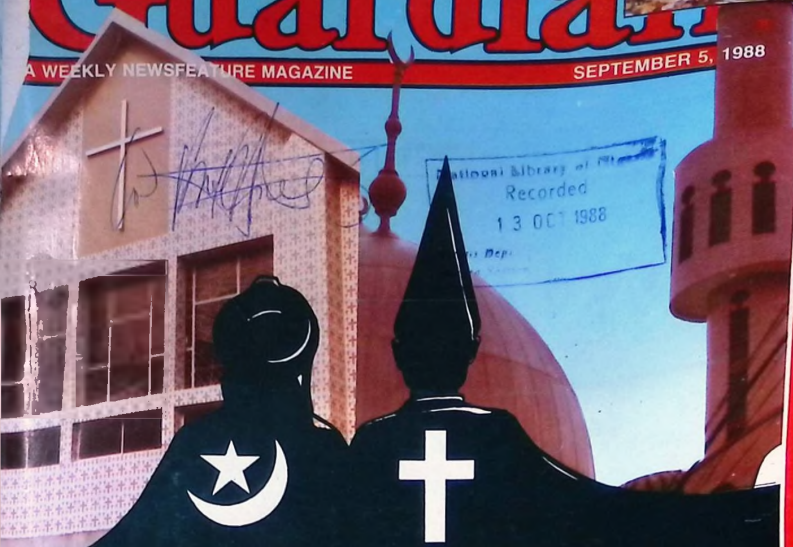


Olympics
Drugs
for
Gold

The AFRICAN Guardian

A WEEKLY NEWSFEATURE MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 5, 1988



What's
happening in
**GOD'S
HOUSE?**



SUPER BLUE
OMO

Washes brighter ... and it shows.

Super Clean! Super Bright! For that extra clean and bright wash all you need is Super Blue Omo. A handful of Super Blue Omo goes a long, long way! That is because Super Blue Omo has more concentrated power than any other blue detergent. Use Super Blue Omo for the whole family wash. It makes everything not just cleaner but also brighter. You can actually see the difference.

Mac-112

It is difficult to imagine how the world would have been without religion. Rational? No, it would have been without the glamour of explaining the limits of the intellect by fables of mystery and the anchor of faith. Yes, dull, uninspiring! For Nigerians, it would have been additionally terrible, deprived of the opportunity to segregate on religious lines, quarrel over OIC, disagree on doctrine and make money on the proliferation of "places of worship".

All those motley crowds of "prophets" and proselytising groups, making wild claims of special anointment would have been missed! But that is really another matter.

This week, the interest of our young colleague, Paul Nwabuikwu is by no means hypothetical. He takes a Peep into God's house, and what does he see? Sectarian squabbles and convenient interpretations of The Almighty's will. His spur, of course, has been the recent Lambeth Conference of the World Anglican Communion with its after-

math of twisty explications of decisions that looked otherwise clear enough. Take the re-thinking on polygamy for instance. Bishop Adeboye, the head of the church in



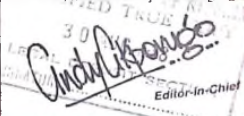
Nigeria, has said very courageously that although the ideal situation is 'one man one wife', polygamy was a cultural trait that needed to be recognised and tolerated.

Many of his colleagues have preferred a tongue-in-cheek attitude. And celibate Catholic bishops worried about the impact on ecumenism of another Lambeth decision to ordain women as priests, are crying havoc.

Pray, where is all the steam coming from. Oh! there are verses and verses in the Bible and Koran to justify almost any position. My favourite Bible quote, for example, is from the book of Isaiah - chapter 4, verse 1: "And In That Day Seven Women Shall Take Hold Of One Man, Saying We Shall Eat Our Own Bread And Wear Our Own Apparel. Only Let Us Be Called By Thine Name To Take Away Our Reproach".

AMEN and AMEN!

I am sure you will find this Cover hilarious, but definitely challenging.



International

From Burundi and Sudan in central and north-eastern Africa; Burma, Nepal and India in Asia; through Poland and Britain in the East and Western Europe, it was one long, bitter tale of woe. Bloodshed, flood, violence, earthquake, turmoil, crisis..... all around the world these past two weeks.

Page 8

Society

Doping has become as much an issue as training. As Seoul Olympics approaches, it is bound to be at the heart of the quest for glory

Page 29



Business and Economy

Tax evasion is on the high although more money is coming in through taxes. Just about how much is lost is an all-comers guess.

Page 12

Nigeria

Former Head of State, Abacha Obasanjo and Nobel Laureate, Wole Soyinka were squaring up for a tempestuous face-off last week.

Page 13



DEPARTMENTS

Letters	4	Nigeria	15	Society	26
On Record	5	Business & Economy	1	Survey	1
Andy Akporugo	7	Editorial/Cartoon	24	Off the record	33
International	8	Essay	25		

Cover design: Yomi Muyika-Emabata

Publisher

ALEX IBU

Editor-in-Chief
ANDY APORUO

Editor

ADUKA HARON

Associate Editor

GOWAN AGRIFIO

Assistant Editors

OLEY NDJIE SUPAY BIAGHERE

Special Writers

CHUKWUMENA GAHA WALE ABU ANNA ABOLU OYON

Staff Writers

GEORGE OLA-GAYE HERBERT OJEN

Correspondents: East and Southern Africa

KINGSLEY OSADOLOR

Contributors

CYRIL OJE & IRENE

PALANDEKE WAKAFELLE LEANE

ROWE MAJINA PAUL

JOE LAHTEY AYO

Service Reporter

MICHAEL OCHU UBAN

Reporters-Researchers

OYATAYO AFOJAN JOSE PHINE ABARU

MURKHE OJOLE PAUL AWARORUWU

CHERIE OJOSORUNDI OFORIEN OYI CHUKWUIE

CHIBER FINE ANNA OLU GUWU EXPERT APPIAH

DEO ADEJINA BEMPHY BEKAREN

An Editor

FEM JOALISO

Deputies

TOMY DAVLEN TOMY MUTINA EMBABATA

Production Sub-Editors

FELIX OLUWOLE OGUNRAMBU JEWELL DAFANOE

Checkers

AGBEZE REG-ONACHA BLESSING ADEBI

Senior Photographer

NOLE ADEGUNTOLE

Photographer

MICHAEL OJAGUN OJALEYE

Captioning Editors

OLATUNGBI BARE BIODUN OJINRIN OJINRIN SOGOLU

EDWIN MADUNJOLU OGA OFE MAIN OYIYI KAMARA

DAN B MATTHEWS BUN OJUNGBADLO

JOE ADEYINJANLE

Columnists

WOLE SOYINKA AKE JAPANI AS WA

FEMI OJIKYAN FAYO ESSEN

Board of Directors

ALEX IBU Chairman

M. O. ANOCHI Managing Director

JOSEPH M. O. U. NATHAN ODE

MAI BEN OLU BALOGUN (JUN) STANLEY MACEBUN

CALEB B. OJISANG PAUL A. ABAN LADE ROMUALD

P. A. AGESANJOE SULLY ABU

Executive Director

OLU OKE FIDAN

ROYE LEYAJI General Counsel

Business Manager

TURKE ALABI

Special Projects Coordinator

MARGARET DOTUN YAYO

Senior Advertising Executive

ALDO ROTIM

Advertisement Executives

KEKEFE FAYOFA JOAO AGGONVIL

DUNFONREKAYI FUNDE AKINDA

SAMUEL OJOSORUNDI Circulation Manager

LUCHY OKEKE Circulation Executive

London Office

57/58 Portland Rd London W11 3SQ Telephone (01) 2761144

Registered in the CIPD as a newspaper

Nigeria Office

Koforin Road (Ibeju) Surulere 19, Lagos, The Street

Nigeria - Distribution Telephone 226212

Nigeria - Distribution Telephone 226212

Application to mail at Second-class postage rate is pending at

Washington D.C. POSTMASTER: Send address changes (American

subscriptions only) to The African Guardian c/o Duplex Inter-

national P.O. Box 1000 Washington D.C. 20001

THE AFRICAN GUARDIAN is published weekly by Guardian

Magazines Limited and printed by Express Printing and Pack-

aging Limited, 15 Sultan Road, Lagos Expressway, P.M.B. 1217,

Lagos, Nigeria. All rights reserved. No part of this publication

may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted

in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying,

recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system.

GUARDIAN REGD. TRADE MARK

Agenda for action

Your cover "Wasted Talents" (August 8, 1988) was well targeted and researched. It is most unfortunate that politics and greed have conspired to frustrate the efforts of Nigerian scientists and inventors from the exploits of Biafran scientists to the present day.

Our problem is squarely that of leadership that propagates negative values. Whether civilian or military, our leaders are all there for the spoils of office alone. In fact the beautiful ones are yet to be born.

Wilson Odeh Ezeudigwe
Port Harcourt, Rivers State

Right through the history of the nation spanning from the traumatic experience of the Civil War which saw Nigerians, especially from the then Biafra at their best in the application of technological know-how, up to what is happening today in our institutions of higher learning and even at the individual levels, the nation has had a good number of highly talented people that the advanced countries needed to be what they are today.

Regrettably, our priorities have been misplaced to the extent that even the leadership is only paying lip service to the pursuance of the nation's aspirations in technological-economic development.

The Federal Ministry of Science and Technology and other research institutes can do much better than just waiting for inventors to invite them for inspection study of their inventions or prototype ideas.

M.S. KAZU
Song, Gongola State

The case of Dr. Ernest Ugo of the test-tube baby fame is worthy of mention here. The young man's breakthrough in vitro-fertilisation was dismissed by the Science and Technology Ministry. The ministry did not stop there, but went ahead to describe him as a "buffoon."

But time has proved his adversaries wrong, for Dr. Ugo has received global acclamation from the International Medical Community which appointed him the only Nigerian participant in the International Conference on Reproductive Endocrinology in London. He is also a member of the American Fertility Society and International Federation Fertility Societies.

Flight path

to

Death

Guardian

Wasted Talents



Isn't this a classical case of a prophet not honoured in his own country?

Emmanuel O Netteh Okaraka
Sokoto, Sokoto State

As far as I know, Nigeria is a nation of maladministrators, embezzlers, coup plotters confusionists etc. It is certainly not a place for scientists and other geniuses — that is as long as the country remains "one" Nigeria.

Dr-God Emmanuel O.
Sokoto, Sokoto State

The hand of God

Your editorial (August 1, 1988.) posed a pertinent question: "the world community cannot discern precisely what it was that drove the two countries into the embers of war." The answer to that is that it is nothing short of God's many ways of dealing with erring individuals or nations.

Iran is a major partner with the racist South Africa in an oil refinery operating in that enclave. In this wise, she too has helped in flaming "embers of war" by oppressing the Blacks in that part of Africa.

A.K. Akirwando
Surulere, Lagos.

Mission for Hercules

Your cover choice — (July 25, 1988) is a Pulitzer prize material.

But suffice it to say that the minority issue has been too long with us and now needs a solution once and for all and the present congregation at Abuja is the only forum that can make or mar the ambition.



Whether former minorities have become majorities or vice versa is irrelevant. What those of us outside what Dr. Sawho aptly described as the WAZOBIA tribes are saying is that the only *sine qua non* to peace in Nigeria is that the minorities (and we cannot pretend not to know them) should now have a larger share of the national cake. Anything short of that is an anathema and will now be resisted muscle for muscle!

Mohammed H. Okorojir
Bauchi, Bauchi State

I wish to refer specifically to statements credited to me on the role and position of minorities and to state that although I was correctly quoted, the entire discussion of the minority position was placed out of context with the actual situation on the ground. Consequently my statement also became irrelevant to what is actually happening.

Reading the reports, one is given the impression that minorities are out to forge a new front completely independent of the majority tribes; that is to say, the Hausa/Fulani, the Ibos and the Yorubas. This is not correct. The truth is that the minorities are working hand in hand with the majority tribes. There is a new consciousness, however, that minorities will never again allow themselves to be used as mere stepping stones to power.

David Iomem
Abuja.

Kinsmen at war

My attention has just been drawn to your coverage of "Kinsmen at war" May 30, 1988. Whatever bloodletting that occurred must be blamed squarely on the governments of Western Nigeria and, later, Ogun State.

This is so because there were four Ruling Houses in Remo, viz Liyangu, Koyelu, Oworodo and Torungbuwa (in that order of seniority) but because an NCNC man, Prince Adeleke Adedoyin wanted to succeed his father on the Akarigbo throne, the then Action Group hacked late Oba Moses Awolosi who became the Akarigbo.

Prince Bamgbole Akinsanya
Washington D.C., U.S.A.

Address Letters to the Editor, typewritten double-space, with writer's name, address and, if available telephone number, to: The African Guardian, Rutam House, P.M.B. 1217, Oshodi, Lagos Nigeria. Letters subject to editing.

Freedom squares again!

DEFINITELY a lot of political scenes of the last republic will be replayed when Third Republic arrives by 1992. It is now on record that one of such scenes would be Dr. Tai Solarin's "Freedom Square".

Freedom Square was usually held on Sundays at the Campus Square (in the heart of Lagos) and was Solarin's forum mainly for the public criticism of the Shagari administration, during its second term; a subject that constantly led to his arrest and detention by the police under the then Inspector-General Mr. Sunday Adewusi.

Tai Solarin this time is not going to wait till the tail end of the forth-coming civilian administration to launch his public forum: "From the first week of the civilian government, I am going to establish Freedom Square". For wider evidence, Dr. Solarin adds that he is also ready to travel throughout the 21 states to establish similar "Squares" all over the country, a project he says will take him only 21 Sundays. He warns: "The coming civilian administration should be ready to accommodate Freedom Squares or jail me".



• Tai Solarin



• Victor Ogunjide

The strategic imperative

THERE was a double dose of jolting news last week for First Bank's first Assistant General Manager, Corporate Promotions, Victor Ogunjide. First, he has to leave his desk and glitters of Lagos for Enugu this week as the Bank's man in charge of Special Duties—an amorphous portfolio traditionally a source of aversion for not a few First Bank officials.

Before that, as First Bank management ruled last week, the corporate image Mozart must ensure that an advance copy of the book: *Corporate image: The Strategic Imperative in the Nigerian Banking sector* which he is writing gets to it first for clearance before publication. Earlier this year, First Bank split Ogunjide's job load in three parts and moved him on as head of its Research and marketing department.

Last month, Ogunjide wrote an analytical piece on the performance of the economy informed by the Central Bank's annual report for 1987. It was published by *Thisweek* magazine which identified him, as part of his credit line, as a Lagos-based public policy analyst. There has been no official reaction to the credit line that "sort of creates the impression that Ogunjide is no longer with us", a First Bank voice said on Friday. "First Bank would have preferred it was identified as Victor's employer" we were told.

So, is the Enugu posting punitive? Certainly not; purely routine we were told on Friday.

Of Ogunjide's book which is still in the works, the Managing Director of the Nigeria-Arab Bank and the immediate past President of the Institute of Bankers, Alhaji S.A.O. Sule says: "It offers a good reference for anyone connected with corporate affairs." For Ogunjide it has been trail of Firsts. He was the first editor of the Financial Punch, the first Public Relations Manager of the International Bank for West Africa (IBWA) and the first Assistant General Manager Promotion of the First Bank.

HI-TEK

Components

— HIGH QUALITY —

- Press Tools for any machinery
- Spare Parts
- Bolts and Nuts
- Screws
- Rocket Nails
- Galvanised Wire

- Hard-drawn wire
- Concertina Barbed Wire
- Paper Clips
- Staples
- High Precision Machinery and Auto Components.

We undertake production for individuals and organizations interested in exporting our products. We also produce for the Nigerian market. We attend to each customer's job order according to the customer's specifications.

With the most ultra-modern galvanizing and electroplating facilities, NAGSMI is contributing to the techno-economic development of Nigeria and Africa through the fabrication of Hi-Tek Components.

Contact us today for a most rewarding manufacturing contract



Factory:

240, Aba-Owerri Road, P. O. Box 2529, Aba Tel: (02) 220814
226720, 225809 Telex: 63164 NAGSMI NG

Lagos Office:

152, Awolowo Road, Ikoyi, Lagos-Nigeria, Tel: 603710 (5)
Lines: 685158, 685155 Telex: 23455 BTRUST NG

OR
General of Local Technology

Export

Interested in buying or exporting our products?

We have a capacity to produce more than 20,000 tons of NAILS per annum for Export.

Write us or phone:

LAGOS: 603710
603711
603712
603713
603714
665155
685158

ABA : (082) 220814
226220
225809



A matter of discretion

JUSTICE Anthony Aniagolu, Chairman of the Constituent Assembly is, of course, expected to be extremely prudent on the matter. He has as much as admitted that there are shufflings behind the scene. But he says, and quite rightly, that it is not strictly his duty to mount a surveillance over his colleagues, who, he hopes, do very roundly appreciate the consequences of "jumping the gun".

Perhaps it was unfair to absolutely forbid any such large assemblage of budding politicians from recognising the immense potentials (for their purposes here-after.) inherent in the sheer fact of a discussion forum of any type, sustained over nine months. In other words, although we would demand that adequate involvement be shown in the specific business of constitution making, it seems we couldn't possibly foreclose every opportunistic tendency. In any case, how was anybody to draw a line between deliberate diversion and incidental accoutrement?

It has, therefore, not been exactly strange that a number of groups have sprung up at Abuja, professing all kinds of embellishment for the Assembly's work. Unfortunately, many on-lookers, including those whose decisions must be crucial in the end, are not amused. What they see are not support structures for the achievement of a sensible Third Republic Constitution. Rather, they are apprehensive of a trend that has the shape of a perilous booby-trapping exercise meant to immobilise the Third Republic in advance, and partly of a treacherous abandonment of the real reason why those 567 men and women are hanging out there.

You see, the offence is in the largely indiscreet level of attention being paid by a good many of the members to what truly should be ephemeral considerations, just now. The whole idea of building levees, is essentially predicated on the existence of a viable system which is itself presumed on a clear headed and carefully distilled constitution.

In political terms, it is almost sacrilegious for persons honoured with

the privilege of scripting the social contract to convert their charge into a flagrant jamboree of self aggrandisement and seeded partisanship.

I am told that the National Electoral Commission (NEC) anticipating these excesses, had proposed that those elected or nominated to the Constituent Assembly be barred from participating in the founding Third Republic Government. Dodan Barracks reportedly turned down the request not because it lacked any merit but because theoretically it was

"Admittedly, the kind of fervour that groups like the 'Progressives', 'Forum' and 'Trust' have attracted at Abuja, may in the end be only illusory. After all, the fact that anybody was able to pull through an electoral college of sometimes hungry local councillors, is no manifestation of a groundswell attribute. It certainly cannot be assumed to confer automatic pivotal qualities that determine the limits of all political choices in a matter as aggregate as the formation of parties."

thought not to be quite compatible with some hackneyed Human Rights gospel. A few of us who managed to hear the whispers had also argued that constitution-making was such a solemn and dignified assignment, it could do with a bit less insinuated motives, suspicion and distrust of those called upon to serve.

For one, held the view that being a founding father (and mother?) was a monumental achievement that didn't need to be trivialised in speculated fortunes of subsequent electoral rat-race; but that if a particular individual did

not mind the embarrassment, he should be allowed the risk of pleasing himself.

Now, was I right?

Admittedly, the kind of fervour that groups like the "Progressives" "Forum" and "Trust" have attracted at Abuja, may in the end be only illusory. After all, the fact that anybody was able to pull through an electoral college of sometimes hungry local councillors is no manifestation of a groundswell attribute.

It certainly cannot be assumed to confer automatic pivotal qualities that determine the limits of all political choices in a matter as aggregate as the formation of parties. The presumption is even greater in the case of nominated members whose foremost credential is loyalty to the out-going government.

But the tragedy of the Nigerian situation in the past was that most so-called leaders were really no more than simple adventurers who capitalised on the good natured sense of humour of the rest of us to have their fortunes suddenly redressed. This means that although the temptation is strong to look elsewhere for more fundamental formative and alignment leads, you cannot totally ignore the current brinksmanship at Abuja.

There is a lingering thought, happily, that if NEC refuses to be impressed by what's going on, it may decide to advise itself exceptionally at the appropriate time on what political associations get registered, purely on account of who its sponsors are well among other things. But even more ominous is the prospect that somebody in the Armed Forces Ruling Council (AFRC) may just suggest at a most awkward moment that indeed constitution makers are by far too venerable to be involved in the immediate scramble for power. That would, of course, be 'Maradomic', but even so, not utterly grotesque. And I would be surprised if the chance of losing one or two otherwise fine members of the assembly in that event, was not suitably recompensed by a dramatic release of some categories in the old 'banned' list!

Whirlwind all around

Natural and man-made disasters claim a high toll

■ If it were possible to make one big heap of the bodies of those who lost their lives these past two weeks in natural and man-inflicted disasters across the world, the mound of human flesh and bones could rise several metres into the sky. And if it were possible to collect together, the blood lost, and the tears of the millions of families now made refugees by earthquakes and flood, they could still fill a medium-sized swimming pool.

Whatever may be the case, this is the spectre that can possibly spell out the magnitude of the catastrophe that swept across the globe within these past few weeks. Tens of thousands of people have been drowned by water and mangled, maimed or buried alive by earthquakes. Massive ethnic and anti-government violence have claimed hundreds of thousands of lives. And bloody terrorist attacks, which seemed to have subsided within the past few months, staged a come-back, leaving in their wake the usual tell-tale of charred human bodies, cars, houses, and so on.

