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**NEWS**  
**Senators get N45m for boreholes in constituency**  
- Page 3

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**NIGERIAN POSTAL SERVICE**

## 2007: Obasanjo's successor may emerge at confab

- Meets South-West governors
- Makarfi hosts South-South colleagues

President Olusegun Obasanjo may have given his go ahead for a successor from the South-South or the South-East geopolitical zones in 2007 and is set to use the proposed national conference to achieve that objective, the Daily Trust has gathered.

Pursuant to this, some South-South governors have been trooping to Kaduna to strategise and forge a com-

**From Sani Babadoko, Bureau Chief (Kaduna), with agency report**

moon front at the conference with their Kaduna State counterpart, Ahmed Makarfi, the chairman of Obasanjo's committee covering the national conference who is being tipped as a vice-presidential candidate.

Governors Donald Duke of Cross-River and Lucky

Ighinedion were in Kaduna during the sallah celebrations ostensibly to attend the durbar at the Emir of Zazzau's palace but sources close to Kashim Ibrahim House, the

seat of government, told Daily Trust that they had "all-night" meetings with their Kaduna State counterpart.

The source disclosed that Governor James Ibori was

also expected but was unavoidably absent. However, he has proposed that the South-South states should present a common position on the presidency in 2007, resource control and regional autonomy at the proposed conference.

Governor Ahmed Makarfi, last year spearheaded the call for a return of the presidency to the north

after Obasanjo's second term in 2007. However, the source disclosed that his appointment to chair the national conference committee might have mellowed his stand which is why the South-East and the South-South politicians are trying to woo him.

Asked to comment on their visit and their strategies for 2007, Governor Duke told newsmen in Kaduna that, "it

Contd. on Pg 2

### Haji: 8 Nigerians die in Saudi

**Pilgrims welcome rain in desert**  
Eight Nigerian pilgrims have so far died as a result of different cases of illness, the chairman of the Hajj sub-committee on Health, Professor Nura Alkali has said.

Professor Alkali, who made the announcement yesterday in Saudi Arabia at the end of the annual hajj, said that three of the dead were from Kwara state while one pilgrim died from Kastina, Zamfara, Sokoto, and Lagos states respectively.

Also yesterday, the Ameerul Hajj, Alhaji Ibrahim Mantu, revealed that President Obasanjo has requested lawmakers on pilgrimage to return home early to pass the 2005 budget this week.

**From Isa Sanusi, in Mecca and Elkanah Chawal, Reporter (Foreign Affairs) with agency reports**

The Ameerul Hajj added that airlift back to the country, which will commence on the 26<sup>th</sup>, will be on "first come, first to leave" basis and revealed that arrangements are being made with the Saudi government to increase the number of screening bays for Nigerians to ease the return trip.

Meanwhile, Muslim pilgrims welcomed the down pour on Saturday as an act of God while they circled the cubic Kaaba shrine in the holy city's Grand Mosque, the final rite in the annual hajj pilgrimage.

A record 2.56 million people attended this year's hajj, which all healthy Muslims must perform at least

Contd. on Pg 2



Alhaji Ibrahim Mantu, Ameerul Hajj.

### Mbeki tasks African varsities on poverty, hunger

South Africa's President, Thabo Mbeki, has tasked universities to find solutions to poverty, hunger and diseases in order to achieve a true Africa.

He challenged universities at the weekend in Khartoum, Sudan, where he received an honorary doctorate degree of the Africa International University. Harping on the challenges

facing the continent, Mbeki said: "We need to define our identity as Africans and the unique course we must take for our own benefit informed by the conditions on the continent."  
"This is the basis on which our renaissance will succeed. The old adage, 'show me a people without a history and I will show you a people without a future' is

most relevant," he said.

The President who is championing Africa's renaissance, said: "As Africans, we have declared this 21st century as an African century."  
"We are prepared and ready to do whatever is necessary to ensure that the 21st century is a period of peace, stability, development and prosperity for all the Af-

Contd. on Pg 2



L-R: President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso and President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal putting heads together during the 28th Ordinary Summit of ECOWAS heads of states and government held in Ghana... recently.

## Doctors suspend strike

The National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD), has suspended its seven-week old nation-wide strike action just as it announced the death of 37,000 people as a result of the strike.

Addressing Journalists

yesterday in Abuja, the association's national president, Dr. Jerry Oguzie said reports from the association's members across the states show that no fewer than

**By Sunday Ejike Benjamin, Health Reporter**

37,000 people have so far died since the past seven weeks that the strike action lasted.

The national executive council of the association, Dr. Oguzie noted, decided to suspend the strike action in the interest of Nigerians and the fact that government has released the sum of N7,994 billion to meet up doctors de-

mand once and for all.

According to NARD's national president, the strike was suspended, "in spite of the fact that the monies had not been remitted to the hospitals and we have not been paid as was our earlier stand," adding that NARD's NEC meeting of Saturday January 22, 2005 in Benin, Edo State

Contd. on Pg 2

### Robbers raid Gwagwalada hospital, Gusau at sallah

Armed robbers, numbering about thirty, weekend, laid siege on the senior staff quarters of the Gwagwalada specialist hospital Abuja carting away valuables despite police pres-

**By Malmuna Yusuf, Reporter (Abuja) and Salisu Zakari Maradun, Reporter (Gusau)**

ence. Also, armed robbers in Gusau, the Zamfara State capital

Contd. on Pg 2

# NEWS

## 2007 *Contd. from Pg 1*

was unfortunate that all the zones are clamouring for an ethnic president rather than the best president for Nigeria."

"Every zone wants to have the president which I think is unfortunate. We should be talking about the best president for Nigeria and not an ethnic president. We cannot move forward with this."

"I do not mind the next president coming from Owo, Obasanjo's village if he will deliver. You don't get anything special by having the president from your zone."

"What will the South-West say they have gotten by having the presidency from their zone? Nothing. If you say you get more appointments, I don't think so because it is federal character issue here."

"Anybody that is spending his time campaigning in early 2005 for the presidency in 2007 is only going to waste his resources," Duke added.

Governor Igbinedion who declined press interviews told newsmen he had a lot of engagements including an "all-night meeting with Makarfi." He too insisted that he was in Kaduna to celebrate the Eid-el-Kabir with the people of Kaduna State.

Governor Makarfi's aides also denied that the executive visitors were here for any political horse trading.

Meanwhile President Olusegun Obasanjo met yesterday in Ota, Ogun state, with the South West governors, including the AD governor in Lagos, Governor Bola Tinubu.

All the PDP governors in the zone, Ayo Fayose (Ekiti), Gbenga Daniel (Ogun),

Rasheed Ladoja (Oyo), Olagunsoye Oyinola (Osun) and Olusegun Agagu (Ondo) attended the meeting.

Prominent traditional rulers of the zone, including the Ooni of Ife and the Alafin of Oyo were also invited to attend the meeting which lasted for more than two hours.

Other prominent rulers at the meeting were the Ewi of Ado-Ekiti, the Awujale of Ijebu-Ode, the Afake of Egbaland and the Oba of Lagos, Rilwan Okiolu, among others.

Details of the discussion were not immediately available, but it was learnt that they might not be unconnected with the ongoing preparations for the nation's political reform conference.

Obasanjo, who has already secured a council of state mandate to nominate some delegates to the conference, has been engaged in a wide range of consultations for its success.

Briefing newsmen, Mrs Oluremi Oyo said each of the governors was accompanied by two traditional rulers to the meeting.



Gov. Makarfi

## Haji *Contd. from Pg 1*

once in their lifetime if they can afford it. Saudi authorities, jittery over fears that terrorists may strike the event, said increased security and improved crowd management saw the pilgrimage go off without a hitch.

Giant gray storm clouds dumped rain on the white-robed pilgrims, many wearing plastic shopping bags on their heads and tearing holes in garbage bags to fit their arms and legs through to stay as dry as possible.

While lightning cracked overhead, thousands of the faithful in Mina, about 4 miles from Mecca, opened umbrellas to shield them from the rain while harling rocks at rectangular, billboard-sized stone blocks symbolizing the devil.

"Rain is always a blessing and for it to fall so hard at the end of our haji rituals means our sins are washed away and God has accepted our prayers," said a soaked Mohamed Jamal Khan, from the Pakistani city of Peshawar, before a gust of wind blew away the plastic bag the 42-year-old had tied to his head.

After the faithful completed the stone throwing ceremony, hundreds of boxes

started ferrying pilgrims from 160 countries along water-clogged roads back to Mecca, where they entered the open-air Grand Mosque to begin performing a farewell circling of the Kaaba, which Muslims around the world face during their five daily prayers.

The pilgrims began their haji rituals in Mecca before Wednesday's climax at Mount Arafat, where prophet Muhammad (PBUH) gave his last sermon in A.D. 632. Some have spent three days at the stoning ritual in Mina.

Many of the non-Saudi pilgrims are expected to remain in the country for several days to visit holy sites, including the holy city of Medina, where Muhammad (PBUH) lived. The farewell visit to Mecca's Grand Mosque is traditionally the last event to be performed by pilgrims before they depart the country.

On the minds of many pilgrims was the war in Iraq, Saudi Arabia's northern neighbor, and last month's tsunami disaster, which killed between 157,000 to 221,000 in widely varying tolls across 11 countries, including hardest-hit Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim country.

## WTO shops for new director general

Four candidates from three continents seeking to lead the World Trade Organization (WTO), are to state their cases at a meeting on Wednesday at the start of a campaign that remains too close to call.

Luiz-Felipe de Seixas Correa of Brazil, Pascal Lamy of France, Jayen Cuttaree of Mauritius and Carlos Perez del Castillo of Uruguay, are to appear before ambassadors representing the 148 members of the WTO, who will be convening a special session of the WTO general council.

The four candidates are bidding to replace Supachai Panitchpakdi of Thailand, whose mandate as WTO director general expires August 31 this year. His successor, however, is to be selected by consensus within the council by May 31.

"All the candidates have excellent CVs," said an ambassador from a Latin American country. "But two of them, Lamy and Perez del Castillo, have good contacts in various capitals, which could influence the decision."

Lamy, who was European Union (EU), trade commissioner until the end of last year, "knows everyone," while Perez del Castillo headed the WTO general

By Ahmed I. Shekaras, Group Business Editor, with agency report

council in 2003, the ambassador recalled. Wednesday's session, according to *Agence France Press (AFP)* signals the launch of a four-month campaign and selection process, with candidates who fail to garner significant backing expected to drop out along the way.

"It is difficult at this stage to predict who will win," said a southern hemisphere ambassador. "It is difficult to say who is the front-runner. Some people say it is Pascal Lamy but no poll has been taken so far."

He said his government had yet to make up its mind but could do so following Wednesday's meeting, during which each candidate will have 75 minutes to explain his vision for future WTO action to oversee global trade.

"It will be an opportunity for the candidates to make their case and for us to ask questions," he added. "We want to see what the candidates have to say."

Lamy aside, all the aspirants are from developing countries, which constitute a majority within the WTO. They have argued that the

next WTO director should come from a poor country, notably as the organisation in 2001 committed itself to drafting a new trade liberalization accord aimed specifically to promote economic development.

The next director general, who will have a four-year mandate, will be responsible

for steering momentum towards a final multilateral trade agreement that the WTO hopes will be reached in 2006.

"I'm sure developing countries will be inclined to choose someone who comes from their side," noted an ambassador from an industrialised country.

## Robbers *Contd. from Pg 1*

seized the opportunity of the Eid-el-Kabir celebrations to attack personalities in the glare of the police and vigilante groups. The robbers, numbering about twenty, carted unconfirmed amount of money.

A victim of the robbery attack in Gwagwalada confirmed to our reporter that the robbers made away with thousands of naira, jewellery, GSM handsets among other valuables seized from the various houses attacked.

The victim, Boniface Jiga, a senior consultant in the hospital, said the incident began at about 1:30 am when the robbers surrounded the quarters threatening residents to open their doors or risk being shot.

Jiga explained that the robbers carried out a serial robbery of nine households while firing sophisticated

guns indiscriminately into the air, apparently to ward off any resistance.

Even when the police subsequently showed up, he said, they could not help the situation because the robbers outnumbered them and wielded more sophisticated weapons.

Another victim of the attack who identified himself as Dr. Ahmed, a senior consultant, said the robbery lasted several hours and that he handed over to the robbers, upon demand, all his money. They however insisted on searching for jewellery and GSM handsets, and made away with those of his wife and children.

The masked robbers were said to be young men of between 19 and 30 years and according to the victims, the police has not lived up to their responsibility to fight crime and protect lives and property.

Although nobody was killed in the attack, the residents however decried the action of the commissioner of police in the area who belatedly came for inspection after the operation was over.

In Zamfara, robbers also carted several valuables and money from personalities.

The robbers numbering about twenty used the occasion of the salah celebrations to carry out their operation attacking residence of some personalities in Tudun Wada area of Gusau.

Those affected were Malam Baba Gusau, Alhaji Lawali Kaura, Arch. Ibrahim Agie and Kabiru Maitiminti, all of Tudun Wada area, despite the presence of policemen and vigilante groups.

Although no life was lost in the attack, impeccable sources told *Daily Trust* in Gusau that over two million naira was lost to the robbers.

Armed with dangerous weapons, the robbers were said to have fired several shots into the air as a threat, waking everybody in the area.

According to sources, security men left their beats for fear of being killed.

*Daily Trust* gathered that robbery cases in Gusau and environs are becoming rampant in recent times, as robbers recently attacked one Alhaji Muhammad Nagoggo in which over 700,000 was taken.

The state's acting governor, Alhaji Mahmud Aliyu Shinkafi, has since condoled the victims of the robbery in their respective residences.

Alhaji Mahmud prayed Allah to reward the victims and the robbers to be arrested wherever they are.

frican people," he said.

Mbeki said the continent had for many years faced challenges of poverty and underdevelopment, conflict and instability.

"Our continent bears the scars of an imposed human-made curse, the millennium-old burden of subjugation in the form of slavery, colonial-

ism, apartheid, neo-colonialism and autocracy.

Mbeki said: "Poverty, lack of infrastructure and underdevelopment is the legacy of this history and is self-evident throughout our continent."

In spite of suggestions proffered to salvage the continent, he said: "Our conti-

ment is littered with half completed or failed projects because intellectual discourse has remained within the confines of the hallowed halls of universities where a select and fortunate few, among Africans, have the privilege of creating and obtaining knowledge."

He said universities had a role to play in an era when Africans have embarked on the renewal of the continent.

"Universities need to forge linkages with government institutions as well as other organs of civil society such as women, youth, business, workers and communities so that together, we can collaborate for the reconstruction and development of our peoples," he advised.

He urged universities to use research and teaching to improve food security, defeat diseases, improve productive sector, remove conflicts and wars and work effectively for democracy and human rights.

Africa, he said has agreed to create space for "all our people to have access to education and have the possibility to pursue their chosen careers in a peaceful and stable Africa."

"Together, let us make it possible for all our countries to enjoy the free movement of teachers, researchers and students across the African continent, transporting with them the rich diversity of cultures and wisdom that are necessary for our renaissance," Mbeki said.

He praised the institutional frameworks such as AU, NEPAD that have been put in place as vehicles for uplifting the continent.

## Doctors *Contd. from Pg 1*

also worked on government's assurance that it would not waste a day before effecting the payment of doctors' entitlements.

The strike action, Dr. Oguzie said was suspended on mutual understanding between the association and the government that, no resident doctor shall face any form of reprisal as a result of the strike and that all resident doctors shall continue to benefit from the 22 per cent increase in basic salary for the purpose of maintaining inter Professional parity.

According to Dr. Oguzie, NARD and government came to an understanding that government shall take urgent steps to address issues like the implementation of the overseas clinical attachment programme, award of the remaining 3 per cent increase in call duty allowance for doctors, the reversal of medical doctors back to the MSS/MSSS salary scale as well as the integration of resident doctors into the activities of National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), National Programme on Immunisation (NPI), National Primary Health Care Development

Agency (NPH CDA) and the National Action Committee on AIDS (NACA).

Consequently, Dr. Oguzie, noted that the association's council has directed all resident doctors in the country to resume work with effect from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2005 adding that all branch presidents should hold meeting with their members accordingly so as to resume work immediately.

Meanwhile, NARD has ordered the continuation of the strike action in health centres that are yet to be paid the 22 per cent increase in basic salary since 2001. It stated that centres like the FCTARD, Plateau ARD, Rivers State ARD, ABSUTH ARD, SSH Maiduguri are yet to pay its members the 22 per cent increase in basic salary since 2001.

"NEC also gave a period of six weeks to these employers of our members within which to finalise discussions and commence the implementation of the 22 per cent increase in basic salary," Dr. Oguzie enthused and thanked stakeholders in the health sector, the media and the general public for their supports to resident doctors in the course of the strike action.

# News



His Royal Highness, the Emir of Lere, Alhaji Umaru Muhammed on horseback during the traditional durbar to mark the Eid-el-Kabir celebrations in Lere...recently.

## NEPA, Benue commissioner at war over activities of bush meat hunters

The Makurdi business district of the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) and the Benue state commissioner for works and housing, Eng. Charles Torhee, are on each other neck over insinuations by the former that the incessant power outage in the state capital is due to the illegal activities of bush-meat.

The power authority was quoted to have attributed the

From Hilr Joseph, Correspondent (Makurdi)

cause of power outages in the district which has dragged on for over a month now to raging bush fires set by Tiv peasants hunting rats and other bush animals. The authority said as a result, network cables are burnt at all points, rendering their services.

In a swift reaction however, the commissioner for

works and housing in a press statement, warned the power authority from using that excuse for its abysmal performance.

Engr. Torhee said the state government has noted the excuse with pains and has decided to check the activities of these hunters so that NEPA no longer holds them responsible for their year round failure.

He also performance as abysmal, noting that the state government has spent N16 million to aid NEPA but that they have continued to prove inefficient.

He however advised the authority to liaise with the state government to ensure that the state is served efficiently.

Daily Trust observes that since the setting in of the dry season, the activities of hunters in the state have continued unabated despite increased environmental regulations against bush burning.

## Dariye: British detectives testify today

Two British detectives arrived Kaduna at the weekend to testify in the money laundering charge against the Plateau state governor, Chief Joshua Dariye and seven bank employees at the Federal high court, Kaduna, when it resumes hearing today.

Daily Trust gathered that the two detectives from Scotland Yard are putting up at the Hamdala hotel and are the officials who allegedly investigated the incident of money laundering against the governor last year in London.

On December 7 the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), dragged the Plateau state governor, Chief Dariye, to a federal high court along with seven bank officials on charges of corruption and money laundering.

The court however struck out Governor Dariye from the charges after Justice Abdullahi Liman the presiding judge, upheld the governor's immunity as provided for in section 308 of the constitution but the seven bank officials are still to stand trial.

According to the original four count charge in suit No. FHC/KD/143C/04, Chief Joshua Chibi Dariye, Awe Odessa, Dorothy Uko, Duata

From Sani Bahadoko, Bureau Chief Kaduna.

P. Iyabi, Law A. Omokhodion, Adonye Roberts, the All States Trust Bank Plc and Ebenezar Retnam Ventures in December, allegedly committed the offence contrary to section 16 of the money laundering Decree No. 3 of 1995, punishable under section 2 of the same Decree.

Also in suit No. FHC/KD/144C/04, all aforementioned, in June 2001 in Abuja, opened account for Retnam Ventures, believed to belong to Chief Dariye, with a Central Bank cheque for N1,161,162,900 in favour of Plateau state at the All States Trust Bank, Wuse, Abuja, knowing it to be unlawfully procured and thereby committed an offence contrary to section 3(2)(9) of the miscellaneous offences Decree 5 of 1999 as amended.



Governor Dariye

## Emir urges aid for Tsunami victims

The Emir of Lere, Alhaji Umaru Muhammad, has called on Muslims to assist South East Asian Muslims ravaged by the Tsunami disaster.

Delivering his Eid-el-Kabir message on Sallah day at his palace, the emir said Muslims should donate money and relief materials to help Tsunami survivors as a mark of solidarity with their fellow Muslim brothers, adding that brotherhood and goodwill are essential elements of Islam.

The emir, who is the national chairman of aid group, *Jama'ah al-Nasrillah*, also prayed that Almighty Allah forgive all those who died in the disaster and prevent the re-occurrence of the calamity.

Similarly, the emir warned

## Senators get N45m for boreholes in constituencies

The chairman, Senate committee on Commerce, Senator Ibikunle Amosun, at the weekend, disclosed that N45 million has been released to each senator to drill boreholes in their constituencies.

Senator Amosun, who represents Ogun Central senatorial district in the National Assembly, disclosed this at his family compound at Owu, Abeokuta, Ogun state, during an interactive session with journalists.

According to him, the contract has been awarded to some of the contractors through Ogun/Oshun River Basin Development Authority (OORBDA), apparently referring to Ogun, Osun, Oyo and Lagos states, the states being serviced by OORBDA.

Senator Amosun explained that the money was

From Kayode Ajibola, Stringer Abeokuta

supposed to have been released during last year's budget but because the budget was late, the government couldn't implement that. "I can tell you now that N45 million has been released to

us to drill boreholes across our district," he revealed.

