	076-522141, 522145
36. Zamfara State	063-202603
37. FCT Abuja	09-2341800



IGP Sunday Ehindero

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

Two policemen arraigned for murder, robbery

A case of two police coporals, Mr. Isaac Mangs and Chinedu Eze, both 28-year-old who were dragged before an Abuja chief magistrate court for alleged complicity in the murder of Mr. Bala Dodo whom they allegedly killed in a robbery operation has been transferred.

The case was transferred to the Federal high court because the lower court has no jurisdiction to entertained the matter.

The two policemen who are being tried for criminal conspiracy, abetment and

Ruby Rabi Senior Reporter
culpable homicide punishable with death pleaded not guilty to the charges.

These offences are all contrary to sections 97[1], 79, 85 and 298 of the penal code, Cap79.

According to the charge sheet made available to *Daily Trust*, the two policemen allegedly conspired with one Kayode Oluwole, now at large, to commit armed robbery and culpable homicide which are punishable under section 298 and 221 of the penal code.

The charge sheet revealed that the accused persons robbed Mr. Dodo and his Toyota Camry car registration number CL 456 EKY CAR, and the sum of N6000 under the bridge near City Gate.

The prosecution alleged that Chinedu Eze drove the car to an untarred road along Kubwa village where they dragged out Dogo while Isaac Mangs used the butt of his K2 rifle to severally hit Dodo on the head and then left him there to die.

The report stated that the accused persons then proceeded to Sokoto state with the aim of disposing the vehicle but were apprehended by the Eagle Eye Squad, IGP's border patrol team.

The prosecuting police officer, DSP Ibrahim Bako, told the court that the police were quite aware that the court had no jurisdiction to try the case but that they simply wanted the court to take judicial cognisance of the case.

He said the police had completed all investigations into the matter and are only awaiting an autopsy report from the hospital while applying that the accused persons be remanded in prison custody until they are properly arraigned before a federal high court.



Some of the police officers in attendance at the pulic hearing on police reforms at Alausa Secretariat by the presidential committee on police reforms... recently

Tailor arraigned for stealing motorcycle

An Abuja based tailor, yesterday appeared in court for allegedly stealing a motorcycle.

20-year-old, Jamilu Bello, according to the prosecuting police officer, Mustapha Muhammad, was charged with criminal breach of trust and theft.

The prosecution told the court that the complainant in the case, one Muhammad Sanusi, a resident of Mabushi Abuja, reported to the police that he gave the accused his motorcycle to go to Gana street, Maitama, Abuja, to collect some clothes from his customer but he came back to report that the motorcycle was taken away by an unknown person where it was parked.

The accused however denied ever receiving the said motorcycle from the complainant, adding that he is a tailor and not an Okada man.

By Abdulwahab Deji Ajikobi
The presiding magistrate, Chukwu Ndukwe, granted the accused bail in the sum

of N70,000, with a surety in like sum and adjourned the case to next Monday for hearing.

Corruption: ITF Boss's case adjourned to March 31

Justice Yargata Nimpar of the Plateau state high court sitting in Jos, has fixed March 31 this year, for the continuation of hearing of the suit filed by the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), against the Director-General and the immediate past Chairman of the Industrial Training Fund (ITF).

Prof. Olu Akereloja and Otunba Adegboyega Bello, the Director General and the immediate past chairman, respectively are standing trial for alleged corruption related offences.

They were arraigned in court on a 16 count charge ranging from financial irregularities and abuse of office for self enrichment.

From Sunday Ejike Benjamin

The ICPC legal team led by Mrs. Christy Onuogu last Friday called six witnesses to testify against the two accused persons.

The prosecution also called two remaining witnesses and closed the case.

The defense counsel led by Chief Alex Izinyon, (SAN), who cross examined all the eight witnesses, instead of opening the defence brought a fresh application to enter a no case submission.

After the counsel had finished their submission, Justice Nimpar granted the application and gave the defence 14 days within which to file the no case submission and another 14 working days for the prosecution to respond.



National Bureau of Statistics

COUNTRY: NIGERIA
PROJECT: ECONOMIC REFORM AND GOVERNANCE
PROJECT (ERGP) STRENGTHENING OF STATISTICS
CATEGORY: CONSULTANTS SERVICES
PROJECT ID NO: NBS/EOI/2006/001

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

The Federal Government recognizes that it needs a strong statistical system to underpin the development and constant refinement of development policies and strategies; monitor the impact of policies and progress towards the achievement of MDGs; and ensure that Nigerians have adequate information on various aspects of national life and are able to engage in more informed dialogue on various development policy challenges. The Federal Government of Nigeria has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the ECONOMIC REFORM AND GOVERNANCE PROJECT (ERGP), and intend to apply part of the proceed for consultant services.

2. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), ERGP- PITT (Project Implementation Task Team) do hereby request Expression of interest from consulting firms on the following tasks;
LOT1. Acquisition of Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographical Information System (GIS) technology for data capture and reporting.

Tasks to be carried out:

- To analyze the current status of NBS field operation processes in data capture
- Identify data sets obtainable and can be mapped using GPS and GIS technologies
- Provide appropriate hardware and software systems to run GPS and GIS applications in NBS.
- Install GIS & GPS technologies in NBS, test run the processes and commission it.
- Mount a user training programme for NBS staff

Required Qualification;

- Practical experience in the use of ICT applications in Data production
- Practical work experience in deployment of GPS technology
- Practical work experience in deployment of GIS technology to data production processes
- Experience in GIS & GPS knowledge transfer via training.
- Familiarity with data production agencies.

LOT2. Development of Portal for data and Statistical Information for world wide dissemination.

Task to be carried out:

The consulting firm will assist in the following main task:

- Analyse the current status of both the FOS and NDB websites
- Integrated FOS & NDB websites content into a newly constructed NBS Portal.
- Develop & test run NBS portal and Commission the portal
- Conduct a Content Management training for NBS staff

Required Qualification;

- Practical experience portal design
- Familiarity with web application
- Practical experience in content development
- Experience with data management framework in a National Statistical Office (NSO).

LOT 3. Rehabilitation of NBS Headquarters

Tasks to be carried out

The consultants will assist in the following main tasks:

- To analyze the current operating environment of the Bureau HQ building.
- Rectify, repair and where necessary, modify the system.

Required Qualification;

- Practical experience in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering type projects
- Practical work experience in Advisory and Management Consulting status on related electrical, mechanical, safety and ventilation systems
- Experience in fire fighting system maintenance.
- Expert knowledge in public building facility maintenance.

3. Interested Consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours (i.e. 0900 to 1600hrs) Monday through Friday.

4. Expression of Interest must be delivered to the address below by 14th March 2006 at the latest, 1200hrs.

National Bureau of Statistics

Attention: Eteama Henry C. (Project Officer)

NBS- ERGP Project Implementation Office

1st Floor Rm 8, Plot 762 Independence Avenue, Central Business District,

Abuja- Nigeria

Tel/Fax 09-2731084, 08033153401; e-mail: eteamah@yahoo.com

Opinion

Soludo and challenges of revitalising the real sector

Driving through Acme Road, Ogba in Ikeja, Lagos, the visible signs of what were once warehouses of vibrant industrial concerns are now adorned by billboards loudly proclaiming the bustling Pentecostal movement. Uptown along the Matori axis of what used to be a major industrial area, the same situation is replicated in a manner that drives home the message - there is a boom in evangelism. All over the metropolis, there is a renewed surge in spreading the gospel. Christendom must definitely be winning souls for the Kingdom of God.

True, depression exacts its toll on the kindred spirit; engendering in the process solace in the Almighty for miracles, for good times. That we as a nation are now seeking God's munificence is in itself an acknowledgement of our collective failure and supplications to the Almighty Father for redemption. Lest we get carried away, it is necessary to remind us of that biblical injunction - heaven helps only those who help themselves.

We have found ourselves in a quandary and it is only through our collective

By Olatunde Anthony

resolve and determination that we can effect a fundamental change of fortunes. That warehouses are now serving as places of worship tells us in vivid detail the failure of enterprise. It is needless recounting how we got to this sorry pass. There are more than enough tomes capturing the gory details.

But, should we allow despondency to take over? Why wring our hands in utter despair? Should we say because the Nigerian dream is broken, it can no longer be fixed? Some people have to fix it. And these people definitely cannot be foreigners. We need to remind ourselves of this trite - the best comes out of adversities. In that wise, we need to undoubtedly re-apply ourselves to rebuilding the Nigerian dream.

That is why we must appreciate an ongoing silent revolution initiated by a young man, which most of our compatriots, possibly due to perceived hopelessness or sheer helplessness, are failing to grasp its import. Several times, I have asked myself

this question: what could possibly be driving Prof. Charles C. Soludo, the present governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria? Were his resolves to effect the revolutionary changes he initiated in the past two years borne out of altruism or is there a divine hand using him to answer our collective prayers? How else can you analyse the messianic zeal with which he prosecutes the various assignments he's been saddled with in the last few years?

Cast your mind back to the period when Soludo headed the National Planning Commission. It was during this period that the National Economic Empowerment Strategy (NEEDS) was authored by himself along with other eggheads. Although some people pilloried NEEDS, saying the policy was no more than the IMF/World Bank-influenced programme, it is a tribute to Soludo and the group that drew up the policy that has become a reference point in debt exit management strategy. Both Bretton Woods institutions acknowledged this significant contribution to knowledge, and its prescriptions as a new debt

resolution instrument. Perhaps, we were so immersed in the drudgery of eking out a living that we could not be bothered over this landmark that means exit from the strangulation of the Paris \$30 billion debt. Or was it due to the typical cynicism?

Soludo then moved over to the CBN and dropped a bombshell aptly couched Banking Consolidation. Today, we know better. We know now that some of the deposit money banks were not actually practising banking; they were just banks in name. And the accolades have been pouring forth in torrents for the CBN governor in the wake of the success of the exercise that led to the whittling of banks to 25 stronger ones from 89 weak banks. Can we authoritatively now conclude that the problem of financial intermediation is solved for entrepreneurs to access the banks for loanable funds?

That would be like day-dreaming. The challenges are beyond mere access to funds, although it is a major problem. They touch right at the fundamental structure of the entire economy. In risk

analysis, doing business in Nigeria is akin to a leap in the dark. The obstacles are legion. From infrastructural deficiencies to volatility of the external sector and almost the failure of government, entrepreneurs have always rated this clime as a high-risk zone. All these boil down to an unstable macro-economic environment. Perhaps, it's only gamblers that would dare put their money in such an economy. High risks, high returns.

In spite of these challenges, there seems to be a renewed interest in Nigeria. In the last few weeks, Nigeria suddenly popped up on Fitch's BB rating, closely followed by Standard and Poor's BB, all on account of the impressive performance of the economy in the last three years. Once again, attention is riveting on a country that was several years a pariah in the community of nations. This tells a lot about the prospects. Soludo must definitely be right when he recently declared during the recently-held Business Roundtable by the influential *Economist* magazine that the challenges for investment remain, but the prospects

cannot be brighter than now.

If the prospects are very bright, it means the reforms are working. But a lot definitely remains to be done, and this is where Soludo becomes relevant. The CBN governor has the onerous task of ensuring a stable macro-economic balance that is not only sustainable but also predictable. He has to keep inflation in check and ensure a fairly stable exchange rate. It is indeed a tribute to his acumen that he was able to ensure stability of these fundamental prices - exchange rate, interest rate - in the last three years.

Striking the right cord between fiscal and monetary policies will, however, be the most daunting. This is where the politicians with their unbridled appetite for spending come in. And with 2007 around the corner, Soludo has to come up with a game plan to checkmate the excess liquidity that may be unleashed by the politicians hell bent on winning elections at all cost. So, over to the Pentecostal movement for powerful prayers.

Olatunde Anthony contributed this piece from Abuja.

Obasanjo on the "happiness" of Nigerians

Last week at the ECOWAS secretariat in Abuja, the venue of the commemorative lecture of the late head of state, General Murtala Muhammed, delivered by the British Foreign Secretary, Mr Jack Straw, President Olusegun Obasanjo showed his complete contempt for Nigerians. In the past, he had abused, cursed, insulted and now he added sadistic and wicked humour to his deep and profound contempt for Nigerians. At the said lecture, he claimed to have met the British head of the Gallup polls who found out that Nigerians are the 'happiest' people on earth; and according to Obasanjo, he believed him.

However, while it may not be necessary to join issues with the British pollsters, because there is no single matter that could make all people happy at the same time just as it is impossible or mere human folly to determine the most beautiful person or specifically woman in the world, the British poll that discovered that Nigerians are the happiest people on earth may have been intended to tickle a president well known to be hostage to vain jokes, inane drama and obscene humour. But repeating the triviality before a distinguished audience reveals the depth of contempt that the president holds Nigerians in. However, since President Obasanjo agreed with the British Gallup polls that Nigerians are the happiest

By Charles Onunaiju

people on earth and he relishes the fact that perhaps it is because of his rule that Nigerians were declared so, it might be pertinent to examine how the rule of Obasanjo and his PDP has contributed to the happiness of Nigerians.

On assumption of office in 1999, he strenuously sought the control of the legislative arm and engendered the highest rate of leadership change in the assembly in search of the most malleable and pliable man for the leadership. He famously danced with the late Chuba Okadigbo in the day and engineered his ouster in the night. Nigerians were genuinely entertained at the tales of the jumbo furniture allowance and the huge sum of money splashed on the chamber of the House of Representative as bribe to oust the speaker, with whom Obasanjo was having difficulties. But the parliament's drama falls into insignificance with the news of a coup d'etat in Anambra State. A detachment of policemen led by the assistant-inspector general actually abducted the governor and helped his rebellious deputy to announce his seizure of power. It later transpired that a notorious thug who has scooped enormous wealth from state patronage was the executor of the dastard plot but everybody knows that there is no way an assistant inspector general of police

could lead such operation without covert or overt approval from the highest federal authority. President Obasanjo was later to praise the felon as the soul and body of his PDP in the state, but the saga would not stop there. Frustrated by the obvious media and popular sympathy for the beleaguered governor, Chief Chris Uba, who styled himself as the "godfather of Anambra politics" went for the jugular, orchestrating arson, pillage and rampage that lasted for three days leaving properties worth billions of naira in ruins, the British Gallup pollsters must have seen federal police personnel who were 'happily' urging and cheering the arsonists on in their orgy of destruction as captured by the international media. A few days after the destruction of the state, Chief Chris Uba was hosted to a red carpet reception at Abuja with a plea to cease-fire, while his terms were being met. Not long afterwards, the president himself revealed that his beloved 'godson' and stormy petrel of Anambra politics had confessed to him that he sabotaged, thwarted and subverted the will and electoral choices of Anambra people by foisting the embattled governor on them. What the chief law officer of the country and a man who has sworn to defend the constitution only did to such confession, according to him, was to ask the felon who had confessed to such a

crime to leave his presence.

Days later, the party expelled the embattled governor and his confessing tormentor, but quickly re-admitted the 'godson' to a high position as a member of the party's board of trustees and deputy leader. For want of rational explanation and reaction to these events, which would never happen in places as small as Cape Verde, the British pollsters may have caught Nigerians in a helpless amusement at the costly comic opera spawned by the Presidency and thought it to be happiness, because there is a very thin line separating amusement and happiness.

But more laughter and happiness were yet to come last year. President Obasanjo went public with the simmering animosity between him and the vice president, Abubakar Atiku, accusing the VP of disloyalty and backstabbing; and from then on, the vice president's staff and even known members of his political clan were to suffer endless persecution and indignities. At the last count, about ten staff had been sacked and the last, his ADC, was arrested and held in solitary detention for weeks on charges of security breaches. Earlier, the vice president had had his US residence ransacked by FBI officials ostensibly on a tip and had been unlucky as Mr Alamieyeseigha who was found with lots of cash, he would have been history by now. The presidential name-

calling at the highest echelon of state power would have made a tremendous comic relief to most Nigerians and the British pollsters would have caught them in that mood. For want of constructive reaction and being obviously confounded by the Obasanjo insistence on having the 'garrison commander' and king of *amala* politics in Oyo State have his way at the expense of decency and due process, the event at Oyo State at the beginning of this year could really send ribs cracking. Most young Nigerian comedians have been ingeniously adapting the several official misdemeanours to stage jokes and people who attend genuinely reel in laughter and the British pollsters may have been stomping the theatres and discovering that Nigerians are a happy lot.

But beyond the official slurs, which really may amuse and equally annoy, let's attempt to measure some facts from where the president's misguided notion of Nigerians' happiness could come from. Since he assumed office in 1999, the prices of petroleum products have risen more than seven times and have jumped to more than 500%. In their expression of happiness, Nigerians have protested at numerous times leading to many of them being felled by the bullets of the police. Notwithstanding the change of name from NEPA to Power Holding Company (PHCN), most Nigerians know that at

no time in the history of the country has there been more power outages than now; but since his own home or the Aso Rock fortress is lit day and night and has enabled his several thick flowing *agbada* to be ironed and starched, President Obasanjo may have thought that his unbridled happiness is infectious.

Nigerians are equally happy at having the most unsafe sky in the world, along with the fact that what passes for Nigerian national air carrier is the private airline of a British eccentric businessman who, might choose at his convenience to airlift a band of mercenaries in the name of Nigerian national air carrier to destabilise any part of Africa or the world.

Plans have been completed to lay off almost half of the public workforce and the prospects of these family breadwinners returning to cold job market is cheering news, gladdening the hearts of all Nigerians. In fact, the British Gallup poll-finding would have been ignored as it has been if not for President Obasanjo's incendiary tactics of mocking Nigerians with such provocative materials. As the author of Nigerians', perpetual happiness, President Obasanjo is set to fixate himself in power, because the fraudulent forgery of Nigerians' 'happiness' is part of the game plan for a heinous and odious third term.

Onunaiju is a staff of Daily Trust.

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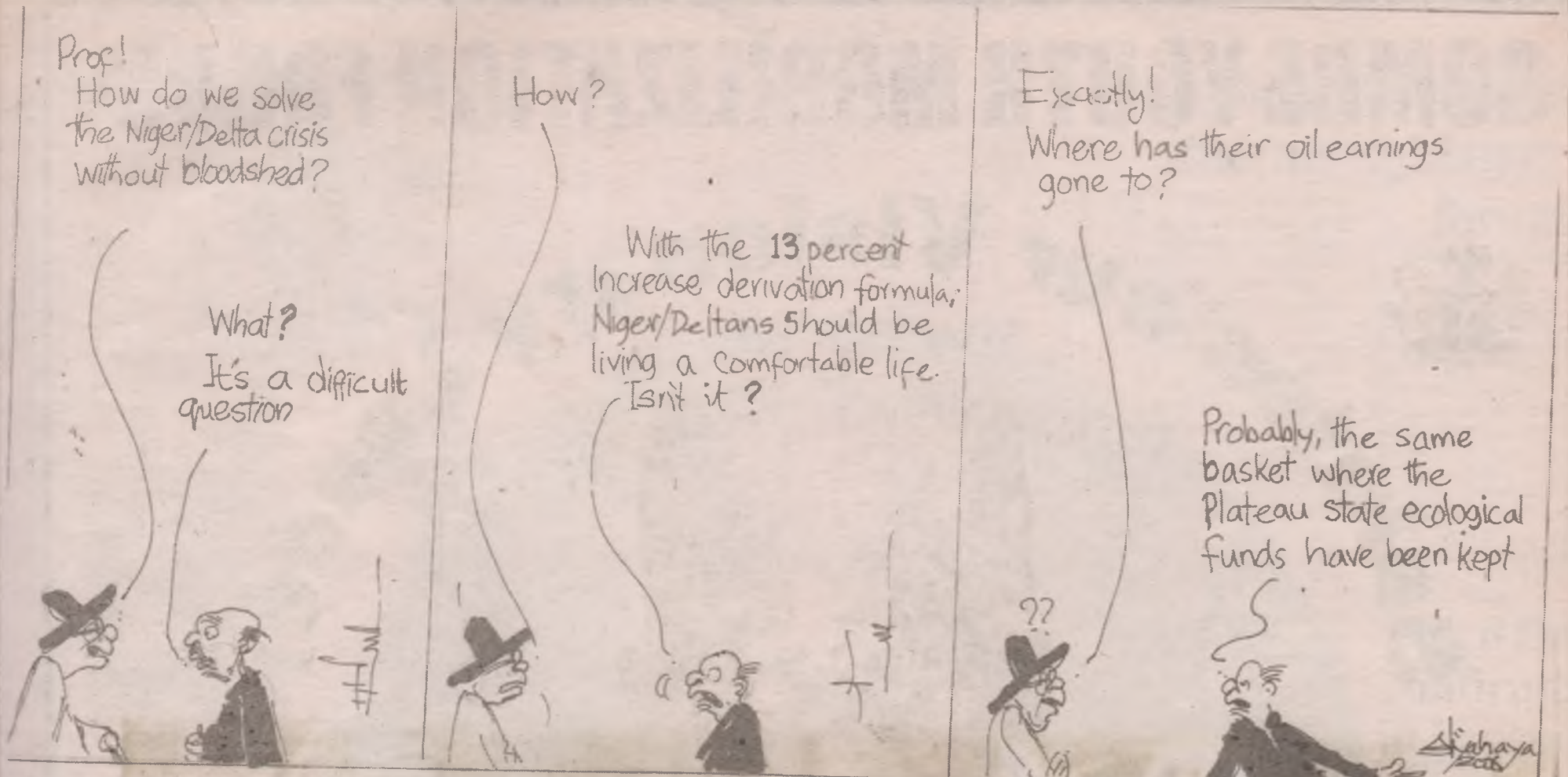
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YOUR LETTERS

On the banning of Hisbah in Kano

The banning of Hisbah is not only unfortunate, but bad. Hisbah is the vanguard of implementing shariah, which we are trying to implement in all strata of our lives in Kano State. Its coming into being was based on the Qur'anic verses that enjoin us to do good and shun what is bad; as such, recruiting some people from among us to do such work or duties for the Muslim ummah became necessary, for no society can progress without control, hence the creation of Hisbah became imperative. Among the duties of Hisbah include maintaining the sanity of environment, helping the police to maintain order, promote justice and equality and advise people against acquiring bank interest, which amounts to usury, hoarding and speculation, etc.

Since the beginning of Hisbah in Kano State, the members had been performing wonderfully and creditably to the surprise of many, to the extent that people preferred to take their communal cases to them for settlement. As such, they became popular within a short period of time. The credit that Hisbah corps was getting made many become envious and they were hell bent on seeing its downfall. For the past year, a prominent minister from Kano had been describing Hisbah as a terrorist organisation, and its members as political soldiers for Governor Shekarau to rig elections.

Since the forceful ejection of a particular governor from Government House in 2003, he and his group have never hidden their desire to create

problems for Shekarau's government. They are doing everything possible to discredit the government, the people of the state and even the state's economy. They sought to use the Yelwa-Shendam crisis spill-over to Kano to cause chaos and fracas, so that a state of emergency could be declared, but they did not succeed. They also used the

Governor Makarfi, we need electricity in Makarfi LG

Kindly allow me space in our favourite newspaper to urge the governor of Kaduna State, Alhaji Mohammed Makarfi to come to our rescue by finding a hurried solution to the shortage of electricity in Makarfi town. We are aware of the perpetual electricity shortage in the country, but our own situation is worse. Before the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) brought out the time-table indicating the removing us from the former distribution channel that we used to be in Zaria, we usually spent up to seven or eight days without having electricity supply. Sometimes, we could have electricity for complete 24 hours, and then stay eight days without it.

Efforts have been made by our district head to see that the situation is rectified, but due to lack of support from elders of the town, the situation persists. After all, most of them do not suffer the vicissitudes of power failure, which is why they are less concerned.

The situation has

fertilised issue to blackmail and paint Shekarau's administration in bad light, and they still did not succeed. Not giving up, they interfered in the issue of Kofar Na'isa plot which already belongs to Kano State by doing everything possible to deny Kano people of the plot from the federal government. Still unsatisfied, they teamed up

polarised many businesses in the area like the business of welding, grinding machine owners (this causes long queues at the grinding sites), sellers of soft drinks who depend on refrigerators, etc.

If care is not taken, the people living in Makarfi will forever live in absolute dark due to lack of electricity.

Lest I forget, our neighbours in Tashar Yari, Gode, Wali and Koleji usually have constant electricity supply. There were rumours

Gov. Bukar A. Ibrahim, Nigerians are no fools

Allow me a space to notify Governor Bukar Abba Ibrahim of Yobe State on his recent call to Nigerians to support President Olusegun Obasanjo's third term plans.

OBJ himself agreed that the masses are suffering severe hardship since his coming to power except those at the corridors of power.

We Nigerians know that third term is a way out for the president and his team, since there's no possibility of IBB

with some opposition within ANPP to cause misunderstanding between Shekarau and Buhari. They were also using all available means and media to castigate and blackmail Shekarau's administration by provoking and inciting the public with inflammatory remarks capable of putting the state aflame, yet they were unsuccessful.

that we heard that a sub-station would be provided at Gimi Tasha, but uptil now, nothing has been done.

We are now using this patriotic medium to forward our request to the governor to come and solve the matter quickly, because "only those who do good deeds are the prosperous ones." I hope our request will be fully considered.

Muhammad Auwal Hassan, No. 26, Opposite Cinema Road, T/Wada, Makarfi.

taking over from OBJ because he is the only one who can take over and stay firmly to provide safety and security to outgoing government officials.

This is why he did not support his vice president, Atiku Abubakar to take over because of lack of confidence and not hatred.

Therefore, Governor Bukar Abba Ibrahim, please keep quiet on this issue. Nigerians are no fools.

Alhaji Moh'd A. Hamidu, No. 3, Sultan Road, Kaduna.

With all their plans being thwarted by Allah, they now came through the backdoor by instigating the federal government to disband the Hisbah corps.

After launching the Hisbah which has over 9,000 members, they were frightened, so they went to town describing Hisbah as a terrorist organisation, Shekarau's police, 'Yan'daba and other bad names which clearly show their dislike.

While religiously, the setting up of Hisbah is commendable, economically/socially, it is good (as each member gets something at the end of the month), yet they see these as baseless.

In addition to the internal reasons for the banning of Hisbah, there is also international conspiracy against successful shari'ah implementation in Kano in particular, and Nigeria in general. If not, why ban only Kano Hisbah and even comparing it with another organisation of different mission and vision?

Whatever is the mission of those who engaged in sabotaging the cause of implementing sharia'ah in Kano, they should bear in mind that they have failed already. They are challenging Allah not Shekarau, for Hisbah is neither doing Shekarau's nor ANPP work. They are doing Allah's work, which is continuous in as much as life exists on earth.

I want to re-inform my fellow Kano State citizens that nothing good comes easy; as such our struggle would not be an exception. If we think back to the time of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), we will know that there is no struggle over Islam that does not face opposition, hatred, sabotage, envy, conspiracy, etc. And if we think ours will be different, then we are all jokers. This issue of the banning of Hisbah is among the countless conspiracies that were planned after all plans before did not yield any dividend.

We should not, therefore, soft pedal in this struggle, because Allah cannot be played with (by intending to practise Shari'ah and backing out). Also, no matter how long it will take us in the Supreme Court, we should continue with the case. And whoever would emerge as next the governor in Kano State after Shekarau either in 2007 or 2011 must continue from where Shekarau stopped, or else we shall not allow him to form any government. For this struggle did not start with Shekarau and will not stop with him.