From Burundi and Sudan in the central and northern-eastern ends of Africa, through Burma, Nepal and India in Asia, it was one long, bitter tale of woe: agony, crisis, tears and blood. The newspapers, in a true reflection of the times, had a field day, painting the dis-

asters in vivid colours: "Troops kill 3,000 in Rangoon", "Thousands die in earthquake in Nepal", "Flood threatens Khartoum", "Bloody ethnic rampage in Burundi, thousands massacred", and so on. With the irrepressible Irish Republican Army (IRA), and the Adu Nidal splinter group of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) on the prowl, Europe was not safe either. There seemed to have been a grand conspiracy between man and nature, against man.

This sudden visitation of mayhem was not, however, without a twist of irony. It came just at a time the world was busy celebrating the impending dawn of peace in the Gulf and elsewhere. The UN Secretary-General, Javier Perez De Cuellar, had successfully called a truce in the eight-year-long Gulf Bloodbath. There were jubiliations in Iran and Iraq and, indeed, in many countries in the world. Everybody looked forward to the scheduled arrival of the UN truce-monitoring team in the Gulf (August 20) and the actual commencement of talks between the warring neighbours (August 25).

As it turned out, reports of these events, historic as they were, were drowned by news of the disaster in Sudan, Burundi, Burma and so on. Not even the equally heart-warming announcement that racist South Africa



● A child receives medical attention in Khartoum

had begun pulling its troops out of Southern Angola (in line with Pretoria's agreement with Angola and Cuba) received the deserved attention. In fact, as the peace-talks resumed in Brazzaville last Monday (August 22), over a possible time table for the withdrawal of Cuban troops, the international community was rather preoccupied with reports of the rescue operations in Sudan, Nepal, and India, the plight of the estimated 40,000 harassed Burundians who had sought refuge in neighbouring Rwanda, and the unceasing political turmoil in Rangoon, Burma, which seemed to have defied many official solutions.

By late last week, the flood situation in Sudan (which had, in fact, entered its third week), had reportedly gone down to 16.8 metres (55 feet) just a little short of what experts said was the real danger level. Overall estimates are that deaths from drowning will be less than 400. But the fear is that with the recession of the water in some of the flooded provinces, looms an even greater source of danger: water-borne diseases, like cholera, hepatitis which doctors say could kill up to 40,000 people, especially children. Already, there are reports, in paediatric hospitals, of no less than 1,000 patients, most of them under four years of age suffering from dysentery, vomiting, lung infections, tonsillitis and gastro-enteritis. Polluted drinking water, flies and lack of hygiene were said to be the principal causes of the sickness among children.

Although life has gradually begun to stabilise, and public street lighting restored in some areas towards the



● Khartoum's worst hit area. A homeless family wades through the flood.

weekend, there are still speculations supported by some Sudanese hydrologists at the irrigation ministry, that Khartoum, the Sudanese capital may soon submerge. Contingency plans are therefore, reportedly being made by the US embassy and other foreign missions to evacuate their families, as well as co-ordinate help for other foreigners likely to be stranded. An immediate worry, however, is that Khartoum airport could be flooded, which means only evacuation by helicopter will be possible.

Such anticipated difficulties are already hampering relief operations, and the gathering of information about the loss of life and properties in Nepal, which was hit by earthquake last Sunday (August 21). As at the last count, August 25, the death toll from the earth tremor, which affected 27 of Nepal's 75 districts, was officially put at 551. Journalists and rescue workers, however, dispute official statistics, insisting that well over 1,000 people were in a market in Dhankuta town which was left in ruins after the quake.

In eastern India, near the Nepal borders, roofs and houses also crashed on sleeping residents, killing about 200 people, and causing widespread panic. The death toll has continued to rise as several people injured in the north-eastern hills (where modern communications are said to be non-existent), have died because of "lack of proper medical facilities."

It is not that the world community has not offered assistance to the affected nations. The problem, however, is that the pledges, as in the case of Sudan, have been rather insufficient. Food, fuel and transport shortages, for instance, continued in and around Khartoum, in spite of massive assistance from Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, among other nations (Nigeria, gave \$2.5 million worth of relief package). For Nepal, Japan alone reportedly sent blankets, tents and medicine worth 20 million Yen (149,000 dollars).

Along the same line, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) has promised to distribute 450 tons of aid to the persecuted Hutu tribesmen in Burundi who fled, a fortnight ago, into neighbouring Rwanda. This was the aftermath of the massacre of thousands of the dominant but minority Tutsi people, by the majority Hutus. Official figures put the death toll at 5,000 but independent observers believe that well above twice the number could have died. In fact, observers say

the actual number of victims could surpass the figures of a similar incident in Burundi 16 years ago in which an estimated 100,000 Hutus, including the country's intellectuals, were slain by the Tutsi, after an abortive Hutu-led coup.

While the Burundi strongman, Major Pierre Buyoya, getting set to celebrate his one year in office, appears to have successfully taken control of the situation, in Burundi the protracted bloody anti-government violence has continued to defy all political solutions. In an apparent attempt to appease the protesters, (made up of a broad section of the



• Zia ul Haq. Mystery still surrounds his death.

population which wants fundamental changes including an end to 26 years of one-party rule), a new leader, former Attorney-General Maung Maung, was appointed early last week to replace President U Sclin Lwin. Lwin himself has only last month, succeeded Burma's former autocratic leader for 26 years, U Ne Win.

In spite of the replacement of Lwin (considered a puppet of Ne Win) with Maung, however, security forces were seen last Monday, still shooting at surging crowds of protesters in the southern Burmese town of Moulmein. In fact, minutes after Maung was announced as the new leader, over 100,000 people were said to have poured into the streets of Rangoon, the capital city, demanding an end to the socialist government's single-party rule, and a return to democracy. In all, no less than 3,000 protesters, including women and Buddhist monks, were said to have been shot dead

by security forces in Rangoon alone. The figures do not include killings in 26 other towns and cities, where the army also reportedly fired into mainly unarmed crowds.

Just as troops from Burma's elite 22nd Light Infantry Division are blamed for the killing in Rangoon, so the Irish Republican Army (IRA) terrorists are held responsible for series of car-bomb explosions, shooting, and daring attacks on police and army units which, since early this month, have been a regular feature of life in Northern Ireland and Britain.



• Sudan's El Mahdi: Condolence

In Pakistan, however, the authorities have been at pains to solve the riddle of those responsible for the death of former President Zia ul Haq in a mid air blast a fortnight ago. It is not yet clear if it was a missile that hit Gen. Zia's aircraft, or whether a time bomb was hidden in the aircraft.

In a sense, the massive labour unrest in Poland, which began August 15, later spreading to all parts of the country, seems like another kind of time bomb. There have been violent confrontations between the Polish Zamos-riot police and the striking workers calling for a wage hike and the recognition of the banned Solidarity trade union. Indications, by last Thursday, were that unless authorities — who have called an emergency meeting to diffuse the situation — come up with a dramatic solution, the crisis might worsen.

By Emenke Okorie

DIPLOMACY

Fraternity encore

Zimbabwe. Mozambique to strengthen bond of friendship

THE two countries are contiguous to each other, and between them is a jealously guarded symbiotic relationship. Their two leaders also know each other very well, thereby making unnecessary all that usual diplomatic tango of mastering your counterpart with feigned niceties or even outright boorishness.

Thus, when Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe paid a three-day (August 3-5) state visit to Mozambique, the event was expectedly undramatic but undoubtedly a re-emphasis of the fraternal ties between the two nations. In reference to the Liberation War days when ZANU-PE and its military wing, ZANLA, used Mozambique as a beach head for launching attacks against the then Rhodesia, President Mugabe proclaimed his recent visit "a return home". "On our side, we can never forget that when our house was on fire, the one single brother that helped us extinguish it was Mozambique", Mugabe noted.

Characterised by symbolism and hortative speeches by both Presidents, Mugabe and Joaquim Chissano, the visit was principally targeted at assessing bilateral relations. After laying a wreath at the Heroes Square on the outskirts of Maputo where Samora Machel, the first Mozambican President, is buried, President Mugabe praised Mozambicans for absorbing with equanimity the devastating shock of Machel's tragic end in a freak plane crash in October 1986. Said he, "I am glad that the tragic event did not bring about division in your society". Together with his wife, Sally, and some cabinet ministers, Mugabe toured some cooperative farms, the managers of whom he was full of praise, he headed north to the Beira Corridor, the important gateway for Zimbabwean imports and exports.

In the end, the two leaders castigated the Pretoria-backed MNRs, with Zimbabwe pledging to continue its support for the efforts to extirpate the horrendous atrocities of the ruthless bandits. That promise, by President Mugabe seemed to be actively answered, some Zimbabweans among them a prominent businessman and a few reckless ex-president's agents-in-waiting, who have

been calling for the withdrawal of the 10,000 odd Zibabwean troops combating the MNR menace.

The call for the troop withdrawal was informed by what the agitators claimed to be the high cost of maintaining the forces, and a latent fear of the whole exercise becoming Zimbabwe's own Vietnam with its innuendos of meddlingness in the internal affairs of a sovereign state, arguments that in any



● Mugabe (left) and Chissano. Friendship forever.

case do not reckon the potential cost — human and material — of giving the MNRs a free rein along the Beira Corridor where, for example, a crucial oil pipeline serves Zimbabwe. Declared President Mugabe in Maputo: "The defence of Mozambique's sovereignty and territorial integrity is at the same time the defence of Zimbabwe's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

There was, however, no official pronouncement on the disturbing issue of some Mozambican refugees in Zimbabwe's eastern border who are allegedly acting as informants for the MNR operating in the area. Instead, President Mugabe made a plea to the people to help expose the bandits since they are known by some of the locals.

As a fitting denouement to the visit, President Mugabe received Mozambique's "25 September" First Class Order of Merit for his remarkable contribution to the liberation and independence of his country. In part, the citation for the award described Mugabe as "a statesman of great stature with enormous international prestige". His last state visit to Maputo was in December 1981.

By Kingsley Osadelor in Harare

ANGOLA

A truce begins

Peace imminent as Angola, South Africa and Cuba agree to a ceasefire

AT last the guns are silent in southern Angola. There are clear signals that the road to peace in the war ravaged region is going to lead somewhere. In fact, there has never been such optimism about chances for peace in the history of the 12-year-old war.

During this period, the United States has successfully brokered talks involving Angola, South Africa, Cuba and the US itself. The talks started in London and have been held at Cairo, Paris, Geneva and last week, Brazzaville, the Congolese capital. Before last week's talks which kicked off on Wednesday (August 24), all the belligerents observed a ceasefire which came into force the previous weekend. A big success achieved in this regard is that for the first time the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) has agreed to abide by the cease fire agreement to which it is not a signatory SWAPO's leader, Sam Nujoma said his organisation will be ready to abide by the ceasefire arrangement only if South Africa did the same.

In addition to SWAPO's overture announced only last Tuesday (August 23), the United Nations, for the first time, participated in the peace initiative last week. The UN team to Brazzaville was led by Marthinus Ahtisaari, the UN Secretary general's special representative. According to a document signed to observe the ceasefire, Angola and South Africa will recommend to the UN Secretary General a date to start implementing the resolution 435 of 1978 which calls for the independence of Namibia through UN supervised elections. The text referred to the role of the permanent members of the Security Council as guarantors for the implementation of agreements that may be established. The Angola rebel group UNITA kept quiet on last week's ceasefire. But if its earlier remarks are anything to go by, it still opposes the ceasefire arrangement.

UNITED STATES

Changing fortunes

Scandal, opinion polls cause scare in Bush, Dukakis campaign

REPUBLICAN presidential candidate, George Bush, and the Democratic candidate, Michael Dukakis, should have been very happy men this week. They are not. Bush was expected by now to be having a romp and showing off his dazzling running mate, Dan Quayle. Instead, he is going around, fighting desperately to quell the scandal-ridden controversy swirling around the Indiana senator. Dukakis himself, supposed to be gaining from the Bush troubles and riding high on that account, in voter approval, took quite a shocking trouncing in last week's opinion polls.

Observers are still unsure about what to make of the irony of a scandal-besieged presidential candidate topping the polls with as many as six per cent points (46-40), and the dilemma of the other candidate enjoying a clean record quite alright, but tripping badly in voter approval. It is certainly troubling news for both parties. They are just not going to be sure of their standing with voters until perhaps the last votes are counted in November.

Bush — ironically enough — is the

one in the greatest trouble. For as the Quayle crisis followed him everywhere last week, doubts were cast on his ability to make sound decisions. Questions have continued to be raised about the wisdom of choosing, as running mate, a totally unknown, unscreened (by the press) senator from a state with few electoral votes, whereas former candidates like Senator Bob Dole and Congressman Jack Kemp (two tested Republicans that have withstood media searchlight) were eager to be picked. Last week people asking these kind of questions found ample reason to continue to ask them.

It was revealed that Quayle "chased" a former Playboy (sex magazine) model eight years ago. "He said he wanted to make love," Mrs. Paula Parkinson, former Washington political lobbyist, alleged, recalling a vacation in Florida in which she shared a house with Quayle (then a member of the House of Representatives) and two other Congressmen. He was already married at the time. Mrs. Parkinson insisted she did not sleep with him, but said they "flirted a lot and danced extremely close and



• Bush: Weighed down by controversy

suggestively."

Quayle angrily countered the allegation, calling it "outrageous." "I had nothing to do with her before and I had nothing to do with her afterwards", he said. Still, fresh allegations were made against him, charging that he joined the Indiana National Guard (militia) just six days before he would have been due for a draft to fight in Vietnam; that at the time, authorities had, in fact, placed an embargo on recruitment into the state's guard service; and that his entire academic performance in the university through high school, was lack lustre. In short, it was another very bad week for Quayle. A new poll found that voters see the Democratic vice presidential candidate, Senator Lloyd Bentsen, to be more qualified than him.

Now, it is also being projected that the Democratic ticket will eventually shoot back to the top, as more searchlight is focussed on Quayle's character.

By Chukwuemeka Gahia

LIBERIA

A one-party Liberia ?

A suspicious populace demands clarification

THE political climate in Liberia's capital, Monrovia, is once again tense. This is not new, for waves of discontent have been rising and falling since 1985 when a widely-protested election turned Samuel Doe's then five-year old military rulership into presidency. What is new is the cause of the current rumblings: wide-spread fears that the government is planning to turn the country into a one-party state.

The current high tide of discontent started rising from last July 26, the country's 141st independence anniversary day. In a 52-minute speech, the head of the University of Liberia's political science department, Professor Dunn, had voiced his conviction that "the Western form of democracy with

its multi-party system is totally unsuitable to our conditions."

The first to criticise Dunn's speech was the opposition United People's Party (UPP) chairman, Gabriel Baccus Mathews. He asked Dunn to turn his recommendation into a clear call for a "partyless" state. Mathews argued that even a one-party system is a foreign idea since the concept of a political party is alien to the traditional values and culture of Liberia.

The tone of UPP's criticism was much less biting than that of the Liberian Action Party (LAP). It said that Dunn's speech was "unfortunate" and not devoid of political machinations. It spoke of increasing militarisation of the ruling National Democratic Party of Liberia

(NDPL), as an attempt to pave way for a one-party rule.

Among Liberians who are still sceptical in spite of these seeming moves are the students. Soon after Dunn's speech, they besieged his office demanding clarification. Fearing that they were spoiling for a rampage, Dunn told the students: "I did not call for a one party state."

Last week, the government expelled 11 of the students for violating the ban on student political activities.

The students are responding with protests. And the protests are getting louder. Their leader, Wool Gabi Tapia (and one of those expelled), has called the expulsion illegal and a denial of students' right to speak out as citizens. The tension is spreading beyond the students' community to the rest of the population and beyond the capital city into the rest of the country.

By George Oja-Davis and Dozie Arinze

Too low for high

Experts agree that tax evasion is prevalent in Nigeria but just about how much is lost is an all-comers guess

THE federal government's vault has evidently added some fat in the past two years. Tax revenues have been on the upward swing, often surpassing projections. According to the latest CBN annual report, receipts from petroleum profit tax stood at N12,504.0 million last year, almost three times higher than N4,811.0 million recorded in the preceding year. From the customs and excise, the government collected N3,540 million, more than double the previous year's amount of N1,728.2 million. This source alone accounted for 58.3 per cent of the total receipts from the non-oil sector, compared with 41.2 per cent in the preceding year.

Rising by 12.0 per cent, proceeds from company income tax stood at N1,235.2 million, representing 20.3 per cent of revenue from the non-oil sector. Put together, returns from company income tax and customs and excise duties last year stood at N4,776 million, 68.7 per cent higher than the previous year's N2,837 million. CBN sources attribute this apparent upsurge in tax revenue to the general upward revision of tariffs on import coupled with the increase in the naira value of imports following the depreciation in the value of the naira.

But if government officials are beating their chest for the increased tax returns, some accountants and tax consultants are not impressed. They believe that much more money is lost than collected as tax. Even so, reports credited to the Federal Office of Statistics (FOS) say that N1 billion is lost through tax evasion in the country annually. The

• *Oke. Low tax good for SAP*



FOS sources also contend that for every one naira collected, as much as N6 is lost. If this contention is anything to go by, no less than N28 billion may have been lost last year when the total collected was N4776 million.

Again, conservative guesstimation's have put the amount lost through tax evasion in Lagos State alone at N100 million annually. Use this as the average in the 21 states as well as the federal capital territory, and you have a total average loss of about N2 billion. But while accountants and tax consultants argue strongly that tax revenue loss in the country run into billions, they shy away from concrete figures. For instance, Emmanuel Iloya Ijewere, vice president, Nigerian Institute of Taxation describes the FOS N1 billion as "a gross underestimation". He offers no exact figures but says no less than N500 million is lost through company income tax alone. Making a case for higher losses, he says any reliable calculations should be based on "the percentage of Nigerians in the tax-paying bracket, how many of them are gainfully employed and their average income."

Moji Onadanya, a tax consultant and member of the Institute of Taxation estimates the amount lost to tax evaders in the country at N10 billion. He even believes that "when accurate statistical data are made available, the figures would be higher". However, he bases his projections on the estimated number of industries in the country, their employment capacities and their taxable annual income, as well as the high probability of tax evasion in the private sector.

While bemoaning the country's poor statistical data on tax collection, Prince Adesupo Adetona, senior partner, Deloitte, Adetona, Isichei & Co., a firm of chartered accountants, says that "the N1 billion projected as tax loss by the FOS is rather conservative". He would rather accept projections nearer to N10 billion. But David A. Olorunleke, President, Institute of Taxation and a senior executive officer with the Federal Board of Inland Revenue insists that "nobody, not even the Office of Statistics, has the adequate machinery" to determine what amount escapes the tax-



• *Olorunleke. Tax receipts exaggerated*

man's noose. However he thinks the N1 billion mark is an exaggeration.

If the experts disagree on the actual amount lost as unrealised tax revenue, they agree that the high incidence of evasion has been worsened by other factors such as inadequate information on the income and other remunerations of several artisans and small businesses, fraudulent declaration of claims and benefits in the public and organised private sectors, as well as lack of adequate facilities that could enhance collection. The unprecedented incidence of evasion, according to Dr. Alabi Masha, Lagos State Commissioner for Finance, owes so much to "lack of patriotism and the failure of citizens to conceptualise the relationship between their contributions through tax payment and amenities provided by government such as roads, water and electricity.

As the argument on poor tax returns mounts, suggestions are being put forward for tax cuts, surprisingly though. Mr. Michael A. Olorunfemi, group deputy manager, Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) would want the "government take" from the petroleum profit tax reduced and he argues that "we cannot claim that the level of petroleum profit tax should re-



Ranking in trouble

Critics find flaws in "THISWEEK 100"

RILED by their positions on the ladder of "Thisweek 100," some companies are questioning the very parameters on which *Thisweek* magazine based its ratings. African Continental Bank which considers itself among the top five institutions in the banking industry was left out. So was Seven-Up Bottling Company, a publicly quoted company. But leaving viable companies out in the cold is only part of the shortcomings of the ratings. Voices in the financial community say lumping all the companies and comparing them in terms of assets, turnover and profit does not give a true measure of how big or how well a company is performing. Mr. Aderemi Adetayo, Corporate Affairs Manager, First City Merchant Bank (FCMB), thinks that the placement should have been done with emphasis on the ratio of profit to the assets employed to generate such gains, in order to adequately address the efficiency of management.

But Nduka Obaiqbena, Publisher of *Thisweek* offers no apologies for whatever furors *Thisweek* 100" has generated. According to him, the magazine ran advertisements in the news media for one month begging for relevant information. Even so, these companies were contacted but they appeared indifferent and sometimes arrogant and suspicious about *Thisweek's* ultimate objective, Mr. Obaiqbena claimed. "If they were indifferent at that stage, they should not be complaining now," he said.

ever government loses through reduced rates would be augmented through improved living conditions", he says.

Beyond the merits and flaws of the above arguments, one challenge stares the country's book keepers on the face: How much is actually lost as unrealised tax revenue? Oke says ICAN is not playing the ostrich. Before long, he says, a data base would be floated by the body accountants to "study and explain the amounts collected or lost through corporate or personal tax. Until that body comes alive, ICAN, like the man on the street, would have to rely on "unreliable figures" in analysing the country's tax system.

By Chinedu Soronadi-Ofora

Critics of the rankings are anchoring their arguments on more fundamental issues. For one thing they say, the mix up of turnover of a company in the service industry (banks, merchandising) with that of a manufacturing concern is deceptive. They cite *Fortune* and *South*, two international publications that have a policy of separating rankings on the basis of compatibility. However, Obaiqbena says that *Thisweek* will go further to break down the rankings into sectors. Last week the magazine made a start with the financial institutions. But the original positions were still maintained — a ploy that could exacerbate the problem the vexed bodies complained last week.