The chairman senate committee on commerce, further explained that he has met with the people of his constituency to look for a suitable site where the boreholes could be drilled.

## FG ordered varsites to charge N10,000 per bed space - vice chancellor

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

The vice chancellor, university of Maiduguri, Professor J.D Amin, has said that the federal government has given universities authorities in the country, the go-ahead to charge N10,000 per bed space for students accommodation.

The vice chancellor stated this in his office in Maiduguri during an exclusive interview with Daily Trust.

Professor Aminu, who was commenting on students accommodation problems said that the amount of N5,000.00 being charged from UNIMAID students from the school management fell short of that approved by the federal government.

"The federal government has asked universities to charge up to N10,000.00 per bed space. But we in UNIMAID charge N5,000.00 plus the normal N5,000 for rent, while the five thousand is spent exclusively for hostel maintenance, through constant provision of water, electricity when there is no power from NEPA etc" the vice chancellor said.

Professor Amin said that the federal government has indicated interest to hand-off students accommodation and leave it to private investors.

"In the last few years, the federal government shown lack of interest in the building and management of hostels. The FG is interested in private participation." The vice chancellor said.

He recalled that while the UNIMAID has a capacity of twenty five thousand students, the school provides accommodation for "a little above 7,000 students" describing the development as a "large shortfall on students accommodation."

Professor Amin said that on the need for private participation in hostel accommodation, the federal government has through the federal ministry of housing and urban development, sent some ten contractors during which suitable areas were shown to them for hostel construction.

## MSS chides Obasanjo over privatisation of tertiary education

From Aliyu Haruna Correspondent (Kaduna)

The Muslim Students Society of Nigeria (MSSN), have deplored the recent decision of the federal government to privatise students accommodation in all higher institutions in the country.

The public relations officer (PRO) of "A" zone (northern states MSSN), Mallam Yusuf Yakubu Arrigisayyu stated this at a press conference organised to draw attention to plans by President Olusegun Obasanjo's regime as it affects the nation in general and students in particular.

Mallam Yusuf said that if the plan is allowed to succeed, it will put education beyond the reach of less-privileged Nigerians. He noted with great concern that the restoration of full citizenship rights to the Muslim victims of Yelwa-Shendam crises in Plateau state, is on-going at snail speed, saying that the educational needs of their children is still in jeopardy after destroying their psyche and shattering their confidence as free-born citizens of Nigeria.

He maintained that tampering with educational needs of Muslim children is part of the on-going global persecution, oppression, marginalisation and demonisation of Muslims orchestrated by the international enemies of Allah and their Nigerian surrogates.

He commended the proposed national dialogue by the federal government to resolve misunderstandings as a noble idea, even as it is not sure if the dialogue is not just for his self-succession bid in 2007, given President Obasanjo antecedents.

The PRO noted that the idea is still hazy, pointing out that the criteria for the selection delegates is vague, while its terms of reference is couched in esoteric language.

The emir who prayed for continued peace, stability and sustained development of the nation, also urged his subjects to co-operate with the officials of the National Population Commission (NPC), for the successful conduct of the forthcoming national census.

The emir's message was preceded by a very elaborate durbar and traditional *jahi* at his palace in Lere to commemorate the Eid-el-Kabir festival.

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## Presidential c'tee holds public hearing in Lagos

The Presidential Action Committee on Control of Violent Crimes and Illegal Weapons is to hold a public hearing in Lagos from Jan. 24 to 27.

Mr Segun Ayobolu, Chief Press Secretary to the Lagos State governor, said in a statement made available to the News Agency of Nigeria

(NAN) at the weekend, that the sitting would hold at the former Senate building, Tafawa Balewa Square.

Ayobolu stated that the committee, which was on a nationwide tour, will receive memoranda from individuals and groups and also offer an opportunity for presentations during their sitting.



# Loyola Jesuit College

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Fees for the 2005-2006 session were N335,000 per year which included refundable deposit (N10,000), tuition, room, board, books, uniforms and N7,000 Loss of Breadwinner Insurance and N6000 local PTA dues (Inflation will demand an upward review)

Application forms are for sale ONLY at the following places:

- |   |   |
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| 2. John Paul II Catholic Centre, Wuse II, Abuja                       | 13. OLA Private School, Airport Road, Benin City.                       |
| 3. Jesuit Residence, 5L, Augusto Close, Surulere, Lagos               | 14. CIWA, Aba Expressway, Port Harcourt.                                |
| 4. St. Dominic's Church, Yaba, Lagos                                  | 15. Nativity Private School, Opposite the High Court, Makurdi.          |
| 5. Sacred Heart Church, Creek Road, Apapa, Lagos                      | 16. Holy Child Convent, Marian Hill Road, Calabar.                      |
| 6. Christ the King Church, 80 Layi Oyekanmi Street, Ilasamaja, Lagos. | 17. Kaduna International School, Wurno Road, Kaduna.                    |
| 7. Catholic Secretariat, Force Road, Lagos.                           | 18. St. Louis College, Joseph Gomwalk Road, Jos.                        |
| 8. OLA Private School at St. Agnes, Maryland, Lagos.                  | 19. St. Louis Primary (Private) School, Airport Road, Kano              |
| 9. OLA Private School, Yaba, Lagos.                                   | 20. Sacred Heart Primary School, Uwani, Enugu                           |
| 10. OLA Private School at St. Mary's Convent, Broad St. Lagos.        | 21. Maryhill Private Primary School, Agodi, Ibadan                      |
| 11. Assumption Catholic Church, Falomo, Lagos                         |   |

*"SERVICE OF GOD AND OTHERS"*

### Examination Centres

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Loyola Jesuit College, Karu-Karshi Road, Gidan Mangoro, Abuja, FCT | 8. Kaduna International School, Wurno Road, Kaduna.        |
| 2. OLA Private School, at St. Mary's Convent, Broad St. Lagos.        | 9. St. Louis College, Joseph Gomwalk Road, Jos.            |
| 3. OLA Private School, Airport Road, Benin City.                      | 10. OLA Private School at St. Agnes, Maryland, Lagos.      |
| 4. Sacred Heart Minor Seminary, Port Harcourt.                        | 11. OLA Private School, Yaba, Lagos.                       |
| 5. Nativity Private School, Opposite the High Court, Makurdi.         | 12. St. Louis Primary (Private) School, Airport Road, Kano |
| 6. Sacred Heart Primary School, Uwani, Enugu                          | 13. Maryhill Private Primary School, Agodi, Ibadan         |
| 7. Holy Child College, Marian Hill Road, Calabar.                     |  |

### PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES:

Students who wish to enter JS 1 should be 10 years old by January of 2006. No test ranks are released.

All candidates should send the following documents along with the completed form:  
2 self-addressed official envelopes with N50 postage stamp,  
Photocopy of birth certificate (Declaration of Age Affidavits are not acceptable), 2 Passport photos

### Date of Entrance Examination:

Saturday 23 April 2005

### Date of Entrance Exam Result Publication:

27 May 2005

### Interviews

3-4, 10-11 and 17-18 June, 2005

A list of successful candidates will be published in *Guardian*, *ThisDay* and *Daily Trust* newspapers on June 25. List will also be posted in each of the selling centres and the school's web site ([www.loyolajesuit.org/Admission](http://www.loyolajesuit.org/Admission))

### Date of Close of Entries:

23 March 2005

Entries must be at the selling centres listed above or Loyola Jesuit College by this date.



# REFLECTIONS

By ISSA AREMU

## Return of EEG

What about an export incentive scheme such that its suspension and restoration elicited so much passion for and against? EEG is the acronym for Export Expansion Grant. The incentive was introduced in 1986. EEG underscores the paradoxes in Nigeria's (under) development process. It is instructive that EEG was born during the period of nascent *laizzez-faire* structural adjustment policy (SAP). On reflection, we can say that while the road to unbridled market role in development was laid during this period, there was still a relative balance and good mix between the state and market in development process. Today we practically tilt heavily towards the market at the expense of state support for local enterprise under a neoliberal dogma.

The assumption then was that domestic firms deserved some special treatment before they could produce for exports and at competitive prices too. EEG is a form of some monetary inducement for exporters who export a minimum of N500,000 worth of processed products. Disbursement to beneficiaries is in form of a transferable tax certificate called Negotiable Duty Credit Certificate (NDCC). Originally 20 per cent incentives and disbursed by Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC) EEG percentage point was marked up to 40% in 2003 following the abolition of a complimentary incentive, called Duty Drawback Scheme.

Independent impact assessment of this incentive is still very much desired. However preliminary consensus is that non-oil exports have significantly increased which is not unconnected with this singular incentive. According to CBN annual report for 2002, non-oil exports increased from N28 billion in 2001 to N94 billion in 2002. Sadly EEG assumed notoriety last July when it was suspended by the federal government. Government reportedly based its suspension decision on an impact assessment carried out by a commissioned Price Water House & Coopers. Federal ministry of Finance reportedly discovered wholesale irregularities in the scheme administration involving some ghost exporters. This reportedly necessitated the intervention of EFCC investigating the export transactions of all companies between 2001 and 2003. In fact, Budget 2005 proposal

favours continued suspension of the scheme. However many manufacturers took exception to the Finance ministry's assessment. They questioned the integrity of the ministry's report, its underlying assumptions, insisting that contrary to government impression about gross abuse, the two-decade long scheme has promoted investment, generated employment and encouraged local raw materials utilization.

According to MAN export group, the bane of EEG was the new categorization occasioned by year 2003 fiscal policy. The categorization of products into fully manufactured and intermediate products as well as raw agricultural products created what manufacturers described as 'grey-areas' in the subsidy-disbursement, making the scheme prone to gross distortion and abuse.

What ever might be the true position of its impact assessment, of interest here is the economics as well as the politics of EEG administration. For one, the federal government must be commended for having a second thought on the suspended scheme. Observers had wondered aloud how government would sustain the tempo of the incipient non-oil exports when it knocks off an incentive that served as a catalyst. What is even clearly objectionable was the affirmation in 2005 budget that suspension would stay. There was no notice of its sudden suspension in 2004 budget, so why reaffirmation of its continued suspension in 2005? This contradiction stresses due process in policy formulation!

Even more significant is how this development has brought into the fore the cancer of policy inconsistency, the very bane of our development. Government certainly has the responsibility to prevent

**"Government should not create the impression that policy review means policy punishment. EEG management calls for sober reflection instead policy hot chase. Nothing justifies corporate robbery which ghost exporters perpetrate"**

## 2003: A second look at court of appeal's verdict

By Abba M. Mohammed

That the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) and General Muhammadu Buhari took the war over April 19 presidential polls to the Supreme Court calls for a second look at the recent court of Appeal's verdict, beyond all the colourful display of legal jargons.

The party and its presidential candidate have, in their petition made three fundamental demands, namely that the election be annulled based on "non-compliance" with the electoral laws; "irregularities" in the conduct of the polls and "violence and intimidation" of the petitioners' supporters at polling units and elsewhere. A close look at the demands side-by-side the verdict is therefore imperative, especially since the judges have established all the grounds that the ANPP and General Buhari raised in their petition.

Regarding non-compliance, the petitioners said most, (if not all) of the INEC staff that participated in the conduct of the election did not take the oath of allegiance to the Federal Republic of Nigeria. But the court's opinion was that the lack of oath did not make the INEC officials compromise their responsibility of an umpire in the polls. It seems the court's opinion contradicts Nigeria's Oaths Act, which stipulates that any officer must take oath before assumption of duty. Or simply vacate the office for failing to do so.

Similarly, more than 60 witnesses of the petitioners testified that they were not allowed to certify the election materials before distribution to polling centres in the country. Ideally, this certification should have taken place before even the distribution of materials. But the court argued that certification was done by political parties' polling agents. It is evident that if the law provides for certification before distribution of sensitive election materials, then the parties' polling agents had no jurisdiction to do that.

As for "irregularities," the petitioners challenged that the election results did not emanate from the polling units. And so, the court said the petitioners should identify the genuine from the forged results sheet. The ANPP and General Buhari, relying on a court order of May 2003, asked the court to issue a subpoena compelling INEC to produce the results announced by presidential polls Returning Officer. Up to the time the final verdict was given, INEC had not tendered the results sheet. This action was even condemned by the judgment as a proof of bias or disrespect of court order, but went unpunished.

The judgement also attested to the use of violence and intimidation by security agents in fourteen (14) states, where supporters

of the petitioners were allegedly killed. It was at this juncture that Justice Umar was said to have identified the intimidation as a dangerous threat to democracy, but argued that the military and police were not joined in the suit. And that such violence in 14 states, could not have caused the court to "disenfranchise" the remaining 24 states (where the petitioners did not allege violent intimidation). But then, the same court annulled election in Ogun State because of irregularity, the question is: why didn't the court say irregularity in one state does not call for annulment?

From all indications, the court of Appeal's verdict has the potential of generating an unending controversy, in view of the observed lapses in the proceedings.

Perhaps, the Supreme Court would be in a better position to understand the said lapses, the niceties or otherwise in the arguments of both lawyers of the Federal Government and those of the ANPP and General Buhari, when the chips are down.

The looming warfare at the Supreme Court will most certainly keep the lawyers of the government and those of the petitioners on edge. Analysts believe that the Federal Government must, at the Supreme Court level, work extra hard to maintain its lead or suffer a humiliating defeat. The ANPP and General Buhari on the other hand, according to the analysts, may not file fresh arguments but stick to those earlier presented at the court of appeal.

Interesting to most observers is what happens in the ongoing bout at the Supreme Court. If the Federal Government loses this time, what happens to president Obasanjo's seat, less than three years to another round of general elections? Will it mean that the incumbent president will vacate his seat three years earlier? How possible will it be to swear-in General Buhari to serve as president for three years and conduct elections for his potential successor in 2007? On the other hand, if General Buhari loses to the Federal Government at the Supreme Court level, where will that leave him? For example, what happens to the popular belief that, in a democracy, the judiciary is the only known bulwark against injustice?

Analysts also wonder if General Buhari would contest elections in future, if the Supreme Court warfare favours President Obasanjo and the PDP again, notwithstanding the insinuation that General Buhari may pair with Chief Odumegwu Ojukwu in 2007 presidential elections.

A new battle line on the disputed mandate may soon be drawn. Looking at the chains of reactions that are unfolding, it would probably be a matter of time before the issue dominates the centre-stage of national discourse. A number of eminent Nigerians

have expressed misgivings with the verdict on the BBC, VOA and the Deutsche Welle radio stations immediately after announcement. The coalition of the nation's political parties, CNPP has since condemned the verdict. Newspapers have since started recording all the venom against the Federal Government, the Court of Appeal and the National Electoral Commission. Even at the lower strata of the society, indignation with the verdict has combined with the discontent already caused by government's voodoo economic policies. Earlier, a coalition of youth organisations from the south-south, south-west and the north called for the resignation of president Obasanjo along with the three judges of the Court of Appeal. There was a "protest rally" by commercial motorcyclists in Kano over the verdict. There was a public show of anger as exemplified by the rally in Minna. There was similar incident in Taraba and Benue States. In Adamawa State too, a demonstration was said to have taken place and that the police had made some arrests. The worst of all, according to reports, was the one in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital.

On the whole, about six states of the federation have so far witnessed unexpected demonstrations against the verdict. Analysts also fear that other ANPP-controlled states may follow suit. With the opposition gradually up, the Federal government is also confronted by a double-edged sword: the looming Supreme Court warfare and the tension caused by the verdict.

It is uncertain what dimension the war on the disputed mandate would take in the coming weeks and months, but definitely the warfare will produce the final victor and the vanquished. For President Obasanjo, he has the factor of incumbency to deploy to use, while the ANPP and General Buhari would rely on the Supreme Court and the support of a suffering Nigerian electorate. For sure, the petitioners need doses of the solidarity of a dissatisfied Nigerian electorate, at least, as morale-booster.

The eight (or so) European countries that ANPP and General Buhari's agitation team visited about a year ago, would now also prove if their pledge for supporting the struggle is for real. It will also form another litmus test for the nation's heavily-accused judiciary. It will therefore be an opportunity for the judiciary to correct the erroneous impression that it has since compromised its independence. The human rights community, which is also accused of being silent over the Court of Appeal's verdict, may also clear its image by demonstrating interest in the ongoing warfare at the Supreme Court.

The bottom-line for President Obasanjo and General Buhari is for both of them not to be unduly optimistic that it will be an easy win this time.


Mohammed writes from Wuse, Abuja.

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# UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN

## FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

### PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMMES

**Our Ref: UIL/RDMB/PP/009**

#### **ADMISSION INTO PROFESSIONAL POST-GRADUATE AND SUB-DEGREE PROGRAMMES 2004/2005 SESSION**

Applications are invited from qualified candidates for admission into the underlisted Postgraduate Professional degree Programmes of the University:

- (i) Master of Business Administration (MBA Executive)
- (ii) Master of Business Administration (MBA Regular)
- (iii) Master of Public Administration (MPA)
- (iv) Master of Industrial and Labour Relations (MILR)
- (v) Master of International Studies (MIS)
- (vi) Postgraduate Diploma in International Affairs and Diplomacy (PGDIAD)
- (vii) Postgraduate Diploma in Strategic Management (PGDSM)

#### **Master of Business Administration (MBA) Executive**

The duration of the programme shall normally be 30 months. Executive MBA students will attend lectures on weekend every fortnightly. They are also expected to come in for two (2) weeks during summer for intensive academic work. The available areas of specialization include: Accounting, Marketing, Personnel Management, Finance, General Management and Operations Management.

#### **Master of Business Administration (MBA Full-time /Part-time)**

The duration of the programme shall normally be 18 months for Full-time and 24 months for Part-time. Areas of specialization include: Accounting, Marketing, Personnel Management, Finance, General Management and Operations Management.

#### **Master of Public Administration (MPA)**

The duration of the programme shall normally be 18 months for Full-time and 30 months for Part-time. Areas of specialization include Public: Finance, Budgeting, Personnel Management, Public Policy and Development Administration.

#### **Master of Industrial and Labour Relations (MILR)**

The duration of the programme shall normally be 18 months for Full-time and 30 months for Part-time. Areas of specialization include: Labour Management Relations, Personnel and Human Resources Management, Industrial Conflict and Dispute Resolution, and Labour Law.

#### **Master of International Studies (MIS)**

The duration of the programme shall normally be minimum 18 months and maximum 30 calendar months. Lectures will hold fortnightly. The available areas of specialization include: International Economic Relations, Foreign Policy, Strategic Studies, Diplomacy and International Politics.

#### **Postgraduate Diploma in International Affairs and Diplomacy (PGDIAD)**

The duration of the programme shall normally be 30 months. The programme runs on weekends and fortnightly. It has the same areas of specialization as MIS.

#### **Postgraduate Diploma in Strategic Management (PGDSM Part-time)**

The duration of the programme shall normally be 2 academic sessions and will run on part-time basis.

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

##### **Master of Business Administration (MBA)**

Candidates for admission into the MBA programme should normally possess a recognized Bachelor's degree from an approved University. Holders of professional qualifications of ACA, ACMA, CPA, AIB, ACIS, CIBN, ACTS or HND (Upper Credit) with at least 5 years of post qualification experience are also eligible to apply.

In the case of MBA Executive programme, however, candidates must have considerable post-qualification work experience of at least five years for degree holders and eight years for HND and holders of professional qualifications. In addition, the candidates must be in Full-time employment in relatively Senior Management Positions.

All candidates should, have at least credit in Five (5) subjects including English and Mathematics at the Ordinary Level (O/L) irrespective of field of study.

##### **Master of Public Administration (MPA)**

Candidates for admission into the MPA degree programme must have classified honours degrees from recognized Universities.

##### **Master of Industrial and Labour Relations (MILR)**

Candidates for admission into the MILR Degree programme must normally possess classified Bachelor's Degrees of the University of Ilorin, or from any other accredited University.

##### **Master in International Studies (MIS)**

Candidates for Admission into the MIS Professional Degree programme should normally possess a Bachelor Degree in any discipline with at least a Third Class Honours form the University of Ilorin or any other approved University. Graduates with a PASS degree but with post-graduate Diploma in any discipline shall also be eligible for admission provided they sit for a qualifying examination to be administered by the University.

##### **Postgraduate Diploma in International Affairs and Diplomacy (PGDIAD)**

Candidates for admission into Postgraduate Diploma in International Affairs and Diplomacy programme must normally possess a Bachelor's Degree or HND with a minimum of pass grade.

##### **Postgraduate Diploma in Strategic Management (PGDSM)**

Candidates for admission into Postgraduate Diploma in Strategic Management should normally possess Bachelor Degrees or Professional qualifications such as ICAN or HND (with at least Lower Credit).

#### **METHODS OF APPLICATION**

Forms may be obtained in person or by post. Request for application form by post must be accompanied with N50.00 stamp and self addressed envelope. An application fee of N5,000.00 is payable to the University of Ilorin Account.

All monies must be paid by Bank Draft and Certified Cheque in the name of the University of Ilorin, Ilorin. The name, address of applicant and the programme applied for must appear at the back of the draft or the certified cheque.