Long live shari'ah in Kano State!
 Long live Kano State!!
 Long live Nigeria!!!
 Wassalam.
Sani Garba Mohammed, Karaye LG, Kano State (karaye@gmail.com)

Reactions to articles published in this paper may be directed to the editor via the email address: editor@dailytrust.com

GOMBE YOUTH MOBILIZATION FORUM



Salutes our Visionary Leader



His Excellency, Alh. Muhammad Danjuma Goje
(Sarkin Yakin Gombe)
Executive Governor, Gombe State.

It is undisputably clear today that at no time did our state witness a true revolution and giant transformations in all sectors than in the last two and half years of your tenure as an elected Governor.

No wonder that the National Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (N.U.J.) found you worthy for an award of excellence in WATER SUPPLY AND ROADS CONSTRUCTION on 9th February, 2006.

Congratulations for this landmark award!

Comrade Abubakar Salihu (Yellow)

David Sajo Danborno

**(For and on behalf of:
 (Gombe Youth Mobilization Forum)**

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*The Management & Staff
of Edile & Bemaak
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rejoice with His
Excellency Alh. (Dr.)
Muhammadu Adamu
Aliero on his
conferments of Doctorate
Degree in (Law),
(Honoris Causa) on
Saturday, 18th February
2006, by the Authority of
Nasarawa State
University, Keffi.*

*We wish you greater
achievements in the years
ahead.*

**His Excellency,
Muhammadu Adamu Aliero,
(Garkuwan Gwandu)
Executive Governor, Kebbi State**

--- Signed: ---

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Opinion

OBJ's third term plan is a reality

By Leke Adelere

At last, President Obasanjo has peeled off the scoop. July last year when the issue of tenure extension became a reality given the seriousness with which the proponents of third term were going about it, many brushed it aside and discarded the idea as a figment of people's imagination. Meanwhile, the campaigners who had infiltrated the rank and file in the society were then monitoring people's reactions given our past antecedents when we accepted foolish ideologies hook, line and sinker.

There were those who said it can never be real, while others described the third term agenda as controversial, satanic and a coup against the constitution. Such thinking and conclusion may be accepted in an ideal situation. Our own democracy has been turned into abnormal crazy where people in power only think of themselves and their family immediately they assume office to the detriment of the majority that gave them the mandate. Those who thought they know Mr President very well opined that he will not descend so low as to destroy the good works he had been doing over the years, forgetting that every average Nigerian politician doesn't give a damn for the nation's interest provided his ambition would be achieved. The Obasanjo of Murtala era that they knew very well and could vouch for is no longer the Obasanjo of today. How time changes!

President Obasanjo was presumed to know the consequences of such dastard ambition. Instead of tackling the third term head on, we waved it aside until it began to stare us in the face. Perhaps, the most dangerous national problem facing us at the moment is the monster called Third Term. How to persuade Mr President and his foot-soldiers to drop the idea for the sake of the nation, if at all they believe in the unity, togetherness and our oneness as they claim, should be the concern of those of us that remain patriotic. It is no longer an agenda, but a reality. The only delay for its implementation, though still wobbling and crawling, seems to be due to the few democrats and real politicians among the National Assembly members who still believe in the sanctity of democratic system and have vowed to expunge it from their schedules at all cost. They have vowed to defend the constitution and their integrity by not allowing discussion on the agenda let alone its passage through despite the mouth-watering inducements from the campaigners and supporters.

I dare say that some of the present members of the Constitutional Review Committee are quite disgruntled, because I cannot imagine them swearing to the same constitution they wanted to re-write by all means in order to serve the purpose and interest of their master(s). What kind of stupid thinking is that? Thanks to the likes of Senator Mukhtar Aruwa and others who exposed the hidden agenda of their colleagues in the committee.

Some Nigerians still do not believe that Mr President is deeply interested in third term despite the denial by some of

his aides that he is a statesman who will not want his image, fame and personality dragged in the mud. They have forgotten that Nigerians are no longer fools and no one can take this nation for granted any more. Gone are the days when leaders will brainwash the populace to accept stupid ideas. It is the tragedy of our society where mediocrity is being celebrated at the expense of merit.

The unfortunate and purported request made by the South-West governors during their "historic" solidarity visit to Mr President at Ota recently should not be seen as a new phenomenon in the politics of sit-tight leaders for it has ever been part of the game, except the dangerous dimension that the undemocratic politicians are introducing into the entire system as elected officers. The continuous stay in power by the president is the surest way for the South-West governors to remain on their seats, because they know that they are sitting on borrowed seats. Even millions of Obasanjos and Adedibus of this world cannot save any of them in an election.

We also know that it was on the crest of Obasanjo that all of them came to power; if not, none of them would have been capable of winning a councillor's slot in their respective wards let alone becoming a state governor. The failure of Mr President to rebuke the governors on the need for him to stay in office is an indication that President Obasanjo is deeply interested in third term and that the ploy is real. It has come to stay; therefore, we must fight the monster with all our vigour.

February 13, 2006 when the nation was marking the 30th anniversary of the late General Ramat Murtala Muhammed's assassination; perhaps, under duress and intercessory prayers of Nigerians that believe in the sanctity and efficacy of prayers, President Obasanjo said he was advocating for the continuity of his administration's series of reforms and, therefore, his self-perpetuation in power is the answer.

The fact that he was made to continue with the laudable policies and programmes of the Murtala government does not mean the same yardstick can be applied to the present realities. It was possible for him then because it was a military government, which ruled with force without respect for the rule of law and the wishes of the majority. Similarly, we must emerge to continue with the reforms by May 29, 2007 if at all those reforms are so good that the nation must continue with them. If Mr President sits tight like some of the other African leaders who have been ruling for decades in their respective countries, how will aspiring young leaders grow?

We don't need another Mobutu, Eyadema and all the bad life presidents in Nigeria. It is greedy on the part of Mr President to want to continue ruling this nation having consecutively done that on three occasions. Please, Mr President, bury personal interests for the sake of the nation.

Dimka enlisted the president for elimination in 1976 as

number three on the list as he revealed; and Abacha roped you in over a phantom coup in 1995, but God in His infinite mercy delivered President Obasanjo. Those experiences were enough to make him conscious and remain perpetually grateful to the Almighty God for sparing his life. The point I am making here is that Mr President should not cause problem for the Yorubas, because if he refuses to go when his time elapses next year, the other tribes will equally like to behave thus, because he'd have laid a bad precedent. So President Obasanjo, please go because there are many among your tribesmen that are also aspiring to be leaders in this country.

As far as we are concerned, Mr President has declared and made his position known on the matter. What he is waiting for is to see how the foot-soldiers will succeed in manipulating the whole nation under the guise of conducting referendum for constitution amendment. The federal government is yet to tell the nation what happened to the Amb. Yusuf Mamman's Constitutional Review Committee Report. Or has it been confined to the dustbin as usual? Unfortunately for the campaigners of the satanic project, the people assigned to brainwash the nation cannot brainwash themselves, let alone the masses of this nation.

All the odds are against them. They lack credibility even among their colleagues at the National Assembly. They have no reputation, integrity and command no respect from anybody across all levels.

Therefore, constitution amendment hearing at the six geo-political zones is unnecessary, frivolous and another exercise in futility which has disenfranchised millions of Nigerians already. The same old horses that know nothing more than raping the good people of this nation are the faces going about organising the third term campaign under the guise of constitutional amendment. Who needs the amendment now? Why is the amendment so crucial at this time? Why were the government and its foot-soldiers not deploying the same seriousness with which they are going about the amendment to the Amb. Yusuf Mamman Committee on Constitutional Review? If anything at all, the review or amendment should not be undertaken by this government considering the months it will elapse and wind up. On this note, one can say categorically that the third term agenda is real and government has deployed huge amount of money to prosecute the dirty assignment to its conclusion, irrespective of whose ox would be gored.

Watch out for the campaigners; they will approach you, induce you, brainwash you and will likely threaten you to accept tenure extension. The campaigners will say Obasanjo is the best thing that has ever happened to this nation and the only person that can do "good" to the country. Nigerians should be conscious and not succumb to their blackmailing antics.

Leke Adelere contributed this piece from Lugbe, Airport Road, Abuja.

Jimmy Cheto, contest Plateau governorship

By John Menshak

The campaign for political office is yet to commence officially in the country, but the intrigues leading to the gubernatorial race has started with candidates in most parts of the country working assiduously but underground to place themselves in vantage positions before the whistle for active politicking would be officially blown.

This exactly is the scenario in Plateau State where many have started serious consultations and meetings to ingratiate themselves to the powers that be, both within the party hierarchy and at other levels in the state. Already, there are many contenders who have so far made their intentions known through one way or the other, and who from all indications are ready to raise the tempo of their campaigns when the stage appears set.

But due to the underground nature of the campaigns, one is unable to make a distinction between those who are actually in the race and those who appear to be in it only in the minds and conjecture of the people.

That is why I feel compelled to contribute this piece when I heard last week through a friend that the current director in the Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory, Engr Jimmy Cheto, is also in the 2007 gubernatorial race in Plateau State.

My immediate reaction was that of joy and excitement, because having witnessed the kind of leadership foisted on our state over the years, I have come to the conclusion that the calibre of leaders Plateau State indigenes deserve would remain an illusion so long as the current kingmakers are allowed to have their way in the affairs of the state.

I never expected that genuine achievers like Cheto who have shown a dogged commitment to uplifting the plight of the common man in the state at personal levels and at the expense of sacrificing their personal comforts would also be interested in governing the state.

What this means to me as a person is that God must have taken active interest in the affairs of Plateau State, and has finally decided to intervene to save the state from the apparent lacklustre leadership that has bedevilled Plateau for a long time now.

I say this because I as an indigene of Plateau, who has lived virtually all his life in the state, am fully briefed about the qualities of this gentleman who recently bagged the highly prestigious title of the *Jarumin* Langtang in his area.

That is why I wish to join the teeming voices urging Engr Cheto not to allow the rumour to die on the realm of mere wish, but to take up the challenge and move the speculation to the realm of reality by joining the race. That is if it is people that are making up the story. If however the news is true and is emanating from him, then I say kudos and more grease to your elbow, because I believe the decision is divinely informed.

For those who are not aware, Engr Cheto represents one of the best human beings that Plateau State can produce in terms of integrity and leadership. This he has demonstrated in many ways and particularly through the empowerment of youths from the state and the assistance

he has rendered to many underprivileged in the society.

Anybody who has been to *Jarumin* Langtang's house will agree that he is a selfless person who never tires to attend to the problems of the common man. What with the hordes of people always waiting to see him and who always go home smiling.

But particularly worth mentioning is the contribution of the *Langtang-born* philanthropist to his alma mater the Kuru Old Boys Association, KOSA.

From a mundane association that hardly could raise its head, Cheto has been able to raise the association to enviable heights and has been using the platform of the Old Boys Association's been able to do a lot of things for the school through personal contribution and the use of this influence to mobilise resources for the development of the school. Through his efforts, the activities of other alma mater in Plateau State have been gingered up as everybody is working towards meeting the standard set by Cheto.

Space would not allow me continue but suffice it to say that Plateau State will be better if the likes of Engr Cheto are allowed to assume positions of leadership in it. I rest my case for now.

John Menshak wrote in from West of Mines, Jos, Plateau State.

"For those who are not aware, Engr Cheto represents one of the best human beings that Plateau State can produce in terms of integrity and leadership. This he has demonstrated in many ways and particularly through the empowerment of youths from the state and the assistance he has rendered to many underprivileged in the society."



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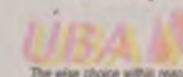


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Foreign & Diplomatic

Haiti: Fresh hopes amid tortuous history

By Charles Onunaiju, Senior Reporter, Foreign desk

The small Caribbean state of Haiti is significant in many respects. It is the world's first black-led republic and the first Caribbean state to achieve independence. However, the pride and significance of Haiti has been marred by years of poverty, environmental degradation, violence, instability and dictatorship which have left it as the poorest nation in the Americas.

A largely mountainous country with tropical climate, Haiti's location, history and culture epitomised by voodoo, with its music, drumming and dancing once made it a potential tourist haven. However, instability, violence, especially since the 1980s, have all but killed off this prospect.

The country's most notoriety was achieved during the brutal dictatorship of the voodoo physicians, Francois "papa doc" Duvalier and his son, Jean Claude, or "Baby Doc" in the 1970s and 80s. Hope that the election of a former catholic priest, Mr. Jean-Bertrand Aristide, would herald a brighter future were dashed when he was overthrown by the military a short time, afterwards. Although economic sanctions and US led military intervention forced a return to constitutional government in 1994, Haiti's fortunes did not pick up, with allegations of electoral irregularities extra-judicial killings, torture and brutality.

In 2004, a bloody rebellion and pressure from America and France, forced Mr Aristide out of power and into exile. An interim government took over and a UN stabilization force was deployed to restore order. But Haiti is still plagued by violent confrontations between rival gangs and political groups and the UN has described the human rights situation as "Catastrophic". Meanwhile, the country's most serious underlying social problem, the huge wealth gap between the impoverished Creole speaking black majority and the French-speaking mulattos, one percent of whom own nearly half the country's wealth, remains unaddressed. Furthermore, the infrastructure has all but collapsed and drug trafficking has corrupted the judicial system and the police. Haiti has problems of severe deforestation which has left it particularly vulnerable to flooding and

the country is pitifully ill-equipped to deal with the aftermath of tropical storms.

The chance is that the election which was held early in this month would herald a new beginning for the long suffering country of nearly 9 million people. However, its results though disputed has been resolved in favour of Mr Rene Preval, a former ally of the exiled Mr Aristide and has inherited his followings among the poor.

He was elected with 5% of the vote and would succeed the interim president Mr Boniface Alexander. The result of the vote was announced after officials agreed to discount thousand of blank ballot papers count and Mr Preval was declared winner after days of street protests by his supporters, after he has alleged that "massive fraud" was being used to deny him a first-round victory.

Widely seen as a champion of the poor, he says he wants to tackle social inequalities as well as create jobs. Born in port-au-prince, the country's capital in 1943, Mr Rene Preval studied in Belgium and lived in the United States of America in the 1970s.

He was president from 1996-2001, between Jean-Bertrand Aristide's first and second terms. Mr Aristide was Haiti's first democratically elected president, taking office in 1990 amid great popular support. But the country's long divisive and highly polarized politics ensured that the hopes generated by the election of the former catholic priest did not significantly alter the course of the country's tortuous history.

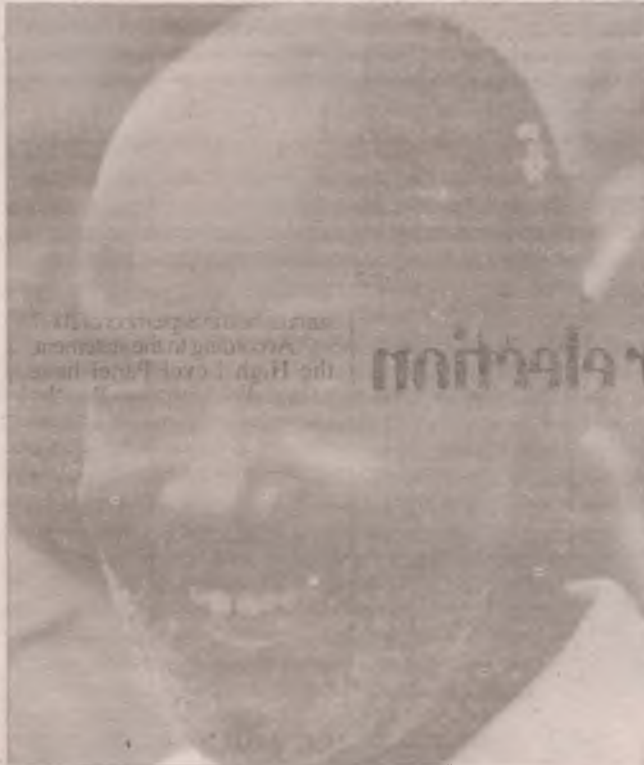
However, the return of democracy increased the profile of the impoverished black majority and gave a stake in the previously mulatto dominated political life of the country.

Having weathered a bloody military coup and ongoing political and economic crises, Mr. Aristide was forced out in February 2004 when opposition to his rule grew increasingly violent. Boniface Alexandre, Chief Justice at the Supreme Court was sworn in as interim leader. Now in exile in South Africa, Mr Aristide has promised to return to Haiti and accuses the US of forcing him into exile. Washington, however, denies a fact that is well

known.

Mr Preval, the leader of the small L'Espwa (the Hope) party-enjoys strong popularity, particularly in the

question of the February election, from which Mr Preval has been declared winner is how many people voted for Mr Preval in the



Haiti's president elect, Mr Rene Preval

slums of the country's capital, Port-au-Prince, thanks to his association with the leader who remained exiled in South Africa. An agronomist by training, Mr Preval who is 63 was active in the movement that ousted military ruler, Jean-Claude "Baby doc" Duvalier during the 1970s.

He was Prime Minister for a brief period in Mr Aristide's first administration, which was forced out of power in a 1991 military coup. Mr. Preval later replaced Mr Aristide as president between 1996 and 2001. His government was marred by political deadlock. In 1999, following a series of disagreement with deputies, he declared that parliament's term had expired and began ruling by decree. By the end of his term, the political situation has deteriorated. To his many reforms to ameliorate the conditions of the urban black poor, he met a political brick wall erected by the entrenched political interest of the highly propertied minority mulattos and their representative political platform. The crises and face-off with the parliament and the fractious political interests they represent erupted into crises, which eventually culminated in armed uprising that forced Mr. Aristide's second administration out of the power in February 2004. However, analysts say the biggest unanswered

hope that he would bring back Mr Aristide from exile. However, Mr Preval has told reporters that Mr Aristide may return, but that he will not tolerate the violent groups that pledge allegiance to him.

But given the challenges of upturning Haiti's terrible recent history, and ensuring a return to normalcy, Mr Preval's challenge is huge. Now that he has been confirmed the victor of the election, he has little time. He is certainly under pressure to bring back his former ally and mentor from exile, but his first crucial challenge would be to establish his legitimacy and acceptability even to the bitter opposition and ensure that they do not boycott the country's political life as they did in 2001 following disputed elections.

The boycott of 2001 by the opposition ensured a paralysis which snowballed into political violence that led to President Aristide's removal in February 2004. If the country's recent history is any guide, Mr Preval's priority would be to establish a dialogue with the fragmented opposition and ensure an atmosphere of calm and security. For this he will need the support of the 9,500 United Nations troops and police.

With luck, he can manipulate the fragmented opposition in the hope of defanging them. The UN mission in Haiti has been extended by a further six months and this should allow him a breathing space, although this will probably not be enough to restore any faith in Haiti's police force, which proved unable to deal with increasing violence two years ago, is badly trained and equipped and is very thin on the ground in many areas.

More importantly, the new president would have to convince the international community that he is the legitimately elected leader of Haiti and would do his utmost to keep the meddling some United States of America at bay from interference. International donor agencies withdrew their co-operation with President Aristide after the disputed election in 2001, but Haiti desperately needs the infusion of funds and would have to take steps to attract back these institutions.

The country also desperately needs the more than 1 billion US dollars that has been promised by international donors to be quickly made available if the 63-year former president is to make good his promise to revive Haiti's perilous economy, boost exports and

create new jobs.

But the biggest headache for Mr Preval is what to do with his predecessor, the hugely popular Mr Aristide, who though remains in exile in South Africa, cast a large shadow on the country's political life. Ousted in controversial circumstances, though, well known to have been shoved aside by the US military, which allegedly escorted him out of his country, Mr Aristide called for a boycott of the recent election, but this seems to have little effect, as voters turned out in record numbers. But the exiled leader seemed one issue that excited voters as they hope that the election of Mr Preval, a known associate of Mr Aristide would begin his political rehabilitation starting from his returning home.

Mr Preval was prime minister during Mr Aristide's first short months in power in 1991. When Mr Preval took over from him as president from 1996-2001, this was seen by many Haitians as a continuation of the same policies espoused by Mr. Aristide. However, in the election campaign this time, Mr Preval created his own Movement L'Espwa (Hope), separate from Mr Aristide's Lavalas movement. But he is now under considerable pressure to bring Mr Aristide back from exile in South Africa.

But Mr Preval may not be in a hurry to do so, Mr. Aristide's presence in Haiti would make it very difficult for him to rule effectively; the former president is a highly divisive figure, and what his successor most needs at the moment is the chance to heal the wounds that have made political and economic progress in this poorest country of the western hemisphere almost impossible for the past five years.

"But the biggest headache for Mr Preval is what to do with his predecessor, the hugely popular Mr Aristide, who though remains in exile in South Africa, cast a large shadow on the country's political life. Ousted in controversial circumstances, though, well known to have been shoved aside by the US military, which allegedly escorted him out of his country, Mr Aristide called for a boycott of the recent election, but this seems to have little effect, as voters turned out in record numbers."

Trust International

Africa



Riot police push back supporters of the Ugandan opposition leader, Kizza Besigye, recently at an opposition gathering in Kampala. Uganda's riot police fired tear gas and water cannon at opposition supporters gathering at the final pre-election rally for presidential candidate Kizza Besigye.

Ugandans prepare for election

The final day of campaigning ended yesterday in Uganda for tomorrow's general elections, marked by the arrest of the leading opposition candidate.

Kizza Besigye's final rally was cancelled on Monday after clashes between his supporters and the police. Chief UK election observer Chris Mullin has told the BBC that Dr Besigye's arrest last November showed the playing field was "not level".

President Yoweri Museveni needs more than 50 percent of the votes for a third term.

He has been in power since 1987 and had been seen as one of a "new generation" of African leaders but has more recently been criticised for changing the constitution so he can contest the polls.

Dr Besigye is expected to pose the strongest challenge to Mr Museveni in Uganda's first multi-party poll in 25 years.

Mr Mullin, a former UK Minister for Africa, told the BBC that there had only been "isolated" cases of violence during the campaign, despite Monday's clashes on the outskirts of the capital, Kampala.

But he accused the ruling National Resistance Movement of conducting a "campaign of harassment" against Dr Besigye.

"There is no doubt the playing field is not level in terms of funding, or in terms of some of the restrictions placed on the opposition."

Lobby group Human Rights Watch has also said the polls would not be free and fair.

Dr Besigye said the charges of rape and treason - for which he remains on trial - were meant to sideline him from the polls.

This is strongly denied by the government and the police say they have proof that he was trying to work with rebel groups to unseat Mr Museveni.

Dr Besigye's supporters also say that the tear gas and water cannon fired at them on Monday were meant to intimidate them. The police said they had to act to clear them from a main

road. Mr Museveni has been holding his own rally in the same district of the capital.

The president defended his record on security saying they had been able to maintain "core security" for 20 years despite problems in neighbouring countries. "Here we are in the eye of the storm and still we stand."

Mr Mullin also said that there is little doubt that most Ugandans are better off now than before Mr Museveni took power. Over the weekend, seven people were hurt after a convoy of army trucks ploughed into a crowd of Dr Besigye's supporters. The army said the

injuries were caused by a stampede.

Last week, Dr Besigye urged his supporters to exercise restraint after two of his supporters were shot dead.

He alleged that the violence was part of a military campaign to intimidate his supporters.

Dr Besigye lost the 2001 elections to Mr Museveni and then went into exile, saying he feared for his life. He returned last year and was arrested on charges of treason and rape.

Opinion polls suggest Mr Museveni and Dr Besigye are the clear front-runners but it is not clear if either will gain the 50 percent needed to avoid a second round.

Liberia sets up truth commission

Liberia's president has inaugurated a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to investigate human rights abuses during 24 years of civil war and unrest.

The seven-member commission does not have the power to try cases but will investigate crimes committed between 1979 and 2003, when civil war ended. President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said Liberia had to face up to its past. During her election campaign last year, she had said she would not push for the war crimes court which some demanded.

"In my own life I have come to believe that when the truth is told, humanity is redeemed from the cowardice claws of violence," she said to loud applause as she launched the TRC.

It is to investigate "gross human rights violations and violations of international laws... including massacres, sexual violations, murders, extra-judicial killings and economic crimes".

TRC chairman human

rights lawyer Jerome Verdier said the commission would "give voice to the dead... in a society polarised by long years of war."

Liberia's former President Charles Taylor is in exile in Nigeria, which is under pressure to extradite him to Sierra Leone to face trial for alleged war crimes in that country's civil war, which had close links to the Liberian conflict.

Mr Taylor began Liberia's civil war by launching a rebellion in 1989 but human rights abuses were committed by all of the many armed factions which emerged during the conflict.

Last month, Mrs Johnson-Sirleaf said bringing Mr Taylor to justice was not a priority for her country, which was seeking to rebuild after the conflict. Nigeria's President Olusegun Obasanjo has said Mr Taylor would only be handed over to an elected government in Liberia. Other former warlords took part in last year's elections but they generally received few votes.

Cuba flays US on UN human rights council

By Charles Onunaiju, Senior Reporter, Foreign Desk

The efforts of United States of America to create a UN Human Rights council in place of the UN human Rights commission and ostensibly exclude third world countries from the membership of the new body has been described by Cuba as "Chicanery against the expectation and demands of the peoples of the South and the great majorities in the north."

In a statement by the permanent mission, of Cuba to the United Nations and obtained by Daily Trust, it said that it is highly conspicuous that the creation of the New Human Rights Council was the only substantive element on the report of the High level panel on threats, challenges and change, established by the secretary general with renowned experts from all regions of the world that was not taken into account when formulating the reform proposals for the organization at the summit held in September of 2005.

According to the statement, the High Level Panel have originally proposed the universalisation of the commission on Human Rights' membership, rejected the possible imposition of conditions required for the body's membership but the subsequent texts that have been submitted to establish the Human Right's council, have disregarded these recommendations Cuba then questions, the seasons for insistence on

imposing conditions on the council's membership that US government demands, if the overwhelming majority of the member states have taken stand against it. The statement further stated that "Cuba denounces the strong pressure exerted to force in an untimely and inopportune manner, a decision allowing the

creation of the Human Rights Council by the imperialistic interests proclaimed in the so-called "project for the New American century," which is the Washington hawk's plans to rule the world," adding that US government is demanding the creation of Human Rights Council "in its own image in order to continue manipulating, violating and committee arbitrariness."

Libya condemns CNN over Gadhafi's Interview

By Aisha Umar, Reporter Foreign Desk

Libya has accused the Cable News Network (CNN) of violating an agreement to air President Muammar Gadhafi's interview, held last year, in its entirety. This was disclosed in a press statement made available to Daily Trust by Libyan secretary for information, Mr Hassuna Shawish expressed concern over the freedom of media, saying that what CNN has done is against the ethics; truthfulness and confidence that is suppose to exist in media establishment.

He said that the television satellite channel requested an interview with the leader, Colonel Muammar Gadhafi which came into being through an agreement to the interview will be broadcast in its entirety.

He added that CNN stated

in a letter that will broadcast part of it immediately after the interview and the whole during the special week programme on the Middle East between November 21st and 27th, 2005.

He said on the November 10th, 2005, the interview was recorded and on November 25, 2005, the channel broadcast some parts of the interview, eliminating and cancelling important and lengthy portion of it

He explained that Libya made an inquiry into the rationale behind the acts and that they drew the attention of the channel to their agreement to broadcast the entire interview, which they did through experts on international law and legal practitioners.