Some complaints have centered on fiscal year cut-off dates. For instance, whereas First Bank's December 31, 1987 annual results were used to assess its position as number one, banks like United Bank for Africa and NAL Merchant Bank were considered on the strength of their March 31, 1987 financial year-end results — a nine-month advantage for First Bank.

Also the treatment of companies' assets appear to have been muddled up and print errors seem to have aggravated the situation. A bank like FCMB with N446 million total assets in 1987 but credited with N66.6 million in the ranking; and NAL, rated by net assets instead of total assets, are not about to swallow their pride.

Although questions of credibility are being raised about "Thisweek 100," all agree that the exercise was a bold first.

By Herbert Ojoh



main fixed in isolation from fiscal development round the world".

Only recently, Chief Ebenezer Folorunsho Oke, President, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) made a strong case for across board cuts in corporate and personal income taxes. In his thinking, personal income tax rates which now vary from 5 to 55 per cent should be harmonised with company income tax rate, now standing at 40 per cent. Both of them, he says, should level up at 35 per cent. While contending that individuals should not pay taxes higher than the corporate bodies, Oke says the prevailing 40 per cent rate paid by corporate bodies is too high and capable of constituting an additional disincentive to foreign investments as contained in the Nigeria Enterprises Promotion Decree of 1977.

On a rather humanitarian note, Oke contends that reduced tax rates would be a healing balm on a people groaning under the severe conditions of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP). As he put it, "lower tax rates would put more money in the pockets of individuals thereby enhancing their living standards while corporate bodies would have an expanded revenue base which could be ploughed back. "What-

STOCK MARKET WATCH

A slow recovery

Signs of active trading are emerging

BY mid-month, the stock market had not shown any sign of recovery from the bullish trading that set in last July. Although, some dormant stocks were reawakened, volumes were thin and interest in them was weak. The Federal Government Development Stock that has remained inactive for over a month recorded two deals worth about ₦920,000, comprising the 12½ per cent 24th Development Bond maturing in 2011 and the 11¾ per cent stock with maturity date 2006.

The Industrial Loans and Preference stocks also slumped up from slumber as the nine per cent cumulative redeemable First Bank shares traded 400 units. Nigerian Bottling Company's 11½ per cent mortgage debenture stock, 1992, sold 500 units.

In the equities sector, result activity remained the dominant factor on the trading floor. Mired down by the dull automobile market, R.T. Briscoe attempted a come-back after posting a

profit of ₦8.43 million for the year ended last March as compared to ₦1.34 million the previous year. Even this showing was not good enough for stock dealers who wanted R.T.'s stock marked down by more than 10 kobo. But R.T. Briscoe was given a breathing space to consolidate its recent pull-out from the red. R.T. has not paid its share holders any dividends since 1981.

Other result and dividend influenced activities saw WAPCO edge up five points to 140 kobo for declaring a dividend of 12.5 kobo per share. UACN's shares were nudged forward from 107 kobo to 112 points in reaction to its nine-month report showing sales of ₦665 million — far outstripping last years 12-month revenue.

The common stock index has continued its slow climb from about 196 points earlier in the year to 214.95 points last Tuesday.

By Herbert Ojeh

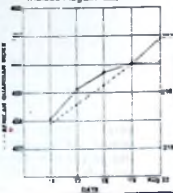
LEADING CONTRIBUTORS TO AFRICAN GUARDIAN INDEX AS AT AUGUST 2, 1988



SUMMARY OF SUPPLY & DEMAND



Summary of the African Guardian and NSE Stock Indices August 22, 1988



Job Guardian

• Management Accountant with ACMA/CA/ACCA, minimum 2 years experience. Apply to the Group Personnel Manager, Leventis Group of Companies Iddo House, P.O. Box 159 Lagos.

• Financial Controller: ACCA with 10 years experience in government and large industrial or commercial organisation. Apply to the General Manager Adalpin (Nig) Limited, P.M.B. 1044, Owerri Imo State; before September 5, 1988.

• Funds Investment manager (Money and Capital Markets). Aged between late 20s and early 30s. Higher degree in Business Administration, Economics or other Social Sciences. Professional accountants and bankers could be considered. Experience with the Nigerian Stock Exchange an advantage. Apply: The Advertiser P.O. Box 2672, Ikeja - Lagos.

• A PLAN ADVISER to act as Project Coordinator:

Qualification: Top flight economist with vast knowledge of economic analysis, quantitative methods, modelling and computation. Evidence of per-

formance of similar roles especially in the Third World countries.

Apply to: The Honourable Minister, Budget and Planning, Office of the President, P.M.B. 12558, Ikoyi-Lagos.

Landmark at International Paints

Mr. C.O. Williams, 48, takes over from R.T. Temple as the first Nigerian Managing Director of International Paints West Africa Limited (IPWA), in the company's 27 years of operation in Nigeria. IPWA recorded a 143 per cent rise in turnover-up from ₦15,892,800 in 1986. Pretax profit also shot up 148 per cent to ₦8.5 million in 1987 from ₦3.4 for the year ended December 31, 1986.

By Herbert Ojeh

• Williams: A record first



Lowest Price/Earning Ratio

Stock	Price/Earnings Ratio	Dividend Yield (%)	Last Date
Dunlop (Nig) Ltd	1.6	90	15 01 29 07 88
Toscani	1.7	76	41 05 07 88
NN Flour M's	1.7	115	10 09 05 88
Nig. Traders	1.9	105	3 01 03 88
Nig. Bottling	2.1	113	12 01 09 87
Agribank	2.3	112	15 07 88
NCB (Nig.)	2.4	167	40 14 06 88
CPVT	2.6	95	20 07 08 88
PZ Industries	2.6	242	40 20 07 87
Ford Specialists	2.6	250	46 01 05 88
Nigeria Buses	2.7	51	9 07 05 88
Union Bank	2.8	379	8 08 06 88
Inter. Paints	2.8	93	15 03 07 87
Laminates Technical	2.9	45	1 05 06 87
Stadio Press	3.2	40	10 08 06 88
Weston	3.4	145	15 06 11 87
Van Lier	3.4	91	17 03 04 88
Julius Berger	3.4	5	6 8 05 06 88
Thomas Wyatt	3.5	179	20 02 22 87
Seering Products	3.6	312	70 01 05 88

• The above analyses Nigerian Stock Exchange trading to August 22, 1988. Price/Earnings ratio (P/E) is a measure of performance of a stock. The lower the ratio indicates generally a relatively low price compared to high earnings per share. Only stocks with non-zero, non-negative earnings and with declared dividends from 1987 are included.

Tempest in a tea cup

Soyinka, Obasanjo play out a slanging match

PROFESSOR Wole Soyinka and General Olusegun Obasanjo are quite good friends. Once Soyinka sent a dozen partridges he had killed on a hunting expedition to Obasanjo. The birds were meant to be plucked and dressed on Obasanjo's farm and sent back to Soyinka. But Obasanjo "seized" half a dozen of the birds and invited Soyinka for a meal where the same birds were served.

Both Soyinka and Obasanjo have a number of things in common. They are in their early fifties and are from the rocky town of Abeokuta. The duo bask in the lime light of national and international recognition, and have a reputation for scathing responses to comments they consider unfair, even if made in passing, to their policies, speeches or actions. Against this background, the past week, for Soyinka and Obasanjo, became a period of engagement in verbal confrontation that contained a hint of underlying grouse with each other. Dr. Bode Sowande had in an open letter to Soyinka on May 5, tacitly accused the Nobel laureate of abandoning his conscience for the opulence of a Nobel prize and the flamboyance of chairman of the Federal Road Safety Corps.

Sowande was aghast at a television interview where Soyinka said he did not understand the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP). Sowande referred to Obasanjo's speech on November 6, last year and wrote: "Haba! Even Bro Sege did ... General Olusegun Obasanjo had said SAP had no human face. For a military General he was a poet in that statement. SAP has no human face."

Soyinka's reply on August 19, was virulent. Apart from referring to Sowande as a true waster of the "wasted generation," Soyinka was not ready to allow the reference to Obasanjo as a poet be disregarded. Obasanjo's "SAP has no human face" he calls a "Cliche utterance" primarily brought about because SAP has detrimental effects on Obasanjo's agricultural holdings and, therefore, his self interest. He wrote: "Can you or I walk into a bank and negotiate capital that launched Obasanjo on his vast agricultural complex? Can anyone of the masses ... walk into a bank and be launched into entrepreneurial fulfillment with a hundredth of his capital?"

Some poetry!"

The reference was enough for Obasanjo to pick up issues with Soyinka. On August 23, he stated: "I would have ignored your comment, but because of your cleverly disguised personal motive and this being your fourth time you have brought naively, half information or misinformation, naked prejudice and reaction bordering on opportunism to bear on approaching me or in your comments on me or my action."

Though, Obasanjo stated the four times, it is believed that the letter Soyinka brought from Colonel Victor Banjo in 1967 must have sowed the seed of distrust between them. According to Obasanjo, the Nobel laureate had persuaded him then to allow Victor Banjo's



• Soyinka and (right) Obasanjo: A verbal face-off

affairs in 1979. To buttress this, some have pointed out that Soyinka was associated with the drama of seizing a radio station in the former Western region in 1965 when S.L.A. Akintola's defunct Nigerian National Democratic Party (NNDP) was going to be announced as winning premiership of the region instead of Chief Obafemi Awolowo's former Action Group. Though, Soyinka was later cleared of these charges, it is used as an indication that the poet had always had a soft spot for Awoists.

Mentioned also is the burning of Fela Anikulapo Kuti's "Kalakuta Republic" by irate soldiers in 1977. The anger that is felt by Soyinka, some say, is not only at the burning of Fela's house, but at the humiliation of Fela's mother, Mrs. Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti.

Soyinka sees the retired general as one who would only speak out when self interest is on the line. Obasanjo is not ignorant of Soyinka's view and replied: "If you accuse me of speaking out be-



troops access through the West to Lagos during the civil war years. Obasanjo added: "You must know by now, if not by then, that Nigeria may not physically exist as it is today if I had acceded to Banjo's request and your desire."

Soyinka's interpretation may be different. In his book, "The man died" he had spoken of a "third force" of which Victor Banjo was a member. The force was to seize power in Lagos and ignore both General Yakubu Gowon and Chief Odumegwu Ojukwu. It is believed that the letter Obasanjo spoke of is probably to facilitate the installation of that "third force." There is another reason. It is said that Soyinka is yet to forgive Obasanjo for allowing Shehu Shagari and the National Party of Nigeria (NPN) find their way into the nation's helm of

cause of material loss on my farm, are you unusually keeping quiet now because of personal gains? I hope not." The feeling is mutual.

Soyinka on August 24, wrote another response, this time directly to Obasanjo: "I appear to have succeeded in triggering off the wrong debate." In an apparently con-

ditionary note, the Poet requested of the General: "Would the General be kind enough to postpone his phantom duel until that mission (of identifying the real wasters in the wasted generation) is more or less accomplished? I would really appreciate it." Both men have laid aside their swords, sheathed, until again one or the other breaks the ground rules.

By Walo Akin Ains



• The Bagauda dam disaster: Flood cuts off a highway and sweeps through farm lands

A trail of destruction

Dams, bridges, houses collapse under flood pressure

THE collapse of the Bagauda dam must not be seen to have come accidentally or as an act of God", said *The Triumph*, the Kano state government-owned newspaper in an editorial last week. Rather, the newspaper opined, the disaster was "a result of human indifference".

If *The Triumph* was correct in its summation, the people of Kano paid an extremely dear price for that indifference. When the Bagauda dam collapsed two weeks ago, after a torrential rain recorded as the first of its kind in the state in 85 years, 20 villages in four local governments were flooded.

At the last count, 35 people were reported dead while 18,751 homes were washed away. In municipal Kano, the worst hit by the flood, 40,000 families were displaced as their homes gave way to a massive body of water. Even President Ibrahim Babangida was numbed at the sight of the wreckage left behind when he visited the area last week.

Inadequate drainage and bad physical planning are said to have caused the disaster. And there may be more than a grain of truth in this when it is noted that in Kano where the highest number of deaths was recorded, most of the houses that collapsed were unplanned and badly built structures that stood on the drainage paths.

However, these are no more than secondary causes. *The Triumph* put the immediate cause in a better perspective in its editorial last week. With a tone dripping with rage, the newspaper reported that since 1985, it had consistently warned on the "frightening reality" that the dam was giving way "but our sermons were not heeded". Yet, if *The*

Triumph was piqued by the indifference to its warning since 1985, the newspaper would have been much more so if it knew that the defects on the dam had been reported fourteen years ago. In April 1974, Femi Ogunleye, currently the Public Relations Manager of the Nigeria Airways, as a correspondent for the *Daily Times* in Kano had noticed that the Bagauda dam became flooded after a heavy downpour and reported in *Daily Times* that if just one instance of rain could cause the flooding of the dam, the then state government of Police Commissioner Auda Bako which built the dam in 1968 had better taken another look at it. This report did not go down well with the late Governor Bako who summoned Femi Ogunleye



• Devastation: Houses destroyed by the flood

and other correspondents in Kano to his office a day after the report was published. He took them to Bagauda dam, pointed at the concrete structures and asked Ogunleye to defend his "alarming" story. Ogunleye told the governor that his story was to warn the state government of the dangers in the dam but this explanation did not impress Bako who gathered other correspondents into the bus that took them to the dam and abandoned Ogunleye to "find his way back to Kano" — 40 kilometres away. Said Ogunleye last week: "they later came to pick me up after pleadings from my colleagues but it was one of the reasons that got me out of Kano".

As the alarm raised in 1974 turned out a true one two weeks ago attempts are being made for once to put Nigeria on the alert for national disasters. Shortly before he went to Bagauda last week, President Ibrahim Babangida announced that the Federal Government had established a national committee on early-warning system to alert the nation on the onset of environmental disasters such as drought, flood, pest invasion or earthquakes. He also announced the formation of a national conservation strategy which he hopes would guide the future management and utilization of the nation's natural resources such as soil, water, wildlife and other forest resources.

Perhaps, there could not have been a better time for a policy on natural disaster than now. As the Kano state government is confronted with the problems of rehabilitating those affected by the flood and rebuilding the dam itself (for which about ₦100 million is needed) many other states are recording disasters of equally great magnitude. Thousands of people were rendered homeless in the Rivers State last week by flood. The only bridge that links Katsina with Kano was also swept away after a heavy downpour while the Kafu Zaki dam under construction in Bauchi state was washed away, and about 65,000 hectares of farmland was submerged after several days of rainfall.

In Sokoto and Plateau states an estimated ₦12 million worth of farm crops were destroyed by flood. And this is why observers say with farmlands being submerged and crops being destroyed, especially in the northern states which suffered drought for almost seven years, the current over-abundant blessing has become, in reality, a disappointment.

By Debo Adesina with Wale Akln Alna and Abdul Orah in Kano.

Not yet the promised land

Babangida's national address raises little hope

EXPECTATIONS graduated to the level of certainty that President Ibrahim Babangida's proposed speech to the nation would among other key issues include the speculated change in the federal cabinets, the modification of the transition programme to include some politicians previously banned, the release of Major-Generals Mohammadu Buhari and Tunde Idiagbon from three years of restriction and the announcement of a specific date for the takeoff of the debt/equity swap. But on Saturday in his "state of the nation" address, which was to mark his third year as head of government, President Babangida did not touch on any of the issues and if he did, not in the way expected. The early morning address was specifically a review and a re-dedication exercise. He saw it as an assessment of how far his administration had stuck to its set path and an admission of what emerging weaknesses in policies were to be corrected.

To some, therefore, it seemed that there was nothing earth-shaking in the president's address. But Babangida had some strong words for "new breed" and "unspoiled men" whom he said had turned to surrogates of those disqualified from participating in politics. His warning that the "new breed" desist from being influenced by old politicians and that those parading

themselves as possible presidential candidates in the Third Republic retrace their steps is an indication that government, though aware, is no longer content with turning a blind eye to the several political manoeuvres and alignments now going on in the country.

On the general economic front, President Babangida tried not to paint a rosy picture for the country. His reason was predicated on the fickleness of the world's oil market. Although further growth in gross domestic product (GDP) is expected this year considering the 1.3 per cent increase in real out put last year, government deficits which was estimated at seven per cent of GDP in 1987 had been running at an estimated level of six per cent during the first five months of this year. He says that the pressure of deficits may widen this year unless oil revenues do not fall further.

A major headache of government is misinterpretation and implementation of policies. In what appeared to be an endorsement of the official view that subterranean forces were responsible for upheavals that rocked the country last April in the wake of petroleum price hike by the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), the president noted that a particular class of citizens was out to frustrate government policies designed to revitalise the economy. He adds: "Indeed, they have also been



• Babangida Resolutely committed to success

at work misinforming the public on government's intention on various difficult but inevitable measures that have been taken to resuscitate the economy". The administration is, however, to remain resolute. Babangida pledged.

Weakness in certain government policies were, however, identified, with promises that they are to be corrected. While foreign exchange rates will still be left to market forces, the exchange auction system as done by the Central Bank is soon to be overhauled and kept in closer scrutiny; an action the President says may necessitate the scrapping of exchange biddings at the central bank level altogether. Government, in addition, is to close in on sources of abuses in the operation of the autonomous market. This measure might be seen as a reaction to criticisms of government's insensitivity to the indiscipline of market forces at the two foreign exchange auctions.

By Wale Akin Aina

Bar and Bench tangle

THE wheel of justice screeched to a halt last week, at Akure Ondo State, as the state branch of the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), asked its members to shun the Akure High Court Four, where Mr Justice Tunji Adetosoye sits. The members of the bar are protesting an alleged assault on one of its members, Mr Moses Olu Bello.

Adetosoye was also accused of pouring venom on Chief Afe Babalola (SAN), when he recently appeared before him.

The state's Chief Judge, Justice Solomon Adedoye, has ordered that all case files before the embattled Adetosoye be transferred to him.

'Sparkless' anniversary

CASH-STRAPPED Nigeria Airways, and the Nigerian Airports Authority (NAA), were in a festive mood last week, as the duo celebrated their 30th and 10th anniversaries, respectively. It was a period of stock-taking — highlighting their successes and failures.

Air Vice Marshal John Yisa-Doku (rtd), chairman, board of directors of the air-

line, said the airways spent more than N1 billion on the training of pilots, engineers and managers in commercial aviation.

Air Commodore Ndama Adama, NAA managing director spoke hilariously about the authority's feat in the construction of modern airports, including the prestigious Murtala Muhammed Airport, Lagos. He promised to solve the problems of touting and insecurity at the airports.

Oba vs subjects

THE Armed Robbery and Firearms decree stipulates

death penalty for persons convicted for armed robbery. Thus the Ogun State Armed Robbery Tribunal found Abiodun Adekambi (second son of Obi Adekambi Tella, traditional ruler of Ife) guilty of robbing with violence, and sentenced him accordingly. On June 30, Abiodun was executed, but his conviction and execution has pitted Obi Tella against his subjects. The traditional ruler had told a Lagos-based news-magazine that the chiefs of Ife colluded with the tribunal and law enforcement officers in the conviction and execution. Apparently this

In God's name

CHANGES, some fleeting, others far-reaching are taking place in the hallowed precincts of Nigeria's main religions. Some are attended by the most vociferous noise, for example, the recent Lambeth Conference and the not-so-recent but far from settled OIC issue. But one thing stands out. These religions are not the impregnable fortresses of faith and unity that their champions and advocates would have others believe they are. Here's a sample of what's happening in God's house:

► **Sects:** In Nigeria's portion of Christendom, the evangelicals, the pentecostals, the spiritual churches and the orthodox churches are divided on matters of faith, mode of worship and so on.

In Islam, there is a similar situation — Sheikh Abubakar Gumi's Izallas, the Ahmadis, the Tijanniyas, etc. do not see eye-to-eye on various issues.

► **Women:** The position of women, who have been "put in their place" through the ages by the various religions and sects to different degrees, remains a source of controversy.

► **Money:** Even in the house of God, money can be the root of evil. A lot of it is garnered in the churches and mosques. But a big question hangs on how the monies are come by and the use to which they are put.

► **Politics:** The different perceptions of how, when, to what extent and in what way God should be involved in the governance of man is another thorn in the flesh of religion. These and other controversial issues are highlighted on these pages.



Prayer time. Bound by faith, divided by doctrine

Holy smoke

Moral, sectarian, political issues dog the House of God

THOUGH most Anglicans may not like to admit it, there is some truth to comments of observers about the outcome of the recent conference of the church hierarchy at Lambeth, the Archbishop's Palace in London. Truth — and quite a bit of cynicism: "From the historical point of view, it is a break away church. They keep splitting and splitting".

Anthony Olubunmi Okogie, the Catholic Archbishop of Lagos, was obviously referring to the falling out between King Henry VIII of England and the Catholic Church over the monarch's insistence that his proposed divorce and re-marriage be certified by the church. But the fact is not so cut-and-dried. Christendom as a whole, at least in Nigeria, is in a flux that may be unprecedented in the country's history. The fact that with which some issues — polemics

gamy, the role of women, doctrine, divorce, etc. — were supported and opposed was a sobering indication that all may not be well in the church. The Anglicans may be having preferences over matters of faith alright, but they are in good company. And Google's Catholics are far from immune to the controversies currently plaguing Christendom.

And it is not limited to Christianity. Islam, a religion which most outsiders tend to view as a monolithic bastion that cannot be penetrated by unorthodoxy, has its own "little in-house problems". And some of these differences are as basic as those of Christians. Says Sheikh Mahmoud Salga, of the Tijanniya sect: "Since Sheikh Abubakar Gumi went to Saudi Arabia to collect money, his Ibrala group has been trying to have their own way by instigating youths to cause

trouble. Right from the colonial era, there has never been any trouble between Muslims and Christians until the Gumi award... Politically, Nigeria fought the colonialists together. During independence, the various political groups in the north, east and west worked together... Though the venerable Sheikh might be justifiably said to be engaging in a bit of exaggeration, his comments prove that not every Muslim sees eye-to-eye with Nigeria's most visible Islamic cleric.