#### **SUB-DEGREE PROGRAMMES 2004/2005 SESSION**

Applications are invited from qualified candidates for admission into the underlisted Professional Diploma Programmes in the Faculty of Business and Social Sciences:

- (i) Diploma in Accounting and Data Processing (DADP)
- (ii) Diploma in Administrative Management (DAM)
- (iii) Diploma in Money and Banking (DM&B)
- (iv) Diploma in Social Administration (DSA)
- (v) Diploma in Crime Control and Management (DCCM)

##### **Diploma in Accounting and Data Processing (DADP)**

The duration of the programme shall normally be two (2) academic sessions.

##### **Diploma in Administrative Management (DAM)**

The duration of the programme shall normally be two (2) academic sessions.

##### **Diploma in Money and Banking (DM&B)**

The duration of the programme shall normally be two (2) academic sessions.

##### **Diploma in Social Administration (DSA)**

The duration of the programme shall normally be two (2) academic sessions.

##### **Diploma in Crime Control and Management (DCCM)**

The duration of the programme shall normally be two (2) academic sessions.

#### **Eligibility**

##### **Diploma in Accounting and Data Processing (DADP)**

Candidates should have five (5) credits at not more than two sittings in GCE/SSCE (O/L) including English and Mathematics and any two of Accounting, Economics, Geography,

Business Methods, Statistics, Government and any numerate science subject. Holders of Accounting Technician Scheme (ATS) of ICAN may also apply.

# TRUST INTERNATIONAL Garang returns to southern Sudan

The southern Sudanese leader has returned to his base, the remote town of Rumbek, for the first time since signing a historic peace deal.

John Garang received a rapturous welcome after flying into the town.

Mr. Garang led southern rebels against the government in Khartoum in a bloody civil war until the peace agreement was signed in Kenya in this month.

His resignation, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), is now expected to be ratified in a deal.

It will then begin the task of putting together a new southern government.

The peace agreement is designed to end two decades of war between the Muslim north and the mainly Christian south of the country that left an estimated 1.5 million people dead.

As part of the deal, Mr. Garang will become vice-president in the central government and will lead an autonomous government in the south from Rumbek.

The BBC correspondent in Rumbek said Mr. Garang faces enormous challenges transforming his movement into one capable of developing one of the most poverty-stricken and war-ravaged countries in the world.

Rumbek itself has no paved roads or multi-storey buildings and hardly any running water or electricity.

Mr. Garang was received at the airport by a delegation including the United Nations chief envoy to Sudan, Jan Pronk, and greeted by a marching band, traditional dancers and a large crowd of onlookers.

"It feels great after 20 years," he said.

peace agreement - honourable and dignified - you can see the people are very happy," Mr. Garang told the BBC.

"Our first task is to ratify the agreement. That's why we have come to Rumbek... The same thing will be done in Khartoum."

Mr. Garang has said the first priority for the planned SPLM administration in the south will be the voluntary repatriation of refugees and the provision of basic humanitarian needs.

Under the terms of the deal, the government of southern Sudan will share sovereignty with the government in the north. Hundreds of millions and perhaps even billions of dollars will flow to Mr.

Garang's new administration.

The Dutch Development Minister, Agnes van Ardenne, visited Rumbek on Friday, promising \$130m in European aid - but made it conditional on an end to the continuing conflict in the western region of Darfur.

The UN is hoping to deploy in March some 10,000 international peacekeepers to monitor the agreement, between the Islamic government in the north and Christian and Animist rebels.

But UN sources said the deployment could be delayed by a dispute over which countries will provide the troops.

The SPLM is reported to believe that too many Muslim countries have been asked to contribute.

## Allawi admits security lag ahead of polls

Interim Iraqi Prime Minister Iraq Iyad Allawi has said it will be impossible to provide full security for this month's parliamentary elections.

Mr. Allawi said the measures being put in place were not enough to prevent all attacks by insurgents.

He was speaking after two more suicide bombings apparently targeting Shias killed at least 25 people on Friday.

In the deadliest, at least 14 died when a car bomb exploded as worshippers left a mosque in the capital, Baghdad.

The bomber struck the al-Taf mosque as people were celebrating the festival of Eid al-Adha - one of Islam's most important holidays.

Some 40 injured - including children - were rushed to a nearby hospital.

Hours later, a vehicle reported to have been an ambulance exploded south of the capital, killing at least 11 people at a Shia wedding party. The bride and groom were among many more reported injured in the blast.

Shia political leaders think militants are trying to stir up sectarian strife. The blast came after a notorious militant leader reportedly warned of a long fight against US forces in Iraq.

The latest attacks come amid an increase in unrest in the run-up to Iraq's elections.

Commenting on the violence during a phone-in TV show, Mr. Allawi said: "The plan is not enough to confront the savage attacks."

He said the attackers would "try to make the political process fail" but expressed confidence that security services would "meet the challenges".

The BBC's correspondent in Baghdad said every aspect of Iraq's first direct national vote for decades is being overshadowed by violence.

There has been very little door-to-door campaigning because several candidates have been killed and many more threatened, she said, so this is an almost faceless campaign.

Iraq's most revered Shia cleric, Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, has urged his followers to take part in the election, while some Sunni Muslim organisations have demanded a boycott.

In an audio recording posted on a Islamic website on Thursday, militant leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi accused Shias of attacking and defiling Sunni mosques in Falluja "with the blessing" of Ayatollah Sistani.

The recording warned the fight against US troops and their allies "is long and will last months and years".

The UN has offered a \$25m (177 million) Zarqawi has been reported to have killed and wounded.

## Palestinian activists deny ceasefire

Palestinian activists have denied a claim by an Israeli minister that they have agreed a ceasefire.

Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz said Radio that Hamas and Islamic Jihad had agreed to suspend attacks against Israel for a month.

He said in return Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas had promised the groups a role in the Palestinian Authority.

But Hamas spokesman Abu Zuhri said a ceasefire would require an Israeli commitment to end "aggression".

Mr. Mofaz said Israel was willing to suspend operations against Palestinian militants but only if they did not carry out attacks.

"As long as there is quiet, there is no reason why we should not eventually see it," Mr. Mofaz said.

Mr. Mofaz said Israel was taking the first steps. Mr. Zuhri said:

"But the Fatah correspondent in Jerusalem

said Mr. Mofaz did not make the clear commitment to a ceasefire demanded by the Palestinians.

Mr. Mofaz said he understood Mr. Abbas had secured a ceasefire agreement with Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

But the Hamas spokesman, Mr. Zuhri, said: "What Mofaz said was incorrect. We reiterated that the movement has expressed its readiness to study the issue of calm seriously."

"But there will be no calm without a price and a calm will not be accepted unless there is a clear commitment from the occupation to stop all sorts of aggression."

Mr. Abbas has been in talks in the Gaza Strip with a number of militant groups for the past few days. There have been no attacks on Israel or Gaza during that period.

On Sunday, the spokesman of the Fatah Movement in Gaza said the movement would suspend its military operations.

## Diploma in Administrative Management (DAM)

Candidates should have five (5) credits at not more than two (2) sittings in GCE/SSCE (O/L) including English, Government and one other social science subject with at least a pass in Mathematics.

## Diploma in Money and Banking (DM&B)

Candidates should have five (5) credits at GCE/SSCE (O/L) including English, Mathematics and Economics. These credits should be obtained at not more than two sittings. The other credit should be in any social science subject.

## Diploma in Social Administration and Social Works (DSA)

Candidates should normally have five (5) credits at not more than two sittings in GCE/SSCE (O/L) including English and at least a pass in Mathematics. Holders of Professional Certificates in Social Works, Nursing, Mid-Wifery and Public Health are qualified to apply.

## Diploma in Crime Control and Management (DCCM)

Candidates should normally have four (4) credits at not more than two sittings in GCE/SSCE (O/L) including English Language. Mature candidates who have secured 10 years cognate experience in the required professional/career service are also eligible to apply.

## Methods of Application

Forms may be obtained in person or by post. Requests for application forms by post must be accompanied with N50.00 stamped and addressed envelope. Application fee of N5,000 is payable to the University of Ilorin Account. All monies must be paid by Bank Draft or Certified Cheque in the name of the University of Ilorin, Ilorin. The name of the applicant and the programme applied for must appear at the back of the draft or the certified cheque.

## Request for application forms should be forwarded to:

The Coordinator,  
Faculty of Business and Social Sciences,  
Professional Programmes,  
University of Ilorin,  
P.M.B. 1515,  
Ilorin,  
Kwara State.  
Tel: 031-229119, 08055804525  
E-mail: ppunilorin@yahoo.com



OR  
Obtain in person from:  
University of Ilorin Liaison Office,  
No. 50/52 Adelabu Street,  
Off Aih. Masha Road,  
Surtlere,  
Lagos, Nigeria.

## Submission of Application Forms:

Completed application forms must be returned with three self-addressed and stamped foolscap sized envelopes to reach the Coordinator, Professional Programmes, not later than March 12, 2005. Transcripts of degree/professional work and referee's reports must be submitted promptly.

Please note that the qualifying examinations for the programmes are scheduled as follows:

MBA	March 12, 2005	(9.00am)
MILR	March 12, 2005	(9.00am)
MPA	March 12, 2005	(9.00am)
DAM	March 12, 2005	(9.00am)
DSA	March 19, 2005	(9.00am)
QCCM	March 19, 2005	(9.00am)
DADP	March 19, 2005	(9.00am)
DM&B	March 19, 2005	(9.00am)
PGDGIS	March 26, 2005	(9.00am)
PGDIAD	March 26, 2005	(9.00am)
PGDSM	March 26, 2005	(9.00am)

VENUE: Africa Hall, Mini Campus, University of Ilorin.

Signed  
O. O. OYEGBAN  
Registrar

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PHOTOGRAPH BY SHARON M. HARRIS

# Business Trust

## Today's flight schedule

Albarka Air	
Lagos - Abuja	07:20
	10:30
	15:15
	13:00
Abuja - Lagos	8:45a.m.
	11:00
	13:15
	17:00
Maiduguri - Abuja	06:50
Abuja - Maid.	17:00
Lagos - Yola	1:00 p.m.
Abuja - Yola	14:30
Yola - Abuja	15:30
Yola - Lagos	4:00 p.m.
Chanchangi Airlines	
Lagos - Abuja	8:15a.m.
	11:00a.m.
	12:10p.m.
	4:45p.m.
Kaduna - Lagos	8:30a.m.
P/H - Lagos	9:00a.m.
	4:30p.m.
Abuja - Kaduna	2:30p.m.
Kaduna - Abuja	1:30p.m.
IRS Airlines	
CBQ - Abuja	8:00 a.m.
Abuja - Lagos	9:45a.m.
Lagos - Kaduna	9:30a.m.
Kano - Lagos	7:30p.m.
Lagos - Kano	11:15a.m.
Kaduna - Lagos	11:00a.m.
Lagos - Abu MM	2:30p.m.
Abuja - MM	1:45p.m.
MM - Abuja	3:45p.m.
Abuja - CBQ	5:15p.m.
Kano - Abuja	1:15p.m.
Abuja - Kano	2:30p.m.
Kano - Lagos	3:45p.m.
Lagos - Kano	6:00p.m.
EAS Airlines	
Lagos - Abuja	8:15p.m.
	11:45a.m.
	5:45p.m.
Abuja - Lagos	10:15a.m.
	7:15p.m.
Lagos - Jos	11:45a.m.
Jos - Lagos	2:30p.m.
Dasab Airlines	
Abuja - Lagos	8:30 a.m.
Lagos - PHC	10:30 a.m.
PHC - Lagos	12:30 a.m.
Lagos - Kano	2:30 p.m.
Kano - Lagos	4:30 p.m.
Lagos - Abuja	6:30p.m.
ADC Airline	
Lagos - Abuja	7:15 a.m.
	12:45 p.m.
Abuja - Lagos	8:55 a.m.
Lagos - Calabar	11:15 a.m.
Calabar - Lagos	7:20 a.m.
P/H - Lagos	9:45 a.m.
Lagos - Sokoto	8:55am
Sokoto - Lagos	11:55am

Most airlines operate the same flight schedule on week days.



Corcellus Adeboye, communications minister

## Telecom Mtel gets 983,000 subscribers

Mtel, the mobile arm of the Nigerian Telecommunications Ltd now has 983,000 active subscribers on its network, the Chief Marketing Officer of the company, Mr Edwin Momife, has announced.

Speaking at a media forum, organised by XLR8 Communications Ltd to announce plans for the staging of a national conference on

value-added services in Lagos last week, Momife noted that Mtel had repositioned itself to make a greater impact in the telecommunications sector.

He said that the management of the company had devoted time to building "an advanced and reliable network" and was now poised to enter into stiff competition with the other networks.

According to him, the company has built 11 mobile switching centres around the country - a development that would enable more subscribers to be accommodated on the network.

He said the company's emphasis had now shifted to building backbone transmission infrastructure along major highways in the country, noting that the facility had been deployed on the Kaduna Birnin-Kebbi highway.

Asked why the price of Mtel's SIM Pack was still

other companies, Momife said that Mtel was offering quality service that was lacking in other networks.

He said the company had completed interconnection agreements with the other mobile networks and that short messages services could now be sent to and from MTN and Glo Mobile.

The Mtel Chief Marketing Officer said that the company was interested in offering a variety of value-added services, expressing the determination of the Mtel to work closely with XLR8 to give maximum service to telephone subscribers in the country.

The chief executive of-

ficer of XLR8, Mr Calixtus Okoruwa, enjoined the telephone networks to educate telephone users on the range of value-added services on their networks.

He said that XLR8 had packaged a conference, tagged "e-NNOVATE, scheduled for Feb.3 and Feb.4 in Lagos to enlighten subscribers in the country on the existing value-added services on the telephone networks.

There are about 8 million telephone users in the country at present, according to official records obtained from the Nigerian Communications Commission, (NCC)

## NITEL targets 1.5bn monthly revenue in Lagos

The chairman of the board of the Nigeria Telecommunications Limited (NITEL), Mr Vincent Maduka, has expressed optimism that NITEL will generate up to N1.5 billion monthly in Lagos area alone as soon as the 250,000 additional fixed wireless are deployed in the city.

He said NITEL will also generate N1 billion monthly from the North west, South west north east and south eastern parts of the country as soon as the company completes the deployment of the futuristic Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) technology.

The management of NITEL, according to him, has installed what he described as a better and efficient data billing software to enhance interconnectivity with other networks.

He said "this will help to improve NITEL's billing system and block the haemorrhage currently suffered by the company in interconnectivity and consumer billings."

Mr. Maduka added that the management of NITEL was determined to boost the asset base of the company to set it on course for privatisation later this year.

According to him, NITEL has mapped out a number of projects in key areas of its operation to give quality service to its customers. "It is the intention of the management of the company to continue to grow its assets, improve its services and performance to regain and maintain its leadership position in the telecommunications market," he said.

It would be recalled that business has been bad for NITEL since the federal government deregulated the telecommunications sector, giving many companies the opportunity to exploit the vast

Anas A. Galadima, Reporter (Business) with agency reports

potentials in the country's telecommunications sector.

Consequently, NITEL was said to have recorded a remarkable loss of N19 billion in the 2003 fiscal year.

Analysts now predict that the company could make a similar run in the 2004 fiscal year.

## Subscribers threaten GSM operators over poor services

The National Association of Telecommunications subscribers of Nigeria (NATCOMS) has exhorted members to "fight" the four

From Zakariyya Adaramola Stringer (Lagos)

GSM operators in the country over in poor services currently being experienced by subscribers.

Since the start of this year, GSM subscribers have been experiencing network problems like drop calls interrupted calls and undelivered message problems.

The president of NATCOM, Mr Deolu Ogunbanjo said complaints of network problems were mounting by the day hence the group's resolve to "fight."

He said the operators should have built adequate capacity to take the number of subscribers envisaged to use the networks, and stop focusing more on their financial gains.

He called on the executive vice-chairman (EVC) of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Engineer Ernest Ndukwue to look into the problems before the whole networks collapse.

His words: "Just before the end of 2004 and the beginning of 2005, we have been receiving complaints bordering on network problems like drop calls, undelivered message, interrupted calls and others, and we have investigated and found those complaints to be genuine. We are hereby telling GSM operators to please let the subscribers enjoy their phones. They should build adequate capacity which will take their subscribers. We want to call on the EVC to NCC to please do something on this problem," he stressed.



Former minister of communications, Dr. Bello Hallelu Mohammed (right) being conferred with the Africa International Merit Award by the West Africa International magazine, in recognition of his achievements as a veterinarian and public officer. Dr. Mohammed (right) in this picture was receiving a certificate for the award from Dr. Des Oduwo-Ikure, (middle), publisher of the magazine, while another staff of the magazine watches.

## EU probes state aid to BT, Kingston

BT Group Plc and Kingston Communications are being investigated for potentially receiving illegal tax advantages from the British government, the European Commission said on last week.

If the Commission finds that British tax rules gave BT and Kingston an unfair advantage over competitors, the two companies could be forced to reimburse the government.

The European Union executive approved opening the

investigation at its regular weekly meeting. BT operates in most parts of Britain and Kingston operates in the region of Hull. They pay property taxes based on base business rates set by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA). The potential violation goes back to 2000.

"The VOA applies a certain asset valuation method to BT and Kingston, while it applies other methods to their competitors," the EU executive said in a statement, not-

ing that "it may favour BT and Kingston resulting in a disproportionate tax burden for competitors in electronic communications services.

State aid that gives one company an advantage over another is prohibited under EU treaties and companies which are found to have received it may be forced to pay back the money, with interest, to the government.

Exceptions are made when there are good reasons, such as aid to a distressed economic area.