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ADVERTORIAL

The Chairman,
National Assembly Joint Constitution,
Review Committee,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

22nd February, 2006.

Mr. Chairman,

**THE STAND OF THE PEOPLE OF DAURA/SANDAMU/MAI'ADUWA FEDERAL
CONSTITUENCY IN KATSINA STATE ON THE PROPOSED REVIEW OF THE
1999 CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Having critically appraised the proposed constitution review hearings which begin today for the purpose of amending the 1999 constitution, we, the people of DAURA/SANDAMU/MAI'ADUWA Federal Constituency in Katsina State want to put it on record that we distance ourselves from the entire exercise and any other moves, subtle or crude, overt or covert designed to prolong the tenure of the present executives at both federal and state levels who will have completed two terms of 4 years by May 2007.

For the avoidance of doubt, we say without fear of contradiction that we do NOT support the proposed constitution review at this immaterial time. If the constitution must be changed, now is definitely not the right time to do it because there simply isn't sufficient time to do a good job of it by the present administration. We believe that the administration has too much in its hand to do a successful and satisfactory job in under one year on a subject that majority of Nigerians are not favourably disposed towards.

***We say NO to constitution review now,
NO to tenure extension and
NO to third term.***

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Signed:

**Hon. Lawal Garba
Daura/Sandamu/Mai'aduwa Federal Constituency,
Katsina State.**

Trust International

Odd World

Bird's head found in can food

The manager of an Indiana canning plant in the US said Monday that he did not know how it could have produced a can of pinto beans with a bird's head inside as claimed by an Illinois woman.

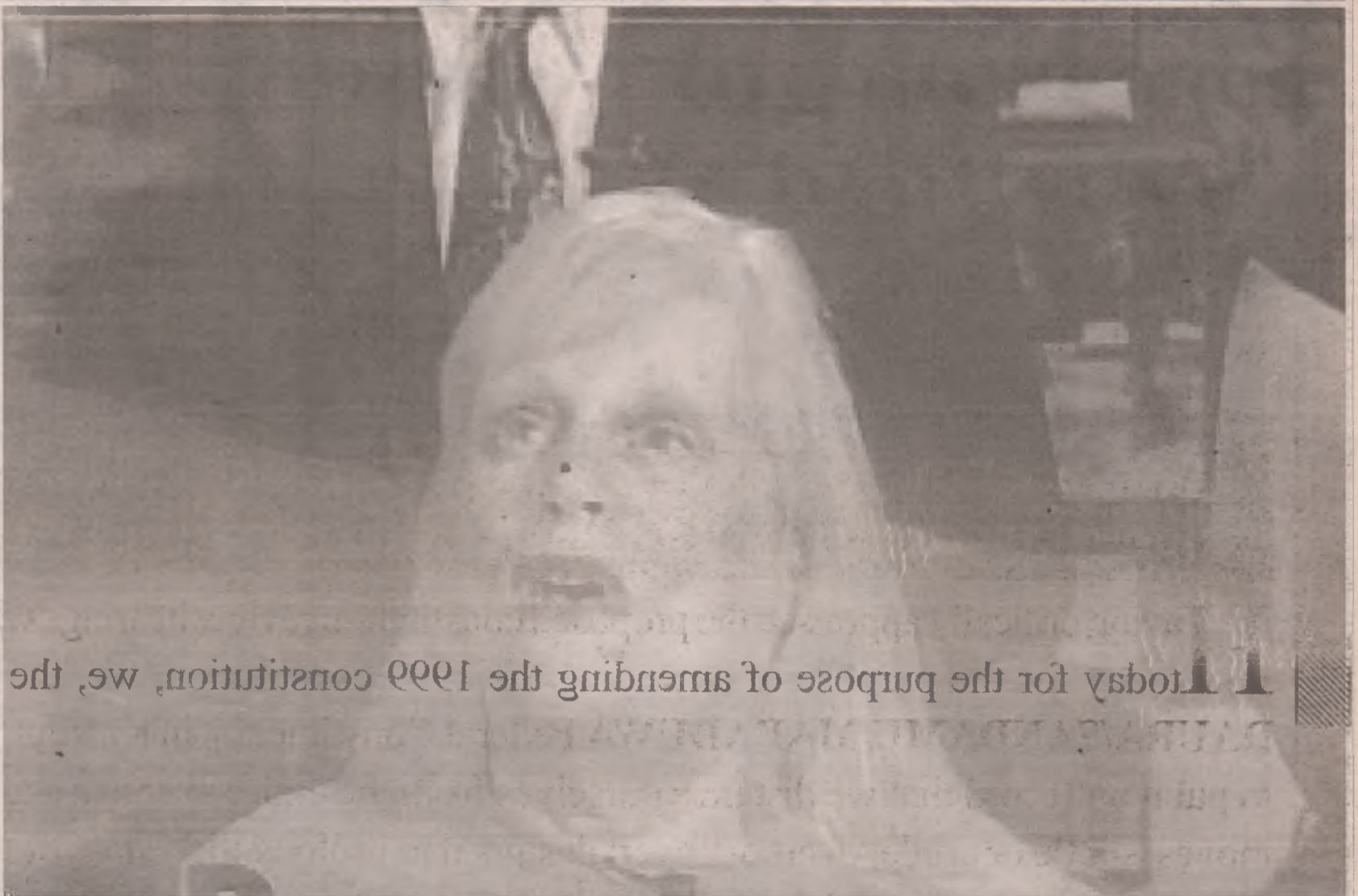
Chicago-based La Preferida Inc., USA, announced a voluntary recall on Friday of a limited number of its cans as it investigated how the head ended up in the 15-ounce can.

David Morrow, general manager of Eaton-based Meridian Foods, said he was eager for answers about the discovery. A woman in DeKalb, Ill., who reported buying the can at a grocery store in nearby Aurora, Ill.

"We don't know anything, and we are waiting on the results of tests," Morrow told The Star Press of Muncie. "We have procedures in place to prevent these things from happening, and we have reviewed those procedures." A canning company for 40 years, Meridian has been owned by Clinton, Michigan based Eden Foods since 1994. Meridian is Eden's sole canning plant.

The 29-employee plant about 10 miles north of Muncie packs about a dozen varieties of cooked-in-the-can beans.

The La Preferida beans covered by the recall have the lot number 5348 MF on the can lids. The batch was canned December 14 and is marked by a best-buy date of December 14, 2007, La Preferida said.



Janise Wulf, 62, gave birth Friday to her 12th child, a baby boy she named Adam.

Woman, 62, gives birth

A 62-year-old woman in the US gave birth Friday to a healthy 6-pound, 9-ounce baby boy, becoming one of the oldest women in the world to successfully bear a child.

Janise Wulf gave birth to her 12th child. She is also a grandmother of 20 and a great-grandmother of three.

Family members said the delivery went smoothly, despite earlier concerns about the mother's health. Wulf, a

diabetic, experienced swelling and higher blood pressure earlier this week, prompting doctors to perform the Caesarean section a week early.

Wulf and her third husband, Scott, 48, named the red-haired boy Adam Charles Wulf. He follows just 3 1/2 years behind his older brother, Ian.

"I hate to raise one alone, without a sibling," said Wulf, who was impregnated both

times through in vitro fertilization. The oldest woman on record to give birth is a 66-year-old Adriana Iliescu of Romania, who had a Caesar-

ean section Jan. 15, 2005.

The Guinness Book of World Records also lists two 63-year-old women who have given birth: Rosanna Della

Corte of Italy in 1994 and Acheli Keh of California in 1996. News reports, however, list Della Corte's age at 62 when she gave birth.

Man kills roommate over toilet paper

An American man accused of fatally beating his roommate with a sledgehammer and a claw hammer because there was no toilet paper in their home has been arrested.

Franklin Paul Crow, 56, was charged Monday with homicide in the death of Kenneth Matthews, 58, according to the Marion County

Sheriff's Office.

Captain Thomas Bibb said Crow initially denied his involvement, but confessed during questioning.

Crow told investigators that the men were fighting about the toilet paper over the weekend when Matthews pulled out a rifle. Crow said he then began beating Matthews with the

sledgehammer and claw hammer, according to an affidavit.

Matthews was beaten so badly he had to be identified through his fingerprints, detectives said.

Crow was being held at the Marion County jail without bond. It was not immediately known whether he had an attorney.

Camera phones handy in funerals

Japan's obsession with camera-equipped mobile phones has taken a bizarre twist, with mourners at funerals now using the devices to capture a final picture of the deceased.

"I get the sense that people no longer respect the dead. It's disturbing," a funeral director told the *Mainichi Shimbun* newspaper. At one ceremony several people gathered round the coffin and took out their phones to photograph the corpse as preparations were made to begin a cremation, she was quoted as saying.

"I'm sure the deceased would never want their faces photographed," she said.

But others called it a form of a memento in the modern age.

"Some can't grasp 'reality' unless they take a photo

and share it with others ... It comes from a desire to keep a strong bond with the deceased," social commentator Toru Takeda told the paper.

Man, 72, to sit school exams for 37th time

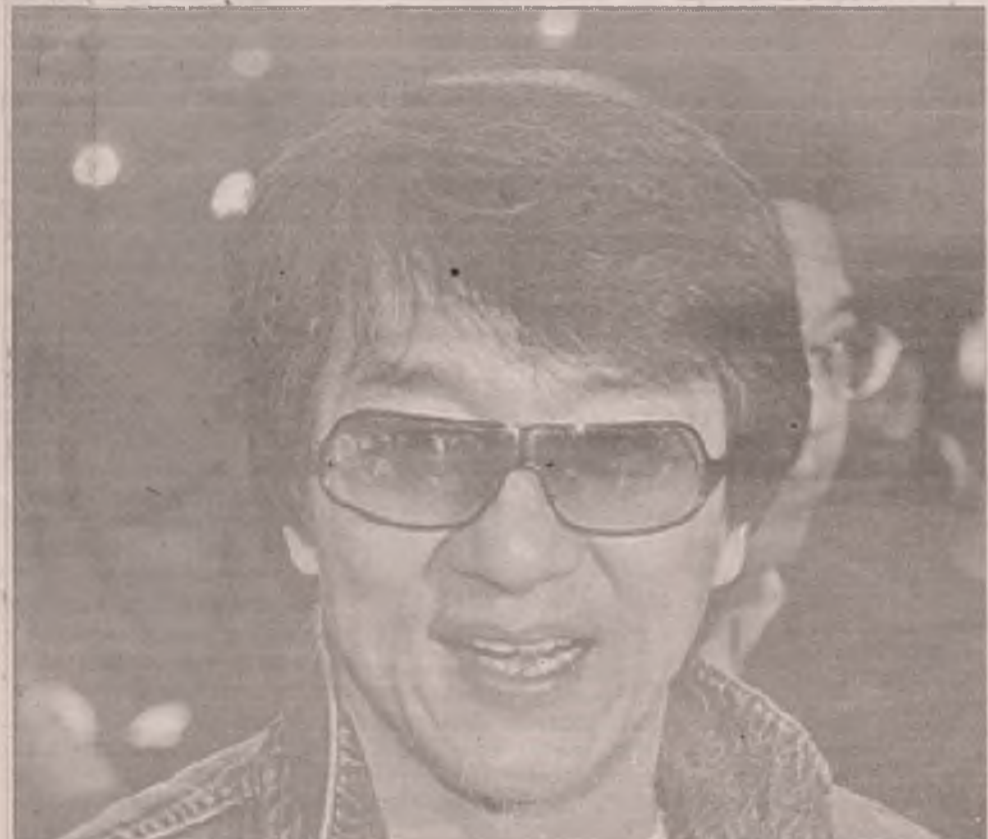
A 72-year-old Indian man is to sit his high school exams for the 37th time in the hope he will finally be able to get married.

Shiv Charan vowed he would not marry until he had passed his examinations, reports the Indo Asian News Service. But the farmer, who attempted the exam for the first time at the age of 35 in 1969, has always been let

down by his maths.

Mr Charan, from Behror in Rajasthan, said: "For me success will not merely mean clearing the exams but it will also throw open the doors of marriage for me."

"Till now I have been clearing all the papers except mathematics. Maths has always been a difficult subject for me but this year I am sure I will clear it."



Hong Kong action hero Jackie Chan, seen here in Tokyo 18 January 2006, paid \$192,000 for a lucky car license plate, marking the highest price reached at auction this year.

Business Trust

Currencies

West African Unit of Account

Country	N Equivalent
The Gambia	6.0320
Ghana	0.0143
Guinea	0.0588
Liberia	1.8633
S/Leone	3,563.84
Nigeria	192.48

Parallel Market

	Average	
Dollar	144	145
Pounds	261	175

Flight schedule

Virgin Nigera
 Los - Abj: 7.00am, 10.55, 6.55pm
 Abj - Los: 9.00am, 12.55pm, 8.55pm
 Los - PHC: 7.15am, 3.00pm
 PHC - Los: 9.00am, 4.45pm
 Los - Acc: 2.55pm; Acc - Los: 3.35pm
 Los - Douala: 6.30pm;
 Douala - Los: 8.30pm

Bellview Airlines
Monday - Friday
 Lagos - Abuja
 0650, 0950, 1130, 1400, 1600, 1955
 Abj - Los - 0800, 1130, 1320, 1600, 1800
 Los - P/H - 0715, 1130, 1320
 Los - Kano - 0630

Saturday & Sunday
 Los - Abj - 0800, 1130, 1600, 1950
 Abj - Los - 0800, 1320, 1600, 1800
 Los - P/H - 0800, 1340, 1700
 P/H - Los - 0945, 1520, 1830
 Los - Kano - 0800
 Kano - Los - 1130

IRS Airlines
 Los - Abj - 7.15am, 8.15am, 11.00am,
 12noon, 3.00pm, 4.15pm,
 Abj - Los - 10am, 11am, 1.00pm, 2.00pm,
 4.15pm, 5.15pm.
 Los - PHC - 11.45am, 12.45am,
 PHC - Los - 1.30pm, 2.30pm,
 Los - Kan - 5.30pm, 6.45pm,
 Kan - Los - 7.45am, 9.00am.

Weekend
 Los - Ab - 9.15am, 10.15am, 1.00pm, 2.00pm, 11.00am,
 12.00pm, 9.30am, 10.30am,
 Abj - Los - 11.00am, 12am, 2.45pm, 3.45pm, 12.45pm,
 11.15am, 12.15am,
 Los - PHC - 11.5pm, 2.15pm.



OPEC President and Secretary General, Dr. Edmund Daukoru (left) and Austria's Federal Minister of Economics and Labour, Dr. Martin Bartenstein at the European Union - OPEC dialogue in Vienna, Austria ...recently.

Bankers unite against corruption

Leading international finance organisations have announced a new strategy for tackling corruption. The World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other organisations which provide loans, grants and advice to developing nations have joined the battle. Together, they have agreed to exchange information and set up a task force to create a "uniform framework for preventing and combating fraud and corruption".

By Austine Odo, Business Editor, with agency report

Corruption is rising in most countries, according to a recent survey. People in 48 out of the 69 countries covered in Transparency International's annual Global Corruption Barometer survey said corruption had risen over the past three years. BBC News quotes the group of lenders, which includes the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, said they would work together to create proposals that could help countries strengthen their ability to combat corruption. The World Bank has described corruption as the "single greatest obstacle to economic and social development".

It believes that countries that tackle corruption successfully can increase their national income fourfold and reduce child mortality by up to 75%. Research it conducted in 2004 led it to estimate that \$1 trillion was paid in bribes in 2003, compared to a global economy worth \$30 trillion.

CBN may outsource supervision of banks

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has said that it may outsource the supervision of banks in the country to outsiders in order to concentrate on monetary policy management. CBN Governor, Professor Charles Soludo who stated this on the occasion of the award ceremony by a national daily in Lagos maintained that the CBN was being restructured to make it more effective and efficient to deliver its core mandate.

From Bright Ewulu, Deputy Business Editor (Lagos)

Prof Soludo said however, that there was no need for celebration as the nation is not yet where its supposed to be, given its economic potentials. According to him the target is to ensure that in the next ten years Nigerian banks will be in the first 50 to 100 banks in the world, saying that to be there Nigeria needs to deepen the money and the capital market to match the size of her economy.

"We are not yet celebrating because there is a big gap between where we need to be and where we are. The first phase of the consolidation is over, we are moving to the second phase because there are still enormous challenges for this particular industry," he said.

'Why SOLGAS is suing FG'

The Executive Chairman of SOLGAS, an American Energy company, Mr Tom Russell has given explanations on the company's decision to take the Federal Government to a London Arbitration Court, saying that the firm simply wants to recover all the money it spent during the period it spent while in the country as a concessionaire of the Ajaokuta Steel Complex. The was in 2003 given the concession by the Federal Government to rehabilitate, complete, and manage the Ajaokuta Steel Complex for 10 years. During the period, it was expected to inject over

By Anas Galadima, Assistant Business Editor

\$3 billion into the complex, but until it (SOLGAS) asked for the termination of the concession in 2004, the company could not source the required funds and failed to meet set targets. Russel, who spoke on phone from his base in Texas explained that the company was not asking for anything near the \$3 billion, even though he declined to give the details of how much his company is asking to be paid. Russell refused to give details on grounds that it would amount to a breach of the confidentiality in arbitration matters.

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Aviation

...P22



Stock market report

...P23

Business Trust

PRESENTATION OF PENSION LICENCES IN PIX

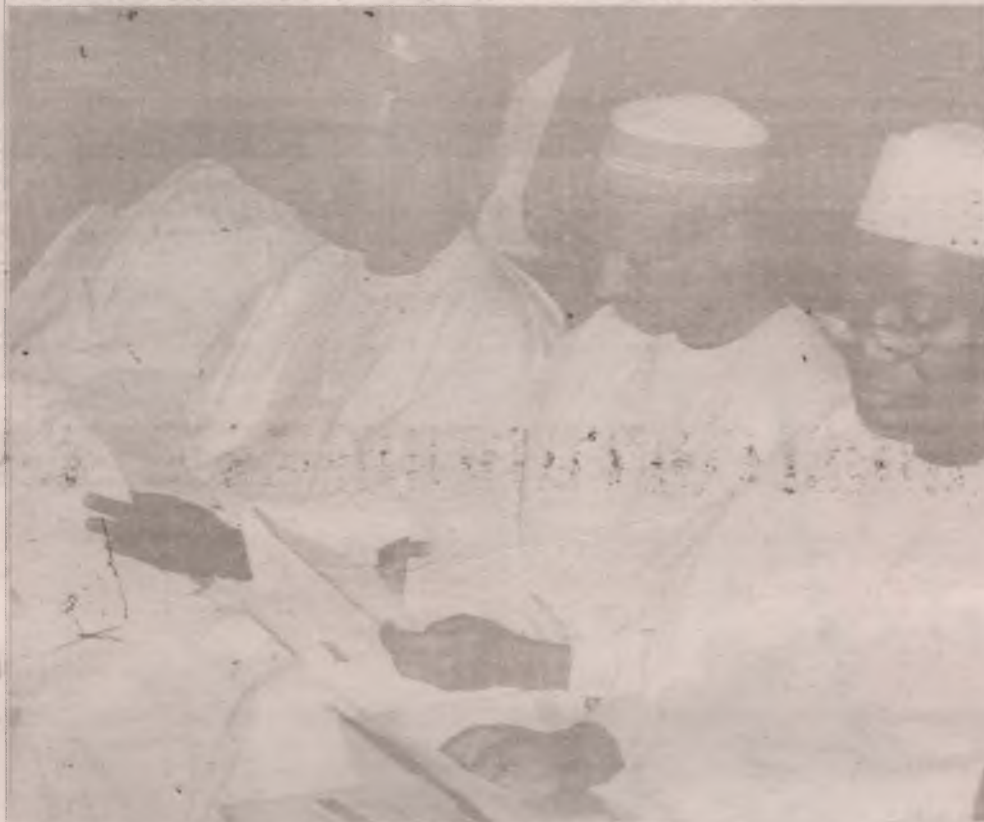
President Olusegun Obasanjo on Monday presented licenses to pension fund administrators and custodians at the State House, Abuja. Business Trust captured the moment in pictures.



President Obasanjo presenting the pension operator's licence to one of the recipients



The managing director and chief executive officer, Crusader Pensions, Adewale Raji, displaying his company's licence presented to him by President Obasanjo. Pix: Joe Oroye



A cross-section of dignitaries during the presentation ceremony



From left: MD, Trustfund Pensions, Oseni Elamah, PENCOP, DG Mahmud Ahmed, chairman, Trustfund Pensions, Mohammed Ahmed Rufai, at the presentation.



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

TENDER NOTICE

NIGERIAN TREASURY BILLS

Notice is hereby given by the Central Bank of Nigeria that 91-day Federal Government of Nigeria Treasury Bills amounting to N12,196,886,000 will be issued by an auction-based system on Thursday, 02/03/2006.

Interested Authorized Dealers (Banks, Discount Houses and Brokers) are invited to submit tenders to reach the Issues Office, Central Bank of Nigeria, Lagos, not later than 1.30pm on Tuesday, 28/02/2006.

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 Authorized Dealers or made on behalf of interested members of the public, who are advised to apply through any of the authorized dealers.

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 Wednesday, 01/03/2006. The Bank reserves the right to reject any tender in part or in full.

Allotment letters will be issued for successful bid on Thursday, 02/03/2006. Payment in full for the amount of the accepted tenders must be made to the Central Bank of Nigeria not later than 1.30pm on the issue date 02/03/2006. 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.

ISSUES OFFICE,
CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA,
TINUBU SQUARE,
LAGOS.

BUSINESS TRUST

Aviation

Emirates appoints new manager for Nigeria

Emirates, the Dubai-based international airline, has appointed Mr. Hafeez Azeem as its new Manager for Nigeria. Mr. Azeem succeeds Mr. Guy Phillips.

Since joining Emirates in 2000, Hafeez has held several management positions within the airline, at its headquarters in Dubai. Prior to his appointment as Manager - Nigeria, Mr. Azeem was the airline's Commercial Analysis Manager for all of Africa.

Mr. Azeem brings along a depth of knowledge and ex-

From Shakirat Abdulmajeed, Correspondent (Lagos)

perience that will serve him well in Nigeria's highly competitive market.

Mr. Azeem said: "I am delighted and honoured to have been given the opportunity to lead the Emirates team in Nigeria - the airline's most important market in West Africa."

He added: "Emirates is the airline of choice for Nigerian travelers. The airline enjoys a well-established repu-

tation owing to its superior customer service, both in the air and on the ground. I shall strive to take the airline even further and ensure that we spare no efforts in providing Emirates passengers with unsurpassed levels of service."

Mr. Azeem's appointment is more of a homecoming for him. Though an Indian national, he is familiar with the country's terrain having lived and partly educated in Nigeria.

Mr. Azeem has a Masters degree in Business Administration from Bradford University in the United Kingdom.

Capital Airline has entered into partnership with Synergy Group, a South American firm, to expand its operations in the country's aviation sector.

The group it is to render technical assistance to the airline as it plans to extend its operations to Makurdi, Ilorin, Jos and few other airports.

The Managing Director of Capital Airlines, Dr. Tony Eze explained that the airline plans to operate in those airports in response to market demand as well as to open up more airports for commercial operations, with an initial link of Makurdi and others with

Capital Airline to fly Makurdi, Jos, Ilorin

Abuja.

He hinted further that the airline will operate a state-of-the-art Embraer 120 aircraft to those routes, arguing that the 40-seater aircraft his company will deploy to the routes is suitable to operate routes considered unviable.

The group also plans to acquire Okada Airline's hangar at the Benin Airport, where all maintenance of the

aircraft would be done.

President of Synergy Group, Mr. German Efremovich, said they were in the country to implement all the systems, manuals and to transfer all, "our experience and maintenance. The idea is to transfer all this know-how into Nigeria through Capital Airlines with experts from the International Air Transport Association (IATA)."

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ABUJA PROPERTY

ABUJA LANDMARK



THE BOLINGO HOTEL TOWERS: Initially christened Protea Hotel, the Bolingo Hotel and Towers is situated along the Independence Avenue, within the Central Business District of Abuja. The 5-star hotel, constructed on seven floors, boast of a standard swimming pool, a mini-golf practice course, lawn tennis courts and a business centre. The Hotel is however battling the FCT administration which accused it of contravening the Abuja Master Plan.

INSIDE

Approach to allied problems in urban housing finance ...Pg 29



How air-conditioning reduces heat, increase aesthetics ...Pg 30

How to improve energy efficiency of property ...Pg 30

Useful information for Abuja residents Pg 31

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X-raying Abuja private estates

Estates and properties in the nation's capital city are feared to be affordable by the rich only, in view of their high prices. Apart from the slums and suburbs where the economically handicapped residents live, estates in the city center are for selected few. Sunday Ejike Benjamin As... Editor, Abuja Property, in this piece samples opinions of estate managers on the state and worth of estates in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Abuja, the nation's capital city is no doubt a lucrative spot for real estate developers, agents and managers. It is a place where many in the property business will want to practice. Housing and estate are however two principal terms that should be carefully looked at, because people seem to be constantly confused with the two terms.

An Abuja based estate surveyor, Abubakar Abdulkadir with the Bello & Co estate firm posited that the word estate simply means interest. Interest in land. According to him, between a landlord and tenant, there is an interest in a particular property. The aggregate of all these interests is what is called estate, which means interest in land. This therefore means that as a tenant, one has an interest in property and subsequently occupying one.

But when we confine ourselves to housing, we are talking of bricks and other

items that are assembled together to provide accommodation that could either be used as residential or commercial purposes.

"That is the basic meaning of estate. But over time, it has been adopted to other situations like when you have premises with a number of housing units inside, say twenty blocks of flats, it could be regarded as an estate. This means a large concentration of housing units at a particular location. Property could also be regarded as an estate but property strictly speaking connotes ownership. When somebody therefore starts talking of property, he is more or less talking about ownership of landed property. These terms are technical and their origin in law, but people have outstretch them,"

Abubakar, a

manager explained.

Another expert in property/estate management, Justina Azubuike, the branch manager of Trustville property observes that, "houses generally in Abuja are costly in the sense that cost of acquiring a plot of land on which to erect structure is high. Imagine a plot of land, say 1000 square meters within Wuse II cost about N50million, by the time you start developing that same land, you will find out that the return on the initial investment will, no doubt force you to place high rent on your property. If you need a standard, well finished duplex on a rental basis, you have to pay as much as N2.5 million annually."

In Wuse II, the least amount charged on a property is N2.5million or when it is not a well-finished duplex. But on the average, it cost N2.5m, N3.5m or N4million when materials are used in the

finishing of the property.

According to the expert, "most houses in Abuja are no estates perse but are projects owned by different individuals that have certificate of occupancy. Talking about locations, places like Wuse, Maitama and Asokoro charge higher rents than places like Garki and Wuse II. In a place like Wuse, one can get a land measuring up to 1,000 square meters for N12million or N16million.

That is why the cost of rent runs into millions of naira. You cannot talk of property without making reference to plot because it determines the cost of purchase or rent of a building. You cannot get a duplex for a million or N1.5million in Wuse, while in Wuse II, it is N2.5m on average."