But back in the church, the issue of whether or not women should be allowed, symbolically speaking, into the pulpit reveals that even the most extreme positions are supported with copious quotes from the same revered document — the Holy Bible. Reverend Jeremiah Iroakazi Ekekwu, a senior pastor of the Assemblies of God Church, Owerri, says that the seemingly pro-male orientation of the Bible has an explanation in the culture of the Jews. Ekekwu's startling thesis: "The Bible seems to be against women being priests but this is not so. On the day of the Pentecost, believers went to Jerusalem and there, 120 men and women were baptised. Women were there when



Jesus died. When He resurrected, it was the women who took the message to the disciples".

But the opposite view is put forward, complete with ecclesiastical evidence by Pastor Simeon Job Okochi, the president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Rivers State: "From all indications, there is a strong opposition to women in the priesthood and the reason is that throughout the Ministry of Christ, Jesus had a lot of women but none of them was ordained. So ordaining them would amount to going beyond what Jesus himself did. I am yet to come across any portion of the Bible that authorises it".

To Dr. Godfrey Otubu, *Baba Aladara* of the Eternal Sacred Order of Cherubim and Seraphim, the ordination of women is not only out of the question, it is almost sacrilegious. Otubu, a member of the National Executive Committee of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), insists that there are scriptural inhibitions to the extent to which women can worship and learn in the house of God. In his words: "There are restrictions that they must learn in silence. Women who have issue of blood (who are menstruating) cannot

enter the prayer house not to talk of the chancery. The same thing applies eight days after she delivers a baby".

Apart from such honorary positions as "Mary", "Prophetess" and "Mother-in-Israel" for women in the order, Otubu says, females are allowed to preach only on special women anniversaries (from the floor) but they cannot head the church or any of its branches or conduct prayers when male officers are available.

Elsewhere, however, the trend has been the greater involvement of women in the affairs of the church. Two churches—the Episcopal Church in the United States and the Anglican in Canada—have ordained 1,250 women priests since the early 1970s. However, the fervent opposition of the African lobby and others at the Lambeth Conference effectively ensured that the moves,

cent interview, award-winning novelist, Zaynab Alkali, voiced the grouse most often cited: the Koran and the Hadith have mainly been given a literal interpretation that suits men and "demeans" women. It is not likely, however, that any drastic changes will occur any time soon in the perception of women in Islam. In spite of doctrinal and other differences, most of the sects seem to see nothing wrong in the *status quo*.

A problem that has even more ominous potentials in the Islamic world is the problem of sects with sometimes minor differences in the perception of Allah and mode of worship. Sects are almost as old as the religion and, more often than not, the sect one belongs to strictly depends on the circumstances of one's birth. Apart from Gumi's Izalla, there are the Dawa (or Propagation group), the Tijaniyyas, the Shites, the



• Deep in the revival hour

though recognised, remain outside official church doctrine.

Though more circumspect, women in Islam have also showed their resentment of the "God-ordained" backbench on which they have been sitting through the ages. They are not shouting it to the rooftops but the "subjugation" which they have borne is a recurring theme in the complaints of these women, especially the educated ones among them. They base their demand for greater participation on flaws in interpretation of Islamic tenets. In a re-

Ahmadiyas, Khadiriyya, Arussiya, Shazaliya and Na'Shabandiya. These groups are either distinct categories or are variants of major bodies.

The differences are interesting. The Izalla do not pray for the dead, not even for the Prophet Muhammad. They are said to be a minority, though a very vocal minority in the country. They are very orthodox and fundamentalist, and believe in a "pure" form of the religion, including violent revolutions. The Shites who constitute the major of sect

in Iran are similarly not averse to violence although they are not always in agreement even within themselves. Last year, they organised a demonstration in Mecca during the Hajj, demanding that the Holy sites in Saudi Arabia be removed from the authority of the Saudi government, and be placed in the hands of the world's Islamic Community. Their reason, as always, had been that the Saudi monarchy was a puppet of the "American imperialists." The demonstration was quelled, some allege brutally, by the Saudi security. When the smoke cleared, numerous Iranians and a lesser number of Saudi policemen were killed.

THE number of shiites in Nigeria is unknown, they are believed to operate in university campuses, especially Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; Bayero University, Kano and Uthman Danfodio University, Sokoto. They are influenced by Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran and they want an Islamic revolution in Nigeria. The shiites in Nigeria do not have a single leader but Mallam Abu Zakzackey of Zaria is believed to be the leader of the fundamentalist group in Zaria while in Sokoto, Mallam Abubakar Jibril, a lecturer at the Uthman Danfodio University is known to be staunch Shiite. At Bayero University, Shehu Umar Abdullahi, although he does not openly identify with the shiites, is known to have strong sympathy for those agitating for an Islamic revolution in Nigeria.

Some other muslims, however, have virtually renounced violence. Sheik Aminudeen Abubakar, head of the Islamic Dawaa group in Nigeria puts it this way: "We can't be in harmony without peace. If a muslim leads this country without peace, I cannot accept him. If a christian would lead the Nigeria government without peace, I cannot accept him because peace is better than anarchy. Without peace, you cannot worship Allah, you cannot even know him. The original meaning of Islam is peace."

In the same breath, Abubakar refuses to recognise the claims of the Ahmadiyyas, the most "persecuted" group in the Islamic world, whose members, for instance are not allowed to operate mosques in Pakistan. Says Abubakar: "There is a consensus in the Islamic world that Ahmadiyyas are not muslims. They can't perform hajj, they are not even a sect in Islam... There is no division in Islam... We have only one prophet, one God, that is

Allah, and we have one purpose, the hereafter".

But the Ahmadiyyas claim their sect is the "true Islam." The Ahmadiyya Movement originated from Pakistan as followers of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad who is said to have claimed prophethood. Muslims believe Mohammed is the seal of prophethood and for any muslim or believer to claim to be a prophet is unislamic. Another difference between the Ahmadiyyas and other muslims is the question of the virgin birth of Jesus. Muslims believe in the virgin birth of Jesus although they do not accept he was the son of God.



• Okogie Condemns use of condoms



• Shelter Kabara and one of his disciples | Government should examine its constitution

The Ahmadiyyas do not believe in the virgin birth of Jesus at all.

Islam, with its provision that a muslim may marry up to four wives if he can cater for them and live with them equally, is at peace with polygamy, a well-known practise in Africa. Not so christianity, at least not all of christianity. The "spiritual" churches, from the Celestial Church of Christ to the Cherubim and Seraphim generally allow their members to marry more than one woman. This is Okogie's explanation: "The unorthodox churches want people. They need as many converts as possible. Hence the concession on polygamy and other issues. But we in the Catholic Church don't believe in such things".

But Dr. Otuhu, Okogie's colleague in the Religious Affairs Council, disagrees. Says he: "The injunction on monogamy has kept behind a majority of people who would have joined the flock. They have searched the Bible without finding any justifiable reason for the injunction. It has led to young women being left on the shelf; it has led to uncalled-for divorces and to women being left uncatered for in their old age". Otuhu considers the resolution reached at the Lambeth Conference on polygamy a kind of vindication of the stand of his church and its type. The Anglican, buoyed by strong African backing, had recommended that men who had more than a wife before they joined the church could keep their spouses. They were, however, banned from acquiring more wives.

Other differences, more doctrinal than mundane, also threaten the unity of the church. The Pentecostals believe in the outward manifestation of the Holy Spirit — speaking in tongues, prophesying and all the other powers the disciples of Christ were said to have divinely acquired on Pentecost day. The Pentecostals are the most likely to be found distributing religious tracts and loudly exhorting sinners to repent, "for the kingdom of God is at hand!" The evangelicals, who have the Baptist Church, Evangelical Churches of West Africa and others in their ranks are like the Pentecostals, although with a dimmed intensity. They do not believe in the outward manifestation of the Holy Spirit. Rather, they believe the Holy Spirit is within. The Anglican, Catholic and Methodist which some derisively refer to as "Sunday best churches", are more restrained and less passionate in their worship.

WHATEVER be the merits of these positions, a problem, more worldly than ecclesiastical threatens the credibility of most churches in the country today. In Rev. Egeku's words: "It is no longer a hidden fact that the gospel has become the easiest way of making money... It is very unfortunate that the church is becoming a commercial venture. And isn't it even ridiculous that many people are registering (God's) ministries like limited liability companies?" Elder John Jones, leader of the Sunday Footsteps Gospel Messengers, Port Harcourt, is even more scathing: "Some leaders say they are feeding from the vineyard of God but they are rogues... Our churches are filled with satanic people in search of money."

So far, beyond the very visible flamboyant lifestyles of some "ministers of the Lord" there is no reputable minister of note who has been caught morally and literally pants down like Jim and Tammy Baker or Jimmy Swaggart in the United States. But the "evidence" from insiders who have had a bird's eye view of some untoward proceedings is grave enough. But some pastors say there is nothing wrong in a comfortable and even ostentatious life for a Christian. "I want to correct the impression that when a man becomes very wealthy he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That impression is not backed by the Bible," declared Prince Cousin Mosheshe who heads City of God Church, a sprawling, interdenominational church with firm roots in Warri, Bendel State.



• Ckiki: "I am yet to see any portion of the bible that authorises it (women as priests)"



• Amindeen: "We can't be in peace without harmony"

Another feature of 20th century evangelism that some do not consider healthy is the constant splitting of churches. If the regularity with which new churches are formed is any barometer, then dispensing the gospel must be a very rewarding vocation. This proliferation is an ailment that afflicts both the orthodox and unorthodox churches. The Methodist church is one of the best examples in this regard. Currently, there are two principal factions — the patriarchal and the presidential. They are strands of the two groups — each led by Bolaji Idowu and Sunday Mbang — that sit astride the church.

The problem as Shade Shomefun, a lay preacher with the Methodist church points out, is a constitutional one —

two groups disagree on the retirement age of the head of the church. Shomefun elaborates: "Can you imagine the extent of damage this crisis has wrought? This constitution *palawa* has divided a church in Somolu, Lagos, into two factions. One group holds its own service on the top floor of a storey building while the other group holds its own below at the same time. Can you imagine that the two pastors don't even greet each other all because of differences on the constitution?"

Shomefun also cites the case of a reverend gentleman on the patriarchal side whose "winning ways" with women was discovered. When he was confronted with the evidence of his misdeed, rather than risk a court case, the reverend promptly resigned and, gossips say, married a moslem woman.

Humphrey Osagiede, of the Christ Apostolic Church of God Mission, Benin, sees nothing unhealthy in the proliferation. Says he: "The bloom of churches has not seen the best yet. The church is entering its climax because the world is in its last days. God therefore wants to enter people through the blooming evangelism". However, the bloom seems to have assumed a mind-boggling dimension. Churches, it is said, are formed for reasons other than the spreading of the word.

And Felix Omobude, a former minister with Reverend Benson Idahosa's Church of God Mission, believes that the incidence of people using the church for reasons other than the worship of the Almighty has an explanation in the Bible: "It was predicted as one of the



• Jones: "Churches are filled with satanic people in search of money"

latter day signs that many will depart the faith."

Apparently worried about the rate at which divisions are occurring even in established churches, Iroakazi Egekwo says these are results of attempts by people to make material gains or lift up their own names instead of Jesus Christ."

Ironically, as the churches and mosques grow in number and the rank of faithfuls swell, religious fanaticism and intolerance eat deep into the nation's fabric. Sheik Nasiru Kabara, head of the Islamic Khadiyya sect in Africa highlights an even more disquieting development in Nigeria's religious turmoil. Obviously referring to last year's religious riots in Kaduna State which started from Kafanchan, and other conflicts in the recent past, Kabara says: "There were Gowon and Obasanjo. They were christians and things went smoothly... Government should examine its conscience to find out what is responsible for religious distrust."

The Sheik revealed that during the tenures of Gowon and Obasanjo, he made trips out of the country to some Islamic countries. "The leaders there kept on asking why a christian was the leader when the majority were moslems. My answer was that we were living together and our relationship was good". Kabara wonders why there is so much tension now that a moslem is leader.

Not everyone is puzzled by this mystery. Aminu Idris, Constituent Assembly member for Gezawa, Kano, thinks he knows why there seems a heightening in religious tension now perhaps more than ever before in the history of the country. His reason: "Some religions have no other ways of canvassing for support rather than to whip up sentiments". He goes further to articulate a design against islam: "There is this tendency for some people to ascribe conservatism to islam. It is not true. Islam is an all-time religion. There is an external effort to destabilize our country via religion".

A BBA Dabo, senior journalist and Constituent Assembly member for Dambatta, Kano State, says that it goes even beyond this. Foreign powers, he adds, are involved in a systematic ploy to exacerbate conflict. He identifies South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Israel, American churches as some of those who pump money into the country for their own selfish reasons. "There has been direct attempts by

foreign interests at using religion as a tool to spread their sphere of influence. People now live by it."

But there is quite another sort of influence that has nothing to do with foreigners. For reasons not unconnected with political gains some Nigerians are adopting or accommodating, or better still, identifying with religions other than their own. On the first Sunday of this year, January 3, worshippers at St. Matthews Anglican Cathedral, Sakponba, Benin, were startled when midway into the service, two well known politicians (one of them, a northern moslem



• Abuloye, Modifications from Lambert

with presidential ambitions) walked in together. The congregation was taken aback because it could not understand what a moslem and a Baptist were doing in the church.

But then, St. Matthews is popular with the cream of Benin society — ex-politicians, lawyers, professionals, royalty — and so it was inferred that the moslem politician was trying to make friends where it matters most: the house of God. The two politicians after their presence was announced ("The arrival of a friend of the church with his friend") took their seats in the front row. However, they left after the Baptist made his offering and it was announced that he and his friend "will be leaving us for an urgent national assignment out of Benin. The plane is waiting for them at the airport." The Baptist in his customary regal dressing and the moslem in his kaftan had then taken their leave, exchanging greetings and waving at the congregation.

Because of the differences between

the earthly and divine realms, some that hilarious things happen once in a while. Like his American counterpart, Everett Koop, Health Minister, Professor Olikoye Ransome-Kuti had supported the use of condoms as a practical preventive measure against AIDS. Kuti has followed up this support with verbal and other promotional assistance in the media and elsewhere. Kuti, a Catholic, had a taste of how doctrinal affairs can impinge on official matters. Because his vocal support for condom use is against the dictates of the Catholic church which is opposed to all forms of contraception, Okogie took decisive action. "Contraception is like eating your cake and having it. I fired Professor Kuti from the front pew when he approved the use of condoms. There are so many girls who are looking for children because they used these things in the past."

Most non-moslems take the pre-eminence of the Sultan of Sokoto, Su Suddiq Abubakar III in the nation's Islamic firmament for granted. This might be a popular view even among moslems but it is not a unanimous one. Sheik Aminudeen Abubakar describes the Sultan as the "social leader for Nigerian moslems, our spiritual leaders are the scholars". Aminudeen Abubakar also says "most of the *Baba Adinti* in the South are politicians. It is just to acquire cheap popularity. You can see that only businessmen acquire these titles. They are businessmen, not scholars."

Sheik Mahmoud Salga elaborates: "We do not recognize the Sultan as head of moslems. His claim to leadership is political. He claims it because he is a descendant of Usman Dan Fodio. In Kano, the Emir has an Ulamaa that announces when fasting should begin. He asks people to look out for the moon. If it is sighted we begin fasting. We don't rely on the Sultan".

Politics and religion can be bedfellows in the strangest of places. In Imo state, said to be predominantly Catholic, religion has entered the equation for the Third Republic. Catholics claim that six of the nine governors of the state since it was created in 1976 have been protestants. They want their share of political power so they can, among others, get back their schools which were compulsorily taken over by the Ukpabi Asika administration in 1970. But the moves to get political power for whatever reasons have their limit. If history is any indication, the people of the state will do the logical thing — choose

their political leaders on the basis of parties and platform, not religious denominations.

N Bendel and Rivers states, religious 'empires' are being put up. The almost legendary Father Emmanuel Edeh and his church, the Catholic Prayer Ministry of the Holy Spirit at Elele near Port-Harcourt occupy a sprawling expanse of land, complete with residential buildings, church, museum, a hospital under construction, a bakery, etc. Thousands of people attend special worship, a kind of pilgrimage attended by people from neighbouring towns and beyond on the first Saturday of every month. Father Ede's lure lies in the power of detecting, solving and curing all kinds of problems and diseases which his adherents claim he has. Some of these adherents are said to be so wealthy and numerous that a haul of N1 million is conservatively estimated to flow into his coffers every month. The church and its environs are also regularly patrolled by guards including policemen and soldiers from the 2nd Airmobile Brigade in Port Harcourt. Ede's powerful converts are said to make this possible. There is a sticker with the church's name and emblem. This, when blessed by Edeh, is believed to confer sanctity on whatever it is posted.

Ogokie thinks that Ede's "feats" and "miracles" are perfectly logical. "What they do is build on your faith. It is like psychology. Most of our people believe in holy water, placing hands on heads and so on. Father Ede and others try to brace up your faith. They emphasise such things as belief, confession, the mass. 'I don't see anything wrong in what they do'.

Benson Idahosa is perhaps Nigeria's most visible televangelist. From very modest beginnings, Idahosa has gone on to become a symbol of what a determined young man can do for himself with a little help from the supernatural. Armed with a paltry sum of N419 in 1975, Idahosa, in his own words, "took a big push from the Holy Spirit to start a multi-million naira project (the Miracle Centre)". This and other accomplishments, as well as numerous "crusades" in Nigeria and other parts of the world have financed the lifestyle of Nigeria's most flamboyant preacher.

Even in a country where successful religious "enterprises" are commonplace, the Deeper Life Ministry is formidable. With a membership of close to



• Egekwu It was women who took Christ's message to the disciples

a million people nationwide. Deeper Life, as it is popularly known is reputed to have the largest congregation in Africa. The church was midwived in the early 1970s by a publicity-shy ex-Mathematics lecturer at the University of Lagos, William Kumuyi. At the annual "retreats" in Lagos, worshippers are so numerous that some queue up for hours before it gets to their turn to get food. Every one of the numerous Sunday services in its Gbagada, Lagos headquarters nets at least N20,000. It



• Orabu Ordination of women is almost sacrilegious

has investments in landed and other property. The ascetic piety of members is their most remarkable feature.

It is known that the Lagos Central mosque, a great citadel of Islamic architecture was built at the cost of N40 million. Alhaji Wahab Iyanda Fola-wiyi, the Baba Adinni of Nigeria donated over N20 million to the much talked about Lagos mosque. Elsewhere in the country, money bags of all shapes contribute to all kinds of religious funds.

The success of those in the "big league" such as the above, and the success of the others such as the itinerant Islamic mallam and the Aladura "visioner" in his one room underscore one fact. Religion could be — and is — big money. Every-day flows into the coffers of religious organisations ranges from heartfelt offerings received from grateful individuals, to political funds doled out by those with designs, more devilish than divine. One thing is common to these monies: neither the methods of collection nor the amounts collected are kept track of. Of course they are not taxed. In the face of the dwindling fortunes of the Nigerian economy and the pervasive poverty in the country, the ostentatious lifestyle of some of these men of God definitely riles. This is not helped by the general impression that they may be dipping hands into the tills.

Beyond this, and even more dangerous, is the tendency to exploit issues of differences in faith as a basis for conflict. However lasting the effects of the current changes in the house of God, however positive or otherwise the end results are, they will still be meaningless if conflicts arising out of religious disagreements persist. In the hands of the fanatical fundamentalist or the ruthless opportunist, man's relationship with his creator, ordinarily a phenomenon beautiful beyond description, undergoes a drastic metamorphosis. It becomes a twisted, evil thing capable of initiating rancour and strife and war and death. Perhaps this is what informs Sheik Salga's statement: "Religion means peace and harmony. All those faithful who are fighting are not fighting for religion but politics. There is something in it that they exploit. It is certainly not religion or Islam but something like politics."

By Paul Nwabuloku with Debo Adesina, Sunny Blaghere, Humphrey Bekere, Abdul Oroh, Eddie Williams, Victor Alozie and Kole Ade-Odulola.

Spurious awards

SUNDRY international groups have jangling different kinds of awards to prominent Africans for one thing or the other. It was only last year that a private American group, the International Strategic Association (ISA) honoured President Babangida with its International award, because it said his Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) is "the boldest and most imaginative in the developing world." Last month, another American private group, New York-based Hunger Project, chose President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe as the winner of its 1988 Africa Prize for Leadership, for what it described as "sustainable end of hunger".

The fact that obscure foreign groups are now tripping over one another in a bid to bestow an award on African leaders is disturbing enough. However, the unkindest cut is the impression being created that these groups are all too willing to use even the flimsiest of excuses to confer on African leaders awards that enjoy hardly any lasting international value. It is annoying.

Throughout the ages, Africa has produced outstanding men and women that have won international recognition for excellence in their chosen fields of endeavour. Plotinus, mystic and founder of Neoplatonism; St. Augustine, a great church Father; and Hypatia, the first woman philosopher, were all eminent classical scholars from Africa that were highly revered in their times. Recently, before our very eyes, Wole Soyinka brought home the Nobel prize for literature, in a truly lasting tribute to a continent where several centuries ago in Alexandria, Egypt, the first scholarly effort to examine the arts and the sciences began.