# Business Trust

## LISTED SECURITIES

## THE NIGERIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

## REPORT AS AT WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2005

COMPANY NAME	NO OF DEALS	QUOTATION(S)	QUANTITY TRADED	VALUE OF SHARES
CLUTA PLC	1	1.43	3,000	4,290.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>			<b>3,000</b>	<b>4,290.00</b>
AGRICULTURE/AGRO-ALLIED				
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	2	2.83	2,115	5,985.45
THE OROUNI OIL PALM COMPANY PLC	2	14.71	6,699	108,708.00
PRESCO PLC	4	12.20	12,012	144,954.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>			<b>20,727</b>	<b>258,777.45</b>
ALUMINIUM & TYRE				
DUNLOP NIGERIA PLC	48	1.96	1,880,672	3,207,111.23
R.T. BRIDGEMAN PLC	18	7.22	403,520	2,913,414.40
<b>Sector Totals</b>			<b>2,284,192</b>	<b>6,120,525.63</b>
<b>BANKING</b>				
CITIBANK NIGERIA PLC	10	3.42	62,392,718	214,067,095.56
FIRST ATLANTIC BANK PLC	2	3.41	6,100	48,483.40
CHARITRED BANK PLC	3	3.41	86,796	295,974.36
COOPERATIVE BANK PLC	21	1.70	221,000	861,900.00
COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT BANK PLC	1	0.73	797,500	1,809,606.00
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	16	24.00	230	182.50
FSB INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC	461	1.60	2,112,338	50,682,916.87
GUARANTY TRUST BANK PLC	99	12.88	244,698	345,074.14
ILE-I BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	7	5.90	1,994,139	23,684,210.32
INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT BANK PLC	28	0.66	169,000	115,810.00
INLAND BANK (NIGERIA) PLC	29	1.07	2,497,819	1,590,516.72
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC	13	1.83	1,813,000	1,838,976.75
LEON BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	1	0.90	283	254.20
MANUFACTURERS BANK NIGERIA PLC	6	1.99	1,350,000	1,489,000.00
NAL BANK PLC	43	2.21	1,472,037	7,623,409.40
OCEANIC BANK PLC	1	6.30	1,500	9,450.00
OMEGA BANK (NIGERIA) PLC	1	1.39	15,844	21,727.52
STANDARD TRUST BANK PLC	60	7.41	1,012,400	7,501,684.00
TRANS INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC	18	1.65	695,643	1,130,193.64
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	379	10.00	24,783,127	247,831,270.00
UNION BANK NIGERIA PLC	3	2.39	3,376,340	73,488,245.40
UNIVERSAL TRUST BANK PLC	8	1.09	118,819	129,346.31
WEMA BANK PLC	20	1.93	1,042,188	1,615,793.84
ZENITH BANK PLC	61	15.60	613,181	9,620,899.89
<b>Sector Totals</b>			<b>109,299,967</b>	<b>650,819,854.19</b>
<b>BREWERIES</b>				
GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC	173	106.00	823,003	88,186,195.97
NIGERIAN BREWERIES PLC	484	39.50	1,404,155	55,986,895.31
<b>Sector Totals</b>			<b>2,227,158</b>	<b>144,173,091.28</b>
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	89	24.00	616,483	14,834,711.65
CEMENT COMPANY OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	15	7.04	126,710	894,056.90
WEST AFRICAN PORTLAND CEMENT CO. PLC	31	11.98	123,604	1,460,553.34
<b>Sector Totals</b>			<b>866,817</b>	<b>17,149,321.89</b>
<b>CHEMICAL &amp; PAINTS</b>				
BERGER PAINTS PLC	12	5.45	56,902	305,432.10
CAF PLC	5	6.39	29,003	185,640.37
D. N. MEYER PLC	6	5.00	15,000	75,000.00
NIGERIA-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC	11	3.61	43,820	161,448.69
<b>Sector Totals</b>			<b>144,814</b>	<b>737,721.16</b>
<b>COMPUTER &amp; OFFICE EQUIPMENT</b>				
SCF (NIGERIA) PLC	2	1.44	5,366	7,727.04
<b>CONGLOMERATES</b>				
N. G. LEVENTIS NIGERIA PLC	10	1.04	166,801	173,791.29
C.F.A. NIGERIA PLC	14	6.47	96,059	640,911.73
CHELLARAMS PLC	5	1.71	12,168	20,807.24
KOHN HOLT PLC	3	1.09	10,000	10,900.00
INSULEVER NIGERIA PLC	191	18.56	741,401	13,613,194.17
P.Z. INDUSTRIES PLC	62	12.90	304,889	3,936,918.48
F.C.O.A. NIGERIA PLC	1	1.25	1,274	2,155.00
I.L.A.C. NIGERIA PLC	28	14.17	289,187	4,097,779.79
U.T.C. NIGERIA PLC	6	1.19	176,200	209,618.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>			<b>1,881,429</b>	<b>23,080,895.74</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
COSTAIN (W.A.) PLC	3	0.92	615	537.50
<b>Engineering Technology</b>				
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY	1	0.82	42,000	34,440.00
NIGERIAN WIRE AND CABLE PLC	1	0.82	42,000	34,440.00
<b>FOOD/BEVERAGES &amp; TOBACCO</b>				
5:5P BOTTLING COMPANY PLC	47	25.00	210,949	5,037,607.75
CAOBURY NIGERIA PLC	184	38.50	251,996	14,840,224.46
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	17	16.61	34,867	575,818.87
NIGERIA BOTTLING COMPANY PLC	107	55.80	372,997	20,919,803.00
NESTLE FOODS NIGERIA PLC	109	149.00	202,036	30,194,259.84
NORTHERN NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC	3	15.83	184,772	2,916,122.04
<b>Sector Totals</b>			<b>1,132,263</b>	<b>78,311,835.98</b>
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC	10	3.25	518,200	1,633,130.00
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	14	5.95	53,318	307,729.06
NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARM. PLC	4	2.84	1,920	11,132.80
PHARMADIA PLC	14	4.70	185,480	838,786.29
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG. PLC	38	9.00	301,366	2,709,800.35
<b>Sector Totals</b>			<b>1,054,284</b>	<b>5,528,658.50</b>
<b>HOTEL &amp; TOURISM</b>				
TOURIST COMPANY OF NIGERIA PLC	1	4.20	100,000	420,000.00
<b>INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS</b>				
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIGERIA PLC	11	1.09	164,318	176,429.27
B.O.C. GASES PLC	2	3.00	165,787	497,221.37
VITAFIAT NIGERIA PLC	21	4.43	159,463	706,421.09
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	1	1.90	10,000	19,000.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>			<b>499,568</b>	<b>1,399,071.73</b>
<b>INSURANCE</b>				
ACEN INSURANCE COMPANY PLC	5	0.60	70,000	42,000.00
AICO INSURANCE PLC	19	2.17	278,816	602,340.12
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC	15	1.36	480,014	651,796.20
CRUSADER INSURANCE PLC	4	0.76	95,223	72,436.18
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	2	1.86	35,000	65,100.00
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.93	19,500	18,135.00
N.E.M. INSURANCE CO. (NIG.) PLC	3	0.79	47,167	37,261.93
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	9	1.97	200,000	394,000.00
ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE PLC	3	2.89	29,558	85,422.62
FIRST ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.84	500	420.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC	6	1.12	25,585	28,399.04
WEST AFRICAN PROV. INS. COV. PLC	7	3.00	36,800	110,000.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>			<b>1,318,263</b>	<b>2,077,211.09</b>
<b>MACHINERY/MARKETING</b>				
BLACKWOOD HODGE (NIGERIA) PLC	3	0.69	368	253.92
<b>MANAGED FUNDS</b>				
C.B. TRADING PLC	11	1.68	217,290	373,694.80
<b>PACKAGING</b>				
AYON CHROMCAPS & CONTAINERS PLC	6	0.81	42,675	34,866.35
NAMPK NIGERIA PLC	1	1.17	1,770	2,154.40
BETA GLASS COMPANY PLC	4	4.95	1,559	7,672.50
PKS Y PRODUCTS (NIGERIA) PLC	3	0.59	116,245	68,544.51
<b>Sector Totals</b>			<b>162,240</b>	<b>112,958.16</b>
<b>PETROLEUM/MARKETING</b>				
AFRIEL PLC	26	0.97	550,074	521,474.48
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC	105	68.00	135,028	9,104,331.55
ETIPRA OIL & GAS PLC	20	2.01	267,849	561,376.16
MCURE OIL NIGERIA PLC	46	179.00	30,839	5,489,488.39
CONOIL PLC	83	129.51	119,775	15,486,676.22
TOTAL (NIGERIA) PLC	23	169.00	23,599	3,924,204.40
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	48	179.50	460,278	10,823,995.36
OANDO PLC	204	104.00	387,269	40,175,238.95
<b>Sector Totals</b>			<b>1,574,822</b>	<b>86,888,785.51</b>
<b>PRINTING &amp; PUBLISHING</b>				
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	1	1.89	20,211	38,198.79
<b>REAL ESTATE</b>				
IACN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PLC	36	8.70	730,822	6,473,275.55
<b>TEXTILES</b>				
UNITED NIGERIA TEXTILES PLC	28	2.77	616,140	1,699,368.61
<b>Sector Totals</b>			<b>816,140</b>	<b>1,699,368.61</b>
<b>Other</b>				
<b>Other</b>			<b>125,910,946</b>	<b>1,016,861,214.70</b>

## TOP 10 TRADES WEDNESDAY

SYMBOL	VOLUME	VALUE	TRADES
DUNLOP	1,880,672.00	3,207,111.23	48
INLANDBANK	1,813,000.00	1,858,076.75	29
GUARANTY	1,994,139.00	25,684,510.32	99
FIRSTBANK	2,112,338.00	50,682,916.87	61
IMB	2,497,819.00	1,590,516.72	38
NAL	3,472,017.00	7,522,409.40	43
UBN	3,376,340.00	73,888,245.40	379
ACBINTBANK	16,729,753.00	15,735,967.82	2
UBA	24,783,127.00	247,831,270.00	304
ACCESSBANK	62,592,718.00	214,067,095.56	10

## TOP 10 GAINERS

SYMBOL	LAST CLOSE	WEDNESDAY'S CLOSE	CHANGE
TOTAL	178.00	179.50	+1.50
AP	66.90	68.00	+1.10
MOBIL	178.00	179.00	+1.00
GUARANTY	12.27	12.88	+0.61
PRESCO	11.62	12.20	+0.58
WAFCO	11.41	11.98	+0.57
NBC	54.50	55.00	+0.50
GADBURY	58.00	58.50	+0.50
CEAO	6.17	6.47	+0.30
PZ	12.60	12.90	+0.30

## TOP 10 LOSERS

SYMBOL	LAST CLOSE	WEDNESDAY'S CLOSE	CHANGE
NOLCHEM	131.97	129.51	-2.46
NNFM	15.82	15.03	-0.79
UBN	21.30	20.70	-0.60
ASHAKACEM	24.60	24.00	-0.60
NB	59.99	59.50	-0.49
LEVIBROS	19.00	18.56	-0.44
UAC-PROP	9.00	8.70	-0.30
VITAFIAT	4.66	4.43	-0.23
NIG-GERMAN	3.79	3.61	-0.18
ROYALEX	3.04	2.89	-0.15

## Western Union Foundation donates \$1m to Tsunami victims

The First Data Western Union Foundation made a donation of US\$1 million to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to support victims in the Asian countries most impacted by the recent tsunami disaster.

The donation is the single largest gift made by the Foundation since its inception in 2000.

A statement issued last week said, in addition, Western Union has agreed to match all donations made to the Foundation by First Data/Western Union employees to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. These programmes as an incentive to employees and agents to participate through the Foundation, " the statement added.

Western Union also said it has reduced fees on money transfers sent to Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives Sri Lanka, Thailand and the affected areas of India including Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Andaman Nicobar Islands and Pondicherry.

From 17 January through 10 February, 2005, Western Union Money Transfer service fees from most agent locations around the world to the impacted region will be reduced to 920 Nigerian naira, it said.

## Phoenix gets GM operations

Phoenix of Nigeria Assurance Plc has announced the appointment of Mr. Larry Oluogbenla Ademeso as the company's new general manager, operations.

A statement issued on behalf of the company said Ademeso, 27, is joining Phoenix, one of Nigeria's oldest and most reliable insurance establishments as part of a new team to reposition the company.

"He holds a bachelor of science degree in Insurance and a master of science degree in marketing both from university of Lagos," the statement said adding that he is an Associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute of Nigeria and a member of the International Insurance Society.

There were no transactions on the capital market on Thursday and Friday, due to the public holidays.

# Business Trust

## Global Bank's N4.8bn IPO opens tomorrow

Global Bank Plc's bid to raise over N4.8 billion by way of initial public offer (IPO) from the capital market will kick off tomorrow.

According to information made available to *Business Trust* in Lagos, the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) has approved the bank's bid to offer for subscription 3,317,500,000 ordinary shares of 50 kobo each at N1.50 per share.

The bank said that the offer which opens tomorrow will end on February 22.

The bank said issuing Houses for the offer are BGL Securities Ltd and Intercontinental Securities Ltd with over 18 stock broking firms.

The chairman of the bank, Professor Fola Aboaba in a prospectus made available to *Business Trust*, said Global Bank targets that N4.81 billion from the IPO and that the proceeds would be applied

**From Bright Ewulu, Deputy Business Editor (Lagos)**

to upgrade the bank's information technology infrastructure, branch expansion and improve its working capital.

He explained that the bank's strategic business development would gulp 20 per cent of the proceeds, IT 25 per cent and working capital 55 per cent of the accounts from the proposed offers.

It would be recalled that Global Bank Plc signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with three other banks, namely Intercontinental Bank Plc, Equity Bank and Gateway Bank Plc.

The bank executives informed newsmen during the MOU signing ceremony in Lagos some months back that the aim was to give birth to a bigger bank this year that will resume

operations with around N50 billion capital base.

Global Bank's managing director, Mr. Yinka Obalade has argued that the proposed bank has great potentials for success as banks in the Intercontinental group have common shareholders

## Minister tasks coys on standards

**Minister of Commerce, Ambassador A.D. Idris Waziri** has emphasized the need for Nigerian companies to produce standard and qualitative products that will scale through the highly competitive global market.

The minister made the request in Lagos while on official visit to the Niger Dock Nigeria Plc. Stressing that "we are in a very highly competitive environment."

A statement signed by the chief press secretary to the Minister, Marshal H. Gundu said the minister urged Nigerians to organize themselves and extract the potentials in the country for achieving greater industrial heights.

The management of SkyPower Handling Company (SAHCOL) says it is ready to reconstruct its warehouse at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport which was gutted by fire in 2001.

The general manager of the company, Mr Laolu Owolabi, made the disclosure in Lagos last week in an interview with newsmen.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that since the fire incident, the company had been making use of a make-shift warehouse at the airport cargo shed.

## SAHCOL to reconstruct burnt warehouse

Owolabi said a proposal for the reconstruction of the warehouse has been sent to the National Assembly, explaining that valuation report of the building was put at N130 million before it was burnt.

"If reconstructed, the warehouse will be re-moulded

as a standard warehouse that will meet the increasing traffic, the airport will serve as a hub within the sub-region," he said. Owolabi also disclosed that SAHCOL has improved its facilities in order to handle two wide-bodied aircraft at the same time within its regional offices nationwide.

According to him, the company has added Afriqiyah, Gambia International, Atlantic Express, Aero-contractors and ADC airlines to its clientele.

NAN recalls that the aviation minister, Mallam Isa Yuguda has said that the ministry has established an effective framework for repositioning government owned ground handling and service companies for privatisation.

He explained that proper registration of SAHCOL, SKYPOL and SKYCATER by the Corporate Affairs Commission has been completed

He said his company can compete favourably with international standards, and assured the minister of his capability to manage a free trade zone that can compete favourably with international standards.

"Niger Dock is ready to do a real test of technology transfer, promising that the company will bring 15 to 20 billion dollars worth of investment to Nigeria with thousands of job opportunities to be created," He said.

Mr. Jarmakani also expressed the company's belief in the local content theory and expressed confidence the company reposes in the country.

### PRINTERS OF REPUTE IN NIGERIA

We had earlier scheduled to publish our special supplement on the printers of repute in Nigeria on Monday, January 24, 2005, but due to certain development, the publication has been shifted to Monday, February 14, 2005.

The postponement is also to enable us accommodate all those who have indicated interest in the project but were unable to send their materials on time.

Interested companies/individuals can book their space with the Special Projects Department on any of these Nos: 080370838663, 08042145839, 08023762061, 08028494170 or 09-6720346



**COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION  
NIGERIA LAW SCHOOL BWARI  
P. M. B. 170 GARKI  
ABUJA**

### PUBLIC NOTICE CHANGE OF DATE OF THE 2005 BAR FINAL RESIT EXAMINATION

The Nigerian Law School hereby announces for the information of its Bar Final resit candidates and the general public, a change in the date of its 2005 resit examinations earlier scheduled for February 19 - February 26, 2005.

The new dates for the examinations are **SATURDAY, APRIL 2 - SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2005.**

Other details are as follows:-

**Resit Revision Classes:** Tuesday, March 15 - Thursday 24 March 2005. The revision classes will go on simultaneously in all the Campuses of the Law School at Abuja, Enugu, Kano, and Lagos.

**Publication of Results:** Saturday May 13, 2005.

**Call-to-Bar Ceremonies:** Tuesday, June 14 - Thursday June 16, 2005. All resit candidates should take note of the new dates

Signed  
Ag: Secretary/Director of Administration



Federal Republic of Nigeria  
**NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PRIVATISATION**  
 Secretariat: Bureau of Public Enterprises

Invitation to Strategic Investors for Expression of Interest in acquisition of 51% equity stake in



Nigerian Telecommunications Limited

**SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

**1. Close of Submission of Expression of Interest**

The Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) wishes to remind prospective Strategic Investors who are desirous of submitting Expression of Interest for the acquisition of 51% equity stake in Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (including its wholly-owned mobile subsidiary, M-TEL), that Expressions of Interest must be received not later than **5.00pm on Friday, January 28, 2005**.

Please note that the BPE does not contemplate any further extension of the submission deadline.

**2. Credentials**

Strategic Investors are expected to be international telecommunications operators and/or financial investors with track record of successful performance in one or more telecommunications companies and should have:

- A successful track record of expanding a telecommunications network
- Sufficient financial resources to grow NITEL and enhance shareholders value.

**3. Form of Expression of Interest**

Interested Strategic Investors should indicate their interest by providing the following:

- ✓ Full name of the company and the contact person, postal address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address;
- ✓ Details of Ownership Structure
  - Name(s) of major shareholders and
  - Percentage shareholding;
- ✓ Audited financial statements for the preceding three years.
- ✓ A company brochure, which clearly demonstrates its telecoms-related credentials.

**4. Proposed Process**

Prospective Strategic Investors will go through a pre-qualification process following from this Expression of Interest, in line with an international tender process.

**5. For further information or inquiries, please contact any of the following:**

**Dr. Julius Bala**  
 Director General  
 Bureau of Public Enterprises  
 No. 1, Osun Crescent, Off IBB Way  
 Maitama District, P.M.B. 442, Garki  
 Abuja, FCT, Nigeria.  
 Tel/Fax: 234-9-4134664  
 Email: [jbala@bpeng.org](mailto:jbala@bpeng.org)

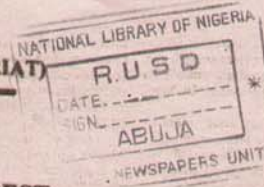
**Benjamin Dikki**  
 Director (Power & Communications)  
 Tel/Fax: 234-9-4130789  
 Email: [bdikki@bpeng.org](mailto:bdikki@bpeng.org)

**Ekong Etim**  
 Project Manager (Communications Team)  
 Tel/Fax: 234-9-6703296  
 Email: [eketim@bpeng.org](mailto:eketim@bpeng.org)



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA  
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PRIVATISATION  
BUREAU OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SECRETARIAT)

Privatisation Support Project  
Credit No. 3520. UNI



## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST AS TRANSACTION MANAGERS

This request for expressions of interest follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Development Business No. 561 of June 30<sup>th</sup> 2001 and the update published in issue No. 578 of March 2002.

The Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contracts for the appointment of (3) Transaction Managers in the Secretariat. The outline of scope of work, and the required consultant qualifications are shown below:

They will be required to support BPE in its transaction teams in such activities as the:

Leadership of the teams entrusted with privatization of specific enterprises

Assistance to the Directors, Enterprise Officers and BPE staff in collation and analysis of enterprise data

Preparation of work plans based on approved definition of appropriate sale strategy and method of sale.

Development of "transaction strategy brief" for assigned public enterprises in consultation with the Individual Transaction Adviser of the Department.

Management of pre-transaction preparatory activities

Liaise with the Central Procurement Unit through the Departmental Procurement Officers and provide necessary support and documentation to obtain speedy clearances from the Bank, where applicable.

Liaise with the Individual Transaction Advisers attached to the Department and seek professional advice and work closely on all matters relating to transactions

Finalization of TORs, EOIs and RFPs relating to transactions under the Team, preparation of negotiation briefs and participation in negotiation.

Monitor and evaluate the work carried out by the external transaction advisers appointed by the BPE and take appropriate corrective measures with them in consultation with the Management

Responsible for the implementation of transaction work plans and overseeing post transaction issues.

### Qualifications:

(1) Masters Degree or a professional qualification in Finance, Accounting, Banking, Law or Management 2. Professional experience on corporate/project finance, securitisation or privatization as investment banker, corporate lawyer, accountant or management consultant - Minimum 7 years. 3. Transactional Experience in emerging markets with specific exposure to

Nigerian privatization programmes, a great plus point. This will depend on the no., nature and value of the transactions handled

### SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOIs)

The BPE now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the above services. Expressions of Interest (EOIs) should specify the following information as basis for selection.

- Curriculum Vitae providing full details of academic qualifications and employment history.
- Capability Statement to confirm that the individual is qualified to perform the services as per the qualification requirement specified against each Adviser, and particularly specific experience in the respective fields.
- 3 letters of references reflecting on the past experience and performance of the individual.

The Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank Guidelines: *Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers*, January 1997 (Revised September 1997, January 1999 and May 2002)

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in six (6) copies in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Expressions of Interest for Transaction Manager".

The expression of interest of interest addressed should be delivered not later than **February 21, 2005, by 5:00 pm** at the address shown below:

Dr Julius J. Bala,  
Director General  
Bureau of Public  
1, Osun Crescent, off IBB Way,  
Maitama, Abuja, NIGERIA.

Attention: Mr. Nelson T. Hundumofore

Tel: 234-9-4134636-46, Fax: 234-9-4134671

Email: [Nhundumofore@bpeng.org](mailto:Nhundumofore@bpeng.org)

Website: <http://www.bpeng.org>

Interested applicants may obtain further information at the address above from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm, Monday through Friday (except public holidays)

Only short listed consultants will be contacted.

Expression of interest through email or fax will not be entertained.

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# IT World

## Microsoft issues 2 new security patches

Microsoft Corporation warned Windows users of two new "critical"-rated security flaws in its software that could allow attackers to take control of a computer and delete or copy information.

The world's largest software maker issued patches to fix the problems as part of its monthly security bulletin, which affects the Windows operating system and the Internet Explorer Web browser.

"It's very critical that users patch machines for these vulnerabilities," said Jimmy Kuo, a researcher at McAfee Incorporated's virus detection center.

A hacker could exploit one of the security flaws if a user directed the Web browser to a specially designed Web page, Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft said.

Microsoft also issued another security warning, rated at the second-highest level of "important."

Microsoft has been working for the last three years to improve the security and reliability of its software under its Trustworthy Computing initiative, as more and more malicious software

targets weaknesses in Windows and other Microsoft software.

Also on Tuesday, Microsoft began offering downloads of a software tool to remove viruses and other malicious software from computers.

Microsoft last week began offering anti-spyware program downloads for Windows users to block programs that generate unwanted pop-up ads and secretly record a computer user's activities.

Both programs are part of

## ... Windows worm travels with Tetris

The version of Tetris is recognizable and just as playable

Users are being warned about a Windows virus that poses as the hugely popular Tetris game.

The Celly worm installs a playable version of the classic falling blocks game on PCs that it has infected.

While users play the game, the worm spends its time using the machine to search for new victims to infect on nearby networks.

The risk of infection by

an effort by the company to offer its own computer and Internet security software as it prepares a security subscription service code-named "A1" to provide regular updates for security software and services.