In spite of the development going on in the capital city of Abuja, it is not uncommon to find some buildings abandoned halfway during construction. Experts however gave reasons for such development. Abubakar Abdulkadir, for instance noted that finances and many other factors could be responsible for such abandonment halfway. "If somebody runs

short of finance, probably his expectations did not meet up with his dreams, he is bound to abandon what ever he is doing and look for a way of raising money. In the absence of money, one has to wait and appraise the whole situation and look for another avenue to raise funds to continue the project. Some people have the misfortune of losing job or have their money sat upon by people, either in government or in organised private sector at the time they have embarked on the building project. In some cases, somebody could die in the process of construction and his relatives may not be in the position to continue. We have had cases when uncompleted houses go up for sale"

There are some people occupying such uncompleted buildings whether by consent or not. Property experts identified influx of all shades of people into Abuja as the main cause of such illegal occupation.

"Housing is one of the basic necessities of life. Some people accommodate themselves under bridge like what is happening in Lagos. Contd on Pg 28

ABUJA PROPERTY

NEWS

FG tasks engineers on economic development

The Federal Government has urged the Nigeria Society of Engineers (NSE) to come out with suggestions on how to develop key sectors of the economy and to also adhere to professional standards in the area of mechanized farming, telecom, power generation, gas flaring reduction and elimination.

President Olusegun Obasanjo gave the charge at the Society investiture ceremony of

FERMA cautions contractors on good job

By Mr. Joseph, Correspondent (Makurdi)

The Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) in Benue State has cautioned contractors to carry out satisfactory work on the roads or face serious sanctions.

Chief maintenance Engineer in the State, Engr. Joseph Adedayo who gave the warning during a press briefing in Makurdi, yesterday, said some contractors handling maintenance work on retainership are working on site, noting that there are some "non-performing ones," who he therefore gave a five point directive which must be followed.

In part, the five point directive read, "henceforth, no potholes should be cut for repairs if materials for patching are not immediately available," and "potholes cut out for repairs must be filled within 24 hours."

The directives further read, "Road signs must be provided where maintenance activities are in progress to give adequate warning to traffic," adding, "all potholes and failed sections already cut out should be patched immediately."

"The directive also said, "Contractors will be held extremely responsible for any road accident on the roads under their jurisdiction if they fail to comply with all of the above."

Engr. Joseph Adedayo who was flanked by the federal controller of works for Benue State, Engr. Benue Ibegbu, also gave an appraisal of FERMA's activities in the state, stating that both the direct labour and retainership under the agency has recorded tremendous achievements on several roads.

"I want to further assure the general public that the federal government through the agency means well and will ensure that our roads are properly maintained at all the times for safe movement of people and goods added Engr. Adedayo who also appealed to road users to obey road signs to avoid accident.

Stories by Mustafa Abubakar, Abuja

its new president held in Abuja recently.

Represented by the Executive Secretary, Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), Engr. Mustafa Bello President Obasanjo said in the recent past, government tried to provide necessary legal framework by signing the infrastructure concession regulatory bill into law, establishment of FERMA, local content policy, capacity building aimed at developing the practice of engineering in the country.

The president added that opportunities are enormous, in view of challenges created by the reform programmes going on in virtually every sector of the Nigerian economy, which he urged (NSE) to take advantage of.

The existing opportunities include construction of 1000 roads across the country, private sector housing schemes, development of inland waterways, the target of 10,000 MW by 2007.

The enormous challenges he said include increase infrastructure investment through Public Private Partnership (PPP) by stimulating interests in the priority areas of the economy, empowering the private sector to create wealth, generate employment, and reduce poverty to drive the growth process and putting in place a vibrant mortgage and housing development system.

Experts hold confab on infrastructure

Careless development of infrastructure with little or no respect to the environment will be the focal point of deliberation as 800 expected global experts on Environment Converge in Abuja from September 10-15, 2006 for a conference on Infrastructure Development and the environment.

The global event billed to hold at the Sheraton Hotel, Abuja is the first in Africa where 50 nations would be represented in an effort to boost infrastructural development, environmental consciousness and protection policies in third world and developing countries.

Organisers of the event noted in a pre-conference media chat that poor planning, construction, maintenance, operation of facilities in many sectors of the economy constitutes a serious threat to not only the environment but also sustainable development. "These and other developments call for serious professional attention," Professor Hilary Inyang and director, Global Institute for Energy and Environmental Systems (GIEES), university of North Carolina-Charlotte (USA) declared.

Professor Inyang was of the view that African Environmental



Dualised Ottu-Abeokuta road under construction. One of the thirty-nine road projects review for completion within the year.

Ogunlewe challenges engineers on professionalism

The Minister of works, Senator Adeseye Ogunlewe has admonished Directors and Supervisory Engineers of the ministry to be mindful of their professional, civic and legal duties and obligations to the counting. He stated this at the review of all road projects by the ministry held in Abuja recently.

The Minister said that they should bear in mind that

there is the possibility of being summoned in years to come to account for misdeeds or omissions of projects and urged them to remain diligent, honest in their dealings with contractors, and in the discharge of their responsibilities.

Ogunlewe further told the contractors to reciprocate the goodwill shown by the government since June 2003 in the settlement of

outstanding debts and the prompt payment of interim certificates submitted last year and reaffirmed the commitment of the administration to the completion of the projects initiated since 1999 without any hindrance by political activities.

Commenting on the contractor handling section I of the on-going dualisation of the Onitsha - Owerri road from the Onitsha Section, Messrs CCC Construction Co. Ltd, he said the Messrs CCC Construction Co. Ltd should reciprocate the administration goodwill in upping its funding since 2003 to the present level of N9, 222,925,492.59.

He charged them to be responsive to the yearning and aspirations of Nigerians, adding that Nigerians on their part should bear the pains inherent in occasional diversions of traffic to facilitate construction works on major highways saying that the transitory discomforts became necessary to achieve the more permanent comfort and pleasure of driving on good roads.

"Any contractor that fails to meet the expectations and pace of the administration will be given the "red-card". I urged the contractors to recognize their present evaluation as the "yellow-card", which in other word means warning", he reiterated.

By Suleiman Mohammed, Associate Editor (South)

problem occasioned by careless infrastructural development constitute greater concern to the global community.

"Infrastructure development is an essential aspect of regional and national economic development plans that focus on the provision of goods and services to an expectant population," he noted, but expressing concern that inadequate physical infrastructure constrains economic development in all sectors-health, communication, construction, education, manufacturing, transportation, energy among others.

The international conference on Infrastructure development and environment had taken place in San Diego (USA, 1996), Boston, USA (1998) Nanjing, China (1999), Belo Horizonte-Brazil (2000), Tokyo-Japan (2001) Seoul-South Korea (2002), Helsinki in Finland (2004) and Charlotte-USA (2005).

According to Dr. Victor Fodeke, federal controller of environment, Abuja, the event was a milestone, and commended Professor Inyang for recognizing Nigeria as the ideal country to host the conference for the first time in Africa. "About 500 platform

presentations, 100 sessions and panels will be featured," he said. Already, a local planning committee has been instituted with Dr. Fodeke as chairman.

X-raying Abuja private estates

Contd from Pg 27

But, it has been realized that most people that stay in uncompleted structures are in one way or the other criminals. This is an area that government should look into, especially in view of the security problems in the country. Government should rid the structures of these illegal occupants or squatters" Apart from the problem of squatting in estates in Abuja, quacks have also flooded the profession of estate development in Abuja.

However, there is the Nigeria Institute of Estate Surveyors and Valuers which is basically established to promote the practice of the profession. If one is graduate of estate management and not a member of the institution, one may not be allowed to practice in the country. It is also the aim of the association to champion the cause and interest of members.

The issue now that is bordering many estate managers is that of quacks who have invaded the estate management business simply because of

making money. Like Mr. Peter Ilori of Solid Base Properties said, government needs to assist the professional body of estate surveyors and valuers by putting in place laws that would address the issue of quackery in estate business in view of their negative consequences it has on the profession.

Abubakar, while commenting on the issue, maintained that strictly speaking, not every body can carry out professional task like valuation but when it comes to the issue of being an agent, many people dabble into it to make money. There is a saying in Abuja that everybody is an agent, but there is always a difference if you source accommodation from a professional and a quack, there will be difference in approach and in service delivery.

Of all these sayings about estate, housing and properties, which can be said to be cheaper, is it building an estate or buying a completed one directly? Justina Azubelke, while highlighting on this said it is cheaper to buy a

house in Abuja than to buy plot. Some plots, she noted cost more than some developed houses. "Right now, I have a property for my client which valued at N50million in Maitama. It was built on a plot of 1,000 squaremeters and you cannot get such plot for at N25m. By the time you remove the cost of plot, you find out that the development commands much money", she explained.

No matter the efforts by the El-Rufai administration to transform Abuja and make it conform to the master plan, if land is not made available and affordable to people, housing problem will still remain unabated in Abuja. If land were cheap, people would build houses, and accommodation problem will ease. In the first place, Abuja was supposed to be a model city in which government is to own most of the properties but all these things have been altered.

Those compelled by one reason or the other to become squatters or illegal occupants see themselves as legitimate settlers.

ABUJA PROPERTY

Approach to problems in urban housing financing

Efforts in changing patterns of urban housing and the quality of life experienced by ordinary people in designed settings have been so low despite various arguments over the behavioural and socio-cultural aspects of building imbue environments. Focusing on the development of housing financing in Abuja therefore, the cultural motifs and the economic circumstances that have shaped the evolution over time must be linked to the long age of Abuja as a settlement which now metamorphose to a city. Traditionally, housing financing in core of cities like Abuja must be presented first with an appraisal of newer developments at the suburbs that is stimulated by market-driven economies. To this end, drawing on the divergent examples of modern urban housing in other cities of the world, the ways in which new housing are financed in Abuja needs to be organized and incorporated into a way of promoting and developing an urban development and communal belonging of all Nigerian irrespective of the inclinations and levels.

In search of a unique position on the approach for financing urban housing unit, now allied problems, the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria, Mallam Yakubu Tiamiyyu asserted that prior to the introduction, about three years ago, of the current housing policy and its associated reform, the funding of housing in Nigeria particular urban housing has anchored in deposit-driven arrangements involving, over the years, the following as the main vehicle of intermediation and delivery:

For decades, the housing industry witnessed the pre-eminence of government over the private sector in housing production, particularly urban housing production, by engaging in direct funding and multi-unit construction of housing. The execution of the housing project was mostly by state agencies responsible for housing development, such as the Federal Housing Authority, or sometimes by building contractors. The effectiveness of this tax-based approach was, however, undermined by budgetary and other constraints leading to under-achievement of housing targets, abandoned housing projects and a failure to raise the home ownership rate. Besides, lack of proper linkage of the housing programs to mortgage financing, the problem of affordability accessioned by the sporadic review of house prices, coupled with government failure to deliver house after taking down payments from mortgagors, which characterized the mid 90s, had worsened the housing finance prospects in the country. There were a few efforts by government, especially at the state and local levels, to fund housing by issuing bonds collateralized by statutory revenue allocations. This has no significant impact on urban housing though.

The involvement of housing corporations in urban housing is of historical and contemporary relevance. Following the adoption of the 1954 McPherson constitution, which granted internal self-government to the component parts of the Nigerian Fed-

By Mustafa Abubakar, Abuja

eration, the various sub-national governments established housing corporations to begin the process of developing planned layouts and building houses for sale to their citizens. Such layout and housing developments were concentrated in the regional headquarters such as Ibadan, Benin, Enugu and Kaduna as well as few other large cities such as Ikeja, Kano and Port Harcourt. Furthermore, these housing corporations combined the functions of estate developers and providers of mortgage finance essentially for urban housing as each had a savings and loans department. Through these departments, the corporations sought to make homeownership through mortgage finance a reality within their areas of jurisdiction. However, their activities in this regard were limited to granting of mortgage loans to a few private individuals but mostly to civil servants. They had limited success in mobilizing saving since those who came to save with them did so for the sole purpose of obtaining loans. As a result, coupled with dwindling government subventions on which their operations largely depended, within two decades, the finance for these schemes dried up and most of the pioneer housing corporations have since become rather somnolent in responding to the housing needs of their citizens.

Nevertheless, a number of housing corporations, many of the state owned quasi-companies, still fund urban housing projects with their resources to a very limited extent. The bulk of their housing developments are funded by the National Housing Fund and to some extent, subventions from owner state governments.

Banks is another area he stressed, which over the years, have also been involved in the funding of urban housing though the mortgage financing of homeownerships and housing estate developments. However, until recently, scant participation in the funding of housing by banks, which command an overwhelming proportion of deposits accruable to the banking system, has been the nation's experience. In 2004, less than 1% of their N2 trillion aggregate lending portfolio was accounted for by mortgages. The main problem faced by the maturity structure of their deposits which are largely short term. In other words, banks are expected to give long term mortgage loans with predominantly short term deposits. The banks disinterest in mortgage lending also stems from the earlier problem of differential interest rates for the housing sector compared with such sectors as commerce and industry which made banks, as commercial concerns, to consider it unprofitable to fund housing. Thus, mortgage lending by banks has been characterized by both tenors much shorter has required by mortgage best practice and high interest rates; which is inimical to the yearning of the Nigerian urban centre for mass, decent and affordable housing.

Primary Mortgage Institutions (PMIs) were formally launched as an institutional vehicle for the provision of housing finance in Nigeria with the



Alh. Tanimu Yakubu MD/CEO, Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN)

promulgation of the mortgage Institutions Act (Decree No. 53

of 1989) which makes provision "for the establishment for the purchase institutions to grant loans and advances to individuals for the purchase or construction of dwelling places and to accept savings and deposits from members of the public and pay interest thereon." The PMIs are to be private sector owned and managed for the sole purpose of mobilizing household and corporate savings for long term lending for homeownership or first home originations. Starting as Nigerian Building Society in 1956 which transformed to Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria in 1977, the then FMBN had dominated the primary mortgage business in the country up to 1993 when it ceded that function to become a wholesale mortgage institution.

The number of PMIs was about 300 in the 90s but, according to the latest Annual Report by the CBN which now regulates their activities, 83 of them were in operation by the end of 2004. As a follow up to this, Abuja property gathered that the major features of operations of these institutions include: A based on the CBN's prudential guidelines, not less than 60% of PMIs' loanable funds to be committed to creation of mortgage assets.

The mortgage lending operation which is predominantly funded by the National Housing Fund (NHF) under which scheme they statutorily function as on-lenders of mortgage loans to contributors to the fund.

In a way similar to the

banks' situation, the maturity structure of the bulk of PMI's deposit liabilities is short term. This, coupled with the lending of such funds at market directed rates of interest, makes the mortgages created with their own funds to be usually associated with unaffordable repayment terms by most Nigerian home seekers' standard unlike the NHF mortgages created through them. Such mortgages do not exceed 5 years tenor, most are of 3 years tenor.

While lending for home mortgage origination remains the primary function of PMIs, they are known to also engage in the mortgage financing of urban housing estate developments to a limited extent.

ABUJA



PROPERTY

PLOTS OF LAND FOR SALE

Description: Plot of Land at Koruduma in Karu L.G.A of Nasarawa State.
Size: 1400m²
Asking Price: 5 million naira-negotiable
Contact: Alhassan on 08065294344

Description: An uncompleted commercial property suitable for a shopping mall in Garki II, Abuja.
Size: 22,280m²
Asking Price: 50 million naira-negotiable
Contact: Alhassan on 08065294344

PLOTS OF LAND FOR SALE

Location: Mpape, Bwari Area Council of FCT.
Size: 1250m²
Asking Price: 500,000 naira
Contact: Hassan on 08033566165

Location: Kuje Area Council, Sauka Village Extension, Plot 231A
Size: 1300m²
Asking Price: 120,000 Naira
Contact: Hassan on 08033566165

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Description: Plot of land measuring 965.47m²
Location: Pasali layout, Kuje
Price: negotiable

Description: Plot of land measuring 1400.628m²
Location: Kuchiyako Ext. layout, Kuje.
Price: negotiable

Description: Plot of land measuring 750m²
Location: Gbazango layout, Kubwa
Price: negotiable

Description: Plot of land measuring 1053.09m²
Location: Phase AAI Ext. layout, Kuje
Price: negotiable

For further enquiries contact:
S.D VENTURES NIG. LTD.
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THIS SPACE IS FOR SALE

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Abuja Property

Decor

How air-conditioning increases aesthetics, reduces heatwave

Although soaring temperatures in many parts of the country seem to indicate otherwise, the new season does not officially arrive until the end of March, which gives property

By Nasir Imam, Abuja Property Editor
next storm brings strong that fence could topple. When that scenario happens, the results could be tragic if any-

tic ventilation measures to help reduce your property cooling costs.

Maintenance for your property's exterior

While you are in your back yard, examine your ter-

and outdoor maintenance measures makes good sense not only from the standpoint of protecting your property from these physical elements. You will also be protecting your investment by preventing more costly problems.

Maintenance upgrades: A better investment option

Like most privileges, property ownership comes with both joys and responsibilities. In addition to the financial burden of mortgage payments, landlords' association dues, property taxes and other fees and assessments, property owners incur the costs of property maintenance and repairs.

These funds are not money ill-spent because a house is an asset and keeping it attractive and in good working order is part and parcel of protecting the value of that asset. Over a long period, most properties appreciate in value, but as well as a property that's in good condition.

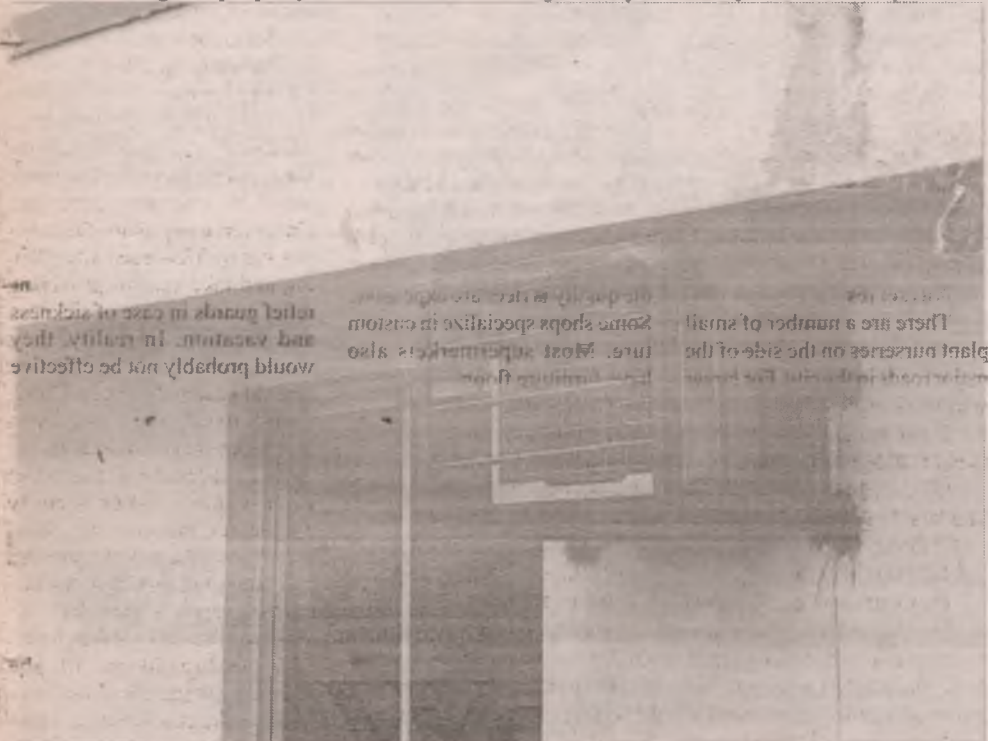
Owning a property differs from renting in the greatly expanded scope of maintenance responsibilities. Property maintenance is more than just cleaning. Components must be kept in good working order.

Many routine maintenance tasks can be organized on an annual schedule that serves as a reminder and helps the homeowner budget time and money for maintenance throughout the year. A diligent maintenance programme can eliminate many big problems before they begin. The frequency of maintenance depends on the style and age of the house. Keep in mind that a maintenance programme should be designed to protect the property against damage from insects, animals, weather and system failures, such as leaky plumbing. The last month of the first quarter of the year is the time for intensive lawn and garden

work. Other tasks include checking and replacing air-conditioning filters monthly, checking air-conditioning and heating equipment prior to first use each year, cleaning the drainage system semi-annually, inspecting and possibly replacing windows and doors annually and painting the interior and exterior of the property as needed.

Bigger jobs require an assessment of whether the property owner can do the work personally or should hire a property-repair professional. When the skills and time are available, property owner repairs can be rewarding.

The owner not only saves money, but also learns how the home is constructed. Wealth of resources is available today for property owner who are inclined to do their own maintenance and repairs.



whers adequate time to prepare their properties for the long heat waves ahead or those already in progress.

Your property's exterior takes a beating under the heat of the scourging sun particularly if you live in the areas where temperatures remain elevated without relief between four to five months on average. In fact, within many regions of the country, the only relief in sight for the immediate future is an occasion of rainstorm and residents of the cities in the northern states will attest to the fact that those storms can become violent and cause considerable damage to properties and households.

So, how do you prepare your property's exterior for the heat and minimise repair costs? Your property contains several vulnerable areas which are particularly susceptible to the effect of the sun. Take, for example, your fence.

Extreme and prolonged heat can cause chipped and peeling paint. Sudden and severe rainstorms and subsequent flooding may cause the ground to shift and the posts to move and become unsteady. Take a good look at your fence. If you spot signs that it is beginning to lean or even sag, call a professional to check it. This is not just a question of aesthetics; it is also a safety issue. When the

one is standing in way of the fence. While you are inspecting your fence for, structural integrity, also make sure that you check the locks and latches. Unsupervised children have been known to take wander into back yards when latches are not secure, and if you have a pool, they could easily drown.

If your home has an attic, it may be trapping in the heat that you are spending a lot of money for the air conditioner to combat. The principal source of attic heat is direct sunlight on the roof of the property. This is radiated heat and on a cloudy day, there is an appreciable amount that can be transmitted to the roof. The solar heat on the roof is then transmitted through the roof material and, in turn, is radiated to the attic floor or to the top surface of the ceiling insulation. The attic air in contact with the underside of the roof and top of the insulating material also becomes heated.

Convection then allows some circulation of air so that more and more of the attic air are heated. Attic heat adds to your air conditioning requirements both in the size of the unit needed and in operating costs. So, as you sit in your living room with a bead of sweat about to roll down your forehead and drip onto your last naira note, consider incorporating some basic at-

race and deck for damage. You will also need to inspect paint for signs of chipping or peeling. Take a close look at the floor of your terrace, as well. If you do not, water from rainstorms will easily find its way into these gaps and cause the surface to rise up in isolated spots, which will create a costly problem.

Your roof is one of your property's most vulnerable spots. It is critical that you watch for signs of damage because the cost of roof repair can become astronomical depending upon the severity of damage. The signs of damage that you should look for include cracks, missing shingles if your home has a wooden shingle roof and signs of age like brittle shingles, for example.

If you notice any areas on your roof that need repair, call a professional, who will not only repair the damage to your roof caused by the wet months, but help protect it from the merciless hot weather, as well. And remember to clear your roof and gutters of all branches, leaves and other debris that collects throughout the season.

Extremes of heat and cold cause wood to expand and contract, causing gaps to appear between the door and the frame. Call a professional to repair the problem. Performing any of these indoor

THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT 1990

IN THE MATTER OF THE WINDING UP OF THE GATEWAY INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED (RC NO:7596)

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSURANCE ACT 2003

TRANSFER OF LIFE INSURANCE BUSINESS

Notice is hereby given that The Gateway Insurance Company Limited (In-Liquidation) intends to seek the approval of the National Insurance Commission to transfer the Life Insurance Business of the Company to Standard Alliance Insurance Plc. in accordance with Section 30 (4) of the Insurance Act, 2003.

Dated this 17th day of February, 2006.

Signed:
Femi Atteh
Liquidator.

ABUJA PROPERTY

Abuja on your fingertips

Types of Accommodation

There are several different types of accommodation available in Abuja.

Detached house or bungalow - a separate dwelling surrounded by a walled garden. It provides privacy, but also includes more responsibility as the tenant is responsible for all upkeep in the garden and most house repairs, the main exception being structural repairs.

Apartment or duplex - joined dwellings in which people share access to the building with other tenants. The cost of electricity, generator and water is usually included in the price of the rent. Responsibility for the maintenance of the dwelling and its surroundings falls more on the landlord. However, tenants will have less control as to the speed with which repairs and payments are made and, therefore, will be more dependent upon the landlord.

Houses in a complex or Life Camp. Some houses built by companies in a complex may be available for rent to people outside of the company on a space available basis. The Shell compound off Shehu Shagari in Maitama is one example of such a complex. The construction company camps of Dantata and Sawoe (German) and Bouygues (French) are examples of some of the Life Camps that sometimes rent to outside customers. In the case of the Life Camps, they cover the cost of electricity, running water and repairs.

Most accommodations are rented unfurnished. Unfurnished in Nigeria means without generator, stoves, refrigerators, washers! dryers, cookers (ovens) or air-conditioners. Therefore, be prepared to include the purchase of those items in a housing budget. In addition, renters are normally required to pay two years minimum rent in advance, so be prepared to take time and find the best accommodation. It can take up to two months to find the appropriate property. Some options for hotels and fully-serviced apartments during the search are included in the "Getting Rest" section of this book.

As in other parts of the world, location plays a key role in the cost of the real estate. Houses and apartments in Asokoro, Maitama (including Ministers' Hill) are usually the most expensive followed by Wuse and Garki. A number of "bedroom" communities have developed around the outskirts of the city in communities such as Gwarinpa, Mabushi, Jabi, Kubwa, etc., to provide more affordable housing for government employees and some business persons. Due to security concerns, most foreigners live in Maitama, Asokoro or Wuse.

House Hunting Tips

Check the Construction
Unfortunately, many of the houses were put together quickly using poor quality materials. It

is wise to take someone who has a basic knowledge of building construction along when looking at accommodation.

Check for Security Upgrades

Although Abuja is a relatively safe city as compared to Lagos, it is wise to make sure the home has basic security features. Such features include:

- a strong metal gate with a security peep hole.
- razor wire along the top of the wall.
- grilled doors and windows or metal doors with 'strong locks and additional security latches.

General Tips

Be sure that crime prevention measures do not prevent an easy and quick escape for your family in case of fire.

If noise is an issue, avoid houses near heavy traffic flows, but, for security reasons, do not select a house that is too isolated. Get to know the neighbours. Select accommodation near neighbours who also have good security as they will likely keep an eye on your property, as well.

Keep in mind that Abuja is situated between the Equator and the Tropic of Cancer, so all parts of the house will receive strong sunshine at some point during the day. Therefore, facilities for cooling (fans, air conditioners) are important. Fans are good even if there is air conditioning as power can often be too low to run the air conditioning.

Make sure the doors and windows close without a gap, otherwise rain will enter during the rainy season and dust during the dry season.

Check the wood and the lawn for termite infestation. Certain parts of Abuja have terrible termite problems. Take a close look at the doors and closets.

Test the water in each room to make sure the hot water heaters are working and the water is indeed flowing. Some houses are not hooked up to the city water source and have their water delivered. Be sure to ask the landlord and the neighbours about the reliability of the source. Even houses that supposedly have reliable city water should have an underground, ground level, tower or rooftop water storage tank to ensure water storage and constant water flow.

If an apartment is preferred, ask the neighbours about the condition of the apartment and the reliability of the landlord. Also, make sure there are enough rooms for any domestic workers.