Achievements like these can be said to eminently constitute part of the legacy that should make Africans here and in the diaspora, to be justifiably proud of their civilisation; especially since recognition, in these instances, was always from world-acclaimed fraternities or organisations, and attested to excellence proven in respect of outstanding performance in the pursuit of knowledge or in the advancement of humanity, through exemplary vision and sacrifice.

Whatever may be the case, it is easy to distinguish between international recognition earned in these regards, from recognition attaching to the more recent awards that

have, at best, only a spurious value. The ISA is a group specialising, not in macro-economic measurement, but in strategic studies. So, when it proceeds to bestow an award for economic performance, on the leader of the most powerful Black nation on earth, serious questions of competence and relevance are raised. The group's contention then that "the foundation of real economic strength" (supposedly laid by SAP) represents a testimony to "the difference an individual can make in his country, or the world", was clearly gratuitous, if not actually meant to divert attention and cause complacency. Of course, it was with a similar questionable qualification that the Hunger Project rationalised its award to Mugabe, suggesting, among other things, that he is "one of the intellectual giants of the African continent".

Yet, the fact that little known private organisations could sit in Washington and elsewhere, and elect, on the basis of their own criteria, to determine leaders providing outstanding economic leadership in the continent as well as Africans that are or are not "intellectual giants", is a most embarrassing situation. African reality is, of course, being characterised for us, as it is, by groups that enjoy no more than a passing acquaintance with our situation. Thus, at the time ISA was talking about economic breakthrough in this country, there was hardly a consensus on the issue. It will be interesting to know what it has to say about the Nigerian economy now.

Mugabe's award raises its own questions. During the week he got it for, among other things, pursuing economic policies that resulted in the influx of 1,000 white families in Zimbabwe in 1985, the entire country was grounded by serious fuel crisis. Many Africans, of course, know that Zimbabwe has been relatively well-off agriculturally and otherwise and is thus not the ideal place in which to measure success in the fight against hunger. Nor could it have been wrong to have expected that the \$405,000 that Mugabe was given for winning the award, would have been better utilised procuring relief for victims of famine in the continent.

African leaders must realise that getting caught up in high charades, for no other reason than accepting superfluous international awards, is a pastime they can do without.



Divinity and the polity



"One recalls that the early church was founded on communalism with all owning, sharing and caring for one another. Can that still hold today? Don't we see exploitation of some by others?"

BY EKPEIN APPAH

A grey-haired old man calls his only son one quiet evening and on a grave note advises the little boy never to go near a particular hut at the extreme end of their compound. No reasons were given; the innocent lad merely nodded innocently and staid.

But the boy is aware that his aging father enters the same hut every afternoon and re-emerges in the evening. He becomes curious; he wants to know why the vicinity of that hut is out of bounds. Too late; the father suddenly dies and is buried near the very hut.

By the time he was told that the hut was where his father had his stesta the boy, now a man, had been drawn in the belief that the place is mysterious and hence a sacred place. It became the family "godhome", a place of worship. A shrine evolved. Simplistic though it may sound, most religions spring from such mundane beginnings.

Tell a modern day christian that the much celebrated birthday of Mr Jesus Joseph (also known as Jesus Christ) has "pagan" roots, and you are accused of heresy. But it is true. December 25, 274 A.D. was the date Emperor Aurelian, having found a new religion for the ancient Roman Empire, dedicated the new temple of the Sun God, which the emperor described as the light that shines on all without discrimination.

Today, christians unshakably believe, and wish all to accept, that Jesus, who is not only the "saviour" but also "Son of God" who must sit permanently at the right hand side of God, was born on December 25. Make an attempt to educate believers that Jesus was a revolutionary nationalist who, having seen the plight of the oppressed poor in the depleted economy of Palestine, sided with the masses in calling for a change. You are sure to be dismissed as the "Devil Incarnate". Submerged in the belief that Jesus was the saviour, and only through him can all men get a passport to heaven, other additional facts about the historical Jesus are drowned as "devilish designs" to distort biblical facts.

Man, indeed, has been deplorably reduced to such a level where subservience to religious sermons is the ideal. Yet man is the principal architect in the evolution of religion and religious groupings. Man contrived the thoughts, the beliefs, practices and the institutions of reli-

gion. But today man is entrapped in his own creation. Is it that man, in his religious enslavement, has forgotten that religion exists solely on beliefs which are, in the main, inspired by narratives and revelations?

It is indeed because of these inspired revelations that religious principles defy rationalization. And so nobody can question the contents of the 114 *suras* (chapters) of the Quoran since they were believed to be the direct words from Angel Gabriel (or Jibril) to Prophet Mohammed, who was to recite them.

But because nature itself does not tolerate suffocating stagnation, questions arose. The christian faith, headed by the Pope, received a devastating blow from within its fold. Martin Luther, an Augustinian monk who was ordained priest in 1509, led a rebellion against the Pope. In his 95 theses which he pasted on the door of the church in 1517 he condemned the sale of indulgence as a way of raising money for the rebuilding of St. Peter's in Rome.

In his resolute defiance of the Pope, Luther created a precedent: the right of dissent within christianism. Luther's rebellion was carried further by Henry VIII of England who, with the support of parliament, severed ties with the papacy in 1534, creating the Anglican Church of England with full autonomy.

The Islamic religion fares no better in this respect either. Major contending views have now emerged. The Shiite and the Sunni moslems share diametrically opposed views about the holy places of worship in Mecca and Medina. There are also the "fundamentalists" who wish to practice orthodox islam and nothing more.

Luther's rebellion of 1513, Henry VIII's break with the papacy in 1534 and the events in our churches and mosques today suggest that they are clashes of elitist interests.

The elite, since they formulated the canons of the religions, interpret them for parochial selfish interests. This can be disastrous economically and politically for the lower echelon of religious followership. Among the Hindus of India, for instance, the enormous secular influence wielded by the Brahmans in addition to their religious powers and social prestige is a typical case of the elite class lordship it over the other classes.

Religion, like social institutions, confers power, prestige and even wealth on individuals. So we now see religious leaders making ferocious, but insidious, attempts to seize the state apparatus of governance, all in the name of God! Their tactics? Arouse the emotion of their benumbed and ignorant followership. Can man, then say confidently that he has been able to free himself from the stupefying vice-grip of religion?

And where does the poor believer belong in this religious matrix? Perpetual followership? One recalls that the early church was founded on communalism with all owning, sharing and caring for one another. Can that still hold today? Don't we see exploitation of some by others?

Agreed, religion is to stabilize man and the society and to give meaning to life, to existence. But the "stability" and "meaning" were supposed to, and, indeed, can only, be attained on the platform of egalitarianism which most religions preach. Faith binds all together — the high and the lowly.

But do religious leaders consider their lowly faithfuls? Can these lowly side-tracked followers evolve a religion of the oppressed to challenge the religion of the elite? This is where the crux of the matter lies.

Keeping Vigil

Armed robbers defeated on celluloid

FOR its target audience — Nigeria — the story is as familiar as a well trodden terrain. Those yet to experience the blood-curdling sensation of staring down the muzzle of an armed robber's gun have vicariously felt the chill crawl up their spine from the stories told by friends who have been victims.

A terrorised neighbourhood of middle class citizens. Impudent, but surprisingly mildly violent armed robbers. And, of course, an impotent police force. These are the raw materials which provide the departure point of "Vigilante", a new feature film produced and directed by two brothers, Afolabi and Adedeji Adesanya.

Set in an urban neighbourhood, some of the group of helpless residents have individually received discourteous calls from armed underworld men. "Vigilante" subtly, but in a graphic way reminds Nigerians of their caged existence symbolized by their living behind metal barricades and high concrete fences which would laugh the great China wall to scorn.

The leader of a gang of armed robbers (Uche Nnabundo) despatches a letter to the neighbourhood to warn them of their next visit. The plan boomerangs. Incensed, the residents are spurred by their chairman (Olu Jacobs) to form a vigilante group — having sought and found no satisfying response from a police boss (Ameo Eybodaghe) who is shown as a nincompoop. It is significant that the victims are largely middle-class citizens. The unfolding

story pulls at the heart's strings when Mr. Onilade (Wole Amele, Councillor Balogun in the long running TV series "Village Headmaster") poses the xxx poignant question: "Armed robbers have declared a war on us. What have we done? Certainly, the hearts of many average-income earners will echo the forlorn reply: "nothing! Here-in lies the essence of the "Vigilante".

Nigerians have been turned against themselves in a "dog eat dog" fashion

the fate of an apprehended robber.

For Afolabi and Adedeji Adesanya. "Vigilante" (their first full length film) is a bold adventure into the uncompromising quicksand that is the Nigerian film industry. The history of box office returns has witnessed very few film makers smiling to the bank (ask Eddie Ugbomah).

"Vigilante" could have been better realised with a deeper, more patient exploration. Their cinematic treatment does not exploit the immense advantages of the celluloid's elasticity. There is a surfeit of dark scenes (a reflection of the dark violent theme?). "Vigilante" uni-

directional, painfully linear plot, also limits the *oeuvre* of the film.

Understandably, the miserable budget of ₦70,000 cannot make a good film. Financial constraints, and the absence of required facilities, consistently present a frightening hurdle for indigenous film makers. The printing and mixing of "Vigilante" had to be done in London," explains Afolabi. The Adesanyas, however, would not confirm actors' fees nor the amount of debt incurred in making their film.

The Adesanyas may well be on their way out of the woods. "Vigilante" was passed, two weeks ago, in the universal (U) category by an acting 12 member film censorship board. This grants it the approval to be screened to both adults and children alike.

Following the world premiere held last weekend at the National Theatre Lagos, the viewing public would be on the vigil for "Vigilante". With them rests the fate of the bank statement of the Adesanyas. But because of its relevant theme, this is, I suspect, one film people will want to see.

By John Nwaobi



• Shooting Vigilante on location

Against bandits, infuriated and against an uncatchable elite class, pounce on poor Nigerians. In return, the citizens do not hesitate to lynch apprehended culprits. If "Vigilante" passes as a toast to courage, and a call for the positive assertion of communal will, its ending — an apprehended armed robber burnt to cinders — portends a simplistic, and dangerous solution. While the torching of the robber may be explained within the context of the film as deserved poetic justice, it is hardly a sustainable philosophical response to the question of what ought to constitute



• Producer Afolabi Adesanya ponders armed robbery menace

PEOPLE



• They came too Momoh and Dugue Broadcasting's Sunny Adun



• Majek



• SWALK's Jumoke Benson



• Onyeka

Glitzy

charity night!

"GIVE and may the Lord replenish your pockets ten-fold". But it was no religious affair. Some 800 guests had gathered at the Sheraton Hotel, Lagos, to donate to a trust fund being established for the disadvantaged in the Nigerian society.

The gala night, the idea of *Quality* magazine, was attended by a number of society's big names. The special guest of honour, Prince Tony Momoh, Minister for Information, appeared set to grab a charming personality's award with a smile that he flashed ever so often. The minister, famous for his long letters to Nigerians, made perhaps his shortest

• Assorted bunch: Belly growls



• Ezekiel and Adeosun: Charity boogie

speech: a 14-word statement. Others who shared the limelight included Chief Wole Adeosun, chief executive of First Bank of Nigeria, ex-Senator David Dalinone, and Dr. (Mrs) Doyin Abiola, managing director of Concord Press of Nigeria, who appears to

have a fetish for hats.

For *Quality* which was born under the most "inconspicuous circumstances", the night was also an opportunity to mark its first year in the news business. Its editor, May-Ellen Ezekiel, had good reason to wriggle her waist and tap her feet to the live music of reggae star Majek Fashek and the imitable Onyeka Onwenu. Adeosun and Dalinone could not resist doing a brief whirl themselves.

Comperes, John Chukwu and Femi Jarret, were in good gear. The duo told hilarious jokes and mimicked the peculiar speaking manner of various ethnic groups in Nigeria. The guests laughed till they were too hungry. Twelve-year-old

Tokunbo Ogunbiyi, son of Dr. Yemi Ogunbiyi of *The Guardian*, succumbed to the growls in his belly. A hasty message was sent to hostess Ezekiel, who in turn signalled to the comperes to put the brakes on their comic dialogue. Little Tokunbo, whose neatly barbered hair was fitted with a beige Awo cap, saved the night. The guests happily went in the direction of the sumptuous but by now cold dishes.

SWALK, an all female musical quartet thrilled the guests. The outfit comprises children of two well known families — the late Chief Olu Aboderin and Bobby Benson. Come the hour for donations, hands were dug into wallets to

• Doyin Abiola and NTA's Grace Egbagbe: Cold dishes



The AFRICAN Guardian

The Netherlands

An overview

QUEN Beatrix, the current head of state of The Netherlands, took over duties from her mother, Queen Juliana on April 30, 1980, just like Queen Elizabeth of England took over from her mother. In her capacity as head of state, Her Majesty Queen Beatrix opens The Netherlands' parliament every year on the third Tuesday of September by reading out the government's policies for the coming year; The Netherlands is a parliamentary democracy with a constitutional monarchy.

Ruling the Dutch presents no problems to Her Majesty Queen Beatrix, considering the size of the country which occupies a total land area of 41,863 square kilometers, which roughly is the size of Kano State in Nigeria. The 14.7 million Dutch that populate the country are so industrious that they make ruling a thing of joy for Her Majesty and, the "little Netherlands", the second largest exporter of agricultural produce in the world.



A buoyant and strong economy notwithstanding, The Netherlands is not without economic problems. The year 1973 was a difficult one in the post war development of the Dutch economy, according to the country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The first oil crisis, that year, had been preceded by a long period of economic expansion. Between 1960 and 1973, the Netherlands' GNP rose by an average of six per cent per annum and investment in industry went up by six to seven per cent every year. From 1945-1973, employment opportunities developed favourably and the average unemployment rate was two per cent.

After 1973 though, economic growth slowed down. The average annual growth between 1973 and



• Her Majesty Queen Beatrix



• Nigeria's President Babangida

CMB

A Rewarding Partnership



Innovation means creating new products and services to meet the specific needs of our clients in the sophisticated world of Merchant Banking.

No matter how complex your business is, you can bank on the strength, experience and support of Continental.

Our highly competent staff are trained to appreciate the dynamics of our constantly changing economy and work in partnership with your business.

So we offer you a rewarding association by constantly designing new products and evolving workable solutions to assist your business with sound professional advice in all areas of Merchant Banking - Loans and Overdrafts, Leases, Corporate Finance, Export Financing and Advisory Services. We're ahead with the great Ideas.



**Continental Merchant Bank
Nigeria Limited**

The Innovative and Efficient Merchant Bank

One Kingsway Road, Ikoyi, P. M. B. 12035, Lagos, Nigeria. Tel: 603020 - 39
Telex: 21585 CONTBK NG Telefax: 234-1-684311

Branches at: Kano, Kaduna & Port-Harcourt. Rep. Offices in Jos & Onitsha.

Peak

BRAND

Peak is the one that pours out rich, creamy goodness. Nigeria's favourite milk.

Peak is the one milk with the smooth, delicious taste that only Peak quality can give you.

Enjoy it! It's so good to know ...



Peak is the one

Price: N1.38

Bettafeeds

ST. MATTHEW DANIEL FARMS LIMITED

With Bettafeeds you can rest easy because nobody else makes high quality animal feeds at the price we offer.

Bettafeeds : Serious people dealing with animal feeds in a serious way
For purchases and further details please contact us at:

Bettafeeds :

St. Matthew Daniel Farms Ltd.,
Mile 2, (Just before Cararra Marble,
Co. Ltd.) St. Matthew Daniel Industrial Estate, Oshodi — Apapa Expressway,
P.O.Box 2762 Apapa. Telephone: 876986, 870379.



KLM: MORE THAN 65 YEARS OF AVIATION EVOLUTION

"The airline industry is subject to many outside influences such as fluctuations in exchange rates, liberalization, deregulation, fuel prices, landing rights and low wages." That was how the president of the Royal Dutch Airline — KLM, Mr. J.F. De Soet, summed up the situation in the airline industry today. But that was not how it was when KLM was founded on October 6, 1919. Although, it took until May 17, 1920 to operate the first flight between Amsterdam and London because of winter, KLM faced a different situation of trying to venture into an industry that was virtually non-existent.

According to schedule, the first flight from Amsterdam to London took four hours; a journey of less than an hour today. Although, the humble beginning of KLM began when it made that first flight with its DH-9 aircraft in 1920, aircraft and pilots were leased from the English company — Air Transport and Travel Limited.

The DH-9 did not serve long on the KLM lines. In 1920, Fokker had brought out a "real" passenger aircraft, the F-11, for which KLM immediately placed an order. In this aircraft, the four passengers sat on wicker chairs in an enclosed cabin and with windows which could be opened. The pilot in the F-11 sat away, up in front in an open seat.

The Netherlands — Nigeria trade relations

With the newly approved credit line of about 100

million guilders (about 200 million naira) for Nigeria, many industrialists, especially those that have business relations with The Netherlands believe that it is a new dawn in Nigeria-Netherlands trade relations.

The Royal Netherlands and Nigeria have been enjoying good bilateral trade and commercial relations for long. Nigerian companies that enjoy The Netherlands' participation include West Africa Milk Company (WAMCO), Nigerian Breweries Limited (NBL), Lever Brothers, TECO Limited and a host of others.

Netherlands has also been involved in civil, mechanical and electrical engineering projects in the country. Estates development and management, finance and banking, pharmaceuticals, etc are other areas.

Nigeria's major export to The Netherlands is petroleum. Others are agricultural produce such as cocoa, timber, hides and skins. There is market in The Netherlands for Nigeria's vegetables, raw materials for pharmaceuticals and automobile.

The Netherlands exports to Nigeria include machinery and transportation equipment, unrefined oil and oil products, fish, manufactured goods and chemical products. There has been constant exchange of trade visits between the two countries in order to explore other areas of co-operation.

1983 was only one per cent. The late 1970s and early 1980s were marked by economic stagnation and a decline in GNP, with the level of investment also falling appreciably. Consequently, unemployment rose greatly in 1973 — 1983 period. Industry, which had accounted for a large number of jobs prior to 1973, became less labour intensive and the number of jobs declined rapidly. At the same time, the labour force was growing, in fact it is still growing at a much faster rate than that of most other countries. Fewer jobs and a larger work force meant that unemployment rose from three per cent in 1973 to 17 per cent in 1983. Fortunately, the country's economy began to recover from the recession in 1983 and a new stage of expansion began.

The Dutch, since then, have taken advantage of the increase in world trade, which began in 1983, by intensifying its export drive and this has resulted in appreciable benefits for the country. Export of goods and services account for 65 per cent of its GNP. The country's economic recovery since 1983 was therefore initially largely export based.

In the course of 1984 — 85 period, investment and private consumption also made a substantial contribution to the renewed growth of the Dutch economy. Although the economy showed signs of recovery in 1985 and 1986, this trend did not continue in 1987. According to The Netherlands' Foreign Trade Agency, "Net National Income which had risen by four per cent in 1986 hardly grew at all in 1987. Industrial output was roughly unchanged last year, but a slight decline in competition led to a drop in the value of export. At the same time, the dollar's

decline also caused a drop in the value of imports. As a result, the trade surplus of previous years completely disappeared last year. Nonetheless, despite the dollar's fall, the agricultural sector posted some remarkable growth. Improvements were also recorded in inflation and unemployment. Consumer prices fell 0.8 per cent in 1987, giving The Netherlands the lowest inflation rate of any member of the European Community."

In addition to the trade sector which has traditionally been strong, government's macro-economic policy also focuses on new products and services that have the potential for international success. For example, biotechnology, environmental and medical technology and the offshore sectors are all showing strong growth. The fast growing services sector will be dominated in the next few years by the economic integration of Europe.

As a highly developed gateway to Europe, The Netherlands will have to continue to stand its ground after a unified Europe is created in 1992, in order not to lose to new competing countries. For, apart from deposits of natural gas in the north of the country and salt in the east, The Netherlands lacks minerals and raw materials of its own, and the overwhelming majority of the required raw materials and semi-manufactured goods have to be imported for processing.

For this reason, the Dutch economy must produce as many high quality goods as it can in order to generate the export revenue — together with the revenue from services and capital flows — that is needed to finance imports.

ASSOCIATED ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS (NIGERIA) LTD.

the name behind world
famous Philips
products.



For over 30 years, Associated Electronic Products Nigeria Limited has been contributing to the development of vital areas in the Nigerian economy by producing the best in advanced technology — world famous Philips products and services. In homes, every Philips product symbolises superior craftsmanship, quality and performance. Nationwide, worthy testimonies

of our contributions abound in the Aviation, Electronic and Service industries as well as the field of medical sciences, telecommunication and commerce.

In services, Philips has unrivalled resources to provide nation-wide after-sales service for its products including a one year guarantee on Philips T.V. sets.

PHILIPS

We want you to have the best



"The land of green vegetable"

THE land area known today as The Netherlands comprises a group of autonomous duchies (Gelre and Brabant) and countries (Holland and Zeeland) together with the bishopric of Utrecht. The Netherlands forms part of the north-west European plain and is bounded in the east by West Germany, in the south by Belgium and in the north and west by the North Sea. It has an area of 37,305 square kilometers and is slightly larger than Belgium but slightly smaller than Denmark and Switzerland. The total official area is 41,863 square kilometres, and includes more than 4,243 sq km of territorial waters, inlets etc.

The labour force is made up of 5.5 million people, 6.7 per cent of whom work in the services sector, 28 per cent in industry and 5 per cent in agriculture and fisheries.

The official name of the country is "Netherland" or The Netherlands, but foreigners often refer to it as Holland which, strictly speaking, only applies to the two western coastal provinces of North and South Holland. The official name literally means low land. The highest point in The Netherlands is in the extreme south-east, 321 metres above sea level.