Shares in McAfee and Symantec Corporation, the two largest computer security software vendors, fell sharply after Microsoft announced it would release its own anti-spyware software. Since then, McAfee is down 7.5 percent and Symantec is off more than 6 percent.

Celly is thought to be very low as few copies of the worm have been found in the wild.

The Celly worm does not spread via e-mail like many other viruses. Instead it browses computer networks for PCs that have not shut off all the insecure ways they connect to other machines.

When it infects a machine, Celly installs a version of Tetris that users can play. As the game starts up the worm also starts a music file to accompany it.

At the same time the virus starts scouring networks for other vulnerable machines.

The virus does no damage to machines but heavily infected networks could slow down as scanning traffic builds. Productivity may suffer too if users spend time playing Tetris.

So far the number of people infected by Celly is thought to be very small and the risks of further infection is very low.

## Handheld battle starts in 2005

The gaming industry may be riding the crest of a wave, but Ian Hardy found out at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas that there are even more exciting times to come.

Even more exciting developments for Nintendo are imminent. 2005 will undoubtedly be the year of the handheld.

It is PlayStation Portable (PSP) against Nintendo DS.

Nintendo has more than 90% of the handheld gaming market in the US, so for it the stakes are high.

The DS has been getting good reviews in the gaming community, especially for its touch screen and extensive selection of games.

The quantity and quality of titles will play a huge part in attracting consumers to either the DS or PSP.

George Harrison, a senior vice president at Nintendo, says that developers are barely scratching the surface in terms of what the DS makes it possible to do with games.

"We expect to see some really unique applications of the touch screen and these will be unveiled at the E3 show in May in Los Angeles."

After selling more than 500,000 units since its Japanese launch last month, the PSP was officially introduced into the US market

Game manufacturers also announced details of new and familiar titles that will run on the wide-screen format and make use of built-in wireless capabilities.

While Sony and Nintendo battle it out, newcomer Gizmodo is trying to establish itself in the handheld gaming market.

It's really going to become the year that the whole thing explodes.

"Other players in relation to you also become part of that physical game reality."

"This is such an important year in terms of mobile gaming. It's really going to become the year that the whole thing explodes."

Also likely to be a hot trend in 2005 will be games on mobile phones thanks to more powerful phones and faster networks.

New, cell-sized 3D screens are sharp, clear and vivid and the graphics are comparable to the PlayStation 1 era.

PlayStation has dominated the gaming market for 10 years.

Dan Vivali, of graphics chip maker Nvidia, says: "This year you'll start to see - starting with the high end of the market - people enjoying very immersive games."

"And I think that very quickly, in the next year or two, you will see that begin to filter down into the mainstream market."



Alhaji Abubakar Ali, one of the directors of National e-Government Strategies Limited (NeGSi) left, with Mr. Lawrence A. Ajiboye, head, corporate services, NeGSi, during the signing of shareholders' agreement for NeGSi at Mason Centre in Lagos, recently.

## Oracle cuts 5,000 jobs in PeopleSoft takeover

Oracle Corporation will cut 5,000 jobs

as it combines with PeopleSoft Incorporated, the business software rival it acquired for \$10.3 billion after a bitterly fought takeover battle, a company said on Friday.

The layoffs, which were in line with Wall Street expectations, represent about 9 percent of the companies' combined work force of 55,000, Oracle said. Financial terms, including charges or cost savings, were not disclosed.

Oracle also pledged to keep more than 90 percent of PeopleSoft's product

development and support employees and deploy new versions of PeopleSoft's software over time. The acquisition was concluded a week ago.

The ongoing support of PeopleSoft products - used by companies to manage payroll, human resources and manufacturing operations - was a point of contention during the 18-month takeover battle, with many high-profile customers fearing they would be left hanging.

"Oracle will have the resources to deliver on the development and support commitments we have made to PeopleSoft customers

over the last 18 months," Oracle Chief Executive Lawrence Ellison said in a statement. He has pledged to provide technical support for PeopleSoft software for at least 10 more years.

Notifications of layoffs began on Friday and the majority of the cuts will be completed over the next 10 days, Oracle said. Financial details are expected to be laid out on Jan. 26 at a meeting for Wall Street analysts in New York.

Oracle had said last June that it expected about 6,000 job cuts from the merger.

"It's not as bad as we thought it would be," he said. "They're committed to a presence in Pleasanton."

Oracle shares rose 15 cents, or 1.1 percent, to \$13.63 on Nasdaq. In after-hours trading, its shares were unchanged.

Marked by heated courtroom battles and the ouster of PeopleSoft's chief executive, the 18-month takeover saga finally concluded after Oracle sweetened its offer and won regulatory approval for the deal.

## Google unveils search product for SMEs

Google Incorporated

has unveiled the "Mini," a new hardware product aimed at helping small businesses add search to their public Web sites and giving employees more tools to find information quickly on internal networks.

Google gets a small percentage of its revenue from its Google Search Appliance, which is priced from \$32,000 to more than \$500,000 and is sold mainly to big companies looking to search company Web sites and intranets.

The Web search leader aims to extend its reach with the Mini, which has fewer bells and whistles and sells for just under \$5,000. For example, it can search 50,000 documents compared with the 15 million that can be handled by Google's top-end Search Appliance.

Google also said it has beefed up its Search Appliance to search structured data stored in widely used databases from companies like Oracle Corporation and IBM, said

Dave Girouard, general manager of Google Enterprise.

The hardware also supports several new languages and includes new security features related to controlling employee access to information.

Google, based in Mountain View, California,

## LeapFrog unveils talking computer Pen

LeapFrog Enterprises Incorporated on

has announced the launch of its FLY "pentop computer," a talking, computerized pen that can translate words into other languages, or help with math and spelling homework.

LeapFrog said the product will give users audio feedback as they write and draw on special FLY paper.

For instance, the company said a user can draw a calculator, touch the handwritten digits and functions to perform an operation, and then hear the answers announced.

LeapFrog said a group of children aged 8 to 13 helped to develop the product, and it will offer a range of applications for learning, communicating and playing.

Emeryville, California-based LeapFrog has been plagued by weak sales and earnings misses, and recently said it relied too heavily on its LeapPad business.

The past year has hurt investor confidence in the company and it has made sweeping changes to its management team.

LeapFrog had been a Wall Street star since its 2002 initial public offering,

but a string of dismal reports from the company hurt its credibility with investors, and its shares have taken a beating since October.

LeapPad is a junior-sized laptop system that holds interactive workbooks that teach skills like reading and math. The company makes educational toys for children from infants to high school students, but its focus has been on younger children. The company has said it wants to expand its product lines for older children and develop learning aids for adults.



## APPRECIATION

The board, management and staff of **Media Trust Limited**, (publishers of *Weekly* and *Daily Trust* News papers), wish to extend our gratitude to the Almighty God; and our sincere appreciation to individuals, groups and corporate organisations who enriched the 2nd Annual *Trust Dialogue* held on January 13, 2005 at the Abuja Sheraton Hotel & Towers, with their assistance, dignified presence, personal phone calls and representations which made the dialogue a resounding success.

While we cannot name every individual or group we wish in particular to acknowledge the assistance, presence or representation of the following:

1. His Excellency, Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Atiku Abubakar ably represented by Mal. Nasir Ahmed El-Rufai, Honourable Minister of Federal Capital Territory who was also the Chief Host.
2. His Excellency, former Head of Interim Government, Chief (Dr.) E.A.O. Shonekan, who chaired the occasion
3. Hon. Aminu Bello Masari, Speaker of the House of Representatives whose office co-sponsored the occasion (ably represented by Dr. Yahaya Abdullahi)
4. His Excellency, Alhaji Bukar Abba Ibrahim, the Executive Governor of Yobe State for his dignified presence and generous donation
5. His Excellency, Alhaji Ibrahim Shekarau, the Executive Governor of Kano State who co-sponsored the occasion (ably represented by Dr. Tijjani Naniya)
6. His Excellency, Bonnie Haruna, the Executive Governor of Adamawa State for his generous donation
7. His Excellency, Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi, the Executive Governor of Kaduna State represented by Muktar Sirajo, S.A. Media
8. His Excellency, Dr. Peter Odili, the Executive Governor of River State represented by the River State Commissioner of Information
9. His Excellency, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris, the Executive Governor of Kogi State represented by Hon. Alh. Mustapha Imam
10. United Bank for Africa Plc, which co-sponsored the occasion
11. His Royal Highness, *Etsu Nupe*, Alhaji Yahaya Abubakar, who was royal father of the day
12. Dr. Anyim Pius Anyim, former Senate President of Nigeria
13. Hon. Ghali Umar Na' Abba, former Speaker, Federal House of Representative
14. The NLC President, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole
15. Hon. (Dr.) Usman Bugaje, Chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
16. Chief Sunday Awoniyi, Chairman, Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF)
17. Alh. Abba Gana Guba, Minister of Cooperation and Integration in Africa
18. Col. Musa Mohammed, Minister of Sports and Social Development
19. Honourable Minister of Information, ably represented by Dr. Okey Ikechukwu
20. Our able speakers: Prof. Sam Aluko (Former Chairman National Economic Intelligence Committee); Prof. Mike Kwanashie (Special Adviser to the Vice President on Economic Matters) and Mal. Sanusi Lamido Sanusi (DGM Risk Management Department UBA).
21. Mrs. Oby Ezekwesili the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Budget Monitoring and Due Process
22. Dr. Onukaba Adinoyi Ojo, Senior Special Assistant to the Vice President on Media
23. Hon. Abike Dabiri, Chairman, House Committee on Media
24. Dr. Ibrahim Tahir
25. Lt. Col. M.A.S. Onuka (rtd)
26. Col. Habibu Shuaibu (rtd)
27. Col. Musa Shehu (rtd)
28. Ambassador of Palestine
29. Ambassador of Sudan
30. Ambassador of Israel
31. Professor Attahiru Jega, BUK Kano
32. Alh. Yarima Abdullahi
33. Alh. Dauda Abari, NTA Headquarters
34. Mr. Ndanusa Alao, Managing Director of New Nigeria Newspapers
35. Alh. Ismaila Isa Funtua, Chairman, Bulet
36. Mal. Wada Maida, former MD NAN
37. Engineer Ibrahim Ali
38. Mr. Charles Oputa, President, PMAN
39. Alh. Shehu Malami
40. All Royal Highnesses present
41. All Clergy men present
42. All National Assembly members present
43. All members of the Academic Community present
44. Permanent Secretaries present
45. Heads of Parastatals present
46. Heads of Non-governmental Organisations present
47. All Gentlemen of the Press present
48. All students present
49. Other Nigerians present

May God reward you all in many folds.

Signed:  
Management.



## EDUCATION TRUST FUND



### RE – SCHEDULING OF DIGINET 2 STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

This is to inform the general public that the DIGINET 2 Stakeholders meeting earlier scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> January 2005 has been rescheduled for **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2005**.

The change of date was informed by the public holiday declared by the Federal Government for the Id-el-Kabir celebrations.

The venue and time however remain the same.

All stakeholders are invited to attend.

Any inconvenience caused as a result of this change is highly regretted, please.

**Signed:** Management  
Education Trust Fund,  
Plot 433 Cadastral Zone A6,  
Zembeze Crescent,  
Off Aguiyi Ironsi way,  
Maitama – Abuja.  
Tel: 4139101, 4132105

## ADVERTORIAL

### RE: NYAME HAS FAILED

We read with dismay the interview granted by Senator Saleh Usman Danboyi representing Southern District of Taraba State, in which he said that the Governor of the State, Rev. Jolly T. Nyame, has failed. Let it be understood that we are not out to join issues with the Distinguished Senator; after all, we are in a democratic setting and every one is free to express his or her opinion on any given matter of the day. We are surprised because Senator Danboyi was Governor Nyame's deputy from 1999 to 2003. So if it is true that "Nyame has failed" as he put it, then the Distinguished Senator was part of the failure, since it is not on record that he resigned.

We the members of the National Assembly from Taraba State, having been in Government at both the Federal and State levels in the last five years, are aware of the enormous efforts and resources that we personally, the government, the Governor, and the people of Taraba State - have put in or expended, in bringing our State to normalcy. Despite the various ethno-religious, Political and Sectarian crises that have bedeviled the state in such places as Karim Lamido, Gassol, Bail, Gembu, Takum, Donga, Wukari and across the border with Benue State, the state has witnessed appreciable and comparative developments.

The resolution of the above crises and the

progress recorded, have been principally through the efforts of the Governor and members of the Political class of the state. Also, as at today, Taraba State is almost 100% PDP-Controlled, due largely to the political dexterity of the Governor. It should also be borne in mind that the resolution of the cross border crisis with Benue State and within the State, has in no small measure, earned the Governor the respect of all peace-loving Nigerians.

In addition, projects that have been executed by Governor Nyame and his then deputy Saleh Danboyi (now a Distinguished Senator) include the following: Jalingo metropolis road network, the gas refilling plant project, the referral hospitals, the multi-billion naira ultra-modern General Hospital! the Taraba -state motel in Jalingo, Mambilla Hotel in Abuja, the Governor's and Deputy Governor's lodge/ liaison office in Abuja, and the electrification projects in the rural areas, too numerous to mention. These projects are comparable, if not better, than what obtain in other states of the Federation.

Finally, based on the above stated facts, we the undersigned, hereby wish to categorically state that we dissociate ourselves from the utterances credited to our distinguished colleague in the said interview.

#### Signed:

Sen. Ambuno Zik Sunday,  
(Taraba North)

Rep. Emmanuel Bwacha,  
(Takum, Donga & Ussa  
Fed. Constituency).

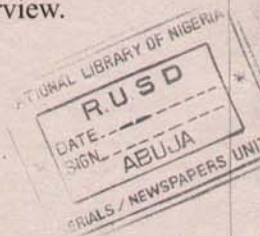
Rep. Babangida S. M. Nguroje,  
(Saradauna, Gashaka & Kurmi  
Fed. Constituency)

Rep. T. T. Khani  
(Karim, Ardo-Kola and Lau  
Fed. Constituency)

Sen. A. A. Ibrahim,  
(Taraba Central)

Rep. Dahiru Gassol,  
(Gassol, Bali Fed. Constituency)

Rep. Almashi Algadash,  
(Zing, Yorro & Jalingo Fed  
Constituency)



# ABUJA TRUST

## Luxury bus robbery attack claims two

The upsurge violent crime along Kwali, Yangoji and Abaji road which has been causing pandemonium especially to commuters and village along the high ways, as the dare devil armed robbers attacked a luxurious bus belonging to FG Onyewe motors with registration number XE 683UWN Anambra, and killed two persons while four people sustained gun injury.

The armed robbers struck out at about 2:45am on Saturday, just one kilometre away from Abaji when the armed robbers attacked many vehicles and robbed the passengers of their valuables and undisclosed amount of money was collected from the passengers.

One of the lorry driver who sustained gun shot injury, Mr. Charles Oboze, said that as he was heading towards Abaji with vehicles on his front, he saw a luxurious bus by the side of the road thought may be it was an accident, he decided to slow down to avoid collision, he said all he could hear was a gun shot from both side of the road.

Mr. Charles said "I was trying to slow down to maintain the peace, the next thing I hear was a gun shot from both side of the road, they started firing our vehicle to the extent the bullet hit me on my leg, this armed robbers are more than fifteen small, small boys."

In order to ascertain the real facts about the robbery incident this reporter took a motorcycle ride to the robbery scene at about 7:30am on that Saturday. Reaching there, a luxurious bus belonging to Mic Meral International Agency, with registration NISSA AA 1. Lagos was also robbed by the robbers.

Another vehicle that was also attacked by the man of

underworld was a luxurious bus (a Brazil) with registration number XD 185 FGG Anambra, belonging to Amara Chukwu, who was coming from Abu to Kano.

Mr. Alfred Chancelor a driver of luxurious bus belonging to FG Onyewe motors, who spoke to this reporter, said that as he fell into the hands of the robbers they started begging them.

Mr. Alfred, said he started begging them to stop shooting so that there would be no loss of lives. In a country like this where we have security enough, look at what is happening to us, you are in your country you feel like somebody in Ghana, somebody in a foreign country ah! For how long, since 8 months now armed robbers have been terrorising us on this road, especially from Abaji to Kwali, has become a danger zone," he said.

Another driver who was also attacked by armed robbers, Mr. Obi Henry, "said that his vehicle was shot by the robber including his vehicle was shot by the robber including the windscreen and

undisclosed amount of money was collected from the passengers.

"When I was coming along Okene road they blocked the road when going again they blocked the road, as I was carrying again they block the road, the problem of this road especially from Abaji to Kwali has become a dangerous place," so I don't know what this government is doing, if they want us to die then, look at my body, I suspect there is still bullet inside," he asserted.

When this reporter contacted the divisional police officer in charge of Abaji division, Mr. Hyacinth Ajebe, all he could said was "you have see a what happened, so what do you want me say, I had already inform them at the headquarter about the incident, so if you want more information you can go to the headquarter and see the (PRO).

But don't quote me he said the other two persons lost their lives, their body had been deposited at a mortuary Gwagwalada specialist hospital.

## Hemp smokers back at Millennium Park

A holidaymakers through the Millennium Park for relaxation, some teenagers have turned a spot in the park into a meeting point for Indian hemp smoking.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the youth gather at a section of the park, under the over-head bridge, during public holidays and weekends to smoke the weed.

A member of the Rapid Security Squad at the park told NAN at the weekend that the police raided the area last year to arrest some of those who

sell Indian hemp at the spot. The source expressed surprise that some of the dealers were back at the park.

The youth, numbering about 20 and who operate in small groups, were seen during the Allah celebration smoking, while some of them chanted popular reggae songs.

"We have had situations where some of them attacked guests who used to come in at night for relaxation in the gardens."

"Some of them are armed, so we find it difficult to curtail their activities."

"But we try as much as possible to ensure that they don't enter the playing ground to mix with guests," the supervisor of the private security outfit, Mr. Simon Ocheila, said.

Ocheila told NAN that the youth snatch handsets and wallets from unsuspecting guests at night, warning couples who preferred hidden areas in the park to always stay under lights.

Some of the police officers who were on duty at the park said that it was illegal to smoke Indian hemp.

"We suspect that somebody among the gang is an 'jho' trader and others only gather there to smoke," they said.

The policemen promised to curtail the menace in the park, starting with "proper investigations" on the source of supply.

NAN reports that the Millennium Park was inaugurated by Queen Elizabeth of England during the Commonwealth summit in 2003.

## 7,500 traders accuse FCTA of divide and rule

Traders occupying the attachment shops in the Wuse ultra-modern market are worried by mutual ethnic suspicion and impending outbreak of inter-tribal conflict between different ethnic groups that make up the market.

Speaking to newsmen at the weekend, the chairman of the group operating under the aegis of concerned attachment traders association, Alhaji Hanza Okene said that the suspicion was ignited by the director of federal capital territory's development control Haiyi Jama Kwanashie who had allegedly invited the leaders of a particular tribe in the market and alerted them to evacuate their wares from the market to avoid being covered in the rubble of demolition earmarked for this week.

Alhaji Okene expressed surprise that a civil servant of such position would embark on such a divide and rule of such magnitude without taking cognisance of the repercussion on the part of the traders especially given the multiple ethnic nature

of the market.

Flicked by other traders of the Association Alhaji Okene noted that the traders are now going about their businesses in mutual suspicion while some of them have been making threats that undermine the unity of traders saying that should the government demolish their shops, they would not take it lightly with the woman director.

"Why should such a high-level civil servant of that position invite one tribe in the market without inviting others? Does she want the goods of the other people to be destroyed? What does she want to achieve by doing what she did," he asked.

The traders also said that since the threat of demolition was made, the director, development control has been making utterances unexpected of someone in her position, citing that the same Mrs Kwanashie had told them to go to their various villages in the event that government cannot relocate them to another place.

## UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL

### ADMISSION INTO POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME IN COMPUTER SCIENCE 2004/2005 SESSION

Applications are invited from qualified candidates into the Postgraduate Diploma programme in computer Science run by the Department of Mathematics for the 2004/2005 Session.

The programme is designed to provide participants from Computer installed unit as well as Officers from both public and private sectors, a highly intensive training in the understanding, utilization and application of computer.

#### MODE AND DURATION PROGRAMME

Courses in the programme will be run as follows:

- 9 calendar months for FULL-TIME programme (Course work only).
- 15 calendar months (with classes holding on Friday evenings and Saturdays) for PART-TIME programme.
- 3 contact sessions of 10 weeks duration each (in the months of August-October) for SANDWICH programme.
- 24 calendar months (with classes holding on Friday evenings and Saturdays fortnightly) for EXECUTIVE programme is a training programme designed for top-level officials of banks, companies, ministries and parastatals.

#### ENTRY QUALIFICATION AND MODE OF SELECTION

Applicants for admission into the programme should normally possess a University degree in any of science, social science or Engineering disciplines from a reputable University. However, HND holders with Upper Credit and 3 years of cognate experience or Lower Credit and 5 years of cognate experience would be considered.

Applicants for Executive programme must in addition be in Full-Time employment in relatively Senior Management positions. GCE '0' level credit pass in mathematics is compulsory for all candidates.

#### QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

A qualifying examination for admission into the programme shall be taken by all applicants on Saturday, 12th February, 2005 at 10.00a.m. The venue of the examination is Science Lecture Theatre on the Main Campus of the University.

#### METHOD OF APPLICATION

Request for application form should be addressed to:-

THE ADMISSION OFFICER  
ADMISSION OFFICE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN  
P.M.B.1515  
ILORIN.

Application should be accompanied with a large, stamped self-addressed envelope about 25cm x 35cm) and a non-refundable fee of N5,000.00 in Bank Draft made payable to TRADE BANK PLC, ILORIN, University of Ilorin Branch. The bank teller should be taken to the University Bursary for official receipt and the receipt of payment presented to the Admission Office for collection of the application form. The bank teller and the receipt should be marked PGDCS.

Completed application forms must be returned with three self-addressed and stamped envelopes to reach the Admissions Officer not later than 4th February, 2005.

Signed:  
O.O. OYEYEMI (MRS.)  
REGISTRAR

# KANO TRUST

## Shanono LG boss cautions Muslims against violence

Muslim communities in Shanono local government area in Kano State have been advised to desist from acts capable of disrupting the peaceful co-existence among various ethnic

and religious groups in the area. The council Chairman, Alhaji Mustapha Shanono, who made the call in his *Salla* message to the people, observed that no community could attain rapid socio-economic development if

it is engulfed in conflicts.

He told Muslims to regard the *Eid-el-Kabir* day as a period for revamping their cordial relationship with other faith, saying this will convince the latter that Islam is a religion that promotes peace and harmony.

Alhaji Shanono asked Muslims to pray for the sustenance of unity and peace in the country, stressing that they are parables for nation building. In a related development, the people of Gwarzo local government area have been implored to join forces with the council in its determination to improve their well-being.

The Chairman of the council, Engr. Abdullahi Mohammed who

issued the advice in his *Salla* message, observed that people's predicaments will not entirely be solved without their collective support. He averred that the strategies of moving the area forward should not only be seen as a sole mandate of the council, stressing that all hands must be on deck.

Engr. Mohammed charged the people to embrace the forthcoming population census so as to profit from the long standing benefits therein. The local government boss dispelled the insinuations now making the round that the exercise is a ploy by western countries to control birth rate of Muslims, describing it as baseless.



Wonderful! One year old Yusuf Kyana from Kuru LGA plays with a six feet Cyber used by his father for demonstration in market places.

## Pensioners to enjoy early settlements

Pensioners in Kano State have been assured of payment of their entitlements in the state, the Executive Secretary, Kano State Pension Board, Alhaji Habibu Suleman Zakari, has assured. Speaking to newsmen in his office, Alhaji Habibu said the board was committed to settling pensioners' entitlements.

He disclosed further that screening exercise of pensioners in the state has commenced with a view to settling all pensioners their benefits on retirement. He said the aim of the exercise was to ensure that the money reached the target as well as to fish out ghost workers.

He said the board had introduced pay parade for pensioners in the state in order to verify those who had died so as to settle their families their (deceased) entitlements, pointing out that efforts have reached advanced stage by the board to improve payments exercise in the state.

The executive secretary, who

**Yusha'u Adamu Ibrahim**  
Correspondent (Kano)

commended the state governor for his concern to pensioners, also called on pensioners to always be law-abiding as well as to pray for the development of the entire state.

## Kumbotso LG rewards winners of Qur'anic recitation competition

The winner of the just concluded National Qur'anic Competition, Malam Aisha, has been rewarded with a house and a haji seat by the Kumbotso local council of Kano State.

Malam Aisha, who won 40<sup>th</sup> *hazili* recitation competition during the last National Qur'anic Recitation Competition held in Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State, received the keys of her house from the Education Secretary of the local council, Comrade Abbas Abdullahi Sheka.

**From Yusha'u Adamu Ibrahim**  
Correspondent (Kano)

Speaking before presenting the keys of the house to Aisha's father, Comrade Abbas said the gesture was meant to encourage Qur'anic reciters in the local council as the success recorded by Aisha was not for her alone, but for the entire local government.

Comrade Abbas Sheka disclosed that earlier before the commencement of the

competition, the Chairman of the local council, Alhaji Abdulkadir Panshekara had donated the sum of 30 thousand naira to Aisha with a view to encouraging her to win the competition.

He pointed out that the council had purchased furniture and other accessories for Aisha as her wedding ceremony is about to take place in the local council.

The education secretary added that Aisha had sacrificed the haji seat to her father, a situation which he said impressed the local council.

## LG chairman pledges workers' welfare

Workers in Bunkure local government area in Kano State have pledged to continue to be loyal and committed to their duties for the effective improvement of the council. The Chairman of the Nigerian Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE) of the council branch, Comrade Ibrahim Waya, disclosed this while exchanging views with the acting Chairman of the council, Alhaji Haladu Gwamma, in his office.

He said the payment of salaries and bonus to the staff by the local government council

**From Aliyu Saleh Machika,**  
Correspondent (Kano)

is commendable acts as that will enhance the welfare of the staff which will in turn make the workers do more in handling their responsibilities.

On the side of the workers, Comrade Waya called on them to be hardworking, loyal and committed to the cause of their duties, adding that through the existing cooperation and understanding between the local government council and the workers, even development would be assured.

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# EKO TRUST

## Tinubu visits accident survivors, promises free treatment

Lagos state government says it is offering specialist treatment to survivors of Wednesday's tragic multiple motor accident in Maryland, Lagos.

Police on Wednesday confirmed that nine people were burnt to death in the accident which involved a petrol tanker and five other vehicles, including a 411 articulated commercial bus popularly called 'Mama'.

But the State Health Commissioner, Dr. Isaac Pitan has said that only 111 bodies were recovered from the wreckage and deposited at the Ikeja General Hospital morgue.

Gov. Bola Tinubu who visited the survivors at the Ikeja General Hospital today after the sallah prayers, said the victims would be treated free by the state government.

The governor, accompanied by Pitan, however described the casualty

figures given by some sections of the media as "excessive".

He described the accident as unfortunate and called on motorists to be more careful while driving.

Tinubu also charged the vehicle inspection agencies to ensure road worthiness of vehicles plying the highways.

He prayed Gov to give the bereaved families the morale to bear the loss.

Also fielding questions from newsmen, Pitan said that apart from the 13 dead victims, 30 survivors were treated and brought to the Ikeja General Hospital adding that five of them had been discharged.

He disclosed that eighteen of them had been sent to the various hospitals in the metropolis for further treatment.

The Commissioner, who conducted Tinubu round the emergency ward of the hospital, said that the worst case among the survivors was a woman with about 80 per cent degree of burns.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that a

list of the victims undergoing treatment at the hospital which was displayed, showed that the Kaveem family from an unnamed location in Lagos, had five victims.

## LASPOTECH to graduate 8,350 students Jan 28

The Lagos State Polytechnic (LASPOTECH) will on Jan. 28 graduate 8,350 students and confer an honorary fellowship award to 11 persons as a mark of its 15th anniversary.

Mr. Gasper Olawumi, Rector of the institution, who made the disclosures at a press conference in Lagos said that the award recipients would include Governor Gbenua Daniel of Ogun, Oba of Lagos, Rilwan Akiolu and Mr. Richard Keidighi, Managing Director of Guinness Nigeria PLC.

Olawumi said that the awardees were selected on merit based on their interest in the development of technical education in Nigeria.

The Rector said that he was satisfied with the progress recorded by the institution both in academic excellence and project execution.

He stated that the Polytechnic would inaugurate a lecture theatre, an administrative block and a computer laboratory donated to the institution by some well meaning Nigerians, before the end of the month.

The Rector also disclosed that the institution had entered into co-operation with an Indian educational institution to enhance human development in readiness for the challenge of the global village and technological growth.

Olawumi said that the institution with the support of the state government had commenced completion of abandoned projects on both of its campuses in Isolo and Ikekodu.



Gov. Tinubu

## Court remands man over death on highway

From Mohammed Shesanya, Correspondent (Lagos)

An Igbosere Chief Magistrate's court sitting in Lagos has ordered that a man be remanded in prison custody for killing man on the highway.

The accused person, Okoro Innocent, according to charge A/1/2005, was said to have on 2nd January, 2005 at about 1600 hrs along Lagos Epe Expressway by Lasote Bustop, being the driver in charge of M/Benz 190 Reg. Number GP 421 AAA drove same vehicle in a dangerous manner.

Specifically he was said to have on the same date, time and place operated same vehicle on the highway in a dangerous manner and caused the death of one Yonbe Mohammed aged, 30 years.

Prosecution said the offence contravenes section 29(1) Cap. 124 Vol. 6 laws of Lagos state.

The accused person said the court that he was not guilty as charged but the presiding Magistrate, Chief Magistrate, Ayo Fasaka ordered that he be remanded till his next court appearance on the 27th day of February 2005.

## Three in court for invading church

A Tapa Magistrate court in Lagos is presently trying three men to explain their reason for invading a church in Lagos.

According to charge K/5/2005, the accused persons Vincent Nwadi, 51, Eric Okafolu 35 and others on the 15th of 26th of September 2004 at about 11:00 am at No. 30 Waba Street, Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos conspired to ill-treat or commit the mischief.

They were alleged to have on the same date, time and place conducted themselves in a manner likely to cause breach of peace by invading the New Covenant Anglican Church in Ibeju and took possession of it.

The presiding said the offence contravenes section 240(1)(b) of the Criminal Code, Cap. 32, Vol. 1 of Laws of Lagos State, 1994. The accused pleaded not guilty to the charges.

## Lady, 25 docked for assaulting police officers

A 25 year old lady has been arraigned before an Igbosere Chief Magistrate Court in Lagos for allegedly assaulting police officers while performing their duties.

According to the charge, the accused person, Femi Adebisi and two others on the run on the 14th day of January 2005 at about 1800 hrs at the frontage of Block 149, Jakande Estate, Epe Lagos did conspire to commit felony and assault on the police officers.

Specifically, she was alleged to have on the same time, date and place beat up police officers while in the lawful execution of their duties.

Further, the accused was alleged to have on that fateful day thrown a stone at the forehead of the CPI, Aunba Oluwole and injured him in the country road section 355 of the criminal code, cap 32 Vol. II Laws of Lagos state 1994.

The charge also ran that a that you, Femi Adebisi and two others now at large on the same date, time and place did inflict injuries of human life on the back of PC.

Danda Saleman and PC Obinna Nwanna.

The accused pleaded not guilty when the charges were read on her.



Justice Uwas, CJ

## GWAGWALADA AREA COUNCIL FCT - ABUJA, NIGERIA INVITATION TO TENDER

Gwagwalada Area Council hereby invites Bids from reputable Civil Building Engineering Contractors/Companies for the following:

1. Rehabilitation of Aguma Palace to FRCN junction road
2. Rehabilitation of Madam Mercy road in Dagiri, Gwagwalada
3. Rehabilitation of Saint Mary junction to radio house road.
4. Rehabilitation of Zuba Township road from Lokoja Road to Agora's Palace both sides.
5. Rehabilitation of secretariat road to the council.
6. Rehabilitation of Paiko Ore-Ibwa road 9 km distance x 10m width
7. Reconstruction and Clearing of blocked drainage line in quarters ward.
8. Renovation of Town Hall, Gwagwalada.

### SCOPE OF JOB

**PROJECT 1** Demolition and site clearance, earth Work, Filling and Compaction, and drainage work.

**PROJECT 2** Site clearance, cut and fill with selected imported laterite, drainage work and culverts.

**PROJECT 3:** Demolition and site clearance, Earthwork, filling and compaction, road and pavings, concrete work (drainages) and reinforcement.

**PROJECT 4:** Drainage, culverts excavation and earth work  
**PROJECT 5:** Demolition and site clearance, Earth work, road and pavings, Kerb channel and edging.

**PROJECT 6:** Construction of drainage line and stone pitching.

**PROJECT 7** General Renovation, removal and replacement of roofing sheet and roof members, Removal and Replacement of doors (Aluminium), General Electrical repairs and replacement, plumbing works generally and removal of old ones and replacement, general painting, external works, ceiling removal and replacement and screeding of floor and replastering of walls etc.

a. Tender documents can be collected as from day of pushing Monday 24, 2005 in the Department of Works and Housing on payment of non-refundable bid fee of N10,000.00 only.

b. All Contractors bidding must possess at least 12% Bid security of the Contract sum.

c. The bidders are expected to Contact the Department of Works and Housing for the site visit to acquaint themselves with the extent of works and indicate any relevant observations before submitting tenders.

d. All completed tenders should be submitted in a sealed envelope marked confidential and addressed to the Secretary Tender Board Gwagwalada Area Council FCT - Abuja Nigeria on or before Friday 4th - February 2005 and Tenders will be opened on the same date.

e. The tender board is not bound to accept the lowest tender.

Signed:  
A. B. ISHIAQ DANGARA  
SECRETARY, TENDER BOARD  
GWAGWALADA AREA COUNCIL.

# News

## Duke pledges equipment for UNICAL law faculty

Governor Donald Duke of Cross River State has pledged to boost the academic pursuit of the University of Calabar Law Faculty by providing information technology facilities, and photocopy equipment as well as books.

Duke made the pledge when he paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor of the university, Prof. Ivora Esu, in his office recently.

The governor stated that the idea became necessary in view of the projections which the faculty has had for the state.

According to him, the state is growing and the demand for special fields and the plan of the state in the next five to ten years is to expand its demand for legal, engineering and medical experts, disclosing that his visit to the school was to look into its area of concern and see where the state government could render assistance.

The vice-chancellor, in his speech, commended the governor for his numerous contributions to the university and for finding time to inspect the new Faculty of Law building and see how he could assist them.

Prof. Esu stated that the movement of the faculty to a

**From Bassey Ita,**  
Correspondent (Calabar)

new building required the provision of new infrastructure for it to be habitable, hoping that the age-long relationship with the Dean, Faculty of Law, Prof. Igwe Ike, will turn the fortunes of

the faculty around.

At the faculty, Governor Duke addressed students of the law faculty, enjoining them to set their priorities straight with the aim of picking those ones that will promote academic excellence.

## "Kwara FM Radio not for sale"

The management of Radio Kwara has debunked reports indicating that the broadcast station has been sold out to a private company.

The General Manager of Radio Kwara, Alhaji Mahmud Abdulrahim, while reacting to a report by a newspaper (not *Daily Trust*), said "We are not unaware of a proposal by a private broadcast company to run the station in partnership with government. To the best of our knowledge, it has not gone beyond that."

He declared that "Government has never taken a decision" along the line the newspaper insinuated, adding "there was no bidding of any sort."

The general manager, who condemned the report which he said had no iota of truth, assured the public of the unflinching commitment of

**From Abdulrazaq Adebayo,**  
Correspondent (Ilorin)

the state government under the leadership of Governor Bukola Saraki to re-invigorate and re-position the entire information machinery in general and Radio Kwara in particular.

"Ordinarily, the management of the Kwara State Broadcasting Corporation would have ignored the malicious publication which was entirely based on sheer fabrication of the newspaper's imagination, but for the capability of the publication to mislead the unsuspecting members of the public on the steps being taken by the Governor Bukola Saraki led administration to re-energising and re-invigorating the station," Alhaji Abdulrahim added.



Dr. Lehan (left) is the General Manager of Ogun Ogun River basin Development Authority (OORDA) and former AD chairman now Special Adviser to President Obasanjo on industrial matters, Alhaji Ahmed Abdulkadir during the visit of members of Agric Society of Nigeria to President Obasanjo at the state House Abuja...recently.

Pic: Joe Oroye

## Benue to celebrate 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Congress for Democracy and Development (CDD), a Makurdi based pressure group Benue State, has concluded arrangement to begin the anniversary celebration for the creation of Benue State 29 years ago.

In a statement signed by its President, Mr. Dennis Amo-Aturuma, the CDD said the creation of Benue State on February 3, 1976 alongside six other states, was of great significance to the people and therefore decided to work in conjunction with the state's Ministry of Information to organise a public lecture entitled: "Tarka's Dreams

**From Hiri Joseph,**  
Correspondent (Makurdi)

And Akume's Footprints on the Sand of Time", to commemorate the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the state.

The event, which will mark the beginning of the annual celebration, according to Mr. Dennis Onoja, the CDD Treasurer, is expected to attract the state Governor, Mr. George Akume and a host of other personalities of the state.

The creation of the state by the General Murtala Mohammed military administration, according to CDD, marked the end of neglect and

oppression of the people of the lower Benue valley and therefore marked the realisation of the wish of such political stalwarts, including the late Joseph Sarwan Tarka who fought for the right of self-determination of his people who were hitherto under the then province of northern Nigeria.

Also, CDD said it believed that a lot had been achieved since the creation of the state and that the event would highlight the achievements and equally challenge upcoming politicians to consolidate on the gains of past administrators.

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# News

## FG to invest \$70 bn in Ogun LNG plant

President Olusegun Obasanjo says the federal government will invest about 70 billion US dollars in the next ten years on the establishment of an NLG plant in Ogun State.

Speaking at the 32nd president's party of the Abeokuta Club on Saturday, Obasanjo stated that the project to be located in Olokofo would be built in phases.

He said that the project would be one of the highest LNG investments in the world and assured that nation will reap heavily from the investment.

The president said that LNG project was capital intensive and technology driven, noting however that there may not be much in terms of employment.

He said that he was happy

to note that the state Governor, Gbenga Daniel, had performed well and charged local government chairmen to emulate him.

The president charged the elite in the country to get fully involved in their village and community renewal programmes for the development of their communities.

According to the president, "I believe that federal government is doing reasonable well on road construction throughout the country and I urge Nigerians to get fully involved in the nation's economic reform programme."

The 32nd president of the club, Kuforogei Rotimi, in a welcome address, commended on what he described as the on-going revolution in the telecommunication sector, the banking industry and

the agricultural sector.

Rotimi said that the government agricultural policy was able to bring about resource control to all villages and hamlets, not just to a few state of the federation.

Governor Gbenga Daniel, who delivered his address from a location outside Abeokuta using his mobile phone through a call to the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), pledged to develop a world-class holiday resort in the state.

## Katsina pledges resources towards 2005 census

Governor Umaru Musa Yar'adua of Katsina State has pledged to pull all the available resources together to ensure a successful 2005 national headcount in the state, just as the Emir of Katsina, Alhaji (Dr) Muhammadu Kabir Usman, in his *Sallah* message, urged people to come out en masse during the forthcoming national headcount.

Speaking while receiving the Emir at the Government House for the *Hawan Sarki*

The Rivers State government has urged the judiciary to investigate the conduct of a judicial officer alleged to be involved in professional misconduct.

Speaking at the swearing-in of five new judges on Wednesday in Port Harcourt, Governor Peter Odili urged the state Chief Judge, Justice Iche Ndu to investigate a pending petition against an erring magistrate.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the magistrate (names withheld) was said to have as-

## Rivers orders inquiry into judicial officer's conduct

sumed jurisdiction over a matter outside his competence.

Odili advised the chief judge to "look into such incidents with a view to improving justice delivery in the state, even as he expressed satisfaction with the level of justice delivery in the state."

"Observers will agree that the judiciary in Rivers has turned a new leaf and has become model as a beacon of

hope for the masses in the administration of justice," Odili said.

The governor pointed out that the recruitment of the new judges was aimed at sustaining the sanity recorded in the system.

"The incidence of those who can afford justice by paying for it had drastically reduced in the judiciary in the state," he noted with delight.

He said that the executive arm of government would borrow a leaf from the sanitation process of the judiciary.

The five judges sworn-in include Justice Adolphus Enebeli, Mrs. Elsie Thompson, Mr. Sika Aprioku, Mr. Roland Ahiakwo and Mrs. Margaret Opara.

The state chapter of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) has in the past two years been campaigning for the sanitation of the state judiciary.

It has similarly spoken of the need to strengthen the criminal justice system under the leadership of Mr. Okechukwu Owhonda, the immediate past NBA chairman.



Governor Peter Odili

## Igbominas resolve to dialogue with Kwara govt.

The Omo Ihile Igbomina has resolved to all ways engage in dialogue with the Kwara State government on matters of interest and concern to the state and Igbomina people with a view to moving the state forward. The resolution followed a meeting between the executive members of the body led by its national President, Alhaji (Hon) Toyin Adewara, and the Deputy Governor, Chief Joel Ogundeji.

The meeting was to resolve issues connected to the unfortunate incident that happened late last year during the Igbomina Day celebration held in Omu-Aran, headquarters of Irepodun council area.

The executive members of Egbe Omo Igbomina had earlier written a letter of protest to the state Governor, Dr. Bukola Saraki, condemning the disturbances at the Igbomina Day by some people they alleged were hired thugs.

At the meeting, the deputy governor, who is an Igbomina, explained the magnanimity of the governor in ensuring full participation and financial contribution of the state government during the 2004 Igbomina Day celebration.

During the meeting, Alhaji Adewara and the General Secretary, Dr. Emmanuel Adeoye, spoke on behalf of the group where they apologised for the tone of the protest letter to the governor and expressed regret for directly writing the governor without consulting the deputy governor.