Make sure the previous tenant of the house did not leave any unpaid bills as you may be held responsible for phone, electricity, water, etc. Ask for the payment receipts in order to prove past payment. It is also a good idea to save the old payment slips to prove payment and to pass them on to the next tenant.

Ask about the presence and the functioning of a generator. Make sure it is clear who is responsible for the purchase, main-



Nasir el-Rufai, FCT Minister

tenance and functioning of the generator and fuel.

Check for a working telephone line. In some areas, the telephone exchanges are full and it is difficult to obtain a landline.

Occupancy Tax

In 2001, the Nigerian government established a tenement rate. The primary liability for the tax lies on the occupier, except in IT tenant properties in which case the owner is liable. Therefore, rent of single dwelling homes should be prepared to receive a tenement rate demand notice at their home. The tax bill will be payable within 21 days of receipt and must be paid to: AMAC Tenement Rate Account No. 091023912 Lion Bank of Nigeria, Dambata Close, Area 7, Garki.

Real Estate Agents

Most landlords will not rent a property for less than two years. Payment is required in full (usually in cash) upon the signing of lease. The standard commission for the real estate agent I recommends the selected house and assists in brokering a deal is 10% of the total rent. Before looking at houses with an agent, ensure that the services to be provided are clear (who drives and pays for taxis, helps negotiate a price, etc.) It is not wise to use many different real estate agents to prevent problems caused when two or more agents show the same house. If you were shown house by a previous agent, be sure to tell the other agent in advance so that he/she knows that the commission might need to be shared.

Refuse

House holds desiring rubbish collection need to apply at the:

FCT Environmental Protection Office

(Corner of Moshood Abiola Road and Ogun Street) Area 2, Garki, Abuja

cost for a domestic house with 4-5 bedrooms is approximately N180,000/year. Someone from the office will accompany the tenant to the site to verify its size. The charge includes use of the bins from their store. However, the customer must arrange transportation of the dust bins from the Environmental Protection's. It the zoo/plant nursery near Aso Rock. The price and dust II vary for Embassies and businesses according to the nature of the business.

Refuse Collection

Refuse collectors will pick up the dustbins approximately once. Sometimes the day of the week differs but they are fairly regular in terms of frequency. Rubbish bins need to be kept in an accessible place. There is no requirement for sorting out different types of rubbish at the moment. Theft of rubbish bins is frequent occurrence in the city, so that is not a concern. However, there are a number of persons who may sift through the bins in search of useful items, so customers leaving their bins at their gate may occasionally find them scattered. For this reason, it is extremely important that financial and personal documents are shredded and burned.

Some individuals may wish to arrange for private refuse collection,

Nurseries

There are a number of small plant nurseries on the side of the major roads in the city. For larger selections, try:

Plant Nursery in the National Children's Park and Zoo (Near Aso Rock, Off Murtala Mohammed Expressway North)

Tel: 09314-0475

Fumigation (Pest Control)

In some areas of Abuja, termites are a serious problem. Ants, cockroaches, mice and rats can also be a major nuisance for residents. Snakes can also come visiting. Be aware of some pest control services used by our readers. Possible customers should be aware that the chemicals used by pest control services here are regulated by the government and

may not meet European or ILS standards for health and safety.

Appliances

Appliances can also be purchased from most supermarkets and from the electronics market near the General Hospital in Wuse.

A tumble dryer is recommended (if indoor space to dry clothes is limited) as the rainy season makes drying clothes out of doors difficult also a significant risk of Tumbu fly eggs being laid on outdoors. Tumbu fly lava burrow under the skin and comfortable to remove and Funnishings (See Stocking-up for full listings) several shops in town that carry furniture and interior. Most of them deal in imported furniture or furniture locally with imported materials. In general, the quality is poor and expensive. Some shops specialize in custom furniture. Most supermarkets also have furniture floors.

Craftsmen

Furniture craftsmen can be seen selling their products on the roadside. There are a number of workshops along Obafemi Awolowo Way specially near the former Impresit Life Camp.

Post Offices

There are two General Post Offices in town where stamps can be purchased, letters and parcels can be sent, and a P.O. Box can be established. Customs services operate only out of the Garki Post Office.

Garki Post Office

Area 10, Garki, Abuja

Eastern end of Olusegun Obasanjo Way, where it meets

Wuse Post Office. This was the first post office to be opened and is the city's main post office.

Wuse Post Office

Along Maputo Street, a few hundred meters off Herbert Macaula Way, Zone 5, Wuse, Abuja

The master plan calls for a post office for each district and post, agencies for all neighbourhoods. Other post offices are located in Abaji, Kuje and Gwagwalada towns.

Security Services

Most residents in Abuja have security personnel at their gates, whether they are guards hired by the residents themselves or provided by a security company. Guard services provide their employees with basic security training and take care of providing relief guards in case of sickness and vacation. In reality, they would probably not be effective against a gang of armed robbers. Guards mostly serve as a deterrent to keep criminals from selecting your home as a target in the first place. Some security companies can provide added protection like mobile patrols; and panic buttons. Ask for details on services provided, the length of the shift for the guards and the breakdown of the monthly charge (how much is going to the guards versus overhead for the company, uniform, taxes, etc.). Ask neighbours and friends for references to companies they use. A few companies are listed below.

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KANO TRUST

Correspondents' chapel threatens show down with Shekarau

By Yusha'u Adamu Ibrahim,
Correspondent, (Kano)

The Kano State Chapter of the Correspondents' Chapel has threatened a stop covering the activities of the state government if the executive fails to address the recent spate of threats to some of its members by somebody alleged to be an agent of the government.

A statement from the chapel signed by its vice chairman and secretary Mallam Yakubu Musa and Mallam Bashir Muhammed Bashir respectively and made available to *Kano Trust* stated that the alleged agent sent death threats to a journalist two times.

The alleged agent is said to take it upon himself by vituperative attacks against perceived enemies of the Shekarau administration. He was said to have recently featured in a local radio in the state where he was said to have issued the warning to the journalist for his criticisms of the state government.

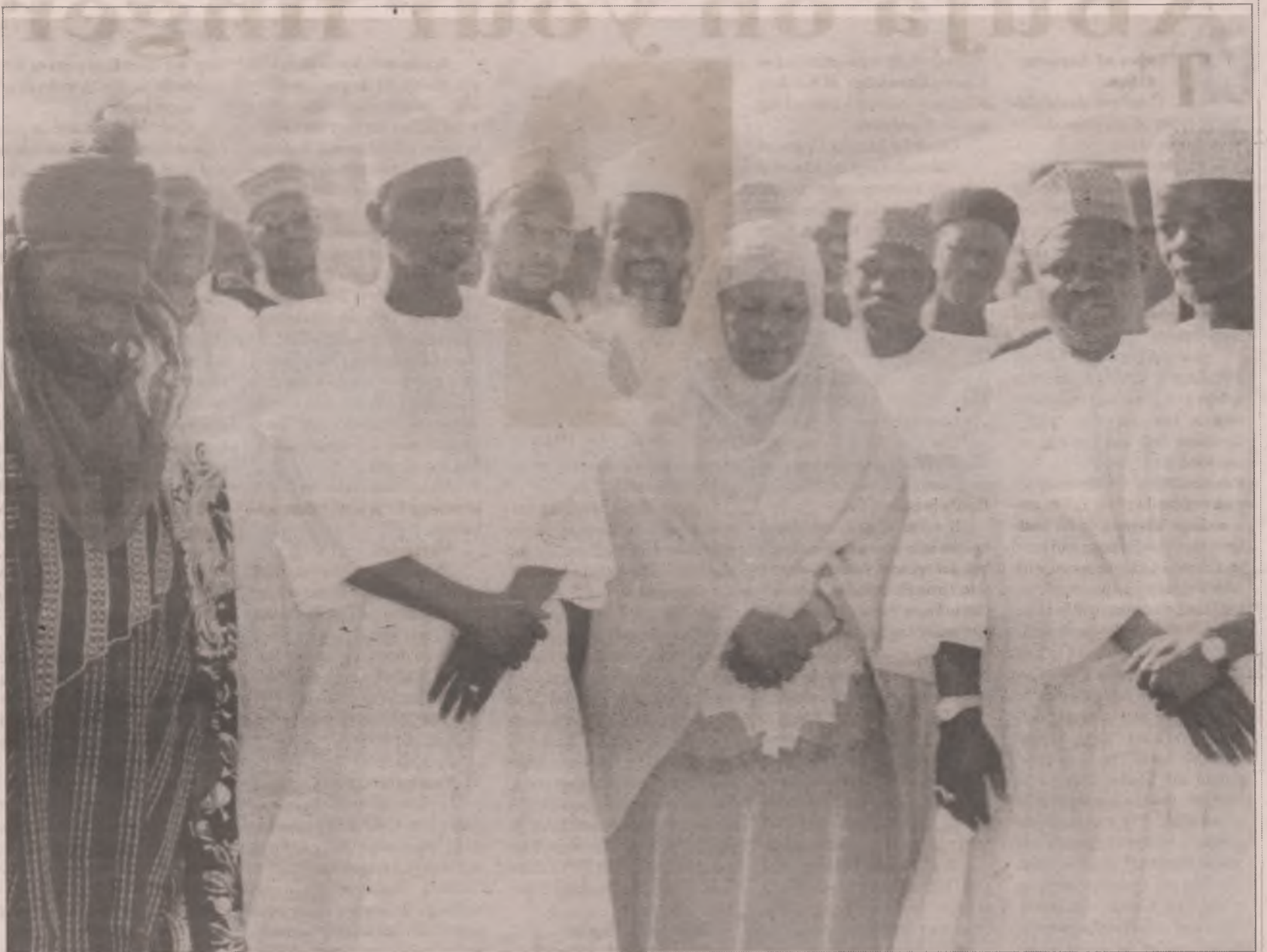
"Our fears that (his) utterance may have had official backing of the state were confirmed by the nonchalant attitude of the state commissioner for Information, Dr. Tijjani Muhammed Naniya, when the issue was brought to his attention by the Correspondents' Chapel," the statement further stated.

The Correspondents' Chapel therefore reminds the state governor, Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau of his vowed commitment to safeguard the freedom of speech and expression in the state.

"Thus the Kano Correspondents' Chapel will henceforth hold the state government responsible for any harm that befalls any member of the chapel" said the statement.

The statement noted that it is unfortunate that working journalists in Kano are increasingly becoming target of threats and intimidation by alleged agents of government.

"Governor Shekarau has categorically stated at various occasions that he welcomes any meaningful criticism, so why are his agents desperate to eliminate whoever criticises the government," noted the statement.



Governor Shekarau flanked by the commissioner of Education, Hajiya Balaraba Bello Maitama (centre), and the district head of Fagge (Kachallan Kano) (left), during a visit to Simaral Quran Islamiya School in Fage...recently

Census: Kano well sensitised - NPC

The federal commissioner of the National Popular Commission in charge of Kano State, Dr. Duro Famujoro, has described the commission's sensitisation level towards

By Aliyu Saleh Machika,
Correspondent, (Kano)

the upcoming 2006 national headcount as one of the best in the country.

Speaking to our corre-

spondent, Dr. Famujoro said from the tour he had and what he saw and heard, both the elite and those at the grassroots are well aware on the forthcoming headcount. He added that people in the state

are really aware and have shown interest to fully participate in the exercise.

According to him, the state government and the emirate council have done so much in the area of sensitisation and awareness campaign saying based on all these efforts on ground, "I believed this coming census is not going to be what we used to have in the previous ones, but a better exercise in its entirety that would yield the anticipated outcomes for the benefit of state and the nation as a whole."

Also speaking on the just concluded North-western states training of the trainers in Kano, Dr. Famujoro said the training seeks to explore integrity and with adequate academic sound in order to avoid making similar mistakes that happened during the trial census which he said was due to low level of education of the facilitators and enumerators.

The commissioner also added that all the necessary equipment that would ensure the success of the exercise has been provided. Said he: "I believed all things are okay and the people are ready. We are therefore looking forward to a successful conduct of the exercise."

He thanked the people of Kano for the enthusiasm and willingness they are showing towards the exercise. He further solicited for more cooperation with the enumerators and other coordinators during the exercise.



Samaila Danko Makoma, NPC boss

KHA says it won't support pre-HIV test for couples

Kano State House of Assembly has declared that it won't pass into law any proposal that will impose HIV/AIDS test for couples intending to marry.

The speaker of the assembly, Alhaji Balarabe Sa'idu Gani, made the disclosure at the closing ceremony of a 3-day First International Advocacy training workshop held at Tahir Guest Palace recently.

Balarabe Sa'idu Gani maintained that an Islamic injunction has already enabled couples to first understand themselves before marriage therefore discarding the need

By Ahmed Abubakar,
Correspondent, (Kano)

for any pre-test before marriage.

Gani said the assembly will not support any position on imposing pre-marital test but would rather back plans for more awareness and education on the dangers of pre-marital sex.

The speaker explained that the assembly has passed several health resolutions considering the importance of the sector. He added that a lot of resources have been committed to the sector in the 2006 fiscal year in order to ensure availability of health fa-

cilities as well as adequate attention to ailing patients.

In his remark, an Islamic scholar in the state, Sheikh Ibrahim Khalil, advised couples to seek each others consent before marriage so as to avoid hitches in their marital lives.

Sheikh Khalil however suggests to the assembly and the state government to provide a forum of discussion where learned *ulamas* in and outside the state could come in and have discuss with people who may be in doubt of anything in order to minimise immoral behaviours across the country.

EKO TRUST

Lagos spends N1bn to rehabilitate schools

The Lagos State government through its Committee on the Rehabilitation of Public Schools has expended over N1 billion on the refurbishment of dilapidated schools within the past one year in the state.

Speaking with our correspondent, the committee Chairman, Dele Onabokun, disclosed of plans to inject additional N850 million for re-

Stories by Olumide Bajulaiye, Correspondent, Lagos

pairs and for provision of educational facilities in this fiscal year. He spoke at the foundation laying ceremony of the Alakuko Community Junior Secondary School in the Ijaiye/Ojokoro Local Government Development Area of the state.

The school occupying a

0.5 acres of land is expected to gulp N100 million and it would have 21 large classrooms, laboratory facilities for sciences, home economics and introduction to technology, offices and public conveniences.

According to him, about 752 seats and desks would be provided by the government for the first set of 1000 pupils expected to resume at the

school beginning from the next academic session in September.

He assured that the project would be completed within six months, even as he claimed that the contractor handling the project had been mobilized to the tune of 70 per cent of the total project cost.

Onabokun described the Alakuko Community School project as a turning point in the provision of educational facilities by the committee, which he noted had concentrated on the rehabilitation in the Phase 1, Phase 11 A and Phase 11B across the state.

This (Alajuko) is the first

community that would benefit from the committee, since it swung into action more than a year ago.

He said that the establishment of the school in the community would not only alleviate the plight of pupils who trek several kilometers away from their domain to have access to education, but also shore up the socio-economic lives of residents.

Governor Bola Tinubu represented by the Educational Commissioner, Dr. Olakunle Lawal, informed that admission of pupils into Junior Secondary School One (JSS 1) in the school would

have been concluded by August ahead of the commencement of a new academic session in September.

The commissioner disclosed that plans are afoot by the state government to extend the gesture to other areas, especially, where such educational facilities are lacking.

He urged residents to take keen interest in the project and guard against the vandalism of the edifice after completion, pointing out that only such interest could spur the government to provide more social amenities in their domain.

...issues 7-day ultimatum to street traders

The Lagos State government has given seven days ultimatum to street traders and hawkers to clear off the Ikorodu Road, or risk being prosecuted.

The State Commissioner for Environment, Tunji Bello, who gave the warning, declared that street traders and hawkers along Presidential routes at the expiration of the ultimatum would be arrested and prosecuted.

According to the commissioner, the state government viewed those transacting business at unauthorized places as saboteurs as government had committed so much resources to the beautification of the environment.

He decried indiscriminate dumping of refuse and blockage of drainage channels as well as the construction of illegal structures and kiosks

along the highways, especially the Lagos-Ikorodu road.

The commissioner explained that a week ultimatum was enough for all categories of illegal traders to look for alternative places in markets in order not to hinder their businesses.

He regretted that despite ban on street trading within the metropolis, traders and hawkers continued their business on daily basis at Ojota, Onipanu, Anthony, Obanikoro and other Presidential routes while illegal structures and shanties littered everywhere to undermine the beautification exercise of the government.

The commissioner informed that all necessary agencies in the enforcement of environmental laws have been directed to arrest and prosecute anyone that con-

travenes the law.

He warned illegal traders along Ikorodu road to shun any act capable of sabotaging government efforts.

Top musicians to join AD guber campaign

There are indications that some top Nigerian artistes, including Fuji maestro, King Wasiu Ayinde Marshal (KWAMI) have been contacted to join the campaign team of an Alliance for Democracy (AD) governorship aspirant in Lagos and the state commissioner for Rural Development, Dr. Tola Kasali.

Sources close to Kasali's campaign group tagged "Team Lagos" disclosed that discussions with the artistes, especially Wasiu have gone far, and that to buttress his commitment KWAMI may release a music album any moment from now to boost Kasali's credentials and popularity.

Besides Wasiu, other artistes on the list include Wasiu Alabi Pasuma and ghetto music star, Daddy Show key.

The decision to bring in the music stars into the aspirant's campaign agenda is to be able to get a wide range of some target audience to support his candidacy ahead of the 2007 governorship election in the state.

It was also learnt that responses from musicians al-

ready contacted to work for Team Lagos have been very positive.

According to a source in Team Lagos, Kasali, a former local government chairman has been enjoying wide acceptability by groups across board since he indicated interest in succeeding his boss, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the rising profile needs to be maintained by reaching out to music lovers through their favourite artistes.

Apart from making moves to seek the support of top musicians, it was learnt that Kasali has been busy of late putting finishing touches to his economic blue print.

When contacted on this, the aspirants stated that he is not only a staunch believer in the policies of the Tinubu administration, but equally an active member of the system, adding that all, whatever economic or political has to be tied to the great achievements and successes of Asiwaju Tinubu.

It was gathered that the committee working on the blueprint is headed by a professor of economics and supported by other bright technocrats.



Muslim students protesting against Danish products in Nigeria, Lagos...recently

Pix: Oladipu Odunewu

Consumers seek soldiers in Lagos power stations

Following incessant attack on officials of the Power Holdings Company of Nigeria in Lagos by street urchins, Association of Power Consumers in Lagos Island has called on the federal government to assign soldiers to mount security at energy installations at the metropolis.

The association explained that, at least two soldiers should be sent to each undertaken offices on the Island to provide security for the officials and equipments of PHCN.

Reacting to the last Saturday attack on officials of PHCN from Idumagbo office, where three men were lynched, stabbed and robbed of their personal belongings like money and handsets by area boys at Oja-Oba market, Isale-Eko, members of the association who were on soli-

arity visit to Idumagbo office to sympathize with the victims were optimistic that only the presence of armed soldiers can curb the incessant attack.

Prior to the Saturday attack, similar cases have occurred last year and reported at Adeniji-Adele Police Station where staff of PHCN were either stabbed or macheted by the miscreants at Isale gangan, Obadina and other areas at the metropolis.

It was also gathered that area boys have constantly cut and stole away PHCN cable along the 3rd Mainland Bridge, while same miscreants again demanded for money from PHCN officials who went to the place to replace the stolen cable.

The spokesman of the disturbed association, Mr. Adamson Idowu, told our correspondent that if Presi-

dent Olusegun Obasajo wants to achieve success on the efforts to make power outage a thing of the past, "He should direct the GOC of 81 Division of the Nigerian Army, Lagos to assign some soldiers to PHCN offices on the Island.

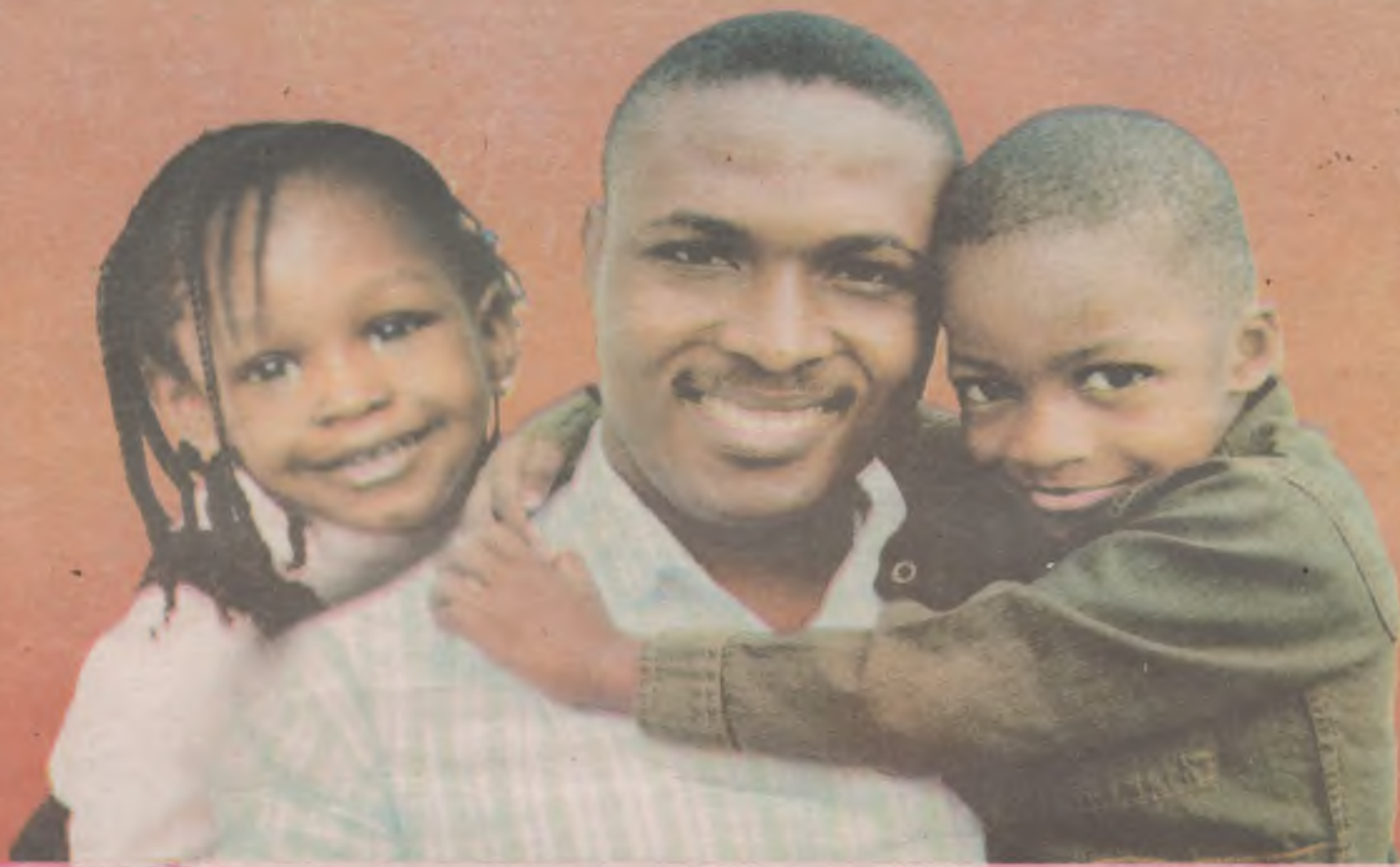
He emphasized that the un-relented efforts of Obasanjo has not be felt on the Lagos Island because of the notorious activities of the miscreants who also forcefully extort money from PHCN officials that went out to rectify faults.

It would be recalled that during late General Sani Abacha regime when similar problem occurred, soldiers were assigned to each defunct NEPA (now PHCN) installations in Lagos and other parts of the country where similar problem are been experienced and the gesture stopped the vandalism

and attack of staff on duty.

According to Mr. Idowu, such decision would also assist the PHCN to tackle illegal connection by saboteurs who tampered with poles, sell the energy to people, and made a lot of money into their pockets to the detriment of the government. Meanwhile, some communities on the Island, especially Isale gangan area where two staff of PHCN from Idumagbo were macheted last week have written undertaken as agreement with PHCN that all illegal connection must be removed, that community where the officials were attacked will be held responsible, that all outstanding debt be collected before reconnecting the debtors and the safety of the officials on duty day and night with the involvement of the association guaranteed.

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MANAGEMENT TEAM



From left standing:
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News



Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Youth Development and Special Duties, Colonel Musa Muhammed (rtd.), observes the high walls of the Obosi erosion site from a deep gully in Anambra State ...recently.

Third term: Obasanjo urged to step down

President Olusegun Obasanjo has been urged to shun politicians who want him to continue in 2007. The advice was contained in a press statement made available to journalists in

Abuja, yesterday, by the Vice Chairman of Kaduna Progressive Coalition (KPC), Alhaji Abdulfatah A. Murtala.

Alhaji Murtala observed that the third term controversy is already generating tension in the polity as according to him, "majority of Nigerians are divided on the issue."

He said President Obasanjo should step down in 2007 in order to earn respect from Nigerians.

Alhaji Murtala in the statement advises Obasanjo to "as a matter of principle and fear of God retire to Otta farm in accordance with the advice given by his son, Mr. Gbenga, in an interview recently."

"That God in His infinite mercies delivered him from the hands of General Sani Abacha and he rose from prison to the presidency is enough to thank God for," the stalwart said.

He said in 1979, the president pledged to handover power to civilian, which he did and now that he has ruled for two terms, he



President Olusegun Obasanjo

should give God the glory.

Alhaji Murtala said President Obasanjo should emulate President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa that has outrightly rejected the call for third term in his country.

"Almighty Allah has given you everything a man needs in this world, retire now and go enjoy your well-deserved honour," Murtala further counselled.

FG inaugurates board of NIPSS

The federal government has inaugurated the new board of the National Institution for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, Jos.

A news release from the Presidency, signed by the Director, Press, Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Mr. Eric Teniola over the weekend indicated that the 10-man board is headed by Professor Dakum Shown and include, Professor Akin Akindoyemi, General A.O. Ogomudia, Abdullahi Aliyu, Alhaji Lili Gabari, Professor Musa Yadudu, Alhaji Dayibu Garga, Mrs. Tomi Soboyejo, Chief Olisa Metu and Kio Clement Bestman.

In his inaugural speech, the SGF, Chief Ufot Ekaette, charged the new members of the institute to achieve the highest level of performance, transparency and accountability, avoid conflict with the management in the performance of their functions and responsibilities, and to work towards the objectives for which the institute was established, which is to serve as high level centre of reflection, research and dialogue.

Chief Ekaette further said

UniAbuja, ABU to hold students-legislators forum

The University of Abuja in conjunction with Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, is to hold a students-legislators forum to expose students to the intricacies of law making.

A statement by the chairman, University Lectures Series, Dr. Kabir Mato, of the Department of Political Science, University of Abuja, indicated that the activities will enable the university community appreciate the responsibilities of lawmakers.

Dr. Mato said in the past, the legislative arm of government is believed by Nigerians to be hostile and overbearing on the executive.

"Nigerians did not understand that the role of a member of the House of Representatives is more important than that of ministers and the government put together, because he or she underwent electoral process, was voted for and won to represent his constituency, while a minister is somebody that can be picked from anywhere by the President.

"Therefore, we thought that it is really very important to move the legislators to the university campus, so that the students and the university community in general can appreciate the necessity and the significance of the legislative arm in any democratic governance," he added.