The first step towards establishing an independent state was taken in 1568 when a number of the provinces rebelled against Philip II of Spain, sovereign ruler of the Burgundian-Hapsburg domains. The revolt, led by Prince William of Orange, who has gone down in Dutch history as the father of The Netherlands, marked the beginning of the 80 years' war of independence. The peace of Westphalia (1648) recognised the Republic of the Seven United Provinces as an independent state.

However, Prince William of Orange, count of Nassau, is regarded as the father of the Dutch Royal Family and founder of the Dutch state. The house of Orange-Nassau, the Royal House of Netherlands, has been associated with The Netherlands since 1402, when count Engelbrecht of Nassau acquired large estates in the low countries by marriage. At that time, there was no independent Dutch state; most of the areas that later became The Netherlands were governed by the Royal House of Burgundy, a branch of the French Royal Family. The title of "Prince of Orange" was hereditary in both the male and female lines. The Netherlands remained independent until the French revolution. In 1795 it became vassal state of the French Empire and in 1810 it was annexed to France by Napoleon. When the French occupation came to an end in 1814, the Kingdom of Netherlands came into existence, comprising The Netherlands and present day Belgium and Luxemburg.

The first King, William I, Prince of Orange Nassau, was the son of the last Standholder, William V. The Netherlands was a major colonial power until the second world war, but after 1945 the colonies quickly became independent. Among the major constitutional acts performed by Queen Juliana were the signing in 1949 of the treaty transferring sovereignty over the former colony of the Dutch East Indies to the Government of the Republic of the United States

of Indonesia and, in 1954, the Royal Assent to the charter of the Kingdom of The Netherlands proclaiming the equality of The Netherlands.

The main themes of Queen Juliana's speeches during her reign were respect for life, international solidarity and close cooperation within Europe. When Queen Juliana abdicated at the Royal Palace in Amsterdam on April 30, 1980, her eldest daughter Beatrix became head of state and was inaugurated as Queen the same day at a joint session of both Houses of Parliament in Amsterdam. April 30, is also celebrated as Queen Beatrix's official birthday.

As head of state, Queen Beatrix closely follows the affairs of government. She is in regular and direct contact with her ministers and state secretaries, the Vice President of the Council of State, the Queen's Commissioners in the provinces, the burgo-masters of major towns and Dutch ambassadors abroad. The Queen's duties are both legislative and executive.



• Cheese market in Alkmaar. The Dutch are industrious

Development Cooperation

Development policy is an integral part of Dutch foreign policy and is based on the same fundamental principles. Development aid from The Netherlands is primarily intended to benefit the poorest countries and the poorest groups in these countries (Nigeria is not considered to be poor by The Netherlands) and to also assist developing countries to become economically self-reliant. The Netherlands agrees with many developing countries that a new international economic order is highly desirable. Hence, she has been willing to cooperate with Nigeria in her debt rescheduling effort.

The Netherlands achieved the internationally agreed aim of allocating at least 0.7 per cent of GNP to official development aid in 1975, making it the second country after Sweden to achieve this target. In 1985, no less than 1.5 per cent of her GNP was spent on development aid.

**On High Quality and Low price
one Textured paint
comes out super**

SIGMAROLL SUPER

Sigmaroll Super textured paint has been uniquely formulated for the Nigerian climate... combining very high quality with low price. That's what makes Sigmaroll Super unique in the market. It fits your taste for high quality and is priced to suit your purse.

Sigmaroll Super gives the desired rough texture in one application. It adheres easily to concrete, stone and plaster... without peeling off.

**Price:
#180.00**



Sigmaroll Super is real value for money... with one drum covering up to 35 square metres. When you want to use, don't dilute, just stir and start the job with your Roller. It is available in various beautiful colours to suit your taste.

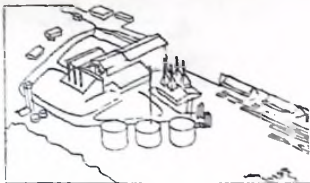
Sigmaroll Super is manufactured in Nigeria By:
HAGEMeyer (NIGERIA) LIMITED
— makers of SIGMA PAINTS.



**Sigmaroll Super
Textured Paint**

-Top Quality plus low price

TECO STORK : a household name in palm oil and food processing systems.



from single units to integrated plants

Nature of Business: Management of Engineering Projects
Design, Manufacture, Supply & Service of

1. Stork Palm Oil M.O. Equipment
2. Stork Sugar Mill & Brewery
3. Stork Pulp & Paper Processing
4. Stork-Dairy Oil Rendering Equipment
5. Hemozo Spraying Equipment
6. Palm Oil and Palm Kernel Oil Extraction and Refining

STORK AMSTERDAM

Kerklaan 2, 1021 JA Amsterdam
Postal Address: P. O. Box 5007
1003 AA Amsterdam - The Netherlands
Telephone: 22-348511 - Telex: 12817
Telegrams: 510rkamsterdam

TECO LIMITED

11, Oberlin Avenue, Willy, Br. A
New Licensing Office
P. O. Box 1304, Anik, Lagos State,
Nigeria
Phone: 421 8631/3
Cable: Telegaph: TECO PALM
Telex: 20318 TOS 139

**Agro-Allied(Food), Petroleum,
Chemical and Paint Industries**

put their trust in

Van Leer
Packaging Worldwide

Our containers are available in
the following sizes:

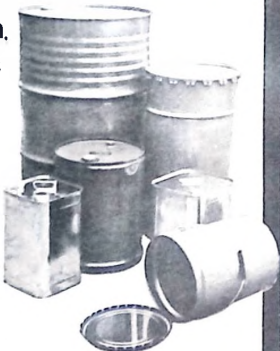
210 litres 60 litres 20 litres
200 litres 35 litres 18 litres
Internally plain or Lacquered

For your packaging requirements see the experts:

Van Leer Containers (Nigeria) Limited
Main Office
1, Awolowo Road, P. O. Box 76, Apapa
Lagos, Nigeria. Tel: 877024 & 7705, 877007



Van Leer
Packaging Worldwide



Past and future spending on development cooperation

1984	4,365.4	Million guilders
1985	4,619.2	Million guilders
1986	5,132.0	Million guilders
1987	5,285.0	Million guilders
1988	5,440.0	Million guilders
1989	5,600.0	Million guilders
1990	5,770.00	Million guilders

- The unit of Dutch currency is the guilder.

Nigeria, though an historical trading partner of The Netherlands, is indebted to the country to the tune of about 900 million guilders (about £1.8 billion). Because of the accumulated debt of Nigeria to The Netherlands, new loan facility was stopped. However, with the new effort of the Nigerian government to see to it that Nigeria is able to continue business with her trading partners, steps are being taken for Nigeria's debt with The Netherlands to be rescheduled. On the other hand, it is interesting to note the enthusiastic willingness of the Dutch government to reschedule Nigeria's debt. It is a general feeling in The Netherlands that the Dutch have confidence in the Nigerian economy, and are prepared to help get it back on the main stream. In fact, on many occasions, it was the Dutch government that initiated moves aimed at helping Nigeria reschedule her debt. According to Nigerian Ambassador to Netherlands, Iro Ladan Baki, "Nigerian Minister of Finance is a very busy person, and we should not forget that he has to attend to other countries that Nigeria is owing.

However, all arrangements have been concluded and papers should be signed in no time on the issue of Nigerian debt rescheduling with Netherlands."

As at the end of last year (1987) the balance of trade was still in favour of Nigeria with Dutch exports valued at DFL 411 Mln (N642,187,500) and Nigerian exports at DFL 630 Mln (N984,375,000) mainly as a result of oil products.

Foreign policy

One of the main features of The Netherlands foreign policy has always been a keen interest in the evolution of international law. For example, the first International Peace Conferences were held at The Hague in 1899 and 1907. The Permanent Court of Arbitration and the International Court of Justice (formerly the Permanent Court of International Justice) both sit in the Peace Palace in The Hague.

Prompted by its desire for an international system of law, The Netherlands became closely involved in the League of Nations which was succeeded after the second world war by the United Nations. Dutch Foreign policy since 1945 can best be described as the active pursuit of peace.

Although, her descendants are those who perpetrate apartheid in South Africa, "The Dutch government and people are anti-apartheid". The Netherlands is a strong advocate of detente and disarmament, the protection of human rights, and elimination of all forms of radical discrimination. The government takes initiatives on these areas when it feels such steps are necessary.

The Dutch

Their gold-colour hair, ruddy complexion and merry blue eyes, distinguish the Dutch from most Europeans. Windmills and wooden shoes, chocolate and cheese, tulips and placidly grazing cows make up the international image of the Dutchman and his country. Generally warm and friendly, the Dutch is ready to help or even do business with you, once he is convinced. The people are so direct that they will tell you their minds without sentiments. As someone puts it, "The Dutch are so straight forward that they might hurt your feeling without deliberately doing so."

The ambassador of Nigeria to The Netherlands, Mr. Ladan Baki, said "the people are so hospitable that it did not take me time before I started exchanging visits with my neighbours." Most average Dutch like to ride their bicycles to and from work. Cyclists have as much right, on The Netherlands roads, as motorists. In fact, every track is marked with bicycle signs.

Most Dutch people can speak English language, though not like their mother tongue. And this is understandable. The Dutch are surrounded by water and the people have held a long and very real struggle to keep the sea at bay, and "while they are at the bottom, they have persistently managed to come out on top". With salt water running his

veins, a Dutchman is as much at home on the sea as on land. The Dutch have acquired a reputation for excellence in marine engineering, but they are also thrifty and practical.



• HM Queen Beatrix (second from left), H.R.H. Prince Claus and their children

NMB Bank

The need to give financial support to both small and medium scale industries prompted the establishment of some banks in the Netherlands in the early part of this century. The research conducted at the same period, which showed that small and medium scale industries will provide The Netherlands with solid economic base, also made these banks concentrate on giving financial assistance to this sector of the country's economy.

However, when it was realised that the banks were not efficient enough to carry out the functions they set out to perform, The Netherlands government decided to encourage them to merge and form one but solid financial institution that would still carry out the same role. Thus, in 1927, the merger of these banks brought into existence a bank named NMB Bank. At the early stages, the new bank was the only bank that had the privilege to grant government guaranteed loans to needy customers. During this period, the bank went public and The Netherlands government became the majority shareholder. In recent years, however, the government did not take up its rights to subscribe for new shares, by which, "the interest of the government diminished with time, to only 7 per cent."

Apart from providing loans to its customers at home to start companies abroad, the bank also gives special assistance, like helping its customers to solve their investment problems abroad. Much more to its traditional function, NMB Bank has speciality in two areas. One is called "LDC banking" which means banking in developing countries and the second is Trade Finance in general. In LDC banking, NMB Bank gives services in debt-conversion and asset trade. "NMB Bank is a pioneer in the concept of debt conversion in places like Brazil (in 1964), Mexico, Argentina, Philippines, Uruguay and so on. The concept of debt conversion is a partial solution to the financial problems of the developing countries", said Mr. J.M.A. Yntema, one of the general managers of the international division of NMB Bank.

"In addition, one of our specializations is to assist various governments in developing countries to buy off their debts, whereby such a country may benefit from the discount with which such claims are traded in the secondary market."

About Nigeria, Mr. Yntema said, "although we do not have any of our branches in Africa, we intend to be in Africa very soon and we are going to start in Nigeria." When asked why in Nigeria, he said, "Nigeria was chosen because of our speciality which takes many requirements into consideration. We need a large market, export oriented country, and a country which needs foreign investment; Nigeria fulfills all these. Nigeria is large and at the moment, promoting the export sector as well as in need of foreign investment for her development. We are impressed with what is happening in Nigeria. The government is very proficient with in new economic policies."

We hope to have a partnership deal with Continental Merchant Bank of Nigeria in which NMB bank will take a share to the tune of 20% of CMB

bank. "NMB Bank, Mr. Yntema further explained, sees the debt of the developing countries as an opportunity to put our expertise into practice".

Viasar-Services

Viasar-Services is a practice orientated company of consulting engineers with head office in Utrecht, The Netherlands. Viasar-Services is a highly specialised enterprise and has executed projects in the fields of civil and agricultural engineering. Twenty five years ago, Viasar-Services accepted a challenge to work in Africa. Today, the company is still very much around and "intends to remain long into the future." "The experience we have gained by working in African countries allows us to offer extensive logistic support, technical assistance and local presence," said the Managing Director, Mr. Cor B.J. Ribbert.

Viasar-Services is part of Royal Fokker Stevin, an international contracting company with more than 150 years of experience to its credit. The operations of Viasar-Services include, institutional development, supply contracts, irrigation and drainage, training of personnel and industrial activities.

In Nigeria, Viasar-Services has carried out a comprehensive feasibility study for the production and exportation of granite blocks, which also includes production line for finished granite products. The company also proposes to give technical assistance to plant and equipment rehabilitation and the establishment of a plant and equipment leasing company. Roads Nigeria Limited is one of the affiliated companies of Royal Fokker Stevin, while Viasar-Services is a 100 per cent subsidiary of the conglomerate.

The Managing Director of Viasar-Services believes that his company could be of great help in developing the maintenance culture in Nigeria.

Hagemeyer

Established in 1900, Hagemeyer is an international company, marketing branded consumer and professional products through a sales and distribution network comprising 40 subsidiaries and joint ventures in some 20 countries around the world.

With headquarters in Naarden, The Netherlands, Hagemeyer represents many of the world's best known consumer brands, including National/Parasonic/Technics, JVC, Christian Dior, Gillette, Moulinex, Corning, Olympus, Fuji, Delsey and many more. Hagemeyer also designs, markets and distributes its own branded products in specific countries.

Hagemeyer's success rests primarily on the depth and quality of service it provides both to its principals and to customers.

First incorporated in May 1960 under the name of Sick Hagemeyer (Nigeria) Limited, it later changed to Hagemeyer (Nigeria) Limited to comply with the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Decree of 1978.

The paint factory has an installed capacity of 1.2 million gallons of paints per annum, if the factory operates one shift. For high quality to be maintained, Sigma Paints enjoy technical support in form of product development from Sigma Coatings B.V., Holland. Sigma Coatings B.V. is known the world over for its high quality paints and allied products.

NMB BANK

ASSET TRADING AND DEBT CONVERSION

In 1987 the worldwide
NMB Asset Trading & Debt Conversion Group
closed 951 transactions with counterparties
that included banks and corporations from 36 countries
and involved purchases, sales, swaps and conversion
of LDC debt in US\$, DM, SFR, ECU, BFR,
CAN\$, and HFL, in excess of

US\$ 3,400,000,000

The transactions involved loans to, among others, Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Senegal, Turkey, Uruguay, Yugoslavia, Venezuela and Zambia.

For more information on how you can put
NMB Bank's expertise to work for you, call:

New York: Peter Geraghty, Jorge Anwandter (212-7157300)

Amsterdam: Jaap Venema (20-5635285)

Paris: Michiel Rang, Jonathan Prior (1-42615525)

Hamburg: Robert de Roo (40-302020)

Hong Kong: Daisy Ng (5-266031)

São Paulo: Willem Naves, Jordi Wiegerinck (11-2513377)

Buenos Aires: Hernan Caffarone (1-3315984)

Tokyo: Yukio Okiyama (3-2126481)

NMB BANK

AT & T and Philips

Telecommunications: The origin

AT & T and Philips Telecommunications (abbreviated to APT) is a joint company formed by The Netherlands-based Philips and the USA based AT & T. AT & T is the largest telephone operating company in the world. It provides telecommunications and information services, mainly in the United States, and enjoys the services of Bell Labs, the world's famous research and development centre while Philips is reputable as Europe's largest electronics company with specialisation on telecommunications, household appliances, office automation and air traffic control systems. Others are radar and optical recording systems as well as innovative technologies for medical use. Therefore, the marriage between these two giant transnationals of AT & T and Philips was welcome in the international telecommunications industry. Since the merger, the two companies have been using their extensive experience in the design, installation and management of high-efficiency local and long distance telephone networks and they both maintain the highest standards when doing so.

The APT Company

AT & T and Philips Telecommunications is a Netherlands based holding company with subsidiaries in Belgium, Italy, The Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. While APT has liaison offices in China, India and Indonesia, it is represented in the African Region by AT & P Telecommunications Limited based in Lagos, Nigeria. APT has a minority stake in the Nigerian company which is run completely by indigenes. APT supports developing countries by helping them restructure and extend their telecommunications networks. And APT acknowledges its responsibilities to the people where it operates by developing telecommunication systems that fit such environment and training the indigenes to man these systems as well as paying taxes to the government and encouraging industrial harmony between management and staff.

APT products and services include 5 SESS-SPC-Analogue switching system, coaxial, optic fibre and other digital and analogue multiplex and line systems. Others are operation systems like Data kit data transmission equipment, ISDN Access systems. There is also access to the complete range of private and public communications and complete network systems manufactured by AT & T of the United States and Philips of The Netherlands.

Services offered include the training of personnel in technology and operations of telecommunication system, and private and public telecommunications consultancy. APT's products and services have been tried and tested in the world's most exacting market — the United States. In addition the following countries have installed APT equipment. They are Brazil, Saudi Arabia, India, Venezuela, Egypt and Taiwan. Others are Singapore, South Korea, United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Turkey, Indonesia, Spain and People's Republic of China. Over 70 countries,



• E.J. Eekel, President AT & T and Philips Telecommunications, and below:UMA Yntema, GM (inter. Div.) NVB Bank



including Nigeria, have engaged the services of AT & T and Philips Telecommunications.

Haskoning

Haskoning was established in 1881 as an independent partnership. It was the first firm of consulting engineers and architects founded in The Netherlands. The partnership changed into a company with limited liability in 1961. In the same year Haskoning was celebrating its centennial. It was awarded the honorary title of "Royal" by the Dutch Crown.

Since 1951 Haskoning has been operating, in collaboration with local authorities and consultants in countries outside Europe as partners in development. At present Haskoning draws its experience and potential from a staff of highly qualified university graduates, and other technical staff. Over 450 experienced personnel are specialised staff of the company. They are in fields like architecture, civil and structural engineering, electrical and mechanical engineering, environmental engineering, planning, hydraulics, hydrology power generation and agronomy.

MOST BRIGHT CHILDREN HAVE RATHER SPECIAL PARENTS.

1984 was the start of an exciting company. A child born out of the marriage of two of the world's most respected names in telecommunications and electronics technology, AT&T and Philips.

From day one it was obvious that AT&T and Philips Telecommunications was no ordinary company.

Both of its parent companies have passed on unparalleled histories of technological innovation in their respective fields.

AT&T has always been in the forefront of telecommunications, tracing its origins back to the father of the telephone, Alexander Graham Bell. Its research and development centre, Bell Laboratories, is world-famous with 7 Nobel Prizes to its credit.

It was there, in 1947, that the transistor was invented. One of the greatest revolutions in the history of electronics. In 1962 they entered the space age with the launch of Telstar, the world's first communications satellite.

And 1965 saw the introduction of the Electronic Switching System, still recognised as a major break-through in telephone communication technology.

As Europe's largest electronics company, Philips' credentials are equally impressive.

It is continually creating innovations in professional and consumer electronics, with special reference to state of the art transmission techniques.

It is pioneering new industry standards for



optical fibres and transmission systems. It all goes to show that although AT&T and Philips Telecommunications is the world's youngest telecommunications company, it is also the most experienced.

And that experience can be put at your disposal almost anywhere in the world to meet practically every local market need, establishing AT&T and Philip Telecommunications as the ideal partner for designing and building advanced telecommunications networks.

For More Information, Contact:
AT&P Telecommunications Limited
Representative of AT&T and Philips Telecommunications
4A Idowu Taylor Street
Victoria Island
P.O. Box 71720
Lagos
Telephone: + 234 1 615837
Telex: 23111 NG
Telefax: + 234 1 615847

AT & T AND PHILIPS TELECOMMUNICATIONS.
YOUR CONNECTION WITH THE FUTURE.



to mention a few.

The expertise of its personnel, together with the experience gained over the years on many projects, are a guarantee for quality and fast solutions optionally adopted to the problems encountered in particular circumstances.

Haskoning has a company in Nigeria with a long string of successfully completed projects. On the other hand, NEDECO, Netherlands Engineering Consultants is a long established and well known group of closely co-operating consulting firms. The group members are leading firms of consulting engineers, public and private institutions, specialised laboratories, economic planning units and management consultants. For NEDECO, international consultancy means finding innovative and cost effective solutions to specific technical and engineering problems.

Talking of consultants, Professor J.R. Brouwer of Haskoning said "it is now touted in Nigeria which is very unfortunate. Consultancy is a professional work. These days in Nigeria people just tell you that they are consultants and quote below projects cost just to make money, but at the end of the day soon realise that it is just not realistic. That is why you see a lot of abandoned or defective projects in Nigeria". However, he hopes to see this change in Nigeria.

Haskoning, Professor Brouwer said, has a name to protect, "therefore the company does not compromise standard and quality." In handling a complicated or interdisciplinary assignment which is of an extremely large size, Haskoning prefers to cooperate with other

firms in order to satisfy the client's requirements. Haskoning has, through the years, become one of the most respected companies in the world.

Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO)

Financial strangulation is a reality in Nigeria today. Most companies in Nigeria are undeniably under a very severe financial pressure. Their financial capabilities to stay afloat under the current depressed economic climate continues to dwindle day by day. Many of them are looking for financial help so desperately that one is tempted to liken them to a "gentle madman."

If you are one of these companies that are viable but in need of financial support, you can start smiling because the Netherlands Development Finance Company is ready to give you that financial support. All you need do is just find out about the company.