The meeting also re-

solved to avoid the danger of eroding the influence of Igbomina people in government with any belligerent attitude to an administration that has shown much interest in the empowerment of Igbomina people and the development of Igbominaland.

From Abdulrazaq Adebayo, Correspondent (Ilorin)

## Recalled Benue employees to receive pension

The 295 employees of the Benue State government who were retired in 1995 and re-absorbed in 2003 will once again enjoy their pension from next month.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the workers who were re-absorbed into the state civil service during the 2003 electioneering campaigns received their salaries for only four months.

Alleging irregularities in the recall exercise, the state government ordered that their salaries be stopped.

For the past 18 months when they went without pen-



Governor Akume

## Cross River empowers 500 youths

About 5,000 youth in Cross River State are to benefit from the government's Peoples Empowerment Initiative (PEPI) by 2007. The programme is people-oriented and community-based meant to empower

their salary nor pension, the state NLC fought relentlessly for them to receive their entitlements.

On Jan. 15, children of the affected workers thronged the office of the NLC in Makurdi, pleading with labour leaders to take immediate steps to end the hardship they were being exposed to.

Addressing the issue at a news briefing on Wednesday in Makurdi, shortly after the state Executive Council meeting, the Commissioner for Information, Mr. John Uzer, said government had decided that the workers should revert to their old status as retired employees.

"What it means is that rather than being paid salaries, they will be paid pension pending when the state government will take a final decision on the matter," he said.

He said this was a "temporary measure" taken to alleviate the sufferings of the affected workers and their families.

He said the state's pension office had been directed to take immediate steps to ensure that the workers were paid pension from next month.

From Bassey Ita, Correspondent (Calabar)

The youth in the state, as beneficiaries are to be provided with about N300, 000 worth of equipment each on a 'pay back' basis for businesses.

Already, 920 youth from 10 out of 18 local government areas of the state have benefited from the programme, *Daily Trust* gathered.

Speaking to the beneficiaries at the recent fourth commencement and graduation ceremonies of PEPI for Akpabuyo, Bakassi, Odukpani local governments and Calabar municipality held at the conference hall of the library complex, Governor Donald Duke said that the programme was aimed at empowering unemployed youth across the state, adding that through this measure, the beneficiaries will in turn create jobs for others.

Duke therefore enjoined the beneficiaries to exploit opportunities abound in the state for the programme to succeed, while charging them to repay their revolving loans so that the programme can continue. The governor reasoned that since the programme was aimed at impacting positively on the state's economy, it therefore calls for strict monitoring and supervision to enable it to succeed.

The wife of the governor and Chairman, Enterprise Nigeria Foundation, Mrs. Onari Duke, in an "Introduction of PEPI Monitors and Summary of Key Tasks", said the inauguration of the programme in 2002 had opened the channel for the youth to become entrepreneurs, stating that so far, the programme had achieved the goal in some areas.

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## HARMONIZED PRO-IBB GROUPS

### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

1. The Chairman of the National Harmonization Committee of all Pro-IBB Groups throughout the country, avails himself the opportunity and the pleasure to inform the general public and the teeming supporters of **Alhaji Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida** in Nigeria and abroad that:

- a. Several harmonization meetings of all Pro-IBB Groups have taken place in Minna and Abuja from the 16th August 2004 to 8th January 2005.
- b. Following these harmonization meetings, all the Groups have resolved to harmonize and operate under one umbrella at the National, Zonal, State, Local Government and Ward Levels.
- c. This umbrella organization is the **NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION (NDO)**.
- d. The National Leaders of the following major National Groups signed the harmonization documents on behalf of themselves and all the other organized Pro-IBB Groups:

- (1) Democratic Mandate Group
- (2) Destiny Mandate Group
- (3) Eagle Group
- (4) IBB Democratic Coalition Group
- (5) IBB Vanguard
- (6) National Solidarity Coalition
- (7) Nigerian Women for IBB
- (8) Project 007
- (9) Vision 2007

e. Since the formal signing of the Harmonization Documents on 8th January, 2005, many Organizations and Interest Groups have formally indicated their desire to be registered as members of the National Democratic Organization. These Organizations/Groups have since been duly registered at the National Secretariat of the **NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION**. The following are some of them:

- (1) Movement for the Defense of Democracy
- (2) Niger Delta Women Forum
- (3) Babangida Today
- (4) Business Nigeria Groups IBB 2007
- (5) Youth Support IBB Movement
- (6) Destiny Group
- (7) IBB Progressive Frontier
- (8) Democratic Network for IBB
- (9) IBB Presidential Project
- (10) IBB Resource Vanguard
- (11) Dimension for IBB 2007
- (12) National Peoples' Opinion

2. The National Chairman Harmonization Committee, while thanking all these Groups for their patience, resolve and determination, wishes to further inform them and the general public that harmonization is a process and that this process is on-going, and that there is room for all Nigerians to participate. They should not, under any circumstances, allow themselves to be distracted, intimidated or stampeded by those whose agenda is personal, dubious and mercenary, into taking any precipitate actions inconsistent with the wishes, interests and specific directives of **Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, GCFR**.

3. The Chairman wishes to further inform the teeming millions of IBB friends, supporters and well wishers wherever they are in Nigeria and abroad, to join and register with the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP); those who are already PDP registered members should please ensure that their registration is updated without further delay.

4. All IBB supporters and the general public are once again kindly advised to ignore and totally disregard all irresponsible and unauthorized pronouncements, publications, and calls for meetings by any other organization, by whatsoever name called. The National Democratic Organization is the only body authorized to make all public pronouncements etc on behalf of **Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida**.

Compliments of the season, and Barka da Sallah.

NDO — IBB  
IBB — 2007  
2007 — PROSPERITY

SIGNED

**TONY O. Okonjo Esq.**

For

Chairman, National Harmonization Committee  
08036382988, 08034034067, 08033498554

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING MADE THIS 8th DAY OF JANUARY 2005.

**PARTIES: PRO-IBB INTEREST GROUPS IN NIGERIA**

- (a) Democratic Mandate Group
- (b) Destiny Mandate Group
- (c) Eagle Group
- (d) IBB Democratic Coalition
- (e) IBB Vanguard
- (f) National Solidarity Coalition
- (g) Nigerian Women for Babangida
- (h) Project 007
- (i) Vision 2007

Hereinafter called "The Groups".

#### PREAMBLE

We, the Groups, hereinafter have agreed to come together under this understanding to promote the candidature of President Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida GCFR as the President of Nigeria in 2007. Desirous of achieving our objectives of achieving harmony and unity amongst the groups towards realizing our common objectives hereby give ourselves this Understanding under the following terms and conditions accepted by the Groups.

S. 1a. That the Groups are decided on forming a larger, purposeful and directional body under a single penumbra and bearing a single identified nomenclature to be presided by a single body of Leadership recognized and duly constituted by the groups.

S. 1b. That all decisions contained herein shall be duly communicated to all members of the Groups.

S. 2. That the Groups have resolved to bring together all members at home and abroad to form this body and same shall be identified as bonafide members of the body.

S. 3. That the Groups have agreed unanimously to henceforth discard all other names and acronyms that have hitherto symbolized the identity of Pro-IBB interest groups that constitute the Groups.

S. 4. That the Groups have agreed bearing in mind the reality that not all interest groups and interested individuals can be brought in for the purpose of this Understanding to accept and work with all other Pro-IBB interest groups and interested individuals to enhance, promote and achieve the candidature of President **Ibrahim B. Babangida GCFR** against 2007.

S. 5. That all members of the Groups hereafter pledge their unalloyed loyalty to work with and co-operate with each other towards the success of the candidature of President **Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida GCFR**.

S. 6. That the Groups shall agree on the Structure, Organization, Operation and Carnage of the body agreed to be formed.

S. 7. That the Groups have agreed to work within the structure of the PDP for the actualization of IBB's candidature and his eventual election as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in 2007.

S. 8. We the aforesaid leaders of the Groups are in concord with all conditions and terms contained herein and have voluntarily agreed to sign as follows on behalf of our various groups:

- a. Democratic Mandate Group  
Leader *[Signature]*
- b. Destiny Mandate Group  
Leader *[Signature]*
- c. Eagle Group  
Leader *[Signature]*
- d. IBB Democratic Coalition  
Leader *[Signature]*
- e. IBB Vanguard  
Leader *[Signature]*
- f. National Solidarity Coalition  
Leader *[Signature]*
- g. Nigerian Women for Babangida  
Leader *[Signature]*
- h. Project 007  
Leader *[Signature]*
- i. Vision 2007  
Leader *[Signature]*



# Inside Politics

## 2007: No pact between Marwa, IBB - Endowment

The Buba Marwa Endowment (TBME) has dismissed as false and mischievous the alleged signing of a pact between its chairman, Brigadier General (rtd) Mohammed Buba Marwa and former military leader, General Ibrahim Babangida (rtd) over their speculated presidential aspiration.

The endowment said that some people have sponsored and are peddling rumours "that our chairman, Dr. Mohammed Buba Marwa had a supposed meeting with Gen. Ibrahim Babangida early this year, during which he championed the removal of Lar, their member and then Gemade and now Ogbeh."

"Atiku's ambition to be Nigeria's president and his campaign began during the 1992-93 SDP, NRC days. Atiku's candidature will not have to rely on Ogbeh. So whether Ogbeh is out of the party or not, Atiku is not bothered and we in the PDM will work to ensure our dream come true," he added.

By **Abdu Labarab Group**  
Political Editor

he allegedly conceded to step down and support the presidential ambition of Gen. Ibrahim Babangida.

In a statement signed by its secretary, Engineer Muhammed Lawal, the Buba Marwa Endowment declared that the rumours of the alleged pact were false and mischievous.

"We want to clearly state that this is false and without any foundation. As always, Gen. Marwa has been informing Nigerians at any given opportunity that it is God that crowns and that this first quarter of 2005, he will make a definitive statement on the whole matter," added the statement.

The statement also quoted general Marwa as calling on fellow Nigerians to remain steadfast and vigilant even as he thanked his teaming supporters nationwide for keeping faith with him and his cause assuring them that he will never give them any

cause to regret their support to him.

Only late last year, the former Borno and Lagos States military administrator, for the umpteenth time, dismissed insinuations to the effect that he is only fronting for IBB. At an interactive session with Bureau Chief and correspondents in Kaduna, General Marwa declared once again that he was his own man and his stumping across the country was solely for his own purpose and not IBB's or anyone else's.



Brig. Gen. Mohammed Buba Marwa



Col. Musa Mohammed (rtd) briefing the State House Journalists as the Sports Minister on the recent change in the NEA; with him are the Information Minister Dr. Chukwemeka Chikelu and the Education Minister Dr. Fabian Otuji after the FEC meeting held at the State House Abuja...recently.

## Ogbeh's removal, blessing to PDP, Nigeria - Benue PDM leader

The leader of the defunct People's Democratic Movement (PDM) in Benue State and a chieftain of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Chief Abu King Shulawa has said that the ouster of the party's National Chairman, Chief Audu Ogbeh, was a blessing for the party and the nation as the crisis would enable for regroupings of the various associations that gave birth to the PDP.

The PDP chieftain also said that the alleged rift between President Obasanjo and the party chairman had nothing to do with the presidential ambition of vice president Atiku Abubakar noting that the vice-president does not need Ogbeh to become president.

Chief Shulawa, who broke the silence in the stand of PDM on the crisis rocking the party, told newsmen at the weekend in Makurdi that the belief was that Ogbeh's ouster would sink the party was totally wrong asserting that the current stand-off in the ruling party will only save the party from eminent collapse as both the PDP and the nation will come out of the crisis more focused and stronger.

## MBF urges constituents to shun PDP chairmanship

The middle-belt forum has warned politicians from the north-central geopolitical zone of the country not to make themselves available as replacement to Chief Audu Ogbeh as the National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) if he is finally removed.

The group also urged the members of the NEC of the PDP not to accept the resignation but to use their position to insist on Ogbeh's completion of his tenure up to November this year.

Chairman of the FCT chapter of the forum, Hon. Yakubu Pam Gam said accepting the position would rubbush the hard earned image politicians from the middle belt have been able to make while further distorting the unity that exists between

From **Hir Joseph**,  
Correspondent (Makurdi)

"Ogbeh's resignation or whatever they call it is a blessing to PDP and the nation at large," said Chief Shulawa, alleging that the PDP under Ogbeh has witnessed more crisis than can be handled by members.

He pointed out the protracted Kwande killings and the over two-year-old party crisis in Ogbeh's home state

of Benue, the Plateau, Kaduna, Kano and Bauchi crises as well as killings in the Niger Delta and the rising spate of assassinations in the country as serious problems which the PDP under Ogbeh failed to address.

"The PDM staunch man also criticised the O34 for carrying on as though they formed the PDP saying that "PDP is larger than the G.34. And besides, who is causing the problems if not them. They

## APGA alleges plot to invade secretariat

The All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) has written to the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Sunday Ehindaro alleging plans by some expelled party members to use men of the police force to invade the party's secretariat in Abuja.

In a letter dated January 23, made available to Daily Trust in Abuja yesterday, the party's national chairman, Chekwas Okorie alleged that the expelled members, led by former national treasurer, Victor Umeh, had resorted to "unorthodox methods to cause breakdown of law and order amongst the rank and file of APGA membership

By **Habeeb I. Pindiga**,  
Political Reporter

across the country."

Okorie said "the latest threat coming from their camp of which this petition has become inevitable is to forcefully occupy the national secretariat of our party using the men of the Nigeria police force within the week. We urge you not to allow political tuss and political contractors to violently attack democratic institutions rather than follow due process of going to the law courts to seek redress for any real or perceived grievances."

Urging for prompt action from Ehindaro, the chairman said the alert become necessary to pre-empt what may turn out to be a general breakdown of law and order in the country.

"If this rebellious group feels that they are entitled to occupy the national secretariat of our party, the constitutional thing to do is to go to court and seek such relief," he said.

The leadership crisis rocking APGA broke on December 15, last year, when a group of some national officers of the party placed a suspension on Okorie and his deputy, Hassan Bello on allegation of financial misdeemeanour.

Following a disciplinary panel recommendation, the party's NEC expelled Umeh and the national secretary, Sam Shinkafi and their collaborators.

## DISCLAIMER

The attention of the National Population Commission has been drawn to the sale of fake application forms for employment and registration as contractors by some unscrupulous elements.

The Commission does not issue application forms for employment temporary or permanent. Registration form for contractors can only be obtained at the offices of the Commission and not through any agent.

Members of the public are hereby warned not to buy any application forms from any body. Such cases should be reported to the nearest police station and/or the offices of NPC nationwide.

Signed:  
**Hajiya Fati Kadiri**  
Ag. Director, Public Affairs For:  
**The Chairman National Population Commission**

# Federal University of Technology, Minna

## (Office of the Registrar)

The attention of University Management is drawn to a recent handbill surreptitiously circulated to the students and the general public. The propaganda contained in the publication is certainly uncharitable. But for the urgency of the moment and the wider security implication, the malicious write up could have been ignored. To do so will amount to acquiescence or even capitulation to the fiction. While it is not the intention of Administration to join issues with the faceless elements, it is crucial to set the records straight for the students and the general public to know. This has become necessary in view of Senate decision to commence the 2004/2005 academic session. To do otherwise, is to ostensibly allow the tiny group achieve their selfish aim which is to derail the next academic session at the outset.

### 2. Schedule of Fees:

Senate at its 279th (Special) meeting held on 17 December 2004 approved, among other things, the schedule of fees as follows:

	NIGERIANS	NON-NIGERIANS
(i) Fresh Students:	N32,090.00 for hostel residents. N27,000.00 for off-campus students.	\$750 + N34,090.00 or N29,000.00
(ii) Returning Students:	N19,000.00 for hostel residents. N14,000.00 for off-campus students.	\$750 + N21,000.00 or N16,000.00

The above charges compare favourably with those of other Federal Universities nationwide. The wild figures given to the unsuspecting public cannot be further from the truth and should be ignored for what it is, outright falsehood.

### 3. Remedial Charges:

The Board of the Centre for Remedial and Extra-mural Studies (CRES) at its 2nd meeting held on 12th January, 2005 approved the sum of N50,000.00 as charges for the 2004/2005 academic session. Last year, remedial students paid N45,500.00 which Niger State Government for whom the programme is deservedly mounted, paid for all its students and even gave the same remedial students a scholarship of N4,500.00 making a total of N50,000.00. It is instructive to note that before Government redeemed its pledge of sponsoring the students, most of the Niger State students have paid and were magnanimously refunded. Therefore, what is being charged for this session is not different from the previous year. The N50,000.00 also compare favourably, considering the net benefit, with what is being charged in other Universities even in the North. Similarly, other than Niger State, several State Governments sponsor their students for the remedial programme. Again, the bizarre figures cited in the flyer is nothing but a ploy to cause disaffection.

### 4. Movement to the Main Campus:

Twelve years after the physical developments were commenced on the University's main campus, movement there is only realistic and very possible now. We are at the University's defining moment and time is of essence as all necessary arrangements to relocate to the main campus have been put in place. Without doubt, there will be inconveniences at the beginning but in due course the benefits will be profound. The decision to actually move to the main campus was given by no less a figure than the **Hon. Minister of Education himself Prof Fabian N. C. Osuji** during his maiden visit to educational institutions in North Central Zone on 12th July, 2004. Indeed, it was a directive and he emphatically asserted that "unless you moved to the Main Campus, further assistance to you would not be made." He came to this conclusion having assessed the facilities and infrastructure already put in place. To wit, there is power supply from NEPA and water supply has also been taken care of, after all, it is the first pre-condition to settle human beings in a given environment. The position of the Hon. Minister was further reiterated by the **Stakeholders' Forum** during its maiden meeting held at the main campus on 30th November, 2004. The communiqué *inter alia* said "the University is directed to move to the main campus without further delay." The important aspect of security has also been put into consideration.

Further to the briefing of Mr. President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo to the Committee of Vice-Chancellors, the University has requested for POLICE COVERAGE at the main campus. The University Security Unit is also to complement other security arrangements there. The public should not be deceived that the movement is untenable as it was mischievously stated in the purported publication. Management is sensitive to the wel-

fare of its students, staff, nay the University community in general. What is to be understood is that "no pain, no gain". To even cushion the take off difficulties, usually associated with change of place and which are temporary, the organized private sector has indicated its commitment to partner in the steady development of the main campus in the areas of transportation, catering, stationery, secretarial and provision services. Of course, there will be some medical complement there as well. Indeed, Government, through the Federal Ministry of Housing has energized property developers to build 12 additional hostels on the main campus. Certainly, there is a contrary agenda by the group as contained in the publication to the noble objectives of moving the University forward. What the publication deliberately ignored is the fact that Bosso Campus is congested and seeming to the brims. This is a Campus originally designed for only 5,000 students and staff inclusive but which now accommodates over 14,000 students and about 3,000 members of staff and families. It is as a result of the stark reality on ground that the University community unanimously endorsed the movement which is to proceed initially with SAA T and SET while SEET joins later. To continue to procrastinate on this matter will be foolhardy as the consequences of over congestion will be disastrous to contemplate.

It is also important to highlight the fact that Management also invited all the Presidents, Chairmen and their secretaries of the 36 states and Abuja to a round table on 10th January, 2005 primarily for a dialogue on how to ease the relocation to the Main Campus. Discussions were frank but at the end it was a fruitful deliberation. It was rather surprising that a group which neither has a mandate nor representing any body can be so audacious as to proclaim legitimacy over students' welfare. They illegally speak for themselves and stand alone, hence their vacillation on matters they are less competent to comment on.

### 5. Resumption for 2004/2005 Session:

The University will commence the 2004/2005 academic session and the dates for resumption were duly approved as follows:

- Fresh Students (UME, Direct and Remedial Absorbed) - 26th January, 2005
- 400, 500 levels and postgraduate students 31st January, 2005
- 200 and 300 levels - 7th February, 2005

### 6. Registration:

Other than the Postgraduate and Remedial students who are to register at the Bosso Campus, all students will be registered on the Main Campus which is at Gidan Kwano, 14 kilometres on the Minna - Kataregei - Bida road. Registration at the main campus will start at 9.00 a.m. daily as from 26th January throughout the registration exercise. Students are most welcome and should avoid late registration.

### 7. Conclusion:

The foregoing facts clearly show that the actual situation contrasts sharply with the falsehood contained in the vile and sordid publication. Management will do whatever is necessary to provide an enabling environment for teaching, research and community service for learning to take place. *Ab initio*, Management has mapped out strategies by which the University will prosper and achieve greatness and no amount of propaganda from a tiny cabal can derail Management from its responsibility. Majority of the students are peace loving, serious minded and academically challenged and have nothing to do with the pretentious and mischief agenda of the faceless group. Their evil intention is to sow a whirlwind and they will reap a tornado if not a tsunami. Students, parents, guardians, sponsors and the general public should ignore the diatribe contained in the anonymous publication and support the University Management in moving it forward *ipso facto*. There will be peace in FUT, Minna and it shall be well with those who genuinely aspire to "drink" from its deep fountains. For the avoidance of doubt, the faceless group and their sponsors who are behind the mischief have been unmasked and they can no longer run for cover.