He further said that the forum, which will be a monthly interactive session will be an avenue for legislators to talk on their roles and enable students to ask questions. The first ses-

By Mustafa Abubakar, Abuja

sion holds on February 27, 2006, with the topic "Senators and the University of Abuja: Senators talk to the students to be delivered by Senator Jonathan Zwingina and the Minister of Solid Minerals, Mrs. Oby Ezekwesili, who will speak on the topic: "Public Policy and the Issue of Reforms in the Government, while on February 28, 2006, the governors of Nasarawa and Kebbi States will speak on the topic: "Leadership and followership."

Bird flu confirmed in Katsina, Zamfara

By Joe Oroye

The outbreak of bird flu has been confirmed in Katsina and Zamfara States by the federal government.

Briefing journalists in Abuja yesterday, the Minister of Information and Orientation, Mr. Frank Nweke Jr., said the Presidential Committee on the Prevention and Management of the Bird Flu confirmed the spread of the virus to the two states.

The committee, Mr. Nweke revealed, has already directed the immediate slaughter of all infected birds in the affected farms.

Other states visited by the presidential surveillance teams he stated are, Abia, Edo, Rivers, Niger, Sokoto, Anambra and Nasarawa, where samples from poultry birds in these states have tested negative to the flu virus.

"Extensive diagnostic tests have been conducted and are ongoing amongst poultry workers nationwide, and to date no human cases have been recorded in Nigeria," he said.

Government, the minister stated, has taken delivery of the drug - currently used in the treatment of the virus amongst humans.

He explained that though scientific evidence puts the rate of human infection as low, extra care is strongly advised amongst poultry workers through the minimisation of contact with infected and dead birds and the use of appropriate protective gear.

The Presidential Committee, he revealed, will commence payment of compensation to affected poultry farmers.

Mass sack: FG clarifies position

The federal government has debunked report to sack about 160,000 officers in the public service across the country, saying that the total number of officers to be affected by the right-sizing exercise in the civil service is 33,646.

In a two-page statement made available to *Daily Trust* and signed by the Director General, Bureau of Public Service Reforms, Dr. Goke Adegoroye, said "based on the list collated and screened by the Public Service Reform Implementation Committee, under the chairmanship of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation, is 33,646.

"For the avoidance of doubt, the total staff strength of the mainstream civil service is about 160,000," the statement said, adding, "therefore, the number of officers to be affected couldn't be 160,000 in this regard, as that would mean abolition of the entire Federal Civil Service."

Dr. Adegoroye said the reports by the committee concentrated mainly from the input collated from the ministries and agencies based on the criteria of appointment without authorisation, disciplinary cases, entry into cadres without appropriate qualifications, medically unfit officers, officers that have failed promotion three times and officers that failed to acquire mandatory skills.

Others are monetised/out-

By Hamisu Muhammad, Business Reporter

sourced/abolished cadres, inefficiency/unsatisfactory character, voluntary retirement.

According to him, the Steering Committee on Reform (SCR) has also, in line with presidential approval, directed that public service reforms should move to the parastatals, but the process will begin after the guidelines for reforming parastatals and agencies, which the public service reform team is currently finalising.

He said already, the team submitted its reports to the Federal Executive Council (FEC), "and duly approved by the council."

He explained that the main aim of the ongoing reform is to reposition the public service to work more efficiently and effectively for the people.

"The critical issues are re-professionalisation, restructuring, training and retraining, re-tooling and re-invigoration of the service through injection of bright, young, skilled, and reform-minded graduates of our universities and polytechnics."

The bureau's director general said the right-sizing aspect of the ongoing public service reform is not based on any predetermined number, adding that the bureau wishes to assure Nigerians that the exercise will be carried out transparently and in observance of the due process.

NEWS

Sale of handouts, cultism worry UniAbuja VC

Vice Chancellor of the University of Abuja, Professor Nuhu O. Yaquf, has expressed grave concern over the persistent sale of handouts and other study materials by lecturers to students in the university. He therefore, charged students to report lecturers

By Uthman Abubakar,
Senior Reporter

coercing them to buy such materials from them to the university authorities for disciplinary action.

He also expressed concern over the growing occurrence of cultism among students in the university, lamenting that the vice had robbed the university of the peace and harmony for which it had been known since its foundation.

Professor Yaquf spoke at the matriculation of 2200 fresh students into the university when he described the sale and purchase of such learning materials as "potentially dangerous, "I must warn that such transaction is illegal and students are advised to report immediately to the authorities any tendencies by their lecturers to coerce or threaten them into purchasing any form of prepared lectures."

He assured students of the adequate provision of learning materials, saying, "the university management is aware of the dearth of some learning materials such as textbooks and has made efforts, of recent, through direct purchases and solicitation of donations by donor agencies, to improve on the situation with considerable success."

Professor Yaquf also said that recently the university library was successfully registered to access contents of journals online to ensure the availability of learning and teaching materials to both students and staff.

Speaking on cultist activities, the Vice Chancellor said "Until a few years ago, this university was completely free of such evil acts. Now reports have confirmed the occurrence, though few and far between, of the dastardly activities of student cultists," announcing that the university had taken decisive action against known cult members.

He charged the students to rise against the cultist gangs by cooperating with the university to stamp out the menace, warning, that "those who keep quiet and docile in the face of such threat to peace and tranquility of any community such as the university, will invariably be consumed by the consequences of their action."

Igala plans boycott of census

By Abubakar Ibrahim

Members of the Igala nation have drawn up plans to boycott the National Population Census billed for March.

The Igalas are also planning a million man march to protest the conduct of the census.

According to a press release issued by the president-general of the Igala Youths Council of Nigeria, Akwu Umar Goodman, the million man protest would assemble delegates from the nine local government areas of the South East Senatorial district of Kogi State.

The five-kilometres procession will commence from Alo to Itobe in Ofu local government council of Kogi State.

The final pronouncement on the census boycott shall be made via an address of a world press conference known as the Itobe Declaration. "A copy of the declaration shall be forwarded to the state governor for onward delivery to our dear President," he said.

The essence of the march and the boycott is to oppose what he called the sudden "demographic miracle for the simple reason of power shift where a nation that constituted 54 per cent of the population of Kogi State is reduced to 46 per cent overnight, while others who form 46 per cent are skyrocketed to 54 per cent even when no genuine basis exist to support the statistics.

Goodman wondered why the Igala nation which has consistent polygamous culture and high birth-rate and has never experienced any "Tsunami" could be so depleted by 10.7 per cent in advance at the Enumeration Area Demarcation exercise before the real census takes place.

"Power can only shift via dialogue without rigging the census or carrying arms," he said.



The Chief Imam Medina Baye Mosque Kaolack, Senegal, Sheikh Hassan Ali Cisse, left, with Sheikh Usman Dahiru Bauchi, during the commissioning ceremony of Doka central mosque, Kano road, Kaduna ...recently. Pix: Shehu K. Goro.

Nasarawa swears in new exco

Nasarawa State Governor, Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu, has called for transparent and absolute loyalty from the members of the newly constituted state executive council.

The governor, who also warned the new state executive council members against corruption, made the call at the swearing-in ceremony held at the Ibrahim Abacha Youth Centre, Lafia.

"You are duty bound to reciprocate the trust and confidence I have reposed on you, by ensuring that your actions are not at variance with the aspirations of this administration," the governor said.

He reminded the new council members that they should at all times remember that the executive council is a team and whatever they do will affect the destiny and fortunes of other members of the team.

The governor also pointed out that the primary target of the administration in the next few months will be the completion of ongoing projects.

"We do not intend to leave any uncompleted projects for the succeeding administration.

"Part of your challenges in office will be to deploy little resources to maximum effect especially in the completion of ongoing projects," Governor Adamu added.

He said the adminis-

tration will not foreclose the commencement of new projects, but will only embark on those which are most compelling before the expiration of its tenure.

Responding on behalf of his colleagues, Dr. Ahmed Mohammed, the Commissioner of Health, thanked Governor Adamu for choosing them to serve the people of Nasarawa state, promising not to disappoint him.

Six out of nine former commissioners retained their portfolios, while three were moved to new ministries.

Among those who retained their portfolio are Mr. Suleiman Adokwe, Commissioner for Information and Internal Affairs; Mr. Baba Yakubu Gwefwi, Ministry for Works and Transport; Alhaji Mohammed Kabir, Ministry for Finance; Mr. Silas Agara, Ministry for Youth and Sports; Hajiya Aishatu R. Ibrahim, Ministry for Agriculture and Natural Resources and Dr. Ahmed Mohammed, Ministry for Health.

Those Moved to New Ministries Are Alhaji Shuaibu Abdullahi Kore, Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs; Mr. Bala Angbazo, Ministry for Commerce and Industry and Alhaji Bagudu Usman, Ministry for Education.

The new commissioners are Hajiya Lantana Ahmed, Ministry for Culture and Tourism; Mr. Patrick Nguepe, Ministry for Water Reso-

urces and Rural Development; Mr. Musa Hussaini, Ministry for Justice; Mr. Dogara Igube, Ministry for Budget and Economic Planning; Alhaji Hamza Elayo Mohammed, Ministry for Urban Development and Mr. Bulus Gambo Atara, Ministry for Lands and Survey.

Others are Mrs Charity Abule, Ministry for Women

Affairs and Social Development; Mr. Joshua Barai, Ministry for Housing while Alhaji Sule Koku is in charge of the Ministry for Cooperatives.

Similarly the governor has approved the appointment of Alhaji Musa Liman as Senior Special Assistant on Chieftaincy Affairs and Traditional Matters.

Akwa Ibom to spend additional N3bn on rural dev.

From Edet Ekanem, Uyo

The government of Akwa Ibom State has earmarked N3 billion in the 2006 budget for the development of rural areas in the state.

The state Commissioner for Finance, Mr. Umana Okon Umana, said this yesterday in an interview.

The commissioner said the decision to invest the amount in the provision of more infrastructure at the grassroots was based on the fact that a good number of communities in the state have not benefited from the inter-ministerial direct labour projects currently commissioned throughout the state.

Mr. Umana who is also chairman, Direct Labour Coordinating Committee, reiterated government's commitment to bring about socio-economic transformation at the grassroots especially to those who complained of neglect and execution of shoddy jobs in

their domains.

Reacting to the complains by youths of Ikot Okoro Oruk Anam local government area that he only general hospital there has suffered neglect and poor maintenance, the commissioner assured that the state government would do everything possible to link the hospital to national grid.

He assured the people of government's sincerity on the provision of infrastructure and modern facilities in all general hospitals in the state.

Meanwhile, not less than 76 projects have so far been commissioned by the state governor, Obong Victor Attah, in 19 local government areas of the state beginning from Friday, 20th January, 2006. About 11 local government areas are anxiously waiting for their projects to be commissioned before March 13, 2006.

Inside Politics

Zonal hearings are unconstitutional

Frontline politician of the Second Republic and founding member of the PDP, Alhaji Isyaku Ibrahim comments on the public hearings kicking off today and concludes that it goes counter course with the Nigerian constitution. He said that what the Mantu constitution seeks to do is change the constitution altogether and not to make reasonable amendments. He also took on the Obasanjo administration dubbing it as the most corrupt in the history of Nigeria. He spoke to Political Editor, Emmanuel Bello. Excepts:-

The zonal hearings on the constitution has been slated for the 22nd of this month. What are your thoughts on the exercise?

I will say upfront that they are already rigged and staged managed. Besides, the 1999 constitution does not recognize the zones as the federating units. We have states and local governments. Zonal hearing are thus unconstitutional at best, and fraudulent too.

The constitution clearly spells out the role of state assemblies. If there is a national issue which the National Assembly has debated, and they feel they can't resolve that amicably, the states assemblies will be consulted. We are talking about the constitution of this country which was drawn by elected representatives of Nigeria. It didn't come from the air. People were elected and they sat down one year and came out with a constitution for us. Any constitution of a country is subject to certain amendments from time to time on a clause. The executive may propose an amendment and send it as a bill to the National Assembly for debates.

Now you say constitutional review, then amendment. If there is a contract between the two of us and I say look I've to review that agreement and if we have to, we may change the whole contract. But if I say it is an amendment, then I'm referring to a particular clause. But you journalists, who are supposed to be the public teachers, are unable to clarify these differences and tell us. Review is not the same as amendment. The constitution does not recognize zones and you speak of zonal public hearings. Zones are just convenience and agreement and not entrenched in our constitution. So, if it is not in our constitution how do you create illegitimacy to make a thing legitimate? That is what I want to know. I want to be educated, because zoning is not legitimate.

But some people, the president inclusive are trying to destroy the constitution. President Obasanjo's who swore with the Bible as a born-again Christian, that he would defend the constitution of this country. Now, he decides to do something else and

everyone is chanting zones, zones! How do we behave like illiterates? We should ask simple questions like is it recognized by our constitution? There can't be a change without all the 36 states of the federation voting on the issue, and when it is not decided, we go for a national referendum.

What you are suggesting is that all the states will be involved, but the committee people say there is no such time available to go all over the place?

Then why the rush? The 1999 constitution took a year to be crafted. You see, the constitution of a nation is its pillar and it is not an adhoc document. It is the book that guides us and is keeping us today. Rule of law is there. If there is no constitution, Obasanjo wont be there because it is not a physical thing. He is not president because he has strength. It is because of the constitution. Why have you not asked them why they are in a rush, in a hurry to amend the constitution. It is a legitimate question to ask.

You don't just change a constitution because it is a binding document. It is like the Bible or Koran, you don't change those holy books at once or anyhow. In fact, for the Bible or Koran, you can't even change them. The constitution is the document entrenching the life of a nation.

Mantu says they have to amend the constitution in the period of this current regime and before 2007 ends?

And I'm still asking why? We are talking about the constitution and this government has not been given the mandate to change it. Were they given the mandate? Is it one of the promises PDP made in its manifesto that they would change the constitution? It is not there. And they did not promise the nation this particular activity. So, who is championing the change and saying they have to do it at the shortest period of time?

The other political parties too did not say it in their manifestos. So, it is rubbish and the president, though a general lacks the guts to come and confront Nigerians on this issue, choosing rather to hide behind all these charade of public hearings. He is hiding behind Ugochukwu to come out with all these rubbish.

I am a founding member of the PDP and this was not one of our plans and we didn't promise Nigerians this.

What we told Nigerians is that we would improve the quality of their lives, because we accepted the 1999 constitution which exists that is why we form a political party, the PDP. It was on the basis of that party we asked Nigerians for their mandate.

Do you agree that the constitution contained aspects that should be amended? It is said that there so many areas, over 103 that need to be reworked?

Therefore if there are so many errors; We are rewriting the constitution and not amendment. Please, it is English and we're not stupid. We know the English language enough to know that it means re-writing. The American constitution has been there for over 200 years and the clauses they changed are not more than 50. You don't come out to say that you have to change a constitution because you believe you are more intelligent than others. Tony Anenih was in that regime and participated in amending the constitution. So what is it?

But Mantu and others say that the document is a monster...

Oh so a monster that brought them to power... is it not the constitution that made Mantu a Senator? It was not a monster then. People with principle don't participate in what they disagree with. But when you're a beneficiary, then shut up. I want to know the Nigerians who say they are not beneficiaries of the 1999 constitution. If it is a monster, I challenge all of them, let them resign. If you don't believe in something on principle, you should resign and that makes you a man. Even the president, if he does not believe in the document, he should resign.

The president took an oath with the Bible and all the while, he was making mockery of his faith. This is making nonsense of the whole process and we are all intelligent and not daft.

The president, at the Murtala lecture said the way to ensure economic growth is to have continuity....

Well, continuity must it be him? Bill Clinton did a lot for country and when he was he honorably left. So if a president is a good one, he has a vision for his country, when he lays out a mandate, he should allow someone else to come and build on it.

So through out these six years, Obasanjo has not been able to get a successor or groom someone to take over from him. What if he dies today? What happens? Or has he consulted with God to know when he would die? He failed to groom a successor.

Continuity means that a good leader grooms a people to take over from him. Look at me, I'm Malam Aminu Kano. Malam Aminu Kano groomed us as politicians. He's we carry his flag. So people, Sardauna gr

So a good leader with reviving ideas should groom people. But Obasanjo has not from his ministers or governors.

But even some governors like that of Yobe State Abba Bukar, has said that the president should continue since, according to him, the devil we knew is better than the angel we don't know.

Tell him he is out of his mind! We are talking about the principles of democracy and not individuals. Why are you diverting from your questions? You are talking about one governor. Who is the blooming governor of Yobe State? We are talking about serious issues of governance, not individuals. If you in the media have resolved to be talking about individuals, that is your problem. Give us a break. What good works has President Obasanjo done? Tell me one. I'm asking you.

Well, he mentioned anti-corruption at the Murtala's lecture.

Obasanjo is the most corrupt president Nigeria has ever produced. Quote me. Somebody stole 17 billion naira and you let him go after a few weeks. The man took the salary of poor policemen suffering. Then he says he's a president fighting corruption. Does he know the meaning

- Isyaku Ibrahim




Alhaji Isyaku Ibrahim

of corruption? In China, a minister lost his father. He used a government vehicle to take mourners to the funeral. They shot him.

That is how they fight corruption elsewhere. That is the real war. Not this mockery you have here.

DISCLAIMER



Mr. Ibrahim Hamza Yakassai

This is to notify the general public that Mr. Ibrahim Hamza Yakassai whose picture appear above no longer works with Phoenix Energy Nigeria Limited, Plot 4, Cairo Street Wuse, Abuja and anybody or organization that transact business with him on behalf of Phoenix Energy Nigeria Limited does so, on his/her own risk.

The general public is hereby warned.

Signed:
MANAGEMENT
PHOENIX ENERGY NIGERIA LIMITED
PLOT 4, CAIRO STREET WUSE,
ABUJA.

Inside Politics

Katsina: Between violence and public hearing

Nicknamed the home of hospitality, Katsina is gradually being reduced to a political laboratory for testing political ideas. One of such that has created media deluge is the public hearing that begins today in six geo-political zones in the country, Katsina state inclusive.

The political leadership insists that, despite the riots that almost paralysed Katsina state at the weekend, the controversial public hearing on the review of the 1999 constitution be held.

On the other side of the coin, there seems to be a consensus among the teeming population of the state that the much applauded public hearing be shelved in the interest of peace and stability.

As the National Assembly members arrive the state yesterday, the government was seen putting its last minutes preparations to ensure a hitch-free public hearing.

One of such noticeable preparations is that police men have been drafted to the state *en masse*.

Similarly, the state has shifted the venue for the public hearing from the government house to the state secretariat complex, which, according to our sources has a wider space to contain the people that will be making inputs into the 'new constitution'.

Although, another source told *Daily Trust* that the reason for the shift of venue may not be unconnected to the seemingly fragile security situation in the state.

Despite the fact that the state was yet to recover from its black weekend that consumed two lives, on Monday, Governor Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, expressed optimism that the dust has settled

From Lawal Ibrahim,
Correspondent Katsina

and that normalcy was gradually returning, adding that the public hearing could go on.

The governor who appeared touched by the weekend crisis, told viewers in a television broadcast that his government had beefed up security and that if it later finds out that the public hearing will create instability, then it would act otherwise.

According to Governor Yar'Adua, the state security committee meets on daily basis to review the security situation, to, among other things, make sure that the hearing holds in Katsina state.

Even before the state broadcast on Monday, the state deputy governor chaired a meeting with religious leaders, police, the SSS, and the secretary to the state government.

At the meeting, the religious leaders, accorded to our sources were educated on the significance of holding the public hearing even as the state sought for their cooperation in making it a success.

What was perhaps not clear to a cross section of the media which is making the round was that the state government was said to have issued guidelines on the conduct of the said hearing. The guidelines was also said to have been skewed in favour of government officials and traditional rulers living without a mention of the ordinary citizens of Katsina state. As part of the guidelines our correspondent also learnt that the much applauded hearing may not last all day long, as it may take place within a restricted time frame; thus denying many of their constitutional right to make genuine

contribution to the review of the 1999 constitution.

The meeting, according to

"the conference should be shelved. We are tired of the administration of president

success story; skeptics, however, fear that given the overwhelming rejection of the

ing may be described as a failure even before it starts. However, whether the public



Governor Umar Musa Yar'Adua

our sources also unveiled the code of speech which frowns at derogatory statement from contributors. Thus, people were advised to learn the rules of the game before jumping into it, as it will not be a tea party.

However, as part of *Daily Trust* effort to understand the thinking of the ordinary people in Katsina about the public hearing, our findings, though not comprehensive revealed that an average person from Katsina is ignorance of what the constitution review is all about, as most people believe is a conference to discuss tenure extension for president Olusegun Obasanjo and his governors.

When *Daily Trust* spoke to a resident Mallam Ibrahim Shehu, he has this to say:

Obasanjo. Why does he wants to continue again when he has created poverty and people are suffering in the land?"

But it is not only Mallam that thinks along this direction, a Coalition of Muslim Organisation a group of drawn from thirty four local governments in the state, under the auspices of "Concern Citizen of Katsina for 2007 Agenda" had said that constitutional review be rejected, saying that it was rejected in Kaduna and Sokoto but that governor Umar Musa Yar'Adua is trying to perpetuate himself and his master, Obasanjo ahead of 2007.

Another cleric Sheikh Yakubu Musa Hassan wondered what why the federal government insists on the hearing saying that Obasanjo government is the worst and most difficult since the country's independence in 1960.

For now there is growing apprehension in Katsina. Marketers are closing their shops. People are watching how the public hearing on the review of the 1999 constitution will turn out to be.

While pundits are optimistic that given the level of preparedness and the security drafted to state secretariat complex, the venue of the hearing the exercise will be a



Senator Ibrahim Mantu

hearing which, apparently snowballed into a full fledged riots at the weekend, the hear-

ing in Katsina will be a success or failure it is in the bowel of time.

KANO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, MINES AND AGRICULTURE (KACCIMA) TRADE FAIR COMPLEX, ZOO ROAD, BOX 10, KANO.

2006 TRADE MISSION TO THE FAR EAST: CHINA AND TAIWAN

This is to inform members of the Business Community, Legislators, Trade Organisations, Chief Executives of Banking Institutions, Senior Government Officials, Local Government Chairmen and the general public that the Kano Chamber of Commerce Industry, Mines and Agriculture (KACCIMA) has concluded arrangements to attend the 99th Chinese Export Commodities Exhibition, the third largest commodity exhibition in the world, scheduled for April, 2006, and Information Technology fair at Taipei, Taiwan in June, 2006, respectively.

All interested parties should therefore contact the Director General, Kano Chamber of Commerce, Trade Fair Complex, Zoo Road, Kano, on either of the following numbers: 08037400095, 08057126938, and 08053136252.

Registration of interested members to Guangzhou, China, will be closed on Saturday, March 11, 2006, while for Taipei, Taiwan, will be closed on Saturday, April, 29 2006.

Signed:

Alh. Abdulkarim Hussain
Director General.

"While pundits are optimistic that given the level of preparedness and the security drafted to state secretariat complex, the venue of the hearing the exercise will be a success story; skeptics, however, fear that given the overwhelming rejection of the hearing which, apparently snowballed into a full fledged riots at the weekend, the hearing may be described as a failure even before it starts. However, whether the public hearing in Katsina will be a success or failure it is in the bowel of time."

HON. ISHAQ I. KURFI (Marafan Kurfi)

Member:- Federal House of Representatives, Dutsin-ma/Kurfi Federal Constituency

Office Address:

National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
P.M.B. 141 Abuja.
Tel: 0904-412-1935

Constituency Address:

01, Maradi Street,
Kurfi L.G.A.
&
Dikko Street,
Dusin-ma L.G.A.
Katsina State

The Chairman,
National Assembly Joint Constitution
Review Committee,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Distinguished Chairman,

THE POSITION OF THE PEOPLE OF DUTSIN-MA/KURFI FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY, KATSINA STATE ON THE REVIEW OF THE 1999 CONSTITUTION



After several consultations with the people in my constituency on the above subject matter, the general consensus arrived at include but not limited to:

1. Support for the current 4 years 2-terms-tenure for the Executive at Federal and State levels. Any executive president or governor who completes two terms should be barred from contesting and holding same position forever. Clearly we are NOT in support of ANY EXTENSION OF TENURE OR "THIRD-TERM" for any president or governor.
2. Conduct of LG Elections (should be) under Exclusive List to avoid naked and crude abuse of power by State Independent Electoral Commission (SIEC) and state governor.
3. The provision for independent candidature in the revised constitution.
4. More devolution of power from Federal to States and LGs in the areas of agriculture, water resources, education and infrastructural facilities etc.
5. Assets declaration by public office holders should be published in newspapers, newsmagazines and posted on the internet and other communication media.
6. Immunity clause for the president, vice president, governors, deputy governors, should be removed from the 1999 Constitution.

Finally, let it be repeated here without any ambiguity that we in the Dutsin-Ma/Kurfi Federal Constituency are opposed to tenure extension or third term or any other plan to enable current Executive at Federal and State levels whose second consecutive term in office expires in May, 2007 to continue in office beyond that terminal date.

Signed:

Hon. Ishaq I. Kurfi (Marafan Kurfi).

IN THE HIGH COURT OF FCT
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT WUSE - ABUJA

SUIT NO
MOTION M/3128/06

BETWEEN
MAD AND MAG NIG. LTD.....PLAINTIFF/APPLICANT
AND

1. SUSANNINGER & CO. LTD
2. MINISTER, FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
3. FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION

} DEFENDANTS/
RESPONDENTS

MOTION ON NOTICE

BROUGHT PURSUANT TO ORDER 7 RULES 1.2(1), (7) ORDER 8 RULE 1 ORDER 31 RULE 1 OF THE HIGH COURT FCT (CIVIL
PROCEDURE RULES) 2004 AND UNDER THE INHERENT JURISDICTION OF THE COURT.

TAKE NOTICE that this Honourable court will be moved on the 15th day of March, 2006 at the hour of 9:00 clock in the forenoon or as soon thereafter as the Applicant's counsel can be heard for:

1. AN ORDER OF INTERLOCUTORY INJUNCTION restraining the Defendants whether by themselves, their privies, agents or otherwise and howsoever described from taking any action whatsoever against the subsisting interest of the Plaintiff/Applicant pending the hearing and determination of the substantive suit.

DAIED THIS 7th DAY OF JANUARY, 2006.

JOSHIAH DANIEL EBUNE, ESQ
P.P. GAJI & ASSOCIATES
PLAINTIFFS SOLICITORS
PLOT 348 BAMAKO STREET,
WUSE ZONE 1,
ABUJA.

FOR SERVICE ON:
1. SUSANNINGER & CO. LTD (TEXACO FILLING STATION,
BANK STREET JOS, JOS, NIGERIA)
2. MINISTER, FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
(AREA 11, ABUJA)
3. FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION
(AREA 11, ABUJA)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF FCT
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT WUSE ABUJA

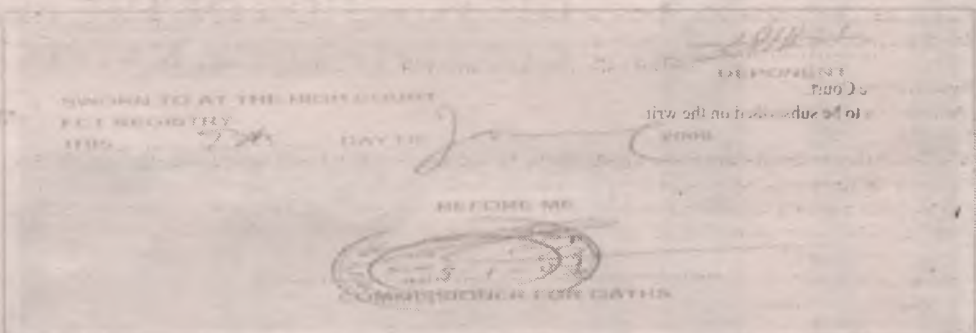
SUIT NO.
MOTION NO.