Incidentally, the company secretary Mr. H. Hillbrand said that, "all we are looking for in Nigeria are good and viable projects that we can support. You see, good projects are not enough; they (projects) must also be viable. Good project can be made, but good entrepreneur cannot. That is why we want good entrepreneurs and viable projects".

The Netherlands Development Finance Company became a limited liability company in 1970. It emerged from the cooperation between the state of The Netherlands and Dutch private business and industry. The state holds 51 per cent of the share capital; 49 per cent is

West Africa Milk Company

As an affiliate of C.C. Friesland of The Netherlands, West Africa Milk Company (WAMCO) has benefitted a great deal from the parent company since it was established some 15 years ago in April 1973. As a limited liability company, initially WAMCO was registered to "manufacture, process, pack and distribute various milk products in Nigeria." However, the company went public as a result of the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Decree of 1977. Consequently, the Nigerian share moved up to 60 per cent, while the Dutch partners hold 40 per cent.

WAMCO, without exaggeration, is the only manufacturer of evaporated milk in Nigeria today. The company commenced production on August 25, 1975, with the *Rainbow* brand which was later dropped in favour of the popular *Peak* and *Black and White*.

With its factory located on 8,312 acres of land at the Ogha Industrial Estate, Ikeja, WAMCO has an installation capacity of 1,200,00 cartons of 96 x 170 grammes evaporated milk per annum. In 1982, this capacity was increased to 2,500,00 cartons in the course of an expansion programme. It need not be stressed that "Peak" milk is a household name in Nigeria today due to its high quality.

TECO STOCK

In Nigeria, TECO Limited was established in 1980 with the aim of carrying out engineering designs, procurement of processing equipment, co-ordination



• WAMCO MD Dehrius

• C.A. Aladewolu Teco Ltd.

and supervision of sub-contractors, start-up and commissioning of plants. To fulfil its objective, TECO is at present engaged in the following areas: palm oil and palm kernel, oil extraction and refining, poultry processing technology and the production of various dairy products from primary raw materials.

TECO Limited is also involved in the distribution and servicing of mist-blowers which are manufactured by Homeco B.V. of The Netherlands to various plantations and health institutions for the application of insecticides, fungicides, various chemicals and fertilizers. TECO Limited is a strong partner to a number of Dutch companies for the industrial development of Nigeria.



Why call in a foreign investment bank?

An entrepreneur wishing to establish or expand a small or medium scale industry will need finances to carry out his plans.

Part of the necessary financing such as suppliers' credit, overdraft facilities and medium/long term loans in local currency should be obtained locally. In many cases, however, part of the investment is to be made in machinery and equipment which is to be imported and has to be paid for in foreign currency.

The **Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO)** is a development bank established by the government of the Netherlands and the Dutch business community with the specific aim to stimulate economic and social progress by co-financing export-oriented projects offering good prospects for profitability and a beneficial impact on the development of the country where these projects are located.

FMO offers co-financing by way of participating - in local currency - in the share-capital of an enterprise and/or the granting of medium/long term foreign currency loans (in Dutch guilders). Furthermore **FMO** acts as an intermediary in identifying Dutch technical partners and - if so required - joint-venture partners. **FMO** may also contribute finance for partially meeting the costs of technical assistance (training, management, marketing and technical advice) and of feasibility studies.

FMO operates on a commercial basis and expects - as soon as profitability permits - to be paid dividends on its shareholdings.

FMO's interest rates on its Dutch guilder loans are based on the prevalent rates in the Dutch capital market.

Further information on **FMO's** objectives is given in our brochure, which can be obtained by writing to:

Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO)
P.O. Box 93060
2509 AB THE HAGUE
The Netherlands



Netherlands Development Finance Company
your investment partner

offering you assistance in obtaining:

- suitable Dutch business partners
- tailor-made equity and loan packages
- management and know-how support

owned by private share holders, mainly industrial firms, banks and also the Trade Union Federation.

The object of the company is to make contributions to the advancement of productive business enterprise in developing countries in order to stimulate their economic and social progress in accordance with the aims pursued by their governments and with the policy of The Netherlands government in regard to development cooperation.

F.M.O. seeks to achieve its objectives by providing finance for investments made by individuals or firms that carry on business or a profession in a developing country or plan to do so. To this end, F.M.O. may participate in the share capital of a firm to be financed and it may grant medium term loans in Dutch guild-

without any difficulty. F.M.O. will refrain from offering financial participation, said Hillebrand.

Nigerian Breweries Limited (NBL)

NIGERIAN Breweries Limited is Nigeria's pioneer brewery. Its products: *Saor, Gulder, Rex, Malina and Green sands shandy*, are market leaders in their own rights. The company has breweries in Lagos, Abu, Kaduna and Ibadan. It has also established an 8,000-hectare mechanised farmland in Gbako, Niger State, where maize and sorghum are grown as main crops, with soya beans and cow-peas as rotational crops. These grains provide the company with part of its raw material requirements.



• Nigeria's Trade and Industries Minister, Alani Akinniyi



• Felix Owersi- NBL's Managing Director

ders, an offer earmarked for the purchase of capital goods abroad. Within these activities F.M.O. may also contribute finance for partially meeting the costs of technical assistance (training, management, marketing and technical advice) and of feasibility studies.

F.M.O. aims at the financing of enterprises in developing countries which, operating with acceptable profitability, offer prospects of establishing themselves, and at the same time, contribute to the economic and social development in the countries.

F.M.O. concerns itself with the combating of poverty, the encouragement of economic self-reliance, the creation of jobs with reasonable terms of employment, the stimulating influence on the economic and social environment, the use of local raw materials with positive effects on balance of payments.

F.M.O. company secretary said: "To be eligible for the company's assistance, a written application is required, with accompanying information that will enable F.M.O. to judge its merits".

The company does not compete with other suppliers of finance to its own advantage; if the enterprise seeking finance is able to raise funds elsewhere

When fully operational, a total sum of about N27 million would have been invested on land and the provision of facilities and equipment.

With over 40,000 shareholders, the company enjoys a "blue chip" status at the Nigerian Stock Exchange. A good employer of labour, NBL offers direct employment to some 4,000 people, while its operations generate employment in such ancillary industries as those for the manufacture of bottles, crown corks, crates and cartons. NBL's operations also benefit transporters, advertising agencies, media houses, hotels, clubs, direct customers and attachés. A good corporate citizen, the company is a leading contributor to Federal Government revenue by way of duties and taxes. Its Public Relations projects are also designed to support government and local community development efforts.

The company's Research & Development Centre, built and equipped at a cost of N2 million, is the first of its kind within the Brewery Industry. The high-tech equipment installed in the Centre ensures effective research into increased utilisation of local raw materials, and new product development.

In 1986 and 1987, the company launched phases I and II of an effective Corporate Advertising Cam-

DEZPC



DUTCH SEED POTATOES OF EXCELLENT QUALITY!

"DE Z.P.C.": BREEDER OF VERY
EARLY - EARLY - MEDIUM EARLY -
MEDIUM LATE - LATE VARIETIES,
SUCH AS:

RIPENING TIME SKIN COLOUR

DESIREE	MEDIUM LATE	RED
JAEHLA	VERY EARLY	YELLOW
BARAKA	LATE	YELLOW
BINTJE	MEDIUM EARLY	YELLOW
MARLIKE	MEDIUM LATE	YELLOW

NEW PROMISING VARIETIES:

BERBER	EARLY	YELLOW
CLEOPATRA	EARLY	RED
COLRO	VERY EARLY	YELLOW
EDZINA	MEDIUM EARLY	YELLOW
GRACIA	MEDIUM EARLY	RED
MANHA	EARLY	YELLOW
MANSOOR	EARLY	YELLOW
BIONALISA	MEDIUM EARLY	YELLOW
OLINDA	EARLY	YELLOW
UKAMA	EARLY	YELLOW

DEZPC



THE Z.P.C. TRADEMARK
IS A GUARANTEE
FOR EXCELLENT QUALITY

P.O. BOX 385
8901 BD LEEUWARDEN - HOLLAND
WILLEMSKADE 14
TELEPHONE: (058) - 818293
TELEX: 46050 ZPCL NL
TELEFAX: (058) - 137824

NBL

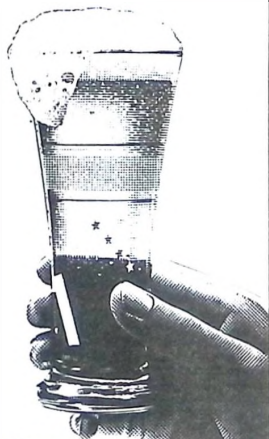
Greet's

THE NETHERLANDS

NBL HAS BENEFITED FROM THE TECHNICAL SUP-
PORT OF THE HEINEKEN ORGANISATION OF HOL-
LAND AND IS HAPPY TO BE COUNTED AMONG THE
INDUSTRIES WITH STRONG ECONOMIC LINKS
WITH THE NETHERLANDS.



The best for NIGERIA



paign in the print and electronic media, conveying six corporate messages on agriculture, new product development, industries, job creation, revenue generation and sports sponsorship.

NBL continues to do what is best for its employees, for Nigerian citizens and for the Nigerian economy.

Philips

THE acceptance of Philips and Philips products world wide is an international fact. However, the structural reorganisation taking place at Philips in The Netherlands now is a pointer that Philips is not resting on its oars at competing with other popular international products.

According to Mr. Van Schagen, the press officer at Philips, Netherlands, "We are working even harder now to make sure that other new but equally good products do not overtake us". Mr. Van Schagen accepts that products from Far East are penetrating European and other markets than before, "therefore we must offer something they cannot". On the ability of Philips to maintain the same standard and quality of its brand products with its independent companies in other countries, Mr. Schagen says that, "apart from the technical assistance we give to them, we also make sure that any product they produce is sent to us first for testing, and if we see that it conforms with our standard we approve. So, maintaining our standard worldwide is not really a problem. We have a culture and we keep to that culture. As you would have known, Philips, The Netherlands, gives Philips Nigeria technical assistance as required by them". Philips products are household names in The Netherlands and many other countries including Nigeria.

There are new ranges of compact disc for video and playing sets that are now manufactured by Philips in



• Philips President C.J. Van der Krugt

The Netherlands. Mr. Schagen says that Philips discs are produced with the most sophisticated engineering.

Philips' industrial perspective is technical, according to society's need for technological innovations. Consumer electronics, telecommunications, data processing, office and factory automation, electronic components, scientific and industrial instrumentation — all these are product sectors which present their challenge, and in which Philips makes a fundamental contribution. The Philips group is active on a world wide scale in all these sectors.

However, the far-reaching product diversification is another basic feature of Philips, which began by manufacturing incandescent lamps in Eindhoven in 1961.

C.C. Friesland

WHEN farmers in the Dutch province of Friesland decided in 1913 to pool their resources together and produce sweetened condensed milk for export, little did they know that they would be providing millions of people around the world, most especially in the developing countries, with nourishing milk products.

In developing countries today, shortage of milk produce is a disturbing fact to note. Most people find it difficult to get milk for their daily nourishment. Few dairy companies which dot the developing world are inadequate to cope with the increasing need of the growing population. Moreover, milk which is a daily nourishing diet of many children in the developed world, is a scarce commodity to most children in developing countries.

However, C.C. Friesland Co-operative Company has been assisting the developing countries and the world at large in solving this inadequacy of high quality milk products. C.C. Friesland with its headquarters in Leenwarden in the northern part of The Netherlands exports its products to more than 100 countries.

In Europe, the company operates three milk pro-

cessing plants. Outside Europe, C.C. Friesland participates in dairy plants in places like Africa (Nigeria), the Middle East (Saudi Arabia) and South East Asia (Indonesia). The company is engaged in the processing and marketing of branded dairy food products for the consumer market, as well as milk-based products for the food, drug and cattle-feed sectors of the industrial market. The basic material milk and whey, are supplied by the member dairy farmers and their co-operative cheese factories.

Today, C.C. Friesland produces over 50 products which are sold all over the world from the 1 billion litres of milk and 600 million litres of whey produced by the co-operative farmers. The extent of corporate growth over the past quarter of a century is profound.

The acquisition of seven foremost factories in 1984 has expanded C.C. Friesland's product range to include fresh dairy products. The company's consolidated turnover in 1960 for a work-force of 1,400 was US \$70 million. Today, the company's international work force has increased to 5,000 with consolidated turnover of over US \$900 million.

In Nigeria, Peak is the brand name of the popular condensed milk

VIASAR-Services



The right track for Nigeria

VIASAR-Services has considerable expertise and experience where civil and agricultural engineering are concerned, offering you the opportunity to call upon VIASAR-Services from the initial identification stages of a project to its final realisation. We can advise you as to technical training facilities and technical assistance, contract management, including financing and maintenance strategies. VIASAR-Services not only offers technical design and engineering services but can also carry out feasibility studies. We can assist in the procurement of machinery and lorries, their delivery at the required location and the operation of them. In addition, we advise on maintenance and can be responsible for the handling of spare parts. The service package offered by VIASAR-Services also includes the provision of equipment for workshops and assistance in the realisation of industrial activities connected with civil engineering.

VIASAR-Services can draw from well trained staff which includes specialists in the fields of road building, irrigation techniques and civil engineering construction, project administration and financing, plant management, logistics and engineering in the widest sense. Qualifications may vary from experience acquired on the job to relevant university degrees.



Completed pump — one water well will meet the needs of three hundred people in a village.



Training of operators.



VIASAR will arrange shipping to your on-site locations and help with the mobilization of your equipment and materials.

CONTACT US AT:

VIASAR-Services

4540 54th Avenue S.E.
P.O. Box 5850, Station "A"
Calgary, Alberta T2H 1Y3
CANADA
Tel 1403-279 0052
Telex 03-827694
Telefax 1403-279 7424

products

Technical Assistance in the field of Infrastructure

- project administration
- financing
- plant management
- management training

Training

- project managers
- field supervisors
- local contractors
- machine operators
- mechanics
- workshop personnel
- maintenance and spare parts supply

Procurement of Equipment/Plants

Quotations for:

- equipment supply
- short/long term rentals
- delivery to your specified location

Maintenance Programs

Advice on:

- materials procurement
- spare parts inventory

Agricultural Sector

- irrigation
- drainage canals
- water well drilling

Camp Facilities

- large, well-equipped camp and office facilities

VIASAR-Services

G. Eindhovenlaan
3527 HH Utrecht
P.O. Box 8442
3509 GK Utrecht
THE NETHERLANDS
Tel 31-30-957944
Telex 47673 (viasar-nl)
Telefax 31-30-941409

VIASAR-Services

41B, MARINE ROAD
P.M.B. 1063, APAPA
NIGERIA
Tel 870404
Telex 21632

Att: MR. H.J.J. Gitz

Att: MRS. S. LANE

Att: MR. J.M. DANSU



BAMLETT PLANTERS

Nigerian Farmers' choice for large-scale farming



Bamlett Planters have proved dependable and are used throughout Nigeria to plant a wide variety of seeds with simple adjustments.



BAMLETT RICE COMBINE

Rice Fertiliser Dr. 1

- Accurately drills over 15 rows of seeds and fertiliser in less time.
- Area meter records acreage planted.
- Feeder unit does not clog, crush or break seeds.
- Regulator is a dry seed and fertilizer quantity.
- Big land wheel for easy operation on softer ground.
- Also suitable for millet, sorghum and wheat.

BAMLETT MAIZE PLANTER

with Fertiliser Attachment

- Ensures the right and even depth for every seed planted.
- Firmly embeds the seeds for quick germination.
- Has 4 row units with fertilizer attachment.
- Suitable for groundnuts, cotton and beans.

ALSO AVAILABLE

- HUARD PLOUGH
- HUARD HARROW
- DISCO RIDGER
- SUBSOILER
- BOOM SPRAYER

BAMLETT HUARD FARMS MACHINERY

Sales, Spares and Services in Nigeria from

INDOQUIP (West Africa) LIMITED

83, Akioluwa (Oyemba) Street, Surulere, Lagos, Tel. 8M471, 8M 800

PRICE FROM: N65,000 DJ

Brouha, Katsina, Ibadan, Warri, etc.

De ZPC

In 1919, a group of Friesian farmers founded a co-operative for the production and sale of seed potatoes and cereal seeds. Little did they know that they would become the largest and most successful exporters of these products in The Netherlands. Since then, the organisation has grown steadily especially during the last 15 years.

De ZPC produces on a yearly basis, 200,000 tonnes of healthy seed potatoes from which 135,000 tonnes are exported to more than 50 different countries. Although seed potatoes are the most important products sold by De ZPC, table potatoes and agricultural seeds as well as flower bulbs, are of increasing importance to their business. De ZPC has approximately 1,000 workers who cultivate more than 7,000 ha of the finest fertile soil in Holland, which enables them to grow and produce quality products for marketing through their own organisation.

New improved varieties are the basis of a healthy potato crop. The Ropta ZPC breeding station is the result of a merger, in 1988, between Ropta and ZPC's own breeding station. The combination of these two stations, with experience gained over nearly 100 years gives De ZPC a more powerful position in potato breeding, that enables it to face the challenges of the future. In addition to potatoes, Ropta ZPC also develops new varieties in flax, tulips and lilies.

The latest development in potato technology, ideal cultivation and storage conditions plus the fact that growers are specialists and understand their soil structures enables De ZPC to produce and sell healthy, disease-free crops. The breeding, multi-

plication and growing of certified seed potatoes is a job that needs great skill and care especially when the seed itself must grow in countries whose climates are very different from that of The Netherlands. Therefore, varieties of seeds must be adapted to give the best yields wherever they are grown. De ZPC understands and helps its customers in this area throughout the world. Such well known varieties as Bintje, Alpha, Sirtema, Urgenta, Bea, Jaerna, Marijke, Desires and Baraka are famous collections on the stable of De ZPC.

By Tony Arowolo Special Projects
Co-ordinator • AABEE Production



• M. Hibertz, Director ZPC



• Stephen Ayodele Fatigun, MD Hagenmeyer (Nig.)

produce crisp naira notes. In the midst of the rustling of notes, others scribbled out cheques. Perhaps in a bid to outdo its counterparts, Continental Merchant Bank which initially promised N4,000 had to quickly add an extra N1,000 to match the N5,000 given by First Bank of Nigeria. **Lekan Alabi**, the public relations officer for the Nigeria Police Force, gave N2,500 on behalf of the force.

Some 15 guests went home with prizes from the raffle draw. Ironically, most were got by the affluent. And when **Sule Ablola**, a younger brother to M.K.O. Ablola, stood up to make his claim, **Chukwu** observed that, "it's not these sort of people who should win". But **Ablola**, the chief executive of **Haiasha Investments**, muttered: "I have a right to win too", as he marched to receive his prize.

A mild drama ensued as the audience waited anxiously for the winner of the first prize, a return ticket to Britain. The compere took their time, letting the suspense build up. When they called out the number halfway, **Mr. Sunny Irabor**, a broadcaster, believing it to be his, shot up from his seat, waving frantically. But charity turned out to begin at home. **Beauty Amoda**, business manager of **Newswatch Communications**, the parent body of **Quality** magazine, took away the first prize.

Five homes are expected to benefit from the fund raised at the N100 per plate dinner. The magazine intends to "extend the practical frontiers of journalism to public service". So charity nights are going to be a permanent feature in its life.

By **Omatayo Afolabi**



• **Obi Akran** meets the players.

Fun and fury

Journalists match sinews with wit at royal tangle

ROYALTY, personified by **Oba Babatunde Akran** of **Badagry**, recently received a fair competition for attention from media executives, editors, and of course, the irrepressible press boys. It would appear they had come to report Nigeria to the world. But many came, leaving behind their official boats, for an evening of sporting fun.

It was the finals of the **Oba Akran Cup** football competition for **Lagos State** chapel of the **Nigerian Union of Journalists**. The **Beach Combers** (**Nigerian Television Authority—NTA**) had promised to crown the **News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)**. Sports commentator, and captain of the **NTA** team, **Charles Ojughana**, had in fact assured anyone who cared to listen that his squad would bring the cup into the living rooms of 30 million Nigerians. As it turned out, the **Beach Combers** took a 3-0 whipping from **NAN XI** at the football pitch of the **National Stadium, Lagos**.

Many **Oba Akran Cup** watchers, however, found it disturbing that this year's event witnessed a tense and aggressive atmosphere, cheating among the teams, and the alienation of the fun and laughter that attended last year's matches. In the true spirit of the competition, it

was not out of place to see journalists making lovable "asses" of themselves. It was fun to see news editors or directors play for three minutes and head for the sidelines for a sip of cold beer. Beautiful female supporters were around to lead a cheer now, a boo later.

The **Oba Akran** competition was tailored to be a hilarious novelty event. It was to be a relaxed forum where status and officialdom could be forgotten - for 90 minutes at least. But the dream appears now threatened by the inordinate desire to win at all cost.

This year's event appeared marred by widespread disaffection among journalists. Last year's runners-up **The Flagship** from the **Guardian** fold, who were edged out in the preliminaries - a round robin affair in which the eventual finalists held them to even score lines - petitioned against the use of mercenaries by **NAN**.

• **Faces of defeat and victory.**

SPORTS

And, of course, there was a short supply of sportsmanship made up for by not a few fisticuffs and vicious tackles with patent seal from the Italian league.

Newspaper reports of the competition became the main source of fun. Sports writers waxed lyrical with frightening hyperboles and embarrassingly subjective portage. Even when torrential rain punctuated the mauling of the **Kirikiri Warriors** (as the **Vanguard** team is called) by **Daily Times** (**Agidingbi Tigers**) the **Warriors** returned to their newsroom to write what may pass as journalism's most warped headline: "Tigers Escape" What do we make of **The Guardian's** report of its match against the hapless **Correspondents' team** **The "Indomitable Flagship"** had "walloped, defeated, out-scored and crushed hapless (O yes, they admitted that much) **Correspondents** by wait for it ... one goal to nil.