**THINKS POSITIVE, ACT POSITIVE AND REMAIN CONSTRUCTIVE!**

Signed  
M. D. USMAN  
Acting Registrar

# Tsunami Disaster Relief Committee Sub-Committee on Publicity

## Press Release

The Federal Government has established a "Tsunami Disaster Relief Committee" to raise resources for the victims of the disaster in South East Asia and some parts of Africa. This monumental catastrophe has caused the untimely death of over 165,000 people so far in addition to properties worth trillions of naira destroyed, communities shattered, dreams aborted, hopes frustrated and millions of people, especially children, women and elderly rendered homeless.

The Committee, inaugurated by Mr. President, has His Eminence, the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammadu Maccido Abubakar III, President-General of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs and His Grace, Archbishop Akinola, the President of the Christian Association of Nigeria as Co-Chairmen. After their inaugural meeting, where an elaborate programme was drawn, three Sub-Committees were formed to facilitate the work of the Committee. The Sub-Committee on Finance and Resources is chaired by Alhaji Umaru Mutallab, while the other Sub-Committees on Publicity and Contact are chaired by their Excellencies, the Governors of Kano State and Akwa Ibom States, respectively.

Already, the Federal Government has quickly responded by contributing the sum of one million dollars to the United Nations Relief Fund for the Tsunami victims. Donations would also be made to the African Union Fund for the disaster relief in affected African Counties of Somalia, Kenya and Tanzania. However, as a disaster that touches the hearts of all men and women of the world, it is believed that many more individuals and organisations would want to make some contributions as their conscience and hearts direct them. Therefore, Nigerians and non-Nigerians alike especially business groups, industrialists, religious bodies, State and Local Governments and all men and women of goodwill are urged to stand up and be counted in this task of showing concern, compassion and care by donating very generously to this effort in cheques, cash and in kind.

Please send in your donations to the "Tsunami Disaster Relief Fund" through the following banks in all the states of the Federation.

- i) **First Bank of Nigeria Plc.**  
Account Number: 4062050014410
- ii) **Habib Bank Nigeria Plc**  
Account Number: 01301192952
- iii) **Zenith Bank Plc**  
Account Number: 6011327329

Donations could also be sent to the offices of the State Governors and Chairman of Local Government Councils throughout the Country. No amount is too small.

For further inquiries, please contact the Secretary to the Committee at the following address.

**Political Affairs Officer**  
Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federal,  
Merit House, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Aguiyi Ironsi Street,  
Maitama, Abuja  
Nigeria  
Telephone Numbers: 08034518811, 09-4134529, 09-4134532

Signed

Ibrahim Shekarau

Executive Governor, Kano State/Chairman, Sub-Committee on Publicity

# Sports

## AFRICAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

### Cash gift causes ripples in Eagles camp

Palpable anger seems to have taken over the Flying Eagles camp at the ongoing African Youth Championship in Cotonou, Benin Republic.

The development followed the sharing of more than 2,000-dollar cash gift to the players by the NFA chairman Ibrahim Galadima. Galadima had given

out the money to the team officials on January 15, to cushion the effect of the non-release of their allowances after the boys mauled the hosts, Benin Republic 3-0 in an opening match.

Sources at the camp told NAN at the weekend in Cotonou that the amount had been shared among 17 players paraded by the team at 100 dollars each.

The balance of 300 dollars was now causing ripples and bad blood among team officials.

Some of the cash-strapped officials, who were desperate to benefit from the balance complained that Coach Samson Siasia withheld the amount "without justification while some of us are hungry."

"We have been in camp for over a month without payment of our allowances and up till this moment in Cotonou, no money was given to us."

"We expected that the balance of Galadima's money ought to have been given to us," an official who pleaded anonymity said.

He, however, explained that the issue would not derail

the technical crew and the players from their objective of winning the championship, adding that the boys were in high spirits.

Contacted over the issue, Siasia said that the boys' entitlements would be paid along with that of the crew, saying that financial issues would not break the camp. "The boys are actually playing for me because they have been focusing on their assignment due to the influence I exert on them daily," he said.

Meanwhile, officials of the Flying Eagles at the ongoing African Youth Championship

in Cotonou are now in high spirits following the part payment of their allowances.

The team officials and players had not been paid their allowances and other entitlements since the camp opened a month ago.

The part payment has raised the morale of officials even though the players' entitlements are being withheld by Coach Samson Siasia for "security reasons."

Sources at the camp told NAN at the weekend that the payment was made by a deputy director of finance and supplies in the Federal Ministry of Sports, who

arrived in Cotonou on Thursday.

It was, however, learnt that the exercise created anxiety among the players who had been itching to embark on a shopping spree in Cotonou. Some of the players told NAN that they needed the money as morale booster and an assurance that government was sincere about their welfare.

Siasia had explained that their money was intact but being withheld to avoid complaints of theft and misplacement which could derail the boys from their assignment.

### Powerlifting tourney gets date

The maiden National Power Lifting Championships will hold in Lagos on January 29 and 30, Sunday Hershaw, President of the Nigerian Professional Power Lifting Association (NPPA) has disclosed.

Hershaw described power lifting as "advanced weightlifting", saying the championships would serve as an eye opener for all powerlifters in the country.

He said weight lifting was a good foundation for power lifting but power lifting was meant for powerful lifters, adding that the competition would be a prelude to the first Commonwealth

Power lifting championship scheduled for September this year in Britain.

Hershaw said the association was affiliated to the International and African Power Lifting Federations as they were professionals and had met conditions laid down for recognition by the international bodies.

The Secretary-general of the association, Sangole Olatuppo said both able and physically challenged athletes were eligible to take part in the competition.



Flying Eagles in training

### Nigerian pugilist, Peter, makes wave in US

Nigerian-born boxer, Samuel Peter, had a run-away knock-out victory on Saturday night over his opponent Yanqui Diaz in a heavyweight bout in Miami, U.S. Peter, 24, described by boxing buffs as a knock out specialist ended the fight in the fifth round of the scheduled 12-round match after knocking down his Cuban-born opponent two times in the round.

Though shorter at 6 foot 2, Peter overwhelmed his opponent who stands at 6 foot 4.

He threw and landed more punches than Diaz who also came to the fight with an impressive record, having brought down some of the big names in the heavyweight division.

From the onset of the match, Peter piled up pressure on his opponent with jabs and punches, effectively using both hands.

He won four of the rounds, but drew in one, when referee Brian Garry awarded two points against him for hitting his opponent when he was already down on the turf.

By his victory, Peter stepped up his unblemished boxing record to 22 victories, 19 by knock out.

Asked what his next goal was, Peter said he wanted to take on the heavyweight champion.

"I am ready," he told Larry Merchant, boxing commentator for HBO Sport, a leading American entertainment TV channel.

Though Merchant doubted Peter's readiness to take on the champion, he praised the young man's boxing prospects.

"He punches with both hands and takes a punch. He'll go a long way," he commented.

But Roy Jones, another boxing legend said Peter was ready to take on anybody in the heavyweight division.

"He is ready for anybody in the heavyweight right now."

Peter is the latest of boxers coming out of the Nigerian assembly line, including Henry Akinwande, David Izonritei and Ike Ibeabuchi.

Ibeabuchi's rising career was cut short by 2001 when he went to jail for sexual assault.

### Matankari tips Eagles to win tournament

Solomon Matankari, permanent secretary, Federal Ministry of Sports, says the Flying Eagles will win the ongoing African Youth Championship as a symbol of the country's unity.

Matankari, who watched the Eagles defeat Cote

d'Ivoire by 1-0 at the weekend, told newsmen that the result was encouraging.

"They are doing their best because they have not lost any match so far. It clearly shows they are likely to win the cup and this will further unify the country."

"I believe we are moving on and what is expected of us now

is prayers and support for the team," he said.

Matankari said that all the bonuses and allowances of the players were being paid, adding that government might consider appropriate rewards for them if they won the trophy.

## Trust Classified

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KANO: 309, Burma Rd. Sabon Gari, Kano State.  
ABUJA NEW OFFICE: 75, Haukeke Str. Garki Village, Shop 13, 1st Floor. Mon - 7pm (10am - 2pm) every month. \*JOS, OPENS SOON.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### DYNAMIC QUORUM INTERNATIONAL

The general public is hereby informed that the DYNAMIC QUORUM INTERNATIONAL with headquarters in No.42, James Robertson, Surulere, Lagos State has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

The trustees are:-  
a. Dr. Austine Ewesiohi  
b. Chief Clement Anoh  
c. Chief Kareem Asofi  
d. Mr. Ifeoluwa Oluwalana  
e. Mr. Hubert Usman

Any objection to the above registration, must be in writing and addressed to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja and should reach him within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:  
Sunay Worenu & Associates  
Legal Practitioners & Notary Public

### LOST OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that an original certificate of occupancy No. BO/3531 belonging to Bala Y. Mshelwala is declared missing all effort to trace the said documents proved abortive. Ministry of Land and Survey, Borno State and public to note.

### CHANGE OF NAMES

I formerly known as SADIA ISA now wish to be known as HALIMAT SADIA JIMOH. General public to take note.

I formerly MISS MATILDA NKECHINYERE AGU, now wish to be called as MRS NKECHINYERE MATILDA OKONJI. All former documents remain valid. U.B.A and the public to note.

This space is  
for sale

## EDITORIAL

### Bush's second coming: A call for caution

Last Thursday, the 20th of January 2005, marked the official commencement of US President George Walker Bush's second term in office. Now that he has taken the oath to continue as the 43rd president of the United States of America, this newspaper believes that beyond the fanfare and ceremony in Washington D.C., there is a need to place the second coming of President Bush in context.

To begin with, for an event whose most important aim—that is the oath-taking ceremony proper—was over and done with in a few minutes, it is telling that President Bush and his team reportedly spent about fifty million dollars in organizing the inauguration spectacle. Although a great deal of this money is said to have been raised privately, we cannot help but compare it with the paltry figure of fifteen million dollars that President Bush initially offered the devastated countries of the recent Asian tsunami. It took swift condemnation from all over the world to force him to raise the aid sum. Also, in contrast to Bush's huge celebration bill, former president Bill Clinton spent less than twenty four million dollars for his 1997 second term swearing-in ceremony.

Meanwhile, in uniting the world through his display of utter miserliness, President Bush was only repeating a feat he had earlier achieved during the 2001 build-up to the US war against Iraq. He made history by having as much as fifteen million people protesting against him around the world at the same time. As everyone knows, this global outcry did not stop President Bush from wreaking havoc on Iraq and her people.

It is worthy to note that President Bush's insensitivity and unwillingness to seek consensus, which has today thrown Iraq into a situation very similar to anarchy, is not limited to his policies abroad. Back home in the USA, in his first term, President Bush signed more laws and executive orders amending the Constitution of the USA than any other American president in history. In doing so, he systematically discarded many instruments of checks and balances, thereby weakening the processes of democracy. Now, President Bush has the least amount of House of Congress oversight than any other US president ever. For the rest of the world, the implications of these acts that are slowly but surely pushing the United States towards totalitarian rule cannot be overstated.

We also note the significance of the fact that Bush won re-election by a three percent margin, the lowest win margin for a re-elected president in recent memory. This, clearly, serves as an expression of the American people's nonchalance towards him and his performance in office. By contrast, late former president Ronald Reagan and former president Bill Clinton won re-election by margins of eighteen percent and eight percent respectively. It is our belief that these indices reflect the frustration of many Americans with President Bush's policies, a display of dissatisfaction further underscored by some protests across a number of major American cities as he took the oath of office to begin his second term in Washington D. C.

Moreover, for the international community, the return of President Bush to the White House represents more fears than hope in view of his actions during his first term. We recall with dismay that in the face of the world's opposition and outrage, Bush attacked and instituted the military occupation of a sovereign nation. This unilateral action not only weakened the authority of the world's pre-eminent body, the United Nations Organisation, it concretised the disdain President Bush had displayed for international cooperation right from the early days of his first term. For instance, he withdrew the US from the International Criminal Court. Also, since America's attack on Afghanistan in 2002, the USA has been observing the Geneva Conventions on War only in the breach. The consequence of this violation has been the abuses the world has seen in Guantanamo Bay and Iraq.

Furthermore, we recall with disappointment how President Bush took the world's sympathy for the USA after the 11th September 2001 tragedy and rapidly turned that compassion to resentment, a diplomatic failure that is almost beyond belief.

With the foregoing, it is clear that President Bush's inauguration day pledge to fight tyranny around the world needs to be viewed with the utmost apprehension. In a world where the definitions of terms are forever changing, it is now debatable who is a tyrant and who is not. For example, many in the world today believe the USA is the foremost threat to world peace. While some others may not agree with this view, what cannot be contested is that President Bush, as leader of the world's only superpower, ought to show a humane moral example by engaging the rest of the world fairly and respectfully.

To this end, we call for caution in the way the US interacts with other nations. Acting unilaterally or without consideration for the values and interests of other countries cannot serve the cause of humanity and would only create intractable problems like those now raging in Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine and other parts of the world. Without doubt, if President Bush were to engage the relevant parties soberly and humanely, many of these problems would either cease to exist or at least be mitigated.

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# TRUST

## MONDAY COLUMN

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## Sing, Oga Tafa sing!

By Crispin Oduobuk

As it is with many across the nation, last week's unexpected retirement of the lately glaringly inept and almost certainly ineffectual Inspector General of police, Tafa Balogun, continues to engender mixed emotions in your correspondent. In the main, I feel some elation over his ouster, even breaking out to myself in old English, "Hear ye, hear ye how the mighty hath fallen!" Am I laughing at a man who's down on his back? Not really. It's as if the divine tsunami I wrote about just a couple of weeks back is already upon us. Indeed, I'm just happy because, if nothing else, Balogun's exit—while proving we live in interesting times—as a chance for someone else to try his hands at reforming and hopefully improving the performance of our police force, something that presumably proved too intricate for the departing police boss.

Despite my excitement, I also feel a sense of disappointment. I recall about billions reportedly stashed here and there by Oga Tafa. Worse than business as usual, this affair exemplifies sleaze extraordinary. What in heaven's name does a man plan to do with so much money in one lifetime? Or is it possible these funds represent more than just Oga Tafa's greed?

While I ponder over that, I can't help feeling somewhat let down as well. More so because when Balogun initially assumed office, I thought he started out well. Of course, like they say, that was then; this is now. And now my state of disappointment is not assuaged by so many niggling questions on my mind. Niggling because there really is no reason why any of us should be overly surprised by this peculiar turn of events. Long before his exit, didn't we all have more than a hint that Balogun wasn't aiming for sainthood? Remember those roundly-denied cow gifts exclusively reported by this newspaper last year? At any rate, weren't we all here when the 2003 'elections' happened? Didn't that matchless exercise in state-sponsored banditry teach us that 'government magic' has acquired meanings hitherto unimaginable? And wasn't Balogun's police force—especially his beloved mobile arm—culpable in that violent charade?

Even so, the early but nonetheless sordid enough details of Balogun's tenure has me wondering where the much talked-about anti-corruption crusade is crusading if the nation's number one policeman can amass such stupendous sums in various currencies within and outside the country—and all these obviously through fraudulent methods—over a three-year period, without anyone turning him in. What's more, are the anti-corruption crusaders, obviously with the retiring IG included therein, exempt from the presumably cleansing effect of the crusade?

Moreover, I am quite unable to understand the kid gloves that the government has used in its initial handling of the matter. Why retirement when Oga Tafa obviously has a case to answer? Why not at least a suspension, if not an outright sack, until the matter is thoroughly investigated? Why 'under surveillance' when he should be placed under house arrest at the very least? Is he another sacred cow? As we have seen over the past few years, there are quite a number of those around us. Remember whose relative-in-law who got off on the grounds of the legal jargon *nolle prosequi* when the fellow had earlier been indicted for complicity in the theft of eye-popping millions at the Ministry of Defence? What about that somewhat cocky young godfather and his somewhat sheepish older godson of a governor? I do not wish to muck about here but is there a chance this might become another 'family affair' in the manner the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) usually handles problems, regardless of their magnitude?

I know I'm full of questions this morning but what else is there for it? It's not just the conspicuous fact that there's more to this matter than meets the eye. For me it's even more troubling that my mind has no understanding of my obvious physical limitations in coming to grips with the intrigues and shenanigans that sits over Tafa's gate like a halo. For instance, why did Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, the charismatic assistant commissioner of police heading up the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), have to be the one to bring down Balogun? Are there no other organs of state customarily charged with overseeing the police? Before we go further, let's backtrack a bit. But first, please, understand I'm merely chewing up a communal bone here. Now, I should do names and you, good reader, should do the out-of-favour/EFCC connection.

1. Governor Joshua Dariye of Plateau State

2. Chief Audu Oghbek, outgoing chairman of the PDP

Let's leave it at that for now and 'move forward,' a notion I now cynically associate with politicians who wish to paper over their crimes, especially after electoral violations may have secured unmerited public offices for them. This morning, the third name

we should add to the earlier two is none other than Tafa Balogun. As a policeman—even though the highest-ranking one—the departing IG, unlike the earlier two, isn't nominally a politician. Yet there were times in the past it seemed certain Balogun didn't know the difference. Before his fall from grace, Balogun was a man one would sometimes see on television working crowds with arms raised triumphantly like a boxer who had just knocked out particularly tough opponent. He would also be flashing victory signs and a blinding ear-to-ear grin just like a politician on a soapbox.

Now, for whatever reason, the promoter of 'Operation fire-for-fire' is quite clearly out of favour with the powers that be. Cue the EFCC. These days, we can almost predict the way the cookie crumbles, not so? Pity.

Don't get me wrong. If there are any tears in my eyes, it's just the barnstormer asserting its presence; they're certainly not for Balogun. The police force, under his watch, surpassed even its erstwhile inglorious image. I've talked enough about armed robbery in recent times so I'm not going to revisit that. But please recall that disgrace called election 2003. The rank and file of the police force aided and abetted unprecedented vote theft and perpetrated

unprecedented vote theft and perpetrated no small amount of violence on many citizens of this country. During that farce, the police either participated directly, or stood by and watched—like they did recently in Anambra—as property was destroyed and people were battered by thugs.

My personal memories of election 2003 will always be coloured by the agony of the people I interviewed in the Southeast soon after the election, many of whom had been subjected to violent abuse by thugs and—in some cases—agents of the government, including policemen and soldiers. In one sad case, I was almost overwhelmed as I listened to the emotion-laden accounts of relatives of an ad hoc staff of the Independent National Electoral Commission who'd been killed at his polling station for refusing to turn over ballot boxes to thugs of an infamous political party. These reports were published in the *Weekly Trust* in 2003. While all these were going on, what role did Balogun play as head of the organisation constitutionally mandated to keep law and order and protect citizens of this country? Perhaps this is how he gets to pay for his complicity in that mayhem?

Yet there is no guarantee that this matter will be treated in any manner different from the 'family affair' approach the PDP-led government has adopted towards the Anambra problem that has left the state in its current mess. This is why I am a bit concerned about the role of Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, who strikes me as an exceptional man—forthright, fearless and seemingly a person of his own mind. I have no doubt that many, especially those that matter most in the corridors of power, share this view. And yet lately I've been wondering if, like many brilliant men in history, he is simply not being used in more or less the same way other mortals—regardless of their pre-eminent rank in the forces or other spheres—are often manipulated by wielders of power, only to be discarded in dishonour once they've sullied their efficacy. As he is seemingly nailing Balogun's coffin now, I should watch out for me if I were in his shoes.

To get back to Balogun, I'm wondering if he's going to take this matter lying down. I think he would do well to scream himself hoarse that he hasn't done anything wrong. It's great that his lawyer is already doing that. Should that tack fail, he should beg to be let off on grounds of Governor Dariye's Glasshouse Theory. Either one or the other almost always works here. And if the EFCC can prove that he has violated the law, that should be Balogun's cue to let it all out.

Oga Tafa, let those cats—it simply can't be one—let them all out of the bag. They've got you. Okay. But if you're going down, at least take some of your comrades-in-whatever with you. Hell, take the whole damn lot with you. Help us break some of these glasshouses. After all, it's inconceivable that you did it alone. All those billions? Come on! Who else is involved? In any case, who were the paymasters? What were the monies meant for? Sing, Oga Tafa sing! Sing and further enliven these interesting times we live in.

To Mr Sunday Ehinduro

While you're steering affairs at Lasis Edet House, here's wishing you God's guidance. You are surely going to need it if it falls on you to do something about the performance of the Nigeria Police Force. Do not be deceived that any number of adverts in the media would change the way Nigerians perceive the force. Only the actuality of their performance would revamp the image of the police. Meanwhile, having already wished you God's guidance, there's little left to say. However, I'd like to share a line of advice I composed in old English, something I think may approximate a biblical saying that I can't readily put my finger on: Look ye to the deeds of thy predecessor; therein lie the key to thy success or failure.

Finally to you, dear reader, have a week full of interesting revelations.

Crispin Oduobuk is the Group Literary Editor of the *Trust papers*



Outgoing IG of police, Tafa Balogun