BETWEEN
MAD AND MAG NIG LTD PLAINTIFF/APPLICANT
AND
1. SUSANNINGER & CO. LTD
2. MINISTER, FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
3. FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION } DEFENDANTS/
RESPONDENT

AFFIDAVIT OF IN SUPPORT OF MOTION ON NOTICE

1. BULAMA KORODE, Male, Adult, Muslim, company Director, Nigerian Citizen (Plot 348, Bamako Street, Wuse Zone 1, Abuja hereby make Oath and state as follows:

- 1. That I am the Manager of the Plaintiff herein by virtue of which I am familiar with the facts of this case except where otherwise indicated.
2. That by an offer letter dated 7th August, 2001, the Right of Occupancy No. (MFCT/LA/MISC. 18662 in respect of Plot measuring 1,200 square metres and located within Utako District was granted to the Plaintiff for commercial purpose. A copy of the said offer of Right of Occupancy dated 8th July, 2001 is hereby annexed and marked exhibit 'A'.
3. Plaintiff avers that the said offer of the Right of Occupancy was duly accepted by the Plaintiff who promptly paid the charges, fees and rents thereon in the sum of N52,500.00 (Fifty Thousand, Five Hundred Naira) and was issued Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) receipt No: 606847 dated 16th July, 2001. A copy of the said receipt is hereby annexed and marked exhibit 'A1'.
4. That consequent to their deposal to in paragraphs 3 above, it was issued a valid Certificate of Occupancy No: 000142-FCT/ABU/MISC. 18,662 dated 24th July, 2002 and registered as No: FC87 at Page 87 in volume 97 in the Land Registry. A copy of the said certificate of occupancy is hereby annexed and marked exhibit 'B'.
5. That the plaintiff/applicant did apply to the Development control unit of the Federal Capital Development Authority, a parastatal under the 3rd Defendant for approval of its building plans which approval was conveyed after it paid the statutory fee in the sum of N6,000.00 (Six Thousand Naira only) the letter of conveyance of approval with reference No: FCDA/PLANS/PP/CID/PHS. 31-435 of 28th March, 2002 under the hand of one O.S. Ogunmola and the FCDA receipt No: 645916 issued the plans, a copy of which is hereby annexed and marked exhibit 'C'.
6. That it took full and effective possession of the property and has been exercising various acts of ownership on the said property since the offer of the Right of Occupancy. A copy of the site planning inspection property comments of the Defendants are hereby annexed and marked exhibit 'D'.
7. That as at 19th April, 2005, it found to its surprise, "Stop Work Notice" placed in the premises by Agents of the Defendants for alleged "Excavation without Approval" where upon it immediately resolved the query with the Defendants. A copy of the said Stop Work Notice is hereby annexed and marked exhibit 'E'.
8. That having had the issue stated in paragraph 7 above resolved in its favour, it continued as usual to enjoy its title and proprietary interest(s) over the said property.
9. That to vigilantly keep the property in check, as soon as the 2nd and 3rd Defendants conceived, designed and came up with the policy of "Re-certification" to protect the future, it promptly paid the Re-certification fee of N10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira) only on 29th April, 2005 to the Abuja Geographic Information Systems (AGIS) the Accredited agent of the 2nd and 3rd Defendants for Re-Certification purposes. The Abuja Geographic Information Systems (AGIS) (Inter-city Bank Plc.) A copy of the Deposit Slip No. 0018306 dated 29th April, 2005 issued to plaintiff is hereby annexed and marked exhibit 'F'.
10. As soon as the 2nd and 3rd Defendants verified the payment, it proceeded to Re-certify and Re-issue the plaintiff's certificate of occupancy over the property, thus further confirming the plaintiff's unencumbered title over the property. A copy of the AGIS Re-certification and Re-issuance of certificate of occupancy MISC. 1866.2 dated 22nd June, 2005 and the 2nd Defendant's approval for the issuance of the certified True copy of the certificate of occupancy dated 13th May, 2005 of the plaintiff are hereby annexed and marked exhibit 'G-G1'.
11. That it was prepared to meet all the legitimate conditions as stipulated by the 2nd and 3rd Defendants letter of 13th May, 2005 and was working hard towards same when it got wind confidentially by stumbling on a purported Notice of Revocation of its interest on the property. A copy of the said notice is hereby annexed and marked exhibit 'H'.
12. By a letter dated 28th November, 2005 which same was received by the 2nd and 3rd Defendants on 30th November, 2005, the Plaintiff made a passionate plea against the said purported revocation of its title due to the property. A copy of the said letter is hereby annexed and marked exhibit 'I'.
13. Rather than respond to same, the 2nd and 3rd Defendants went ahead, after the purported revocation of the plaintiff's interest, to offer same to the 1st Defendant as evidenced by the 2nd and 3rd Defendant's offer to the effect dated 12th December, 2005. The said document from AGIS to the 1st Defendant is hereby annexed and marked exhibit 'J'.
14. The 1st Defendant has since then in the face of the foregoing facts put up the property in the open market for sale to interested buyers and as a result plaintiff/applicant is being harassed, intimidated and vexed on daily basis by the Defendants and their agents.
15. That the acts(s) of the Respondents are aimed solely at unlawfully terminating the title and beneficial possession and/or enjoyment of the property by the plaintiff/Applicant who has enormously invested and kept committing further resources into the property all to the actual knowledge of the Respondents.
16. That by the facts stated herein, the Respondents will perfect their plans of not only interfering with the title of the plaintiff, but also ejecting the plaintiff from the property prematurely, unless this court intervenes, and plaintiff will suffer enormous losses.
17. That the plaintiff has filed a Writ of summons, statement of claim as well as a Motion on Notice for interlocutory injunction along with this Motion Ex parte and are prepared to give undertaking as to damages.
18. That the only reasonable and most convenient way whereby the Notice of this suit can come to the knowledge of the Defendants is by publication or advertising in widely circulated Newspapers.
19. That the Defendants/Respondents will not be prejudiced in anyway if this application is granted.
20. That I depose to the foregoing in good faith and with both the authority and consent of the Plaintiff/Applicant knowing same to be true and in accordance with the Oaths Act, 1990.



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT WUSE-ABUJA

BETWEEN: MOTION NO: FCT/HC/M/3127/06
MAD AND MAG NIG. LIMITED - PLAINTIFF/APPLICANT
AND
1. SUSANNINGER & CO. LIMITED - DEFENDANTS/RESPONDENTS
2. MINISTER, F C T
3. FED. CAP TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION

COURT ORDER

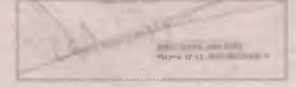
Upon hearing the Motion Ex parte and the accompanying affidavit of Bulama Koroode. And upon hearing Josiah Daniel-Ebune Esq. of counsel for the Plaintiff/Applicant praying this Honourable Court for the following order(s):

- 1. An order granting leave to the Applicant to serve the Defendants all the court processes by substituted means by publication advertisement in either THIS DAY Newspaper or DAILY TRUST with circulation within jurisdiction.
2. An order of Interim Injunction restraining the Defendants whether by themselves, their privies, agents whomsoever and howsoever described from taking any action whatsoever against the subsisting interest of the Plaintiff/Applicant pending the hearing and determination of the Motion on Notice for interlocutory injunction.
3. And for such further or other order(s) as the honourable court may deem fit to make in the circumstances.
The application of the Plaintiff/Applicant is hereby granted.

The 1st Defendant is hereby restrained from the sale of the land in dispute (Plot 22 Cadastral Zone B5 Utako Abuja) and status quo be maintained pending the hearing and determination of the Motion on Notice before the court.

The Motion on Notice is adjourned to 6/2/2006 for hearing, while the substantive suit is adjourned to 15/3/2006 for mention.

GIVEN UNDER THE NAME AND SEAL OF THE PRESIDING JUDGE THIS 27th DAY OF JANUARY, 2006.



IN THE HIGH COURT OF FCT
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT WUSE ABUJA

BETWEEN
MAD AND MAG NIG LTD PLAINTIFF/APPLICANT
AND
1. SUSANNINGER & CO. LTD
2. MINISTER, FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
3. FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMIN. } DEFENDANT

The Registrar
High Court FCT

MEMORANDUM OF APPEARANCE

Kindly enter appearance for the Minister FCT AND Federal Capital Territory Administration sued as 2nd and 3rd defendant in this suit, who intend to defend the action

Ahari Jonah Oori ESQ
2nd & 3rd defendant Counsel
Legal Services Department,
FCDA AREA 11, ABUJA.

FOR SERVICE
The Plaintiff,
C/o JOSIAH DANIEL EBUNE
Plaintiff Solicitor
Gaji 7 Associates,
Plot 34 B, Bamako Street
Wuse Zone 1
Abuja.
Susanniger 7 Co. Ltd (Texaco Filling Station)
Bank road, Jos, Nigeria

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF FCT
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT WUSE - ABUJA**

SUIT No:CV/1052/06

BETWEEN
MADAND MAG NIG LTD..... PLAINTIFF
AND

1. SUSAN NIGER & CO. L TD
2. MINISTER, FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
3. FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION

DEFENDANTS

TO
1. SUSANNIGER & CO. LTD (TEXACO FILLING STATION, BANK STREET JOS, JOS, NIGERIA)
2. MINISTER, FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY (AREA 11, ABUJA)
3. FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION (AREA 11, ABUJA)

You are hereby commanded that within eight (8) days after the service of this writ on you, inclusive of the day of such service, you do cause an appearance to be entered for you in the Abuja Judicial Division of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory in an action at the suit of the PLAINTIFF and take notice that in default of your so doing the Plaintiff may proceed therein and judgment may be given in your absence.

DATED THIS DAY OF..... 2006.

By order of the Court.
Memorandum to be subscribed on the writ.

N.B. This writ is to be served within twelve calendar months from the date thereof, or if renewed within six calendar months from the date of last renewal, including the day of such and not afterwards.
The Defendant may enter appearance personally, or by legal practitioners either by handing in the appropriate forms, duly completed at the Registry of the Abuja Judicial Division of the High Court of FCT, in which the writ was issued.

Endorsement to be made on writ before issue thereof:
The plaintiff's claim is for:≤

1. A DECLARATION that the Plaintiff is entitled to the Statutory Right of Occupancy over the property known as Plot Number 22 Cadastral Zone B05 covered by Certificate of Occupancy No FCT/ABU/MISC/18,662, dated 19th June 2002.
2. A DECLARATION that it is unlawful, irregular, null and void for the 2nd and 3rd Defendants to Re-allocate the property to the 1st Defendant when the interest of the plaintiff is still subsisting.
3. A DECLARATION that the subsequent purported Revocation of the said parcel of land by the 2nd and 3rd Defendants and the act of the 1st Defendant in advertising and/or putting up the said plot for sale in the open market is unlawful, irregular, null and void.
4. AN ORDER setting aside the "purported Re-allocation of the interest of the plaintiff's in the property to the 1st Defendant as evidenced by the Defendants Notice of 12th December, 2005.
5. AN ORDER for the Rectification of the Register of Deeds in favour of the Plaintiff's subsisting interest.
6. AN ORDER of perpetual injunction restraining the Defendants whether by themselves, agents, privies or servants from any acts capable of affecting the lawful and subsisting interests of the plaintiff over the said plot.
7. N5,000,000,000 DAMAGES.
8. Cost of this suit

DATED THIS 6th DAY OF JANUARY, 2006.

JOSIAH DANIEL-EBUNE, ESQ
GAJI & ASSOCIATES
PLAINTIFFS SOLICITORS
PLOT 348 BAMAKO STREET,
WUSE ZONE 1,
ABUJA.

FOR SERVICE ON:

1. SUSANNIGER & CO. L TD (TEXACO FILLING STATION, BANK STREET JOS, JOS, NIGERIA)
2. MINISTER, FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY (AREA 11, ABUJA)
3. FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION (AREA 11, ABUJA)

The writ was issued by Josiah Daniel - Ebune, Esq PP: GAJI & ASSOCIATES Legal Practitioners whose address for service is Plot 348 Bamako Street, Zone 1 Wuse Abuja. Agent for the Plaintiffs of Legal Practitioners for the said Plaintiffs who Resides at Plot 68 Harang Street Old GRA EXT. Maiduguri (Mention the city, town or district and also the name of the street number of the house of the Plaintiff's Residence, if any).

This writ or (notice of this writ) was served by me at and (As Bailiff) on Day of..... 2006.

Endorsed the..... Day of..... 2006.

Signed:.....

Address:

IN THE HIGH COURT OF FCT
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION HOLDEN AT WUSE- ABUJA
SUIT NO.....
MOTION NO.....

BETWEEN
MADAND MAG NIG LTD..... PLAINTIFF/APPLICANTS
AND

1. SUSANNIGER & CO. LTD.
2. MINISTER, FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
3. FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION

DEFENDANTS

STATEMENT OF CLAIM

1. The Plaintiff is a Limited Liability Company registered under the Companies and Allied matters Act, 1990 and carries on business throughout Nigeria, including Abuja with its head office at Plot 68 Harang Street, Old GRA. Ext. Maiduguri.
2. The 1st Defendant(s) is unknown to the plaintiff, but is alleged to operate from Texaco Filling Station, Bank Street, Jos, Plateau State and presently by its agents, privies and or servants are advertising, for sale of the plaintiff's property in the open market.
3. The 2nd Defendant is the Honourable Minister in the Presidency, in charge of the Federal Capital Territory, who by virtue of his office is responsible for the allocation, grant and issuance of right of occupancies over lands in the Federal Capital Territory, and also doubles as the Chairman, Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA).

4. The 3rd Defendant is the parent body of Federal Capital Development Authority, parastatal responsible for development, control of development, issuance of development permits and the general management of property acquisition and development in the Federal Capital Territory.
5. Plaintiff avers that by an offer letter dated 7th August, 2001, the Right of Occupancy No: MFCT/LA/MISC. 18662 in respect of Plot measuring 1:2000 square metres and located within Utako District was granted to the Plaintiff for commercial purpose. The said offer of Right of Occupancy dated 8th July, 2001 is hereby pleaded and will be relied upon at trial.
6. Plaintiff avers that the said offer of the Right of Occupancy was duly accepted by the Plaintiff who promptly paid the charges, fees and rents thereon in the sum of N52,500.00 (Fifty Thousand, Five Hundred Naira) and was issued Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) receipt No: 606847 dated 16th July, 2001. The said receipt is hereby pleaded and will be relied upon at the hearing the suit.
7. The plaintiff further avers that consequent to facts pleaded in paragraphs 5 and 6 above, it was issued a valid Certificate of Occupancy No: 000142-FCT/ABU/MISC.18,662 dated 24th July, 2002 and registered as No: FC87 at Page 87 in volume 97 in the Land Registry. The plaintiff pleads the said certificate of occupancy and will found on it at the hearing of this suit.
8. Plaintiff states that he did apply to the Development control unit of the Federal Capital Development Authority, a parastatal under the 3rd Defendant for approval of its building plan(s) which approval was conveyed after it paid the statutory bill in the sum of N6,000.00 (Six Thousand Naira only). The letter of conveyance of approval with reference No: FCDA/P&S/BP/CID/PHS.II/435 of 28th March, 2002 under the one O.S. Ogunmola and the FCDA receipt No: 645916 issued the plaintiff are herewith pleaded and would be found upon at the trial.
9. Plaintiff further states that it took full and effective possession of the property and has been exercising various acts of ownership on the said property since the offer of the Right of Occupancy. Plaintiff will rely in support of this averment, site planning inspection property comments of the Defendants which are hereby pleaded and the Defendants' put on NOTICE TO PRODUCE the originals at the hearing of the suit.
10. Plaintiff further avers that as at 19th April, 2005, it found to its surprise, "Stop Work Notice" placed in the premises by Agents of the Defendants for alleged "Excavation without Approval" where upon it immediately resolved the query with the Defendants. The said Stop Work Notice" is hereby pleaded and will be relied Upon at the trial.
11. Plaintiff further states that having had the issue stated in paragraph 10 above resolved in its favour, if continued as usual to enjoy its interest(s) over the said property.
12. Plaintiff avers that to vigilantly keep the property in check, as soon as the 2nd and 3rd Defendants conceived, designed and came up with the policy of "Re-certification" to protect the future, it promptly paid the Recertification fee of N10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira) only on 29th April, 2005 to the Abuja Geographic Information Systems (AGIS) the Accredited agent of the 2nd and 3rd Defendants for Re-Certification purposes. The Abuja Geographic Information Systems (AGIS) (Intercity Bank Pic.) Deposit Slip No. 0018806 dated 29th April, 2005 issued to plaintiff is herewith pleaded.
13. As soon as the 2nd and 3rd Defendants verified the payment, it proceeded to Re-certify and Re-issue the plaintiff certificate of occupancy over the property, thus further confirming the plaintiff's unencumbered title over the property. The plaintiff plead and will rely on AGIS Recertification and Re-issuance of certificate of occupancy MISC 18662 dated 22nd June, 2005 and the 2nd Defendant's approval for the issuance of the certified True copy of the certificate of occupancy dated 13th May, 2005 to the plaintiff at the hearing of this suit.
14. Plaintiff avers that it was prepared to meet all the legitimate conditions as stipulated by the 2nd and 3rd Defendants letter of 13th May 2005 and was working hard towards same when it got wind confidentially by stumbling on a purported Notice of Revocation of its interest on the property.
15. By a letter dated 28th November, 2005 which same was received by the 2nd and 3rd Defendants on 30th November, 2005, the Plaintiff made a passionate plea against the said purported revocation of its title, she to the property. The Notice of Revocation stumbled upon by the plaintiff and its letter and hereby pleaded, of appeal Defendants are put on NOTICE TO PRODUCE the originals of both documents the hearing of this suit.
16. Rather than respond to same, the 2nd and 3rd Defendants went ahead, after the purported revocation of the plaintiff's interest, to offer same to the 1st Defendant as evidenced by the 2nd and 3rd Defendant's offer to the effect dated 12th December, 2005. The said document from AGIS to the 1st Defendant is hereby pleaded and Defendants are put on NOTICE TO PRODUCE at the hearing of the suit.
17. The 1st Defendant has since then in the face of the foregoing fact put up the property in the open market for sale to interested buyers, while the 2nd and 3rd Defendants agents and servants keeps harassing, intimidating and vexing the plaintiff's valid title and possession daily.
18. Plaintiff contends that the foregoing acts of the Defendants jointly and severally are unconscionable and entirely baseless.
19. The plaintiff will further contend at the hearing of the suit that the purported Re-allocation of its subsisting title to the 1st Defendant(s) and or Revocation are both fraudulent, grossly irregular and unlawful.
20. The plaintiff shall rely on all books, letters and/or documents as may be necessary for, or incidental to the proof of its claims at the hearing of the suit.

WHEREOF the plaintiff claims as follows:≤

1. A DECLARATION that the Plaintiff is entitled to the Statutory Right of Occupancy over the property known as Plot Number 22 Cadastral Zone B05 in Utako District, Abuja covered by Certificate of Occupancy No FCT/ABU/MISC/18,662, dated 19th June 2002.
2. A DECLARATION that it is unlawful, irregular, null and void for the 2nd and 3rd Defendants to Re-allocate the property to the 1st Defendant when the interest of the plaintiff is still subsisting.
3. A DECLARATION that the subsequent purported Revocation of the said parcel of land by the 2nd and 3rd Defendants and the act of the 1st Defendant in advertising and/or platting up the said plot for sale in the open market is unlawful, irregular null and void.
4. AN ORDER setting aside the purported Re-allocation of the interest of the plaintiff's in the property to the 1st Defendant as evidenced by the Defendants Notice of 1st December, 2005.
5. AN ORDER for the Rectification of the Register of Deeds in favour of the Plaintiff's subsisting interest.
6. AN ORDER of perpetual injunction restraining the Defendants whether by themselves, agents, privies or servants from any acts capable of affecting the lawful and subsisting interests of the plaintiff over the said plot.
7. N5, 000,000,000 DAMAGES.
8. Cost of this suit.

DATED THIS 6th DAY OF JANUARY, 2006.

SPORTS



Nigerian cyclists will converge in Abeokuta, Ogun state in April for a pre-National Sports Festival tournament ahead of the Gateway Games.

Cyclists hit Abeokuta for pre-festival race

The Nigeria Cycling Federation is organising a pre-festival race for cyclists at the Ogun State capital Abeokuta on Saturday, February 25 in readiness for the National Sports Festival holding in the state in April.

The secretary of the federation, Mr. Francis Gbiri said that the pre-tournament was necessary so as to let the cyclists familiarise with the routes.

"There were complaints after the last festival that most did not know the routes before the festival and this gave an undue advantage to the host state," he said.

And because we do not want a repeat complaints from the participants we have now invited them for the trials this

weekend," the cycling scribe explained.

He said nine states such as Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Delta, Nasarawa, Borno, Plateau, Bayelsa and Rivers had confirmed their readiness to be in Abeokuta for the pre race.

He said the association would also use the opportunity to mark the routes in that would be used during the sports festival adding that the race in Abeokuta would be better organised than the previous ones.

Gbiri also advised the states to send their cyclists to Abeokuta one week to the festival to commence training there if they hope to perform well during the festival.

He said the federation

would after the festival send two cyclists to South Africa for intensive training ahead of the next Olympic and All Africa Games.

The cyclists he said two or three years of intensive training in other parts of the world

if they were to excel at international meets.

"We are planning to do this in conjunction and support of the Nigeria Olympic Committee.

Ikoyi golf captain thanks Vmobile

The outgoing Captain of Ikoyi Club 1938 Golf Section, Alhaji Mohammed Damulak has expressed his appreciation to Vmobile and other corporate sponsors for supporting the Club's activities during his tenure, which is just ending.

The captain gave the commendation during his

...as Gitahi wins Captains Day tourney

valedictory speech at a gala night to herald his exit as Captain and where prizes were given to winners of the Vmobile-sponsored Captain's Day Golf tournament 2006.

The tournament was won

by the Managing Director of GlaxoSmithKline, Linus Gitahi. Different categories where prizes were competed for and won included: Men's net, Men's gross, Ladies' net, Ladies' gross, Veteran's net, and Past Captain's prize. Other

ers are Longest Drive, Men and Ladies, Nearest to the Pin, and Guests' net.

"The success story of the past one year would not have been possible without the support of our esteemed sponsors who have stood by me all through the year and those that supported the Captain's Day Golf tournament. To you all, I say a big thank you," he said.

Leading the list of 17 corporate sponsors is Vmobile Nigeria and Sheraton Hotel. Others include GSK, Virgin Atlantic, Ericsson, TotalFinaElf etc.

Leading nine others by 67 points in the men's NET score is Linus Gitahi, who beat the nearest contender to him, Patrick Taggart with 70 points, to emerge winner of the tournament. In the Men's gross category, T. Davies won on a count back score of 80 points to beat Tim Ayonmike and Fasekun Olatunde, who also had 80 points as runner-up and third place positions respectively.

To emerge winner of the Ladies net, Susan Walker re-

corded 71 points, while P. Pinotsis emerged winner of the Ladies' gross category with 85 points. In the Veteran's category, DR. E. Onyia posted 73 net score above H. Agbogoroma's 76 to emerge winner, while Architect Coker scored 74 net score to win the Past Captain prize.

The prize for Longest Drive Holes 1 and 18 in Men's categories went to Tom Mbu and Olatunde Fasekun respectively, while P. Pinotsis won the Longest Drive in Ladies category. Nearest to the Pin prizes for Holes 6 and 12 were won by Lekan Biobaku and Efosa Ojomo, with the Ladies category going to Andrea Hoffmann. In the Guest category, T. Davies won on a count back score of 80 points to beat Tim Ayonmike and Fasekun Olatunde, who also had 80 points as runner-up and third place positions respectively.

To emerge winner of the Ladies net, Susan Walker re-

World Club Cup: FIFA c'ttee looks forward to 2006 tourney

By Ismaila Umaru Lere, Assistant Editor

seven matches, including the Final played before 67,000 spectators and broadcast in 194 countries and territories around the world, were perfectly organised and the teams demonstrated an extremely high level of skill and competitiveness on the pitch.

Looking forward to 2006, the committee confirmed that it would adopt the same competition format as 2005 with the six continental champions, again seeding the CONMEBOL Copa Libertadores and UEFA Champions Lea-

gue winners into the semi-final stage and thus maintaining a two-match maximum for these teams.

In recognition that Oceania's club football structure has changed significantly since the departure of Australia to the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) on 1 January 2006, the Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) requested that the committee consider modifying its entry into the competition in order to assist the development of the region's club teams.

Based on this request, the

committee decided that the OFC Club Championship winners should play an opening round match against a team from the host association - Japan's 2006 J.League champions - for a spot in the quarter-finals. The winning team would then advance to play the AFC Champions League, CAF Champions League or CONCACAF Champions' Cup winners as determined by draw. This proposal will be submitted to the FIFA Executive Committee for ratification at its next meeting on 16-17 March 2006.

In addition, the committee confirmed that it would retain the seven-match structure of the event by dropping the 5th place match in favour of the opening round match.

Under the chairmanship of FIFA Executive Committee member Viacheslav Koloskov from Russia, the Organising Committee for the FIFA Club World Cup met recently to review the highly successful 2005 event and discuss plans for the 2006 competition in Japan in December, which will again be presented by Toyota.

During its review of the 2005 tournament, the committee praised the Japan Football Association (Organising Association) and Dentsu Inc. (Executive Event Producer) for their excellent cooperative work with the FIFA administration to put on a truly world class event. All

Sports

League kick off date shifted again

For the second consecutive time this year the date for the commencement of the Premier League has been shifted forward due to lingering problem in football house. The chairman of the Nigeria Football League Board, Chief Oyiki Obaseki, disclosed yesterday that the league earlier fixed to commence on Saturday, February 25, has been shifted forward to March.

Before then, the NFL had scheduled February 17 to kick off the season but the crisis in the NFA forced a shift forward by one week to allow FIFA to give its verdict. But when the verdict was delivered Friday, the aggrieved members of the Nigerian Football Stakeholders called for a congress tomorrow to deliberate on it, a development that the League Secretariat believes does not give a clear picture of the direction football will go within the next couple of months.

Chief Obaseki said they are compelled to await the outcome

By Patrick Andrew,
Asst. Head Sports Desk

of the congress because it is the NFA board that will inaugurate the new board of the NFL. "We cannot even conduct elections because the NFA board must have in put by way of supervision of the elections into the new board as well as its inauguration. The present NFL board cannot start the league because our tenure expires with the end of last season. It is the new board that would kick off the season"

Chief Obaseki further asserted that club owners are to meet early next week to take salient decisions on the commencement of the season and ratify certain recommendations made by the board for implementation in the next

season. "You know the board recommended that sign-on fees should be abolished instead that it should be build into the salary of the players which must not be less than N100,000 per month

Premier League players and N50,000 for their Professional League counterparts", he said adding that they would fixed a definite date for the season to begin.