Caustic **Vanguard** Columnist, **Doyin Oeagie-Okojie** gave her husband **Chris Okojie**, (also of **Vanguard** a taste of her "Lipstick" **Chris**, who was voted the **Most Valuable Player** with **N300** to match, wrote **Doyin**, has "been floating around as he'd suddenly gone weight-loss!"

In spite of all the mush, the yearly ritual had one new plus: Money came to play. Beer makers, **Sona Breweries** came with a bagful.

By **John Nwaobi**



Drugging the soul of Seoul

Athletes search for glory in the heart of drugs

TO the Olympic motto of "Citius, Altius, Fortius" (swifter, higher, stronger) some athletes have added the clause: "By any means". In the bid to attain Olympian heights, sheer strength and ability have been discovered to be inadequate. Thus, the race is no longer to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, but to those willing to subject their bodies to the euphoria induced by syringes and pills.

Drugs have become the stepping stone to Olympic glory as athletes increasingly resort to steroids and hormones to boost their performances. Available in about 20 varieties, anabolic steroids, used to increase the build-up of body tissue, considerably up-grade the prowess of weightlifters, shot-putters, discuss, javelin and hammer throwers. Unless an athlete has discontinued usage for a fairly long while, steroids have tended to be detected in drug tests.

The participation of drugs in Olympic events could be traced back to 1904 — a mere eight years after the French educator, Pierre de Coubertin, successfully initiated the 1896 renewal of the modern Games in Athens, Greece. *Newsweek* magazine reported: "In the marathon in St. Louis in 1904, winning American Thomas Hicks was aided by a heady cocktail of stimulating Strychnine and courage-inspiring Brandy."

There have been other cases outside of the Olympics. In 1972 at Munich, American Rick DeMont dived in for his 400M swimming event and came up victoriously wet, to clinch the goal medal. But as an

asthmatic, DeMont had been treated with the stimulant, ephedrine. He lost the medal. The same year, in Montreal, saw 11 out of 2,061 athletes turning up positive in drug tests. Another incident at the August 1983 Pan American Games further added to the strident note of the alarm whistle when 13 American athletes voluntarily opted out of the competition for drug reasons. Yet, three years earlier in Moscow, not one of the 2,200 athletes could be detected as positive.

Since laboratories are yet to come up with fool proof testing methods, some athletes have always managed to escape detection. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is worried, not just because of the drug taint on the Olympic ideal but in the realisation that the attendant glory of victory has, unfortunately, unleashed a detestable monstrosity. "We shall unfortu-

nately have to take precautions," admitted Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC President, "since it seems that the desire to win at all cost drives some to turn to illegal and totally dishonest means in order to ensure that their athletes possess an often illusory advantage over their rivals."

For all their caution, the IOC's battle against drugs usage by Olympic medal hopefuls promises to be long, painful and perhaps inconclusive. New devices such as blood doping, Human Growth Hormone (HGH) and Erythropoietin (EPO) have become available to athletes. "There is no test now or likely to be in the foreseeable future for blood doping", observed Professor Arnold Becket who headed the 1966 research team in London to establish doping tests for amateur sports. Blood doping involves the removal of some amount of blood which is preserved in



frozen form. Transfused back into the body before a competition, an athlete gains an added 20 per cent oxygen advantage. HGH, produced by the pituitary gland, increases growth process, and cannot be detected. Elusive also is EPO which facilitates the production of red blood cells to aid oxygen flow to body muscles.

Other athletes who are ready to win by their strength and ability alone share IOC's concern. America's sensational sprinter and long jumper, Carl Lewis, has often decried athletes' use of drugs. But given that the Seoul 100 meters event would be clean and fair, the world will breathlessly await the Ben Johnson versus Carl Lewis match-up. However, speedster Johnson, 27, referred to by some as "Canada's alternative



• Egbunke Ub. Onyiah: The subject is winning

airline', along with Nigeria's Innocent Egbunike, are among athletes who have recently suffered injury setbacks. Though appearing recovered — Johnson from a hamstring problem and Egbunike from a neck operation to drain a viral infection — both athletes have lost much training hours.

Johnson's arch rival, Carl Lewis, has peaked since slipping his starting blocks and finishing fifth in 10.29 seconds at the April 23, Mount Sacre Relays. With his 9.93 seconds win over Johnson in Zurich, the stage has certainly been set for a thrilling encounter.

For Seoul and the sports world, it would become Olympic history if America's Edwin Moses hurdles to a gold medal in the 400 metres for the third time, a feat no man has ever pulled. Sports history has, however, received some new lines recently. This year, Butch Reynolds has brought new life to the 400m in two remarkable runs, one of which erased from the record books Lee Evans' legendary 43.86 sec. record set at 1968 Mexico meet. At least four other new world records have been set. Prime pole-vaulter, Russia's Sergey Bubka has broken the world record three times, the third time at 6.06 metres. He also owns the best seven vaults in history. Another Russian, Galina Chistyakova, became the first woman to break 7.5m in the women's long jump with a final up grade to 7.52m at the June 11, Leningrad Grand Prix. In the women's high jump, Stefka Kostadinova leapt a new 2.03 mark. Africa made a showing in Ethiopia's Belone Dimezo's 2.06 50 marathon run on the last Rotterdam course.

But the Americans continuously appear engaged

in a sort of super-power record rush with the Russians.

Jackie-Joyner-Kersey, the first woman to hit the heptathlon 7000 mark increased her total score in July to 7,215 in the seven-sport discipline. Her sister-in-law, Florence Griffith-Joyner, married to Jackie's older brother who won the 1984 Olympics triple jump gold, sliced a whopping 0.27 sec. from the existing 100m women's record in a 10.49 sec. run.

Against this backdrop of startling performances, the nagging question, back home, is "what are Nigeria's chances in the Olympics?" Nigeria will compete in athletics, football, boxing, tennis, table tennis, wrestling and weightlifting. Whatever the feelings on other events, Nigerians harbour great hopes in football. But there are reasons for cautious optimism. (See Box)

Sprinters Chidi Imoh, Innocent Egbunike and triple jumper Joseph Taiwo will bear the heaviest burden of their country's medal expectations in athletics. In the men 100m, Imoh, Isiaq Adeyanju and Tunji Olobia have all run below 10.30. Of the three, Imoh stands the best chance of snatching a medal with his impressive 10.09 sec. run, earlier this month in Sweden. The unpredictability of athletics makes the presence of Carl Lewis, Ben Johnson and Calvin Smith not such a frightening prospect.

One unsure feat is if the men's 4 x 100m bronze would return to Nigeria. The record poor outing at Gateshead, England, has put a damper on any heady expectations. Similarly, reservations are also being nursed for the 4 x 400m. Comparing their individual performances, only Egbunike has made some impressive marks. But in a combined effort with Sunday Uti, Moses Ugbusien

The Olympic Medicine Chest

SOME athletes rely on helpers less benign than coaches and trainers. A brief list:

Anabolic steroids: There are about 20 varieties, used mostly for field events like the hammer, discus and shot put — and by weight lifters, who frequently get caught. Side effects: liver and kidney damage. In men, atrophy of the testicles; in women, increased masculinization. Can cause psychosis and death.

Beta blockers: A dozen varieties, which slow heartbeat and ease anxiety. They're known to be dangerous for people with diabetes mellitus and bronchial asthma.

Blood doping: By increasing oxygen supply, it aids the endurance of distance runners and cyclists. Risks include the introduction of hepatitis and influenza into the system.

Human growth hormone: Rumoured to be used by some athletes, it is a synthetic version of a hormone naturally produced by the pituitary gland. It can increase skeletal size as well as muscle mass, and is undetectable. Main risk: acromegaly, i.e., the bizarre and irreversible growth of bones in face, hands and feet.

NEWSWEEK

and, probably, Henry Arike, the team might go the distance.

In his supposedly more comfortable 400m turf, Egbunike will have to contend with Reynolds' astonishing 43.29 sec, Danny Everett's 43.98 sec, and Thomas Schonlebe's 44.6 sec. Though returning a discouraging 46.07 sec, time recently, at the Brussels grand prix, Egbunike cannot be dismissed as a spent force.

The feel of the Seoul tracks beneath the spikes on competition day could trigger off a winning spurt of energy in his strong legs.

Nigeria's greatest hopeful in the female group remains Mary Onyali. Despite Griffith Joyner, Evelyn Ashford and other notable stars, Mary just might streak into a consolable runner-up position. In the long and triple jumps, Joseph Taiwo and Paul Emordi face the same problems as their sprinting compatriots — the dominating influence of American and European athletes.

The bleakest scenario for Nigeria is in boxing. Reports of the preparedness of Nigeria's boxers have

not been quite encouraging. Out of the ten boxers now in camp, seven have been recommended for Seoul, one more than the Los Angeles Olympics squad. The 1984 squad which returned with a silver medal appears better trained than the present crop. But Coach Isaac Ikhuria says the problem with the 1988 team is their lack of exposure. "The 1984 squad had attained world class standard by 1982, attested to by their medals haul at the Brisbane Commonwealth games. Their captain then, Christopher Ossai, was in the 1980 Olympics squad in Moscow. So there is no basis for comparison. I am confident in these new boys and it is not fair to write them off before the games", Ikhuria defensively argues.

But Nigeria's potential problem in Seoul will not be that of exposure, but lack of continuity in the team. For instance, of the full weight categories that went to the All-African Games in Kenya, August last year, only Uba Owigho and Liasu Braimah are around in the team. Others have been decamped, including Martins Nwogbe who picked



▼ Dropped Nwaeke (left). Problems of exposure

Nigeria's only bronze medal at the games. Ironically, the All-African Games was where other African countries picked their standards for the Seoul Olympics. Despite the amount of money already spent on the new squad, their showing at some world rated championships in South Korea, West Germany, Canada and recently Cuba was dismal. Only Blessing Onoko in the light weight division seems to have shown enough spark for a good outing in Seoul. In all his foreign campaigns in the past one year, he came back with encouraging records, culminating in the silver medal he won in Cuba last month.

Owigho too can pull off a surprise, since the super heavy class usually has few fighters jostling for honours. This has accounted for the medals he has won in his training tours. He could get a bye into the medals zone in Seoul.

After 54 years of absence from the Olympic circuit, tennis returns to Seoul to join the other events in the world's most celebrated sports festival. The last tennis tourney was in the 1924 Paris Games when Americans claimed all the five gold medals. Tennis which has put its best players in the million dollar bracket will strictly conform to the Olympic rules as an amateur game. Play-

WHEN the Green Eagles came back from Morocco with a silver medal won at the Nations' Cup competition five months ago, enthusiasm for the national team soared to an all time high. The nation's leaders were part of the euphoria. The Chief of General Staff, Vice Admiral Aikhomu, christened the conquering team the Super Eagles. Many Nigerians felt that their team was richly deserving of the superlative, even though the Eagles lost narrowly in the final match to Nigeria's neighbour, Cameroon.

Expectations are high that the Eagles will consolidate their new image at the Seoul Olympics this September. The team is currently training in West Germany towards the world's greatest sports event. The Eagles' technical adviser, Michael Hoener, a German, is presiding over these preparations.

Nigerian football officials are full of hope. "I have a feeling you can win the gold in Seoul! You have the skill...you have the stamina", said the Nigeria

When Eagles dare

Nigeria's football outing in Seoul under focus

Football Association Chairman M. Chuba Ikpeazu just before the team left for West Germany. Even so, Nigeria's antecedents leave little room for optimism. The Eagles' two previous appearances at the games had been a disaster. At the 1968 Olympic Games, Nigeria's squad paraded some of the nation's best, including Paul Hamster, Tunde Disu and Muywa Oshode. But this did not save the Eagles from a 1-3 and 0-3 roasting by Japan and Spain respectively.

At the Moscow Olympics in 1980, the Eagles, who were humbled by the African Football Confederation to fill the vacuum in the African zone created by Ghana's withdrawal from the games, brought home the consolation of a 1-1 draw with Czechoslovakia which eventually won the gold. The 1980 team included such stars as Segun

Odegbami, Emmanuel Osiwye, and Aloysius Atuegbu. In the 1980 campaign, Kuwait and Colombia beat the Eagles 3-1, 1-0 respectively.

In spite of Mr. Ikpeazu's confidence about the Eagles' chances in South Korea, football watchers predict a tough task for the national team. The Eagles, placed in Group D, along with Yugoslavia, Australia and Brazil, appear to be the underdogs. Yugoslavia, whose junior team won the FIFA Coca Cola under 21 World Championship in Chile last year, picked the gold medal at the 1980 Olympics in Rome. Before then the country had won three silver medals at successive outings since 1948.

Yugoslavia was edged out in the quarter finals of the Tokyo Games but the socialist nation seems on the rebound with her qual-

ification for this year's Olympics from the formidable European zone where France, the soccer conqueror of the Los Angeles Olympics, was eliminated in the preliminary rounds.

Australia has recently emerged as a soccer nation to be reckoned with, though she had not had an outstanding record at the Olympics. She lost narrowly to Brazil in a match last month. Brazil seems set to clinch the gold medal at the Seoul Olympics. In 1984, Brazil, favoured to win, managed to take only the silver. But the country's main problem is that Brazil's showing in the games has never been as spectacular as her exploits in the World Cup.

Nigeria's chances have been brightened by Mr. Ikpeazu's successful negotiation for the release from their European clubs of a number of Nigerian professionals who have joined the national team in Germany. The professionals include Stephen Keshi, Yisa Sololuwe, and Sam Okwaraji. A possible exception may be Henry

ers will have to live in the Olympic Village, avoid thinking of prize money, and refrain from signing endorsement contracts. Only a victorious player's country may share in his hour of glory. Sponsors will only grit their teeth in envy because players' attire will bear no sponsor's names.

Twenty-six top ranking players are lined up for the tennis event. They include Wimbledon champion Boris Becker (twice), Stefan Edberg and Steffi Graf. Mats Wilander, Henry Leconte, Chris Evert, Pam Shriver and Gabriela Sabatini, among others, are also billed to make tennis one of the throbbing events of Seoul. Nigeria's

and Africa's flag bearers will be Nduka Odizor who got into the Games with a wild card. Tony Mmoh and Sadiq Abdullahi smashed their way in after winning their Davis' Cup tourney. But Odizor's performance on the international circuit has not been remarkable in recent times. Neither will the pair of Mmoh and Sadiq find it easy when the Seoul tennis competitions kick off on September 20. Ranged against the big names in world tennis, Odizor, Mmoh and Sadiq are not expected to pull off any major upsets.

Seoul will be demanding the very soul of participating athletes. With the win-at-all-cost criterion, the Games will be smoking



• Mmoh, Odizor: Tennis tough debut

hot. Nigeria's contingent will do well to reflect on the creed of the modern Games: "The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is

not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well."

By John Nwabi with reports from Sam John and Joseph Okujal.



• Underdog Eagles: More waxes about the prelims

Nwosu who is nursing a knee injury sustained in his Cote D'Ivoire base.

But reports from West Germany have been rather disconcerting. Barely two weeks to the departure for Seoul, the outcome, so far, of the Eagles' playing tour has begun to raise doubts on Heoner's ability to give Nigeria a winning team.

In three encounters, two of which were against second division teams, the Eagles scored four goals while conceding nine.

Football followers are getting the jitters about Nigeria's prospects in Seoul. The anxiety is heightened by the psychological problem the team might face when it confronts the soccer myth of Brazil in the preliminary rounds. "If the Green Eagles can cross the preliminary hurdle in their group, then we will wait for the Olympic gold at home," said an official of the National Sports Commission. Few can fault the scenario he paints.

Sam John

Overheard

► Some of the debt being demanded by Nigeria Airways' creditors today have been in the book for almost three decades.

— *Managing Director of Nigeria Airways, Major-General Olu Bajowa blaming past governments on the airline's debt.*

► I know, like most other women, that no woman can be elected President of Nigeria in the next 15 years.

— *The president of Kaduna State chapter of National Council of Women Societies Hajira Lada Dogonyaro, on the prospect of awomanian president.*

► "...I can also take a look at the Army list, look at it and say there is a gap. I don't see too many Okafors, Okorunkwos, and Okekes. I could then say that it is evidence that we are not yet integrated."

— *Chief Emeka Ojukwu on the integration of the Ibos after the civil war.*

Undiplomatic diplomat

FOR a diplomat, he's getting quite a reputation for undiplomatic behaviour. If you don't know, we're referring to one of the Queen's men in Lagos. From the way he carries on, stiff upper lip and aristocratic mien, it would seem he has delusions of grandeur about the glorious days of "the empire on which the sun shall never set".

Two months ago, he snubbed ex-Jamaican Prime Minister, Michael Manley when the latter came to Lagos for the *The Guardian's* fifth anniversary. Manley, a socialist, had riled the "diplomat" when he urged debtor nations to stop falling over themselves trying to pay dubious debts to the industrialized nations. It was at the lecture he delivered in commemoration of the anniversary. When he was introduced to Manley after the lecture, the man simply refused to shake hands. It was only after some prompting that he



deigned to mumble a "hello".

Two Saturdays ago, he was his usual undiplomatic self at the gala held by *Quality* magazine at the Lagos Sheraton to collect money for charity. The show was well on its way when he stalked in, upper lip as stiff as concrete, with his family. For some moments, proceedings were at a virtual stand-still as the representative of her Imperial Majesty and his large entourage took their time taking their seats.

But what he did later was to make this, and his earlier "boo-boos" distinctly insignificant. As the night rolled on,



reggae singer, Majek Fashek came on stage to perform.

He tried out a new composition, *Free Mandela* to the audience. In the middle of the song, a plaintive demand that the missing South African nationalist leader be freed. Majek asked the audience to stand up with their fists clenched in Black power salutes.

Mr. undiplomat must have found the song grating his ears or conscience or both. Perhaps he was contemplating the clock of the "savages". Or maybe he was feeling understandably guilty about his country's well known "contribution" to the South African tragedy and Mandela's plight.

For whatever reason, the man could not bear it for too long. Soon after the audience sat down, he gathered his "clan" and walked out.

'Mystery' contracts

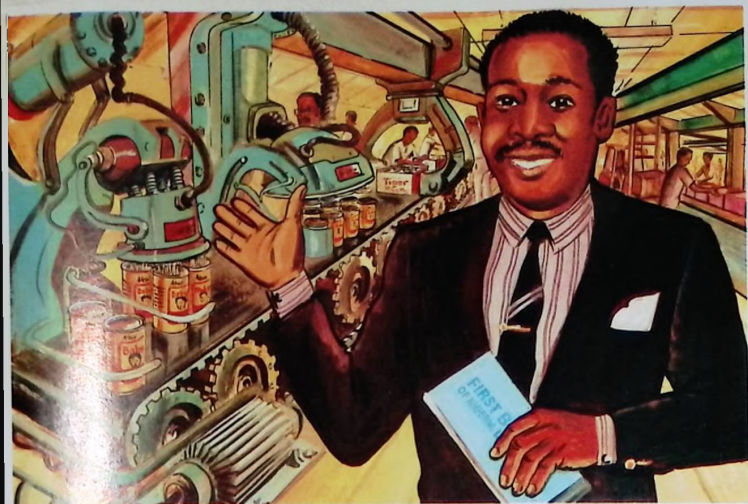
LESS than two weeks to a hot sports writers take delight in describing as "the world's greatest sporting extravaganza" — the Seoul Olympics — some unsporty things are said to be happening within the body responsible for ensuring we get back with a basketful of medals. And it has to do with that phenomenon we have always associated with politicians — irregularities in the award of contracts. A lot of dust — not the track variety that Innocent Egbunike and Chidi Imoh are renowned for — is being raised about seemingly untoward contract awards.

A company which submitted a bid for the contract for supplying track suits for the use of Olympians thought it had a deal wrapped up when the Director-General (of the National Sports Commission) approved it and sent it to the Nigerian Olympic Committee for final go-ahead. But it was not to be. The committee to which it was referred promptly rejected it. We had thought that in these "MAMSER" times, the quoted price of ₦110 per track suit was considered a trifle too high for our SAPped economy. Then a second bid from a German firm at ₦275 per track suit was approved by the gentlemen who sat in judgement on behalf of the NOC.

The same committee gentleman, we hear, has also been given the green-light (or is it given itself the green light) to supply the traditional dresses that would be used by athletes at the opening ceremony. A female NSC staff who got the contract initially (she also supplied outfits used by sportsmen during the last All African Games in Nairobi) was uncertainly shored aside. If any reason was given, we have not heard of it.

But there is more. Another German firm is involved in another "mystery" contract. However, this time the Germans, it appears, are at the receiving end. Nobody seems to know why the firm which offered to construct the roof of the gymnasium at Sportcity at a cost of slightly over half a million naira firm that put in a two million naira bid for the same job was given the job?

But we hear the gentlemen who performed this wonderful juggling act have connections with the lucky company. We hear also that not everybody is amused. A ministerial query has already been despatched to "the appropriate quarters".



Spreading prosperity nationwide

Since 1894 First Bank has been committed to spreading prosperity nationwide.

A lot of our customers have been with us since our humble beginning.

This is because at First Bank we understand the needs of our customers better and respond with despatch and professionalism.

You can depend on First Bank with its massive asset and resource base.

Moreover, First Bank has more branches than any other bank in Nigeria, and it is also associated with Standard Chartered Bank, a major British Banking Group, with representation in over 50 countries worldwide.

Let us back you up with all our might.

 **1st Bank** ...truly the first.



Discover gold

THE WORLD'S BEST SELLING VIRGINIA CIGARETTE

₹2.80 per