Meanwhile, the Chairman has confirmed that all the 20 Premier League clubs have completed their registration and are set for the season. "Only about three clubs from the

professional ranks are yet to complete registration because they want to go under or are negotiating for transfer of ownership"

Sambawa: FIFA decision is unfair

Sports Minister, Dr Saidu Sambawa has said that the decision of the world football-governing body, FIFA to recognize Alhaji Ibrahim Galadima as chairman of the Nigeria Football Association is unfair.

Sources close to the minister told hotspots-live.com that he is concerned but not entirely upset by the development as he is determined to foster a proper

structure for the game in the land, 61 years after the first competitive local competition (Governor's Cup, later FA Cup) was staged.

"The minister is only concerned that it is an unfair decision. He is not ready to say more than that. But he says nothing would stop him from putting in place a proper structure to run Nigeria football, something that has never been there more than 70 years after the foundation

of the Nigeria Football Association," said a top official of the ministry.

A book by veteran football journalist Ibikunle Solaja, yet to be published, traced the foundation of the Nigeria Football Association to August 21, 1933, when a group of 'stakeholders' met in an office in Lagos' Island to engineer the process for the formation of a football-governing body in the land.

"FIFA has made its decision but the minister is forging ahead to do what he considers appropriate", added the source.

FIFA in a ruling in Zurich on Friday considered the December 29 election in Kano, which returned Galadima to office for a fresh term of four years, as having been conducted in due process and faultless.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

PRISONERS RIGHTS AND REHABILITATION FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Victor Fakunle
2. Kristie Fakunle
3. Kennedy Asegieme
4. Dominic Ehikuemen

Aims and Objectives:

1. Provide funds to assist and Rehabilitate ex-convicts after their release from prison.
2. Assist in improving the welfare of prisoners.
3. Provide free legal assistance for prisoners.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, P.M.B. 189, Abuja, within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

SIGNED:

Oluwaseun Ogunbameru
Area 10, Garki, Abuja.

LOSS OF C OF O No. SOK/G/0425 BIMAFAAD NIG. LTD.

The general public is hereby notified of the loss of C of O No. SOK/G/0425 in the name of BIMAFAAD NIG. LTD. The said C of O got lost while in possession of former International Trust Bank Plc. Idejo Street Victoria Island, Lagos and all efforts made to trace it proved abortive. The general public and Sokoto State Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey should please take note.

Signed:

Barr. Jerry Nyiatagher
No. 8 Maiduguri Road,
Sokoto.

CHANGE OF NAMES

I, formerly known as MISS MAIMUNA BELLO MOHAMMED HADI, now wish to be known as MRS MAIMUNA UMAR BELLO. Former documents remain valid. NYSC and public to note.

I, formerly called MRS. ADA JOHN, now to be called MRS. ADA YUSUF BOBBY LAMAI. former documents remain valid. FIRS and public to note.

I, formerly called YUSUF BOBBY YAKUBU, now to be called YUSUF BOBBY LAMAI. Former documents remain valid. Fed. Ministry of Housing and public to note.

OGU- I. formerly known and addressed as MISS JOY AKUNNA OGU, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. JOYAKUNNA ERIC-MOSES. All former documents remain valid. Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria and Federal Medical Centre, Keffi please take note.

I, formerly known as MISS ADAMA LADAN, now wish to be addressed as MRS. ADAMA MANSUR IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and public to note.

I, formerly AKINLABI ELIZABETH BUKOLA, wish to be called YUSUF KUDIRATULILAH I ARINOLA BUKOLA. Public to note.

I, formerly FATIMA MOHAMMED TOMSU, now wish to be named and addressed as FATIMA AHMED HARUN. All documents remain valid.

I, formerly BILKISU IBRAHIM BUBA, now wish to be named and addressed as BILKISU ABBAS MAHMUD. All documents remain valid.

I, formerly known as ISHAYA YUSUF, now wish to be known as HOSEA YUSUF SAMBE. Former documents remain valid. Public to take note.

I, formerly known as COKER FELICIA IFEYINWA, now wish to be addressed as MRS. FELICIA IFEYINWA IZUEHIE. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public should take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS ONWE NONYELUM HELEN, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. ONWE NONYELUM HELEN. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public to take note.

BELOVED FAMILIES FELLOWSHIP

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

The Trustees are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Arc. Dachollom Choji Dahoro | 2. Mr. Martin Audu Gang |
| 3. Mr. Iliya Jatau Piyo | 4. Mrs. Sarah Joel Dawang |
| 5. Mr. Danladi Davou | 6. Mr. Benjamin Dayan |
| 7. Mrs. Hannatu Bitrus Don | 8. Mrs. Veronica Ezekiel |

Aims and Objectives:

1. To provide forum to exchange views and decide on matters affecting their social, spiritual, and economic wellbeing.
2. To co-operate and support evangelical groups
3. To assist the less privileged.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, P.M.B. 189, Abuja, within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

SIGNED:

Barr. Pam Dyek Esq.

THE FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, MUBI

P.M.B. 35, ADAMAWA STATE

AN-ADDENDUM TO PREVIOUS ADVERTISEMENT ON VACANCY FOR THE POST OF RECTOR

In our advert for the vacant post of Rector as earlier and advertised in the *Punch* of 13th February, 2006, the *Daily Trust* of 14th February, 2006 and the *Scope* of 12th February, 2006, the School of Business and General Studies was omitted inadvertently. Interested candidates that specialized in various disciplines in this school are eligible to apply. Possession of higher degree in relevant disciplines with minimum cognate experience of not less than twelve (12) years is required, while candidates with computer literacy is an added advantage, but not a requirement.

Signed:

BUBA BELLO
REGISTRAR

LOSS OF LETTER OF OFFER

This is to inform the general public that Letter of Offer, Plot No. 1051, Cadastral Zone B07 Katampa District belonging to General Ojomo IV of HQ NAEC and School P.M.B. 1410 Ilorin with old No. MFCT/LA/93 OD. 1259 and changed No. OD10240 is missing. If found, please return it to the nearest police station.

Signed:

General Ojomo IV

LOSS OF LAND ALLOCATION PAPER

This is to inform the general public that the Land allocation offer of Plot No. MD 559 within Grzape District of about 2,000m2 belonging to MR. J. E. GAIUS OBASEKE got missing. All effort to trace the said documents proved abortive.

If found please return to the nearest Police Station or House No. Orobosa Street off Siliko Road Benin City.

Signed:

Umar Farouk Ibrahim

MISSING LETTER OF OFFER

I, Lamon Bako of House 2 flat 3 Garki, Abuja hereby declare that my letter of offer for Plot No. AT/936 Bearing Madaki Gajere Bwari at action Area layout Bwari measuring about 6060 sqm2 is missing. Please contact 08046129503, 08059833256 or Bwari Area Council for any information relating to the said plot as request for replacement is been processed.

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01-8520774, 01-8520775.
FAX: 01-4618654
 - PLOT 1114A, ADEOLA ODEKU STREET
01-8520006, 01-8529777, 01-2701877
 - AKIN ADESOLA/180 KOFO ABAYOMI STREET
01-8520007, 01-8520012,
01-8529444, 08034799999
 - Fax: 01-4616278

Gbagada:
PLOT 1 BLOCK B GBAGADA IND. EST. LAGOS
08054599999, 01-8520204, 01-8522040,
01-8522661-2, 08057767456

Abuja: 0805 4099999, 0803 4099999, 0803 4077777.
Port-Harcourt: 0805 4299999, 0803 4299999, 0803 4277777.

Kano: 0803 3264552, 064 640862, 0805 4399999.

Kaduna: 062 247810, 0803 7040138

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Sports

THE STAMFORD BRIDGE CRACKER

Chelsea, Barca set for potato field showdown



Controversy over the Stamford Bridge pitch and memories of last season's momentous tussle; have added an extra spark to Chelsea's Champions League showdown with Barcelona today.

Chelsea's muddy and balding pitch, described as a potato field by Jose Mourinho and criticised in the Catalan media, is unlikely to help either the

Spanish or English champions in the first leg of the first knockout round tie.

Mourinho, reacting to suggestions they had deliberately allowed the pitch to deteriorate to hamper Barcelona's passing game, said: "Only stupid people can think that a team like Chelsea with the quality Chelsea have can be happy with a pitch like this."

He added on Sunday that it

looked worse than it played. "Sometimes you see beautiful people with no brains but you see ugly people who are intelligent scientists. Our pitch is a bit like that."

Barca are still smarting from last year's 4-2 defeat at Stamford Bridge (having won the first leg 2-1) and know that they can ill afford a repetition of the lapses that gifted Chelsea three goals in the first 20 minutes.

"I've still got the images in my head of when the match finished and we were out," Brazilian Ronaldinho told reporters on Sunday. "I don't want it to happen again this

string) and midfield compatriot Claude Makelele (knee).

"Gallas is injured, in the recovery process, and we will have to wait a bit more. I think Makelele will be ready but I



FC Barcelona's Leo Messi, right, from Argentina and Ronaldinho from Brazil joke during a training session at the Nou Camp in Barcelona, Spain. Barcelona are due to play Chelsea in the UEFA Champions League round of 16 match at the Stamford Bridge ...tonight



year. We made errors and we have to make sure we don't repeat them.

"One of the keys will be to play football the way we know how. We have got an advantage in having the second leg at the Nou Camp and we have got to make the most of that."

Ronaldinho has no concerns about Chelsea's pitch.

"We know the grass is in a bad state but it will be the same for both teams and I'm not worried about it," he said.

Mourinho will make wholesale changes from the side that defeated Colchester in the FA Cup on Sunday, suspended captain John Terry, midfielder Frank Lampard and keeper Petr Cech returning.

Spain left back Asier Del Horno will be fit after injury but there is more doubt over France defender William Gallas (ham-

cannot say for final now," said Mourinho.

Ghana midfielder Michael Essien is suspended for both games in the tie. UEFA made their decision after watching a video of a tackle he made on Didi Hamann during a group match against Liverpool in December.

Barcelona recovered from their recent hiccup with a 5-1 victory over Real Betis at the Nou Camp on Saturday, World Player of the Year Ronaldinho giving a virtuoso performance on his return.

The Brazilian, who missed Barca's consecutive league defeats against Atletico Madrid and Valencia through suspension, made two and scored two in a rather flattering win.

With last season's defeat by Chelsea in mind, Barca coach Frank Rijkaard may decide to beef up his midfield with the presence of Mark van Bommel and Thiago Motta in which case Argentine teenager Lionel Messi would start on the bench.

Brazilian international Emerson and Mourinho's former protege at Porto, Deco, are expected to complete the four-man midfield, while French winger Ludovic Giuly is still nursing a muscle strain and has been left out of the squad.

Chelsea should fear re-energised Ronaldinho

English champions Chelsea, under-fire for their threadbare Stamford Bridge pitch, will have to contend with a re-energised Ronaldinho when they host Barcelona in the Champions League tonight.

The Brazilian playmaker returned from a two-game suspension at the weekend and scored twice in a 5-1 drubbing of Real Betis.

Ronaldinho netted a memorable goal in the same knockout first round at Stamford Bridge last season but Barca lost the game 4-2 to bow out.

"I've still got the images in my head of when the match finished and we were out," said the Brazilian.

Wednesday's first-leg matches also feature Ajax Amsterdam against Inter Milan, the only tie between teams that have met in the final — the Amsterdam side triumphing 2-0 in Rotterdam in 1972.

Ajax coach Danny Blind must contend without his entire first-

choice midfield, as well as influential Czech defender Zdenek Grygera and will hope Inter striker Adriano does not rediscover his scoring touch.

The Brazilian has not hit the target in his last nine games.

"I'm going through a difficult period, I can't hide the fact. But I'm not going to let it worry me too much either," he said.

Werder Bremen host Serie A leaders Juventus with midfielder Johan Micoud warning his team mates they will be up against possibly the world's best striker.

"Juventus have high class forwards, and with David Trezeguet you have in my opinion one of the best, maybe the best striker in the world,"

Micoud said of his fellow

Frenchman.

Juve coach Fabio Capello has problems in defence with Jonathan Zebina, Gianluca Zambrotta and Giorgio Chiellini struggling to shake off injuries. Gianluca Pessotto could start on the right and Federico Balzaretti on the left.

Rangers will break new ground when they take on

Villarreal at Ibrox, becoming the first Scottish side to play in the knockout stages of Europe's elite club tournament.

The Scottish champions have underperformed in the league but coach Alex McLeish, who will step down at the end of the season, believes Rangers save their best for European nights.

Ajax have midfield headache for Inter test

Ajax Amsterdam will be without their first-choice midfield for today's Champions League last 16 first-leg tie against Inter Milan.

Czech Republic captain Tomas Galasek suffered a thigh injury during Sunday's league drubbing of RBC Roosendaal to join Dutch international Wesley Sneijder and South African Steven Pienaar on the sidelines.

Ajax coach Danny Blind suffered another blow when

Czech international defender Zdenek Grygera suffered a calf injury in training on Friday. He will also miss the return leg in Italy on March 14.

"We will be without one of our best markers (Grygera), our best attacking midfielder (Sneijder) and our captain (Galasek) who gives us our balance," a frustrated Blind told De Telegraaf.

Blind is likely to move Hedwiges Maduro into midfield for the only tie between teams that have met

in the final, the Amsterdam side triumphing 2-0 in Rotterdam in 1972 for the second of their four titles. They also met in the 2002/03 group stage with the Italians winning both games.

Ajax have hit some form after an inconsistent season, although three successive wins have come against teams in the bottom three.

Inter arrive in Amsterdam on the back of one of their worst Serie A runs this season. Back-to-back defeats against Fiorentina and Juventus were

followed on Saturday by a dour 0-0 draw with Livorno that left them third in the division, 12 points behind leaders Juventus.

The symbol of the team's frustration is striker Adriano, who has not hit the target in his last nine games.

"I'm going through a difficult period, I can't hide the fact. But I'm not going to let it worry me too much either," the Brazilian international said.

"Naturally, it weighs me down a bit, but I know that it

will pass. In the meantime I'll put up with the pressure, which is inevitable considering what I represent for Inter."

Inter travel without midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron. The Argentine is out with a knee injury and should be replaced by David Pizarro.

Dejan Stankovic has recovered from a bout of back pain and is expected to take his place in the centre of midfield. Cristian Zanetti is suspended after his sending-off against Rangers.

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DAILY TRUST

WEDNESDAY COLUMN

Wednesday, February 22, 2006

EDITORIAL

Third Term: National Assembly stirs

We commend the courage and patriotism of the National Assembly legislators under the leadership of Senator Uche Chukwumerije who on Wednesday February 15 2006, in a press conference confirmed, and then thumbed down, the existence of a plan to amend the 1999 constitution in order to grant the current elected office-holders another four-year term.

The statement of the group made up of over 50 members of the Senate and House of Representatives need to be highlighted, because it is the first direct evidence, if doubt still exists, of the existence of a third term agenda; for what was read to the public was the different personal experience of over 50 individuals who sit at the country's highest law-making body.

Chukwumerije, who spoke for the group during the press conference, tagged "2007 movement: No to third term" said: "We the concerned legislators of the National Assembly hereby oppose, reject, detest, and denounce unequivocally the third term ambition of Mr President and some governors. We do so because it is self-serving, unconstitutional, undemocratic and a retrogressive step into our sad historical experience."

Continuing, he said: "We wish to use this opportunity to alert Nigerians that the third term project is real. It presents a clear and present danger to the unity, stability, security, development and progress of Nigeria and our nascent democracy. We want Nigerians not to accept any longer the half-truths, lies, deception and manipulations of the president on this issue."

Very clear words, very courageous and very timely. Timely because they came immediately after a former newspaper editor and now a senior special assistant to the president issued a widely-circulated statement chiding the Nigerian media of manufacturing a non-existent third term agenda. His statement and other statements of less sober hue issued by a garrulous spokesman of the president must be seen as dishonest and diversionary. Especially in the light of the admission by National Assembly legislators that pressures are being mounted on them and on others known to them to support the third term agenda, and in the light of other recent and not-so-recent developments in the polity.

Several indicators point to a conclusion that on this issue of third term, the president and his operatives are not being honest with Nigerians. The president admitted in Germany two years ago that he was under tremendous pressure to run for a third term in office.

Since then, things have happened at a pace that is breathtaking.

The president of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria called on President Obasanjo to disregard the constitutionally-imposed two-term limit and run for a third term. At last year's National Political Reforms Conference, some of the president's aides tried and failed to smuggle in a draft constitution with a section recommending three terms of four years for the president and governors.

A recommendation for three terms of four years again resurfaced in one of the National Assembly sub-committee on the amendment of the constitution in spite of the fact that members of the committee insisted that such matter was not discussed. Its dubious progeny notwithstanding, that it remains one of the 103 sections of the constitution listed for review. The National Assembly review team, packed full of the cronies of the president, is primed to produce a report that facilitates the achievement of the third term plan.

In the face of these brazen acts of intimidation, undue influence and serial abuse of power, the *Daily Trust* salutes the courage of the members of the National Assembly who have spoken up for truth and for the country. It is our advice that in the face of obstinate power, they should stand firm and connect with other Nigerians, so that a granite coalition of patriots can be built to stop the third term train, as it leaves in its wake avoidable carnage and destruction.

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Mixed reactions

By Mohammed Haruna

Over the last couple of months, I have received mixed reactions to my articles in this column. I thought I should share a few of them with you this week. Here they are, some edited for space, grammar and spelling.

On "Agwai's and Anenih's warnings"

Sir,
 It was with interest that I read a section of your recent article titled "Agwai's and Anenih's warnings to politicians". The purpose of this comment is to use the opportunity to highlight implications of some of your observations and offer constructive suggestions.

You observed:
 "As the army chief himself knows, he ought to have left the army in March last year. His immediate boss, the Chief of Defence Staff, General Alexander Ogomudia, ought also to have retired in October 2004. The Chief of Air Staff, Vice Marshal Wuyep ought to have gone in October last year. Ditto the police chief, Mr Sunday Ehindero. For some not-so-inexplicable reason, their commander-in-chief decided to retain them."

You also stated that,
 "The rules of retirement say both rank and file must leave the military after 35 years of service or 55 years of age, whichever comes first."

While you are certainly entitled to read politics into it from your point of view, what these observations unmask, in my view, is the poor institutionalisation of career planning.

The sheer number of generals that are retired periodically (to inflate our pensions and gratuities bill) betrays the fact that the Nigerian Armed Forces (particularly the Army) is top and middle heavy. Rank-distribution imbalances inherited from the military era are aggravated by bi-annual or annual "promotion board" rituals, with the underlying principle being to spend a specified length of time at each rank, after which Performance Evaluation Report triggers a promotion, vacancy permitting. Nevertheless, too many individuals are getting to very high ranks before age, age-on-rank, disciplinary, vacancy, medial, operations casualty and other mechanisms of attrition kick in.

When it is recalled that the difference in seniority between sequential cadres of regular officers is only six months, the implications of this problem become apparent. If officers "must leave the military after 35 years of service or 55 years of age, whichever comes first," no matter what, there is a danger that the country can find itself appointing new Service Chiefs every six months or every year!

On average, all over the world, barring unusual circumstances, Service Chiefs serve for between two and four years. The median tenure is three years. In other words, any president that serves for two full terms of eight years (total) will typically appoint 2-4 Service Chiefs per service, if such Service Chiefs will have any chance of being able to settle down into the job, understand it and make an impact before exit. From this perspective, the current president, six years into a so far constitutionally mandated maximum stay of eight years in office, with effect from May 1999, is on his second (2nd) Chief of Defence Staff, third (3rd) Chief of Army Staff, third (3rd) Chief of Naval Staff, and second (2nd) Chief of Air Staff. He is still within the Bell curve, although I would not be surprised if he decides to make changes within the next one year.

The problem in Nigeria, however, is that the tenure of a Service Chief is not specifically stated anywhere, which creates uncertainty for both the holder of the office and the service concerned. This is unhealthy, at least in part because it means there is always an undercurrent of real and imaginary lobbying for those positions on the part of its holders and those who see themselves as potential candidates.

The other angle to the problem is that unlike the case with lower ranks, the duration of minimum or maximum service at the top ranks of Lt. General and General (or equivalent) is not explicitly stated anywhere in relevant Nigerian documents - although this is not by itself unusual internationally.

Lastly, by tradition, Service Chiefs - in any country - serve (within reason) at the pleasure of the C-in-C.

There is no doubt that the conflict of these opposing traditional, policy, legal, historical and institutional tendencies in career dynamics has created its own set of peculiar problems. For example, except in the Navy, where there was a massive (some say Tsunami-like) clearing of several generations of senior officers to simplify matters for an officer from the 12th regular course, the gap between the current Service Chiefs and the next layer of "not yet retired" officers in the Army and Air Force is widening.

Further, in all three services, senior Colonels (or equivalent) completing mandatory coursework at the War College (or NIPSS), find themselves due for promotion to the rank of Brigadier-General or equivalent, with only a few years left in service. After that kind of investment, Nigeria is then denied their services just when they are maturing. This is not very wise, and is even less wise when one considers that there are pressures to increase the number of officers admitted to the War College, irrespective of the distribution of vacancies for appointments requiring officers of the rank of Brigadier-General (or equivalent) and above.

My point is that politics or politicisation is not the only potential explanation for the current situation. Nevertheless, in the Nigerian climate, rightly or wrongly, politics is often read into non-political exigencies.

So what to do?

The above outlined scenario means that Nigeria should:

1. Conduct better projections of personnel requirements to maintain a streamlined pyramid of officers from 2/Lt (or equivalent) to General (or equivalent). Tighter screws need to be put in place to enforce attrition after mandatory courses, promotion exams, Command and Staff College entry and graduation, War College (or equivalent) entry and graduation. Similar personnel projections should be made for other ranks. These issues can easily be resolved with computer models to get around the "Nigerian factor."

2. Specify minimum and maximum tenure in various military appointments, including Service Chiefs. In this way, conditions of service can be appropriately worded along lines such as, "retire at the age of 62 years or following the completion of three years of tenure, whichever is earlier..." as is the case for Service Chiefs in India.

In India, the previous retirement age of 60 was raised to 62 to deal with some of the issues I have raised in this discussion. Whether 55 years of age is really appropriate for Nigeria is a matter of policy that should be opened to debate.

These and other aspects of the regulation of the higher managements of defence fall within the constitutional purview of the National Assembly. Although Section 218, subsection (1) states, "The powers of the President as the Commissioner-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation shall include power to determine the operational use of the armed forces of the Federation." And subsection (2) states, "The powers conferred

on the President by subsection (1) of this section shall include power to appoint the Chief of Defence Staff, the Chief of Army Staff, the Chief of Naval Staff, the Chief of Air Staff and heads of any other branches of the armed forces of the Federation as may be established by an Act of the National Assembly;" subsection (4) is very explicit. It states,

"The National Assembly shall have power to make laws for the regulation of (a) the powers exercisable by the President as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation; and (b) the appointment, promotion and disciplinary control of members of the armed forces of the Federation."

Thank you for providing the opportunity to discuss these matters.
 Dr Nowa Omoigui, Columbia, SC, USA.

On "Bode George and Nigeria's demography"

Sir,
 Reading your article titled Bode George and Nigeria's demography, I was fascinated by your arguments, which are not empirical at all. Of all other indices to measure Nigeria's population, everything points to the South being more than the North.

1. Comparative geographical location of the North with other African countries in the same location.

Elementary, secondary and university enrollments.

Internally-generated revenue by every state.

Lately, GSM coverage of the South compared to the North

Aside from any other examples you gave in your article, can you please give me any empirical ones?

Thanks.

Abi Awolesi

Sir,

I have read some articles on GSM footprints and Nigeria's population and wish to say that there is nothing new in the arguments advanced to challenge the fact of greater population figures of Northern Nigeria. Decisions on cellular telephony taken by the GSM companies are based largely on economic rather than demographic considerations. The GSM operators are profit-oriented concerns; they are not engaged in demographic data collection. Teledensity, GSM rollouts, Higher Capacity Switches and Cell sites, number of phone calls, etc, can never be basis for arriving at population figures. Yes, everything about cellular phones could be taking place in the South of Nigeria but as we all know the networks are rolling out in a gradualist fashion. They began from Southern Nigeria, where, today, their largest market is. Although they have probably covered most parts of Southern Nigeria, they are far from covering Northern Nigeria, which is 78 per cent of Nigeria.

There is no sensible demographer who will use data from GSM companies to arrive at population estimates, particularly where the geographic coverage is only partial.

Nobody questions the higher income and educational levels in Southern Nigeria. More Southern Nigerians are aware of and can afford cellular phones and their services. Southern Nigeria is more urban and more densely settled than Northern Nigeria. Northern Nigeria is certainly less densely populated than the South, but that does not translate into larger Southern population.

Some people think satellite imageries can be used to ascertain population size. This is wrong. Satellite imageries can show you structures on the ground, but they would not show you human beings. Satellite imageries are NOT SUBSTITUTES for population census.

Some people also think that the settlement pattern in the South gives it an edge over the North. Again this is wrong. In many Southern Nigerian localities with its linear settlement pattern, compared to the scatter settlement pattern in the North, there are many buildings whose owners/occupants are in major cities and use them only during Christmas and other holidays. Most of the time, the houses are habited by one or two house-holds and *maigadis*. Visit localities in states close to Lagos and those in South-Eastern Nigeria during a typical work week and you will understand what I am saying.

As for those who compare Nigeria's population pattern with those of countries like Mali, Algeria, Chad, Mauritania and Niger, you cannot say that Northern Nigeria, whose vegetation and rainfall pattern ranges from rainforest to savannah in large part is the same as those of these countries. Besides, because polygamy is much more prevalent in the more conservative North compared to the South, the fertility rate in the North tends to be higher.

Finally, I continue to wonder why the so many Southern Nigerian demographers and geographers that have attained international repute and have travelled in Nigeria are not talking. Why have they left the field to non-professionals such as engineers and laymen to talk about what is certainly a specialised field?

Yaro Dantsoho, Kano.

On "Malu at the ACF: Life-imitating fiction?"

Sir,
 You did it again!! I was anxiously waiting to read from you on this very topic, and true to form, I'm not a bit disappointed. Just what I had expected coming from you.

My point is Malu's remarks about the organisation not doing ANYTHING for the North is expected. You don't have to be an ex-general to see and know that. I'm sure ACF is too busy trying to make sure the Presidency comes back to the North to worry about some minor stuff like the North being the most backward part of the country, with so MANY ex-heads of state as her cities.

If Malu was so patriotic, he should have resigned from the ACF when he had the disagreement with his Commander-in-Chief. That is what a real General would have done. For him coming back now saying he should have done something else is sour grapes. In a civilised society, the man would be court-martialed. Can you imagine Colin Powell saying what Malu had said? I'm sure you know that Colin Powell had some major disagreements with President Bush.

As for Chief, I bet you if he had gained what he was looking for from OBJ, he would have been singing OBJ's praise now. To him, OBJ would have been a god with small g.

Julius Abe, USA.

On "Dr Edugie Abebe and the NPI"

Sir,
 As one of your regular internet readers that usually pick bones with you on many issues, I must also give you your due when it is called for. On this article, I would say thanks and well done. Not that it matters to you; nonetheless, it is a right thing to do on my end.

Keep up the good work sir, as I have told you before, Nigeria needs many positive inputs from all of us.

Julius Abe, USA.