

# DAILY TRUST

Trust Is A Burden

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## TUESDAY COLUMN

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L-R: The Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammadu Maccido, the Ooni of Ife, Oba Okunade Sijuwade Olubuse II and the Alaafin of Oyo, Oba Lamidi Olayiwola Adeyemi II at the 1st Presidential Retreat on National Security in Abuja... recently.

Pix: Kennedy Egboñodje

## RESOURCE CONTROL

# North adopts new agric strategy

As a solution to the agitation for the control of resources in states, governors of the 19 northern states have taken steps to revive agriculture

By Reuben Yunana

which was a booming economic activity in the region in the 60's.

In a first step, the governors yesterday inaugurated a committee of agricultural experts to advise on how to revive the lost glory of agriculture in the region.

The committee, made up of Commissioners for Agriculture in the 19 states as well as programme managers of Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) in their respective states, was inaugurated yesterday by Governor Boni Haruna of Adamawa State who is also

chairman of the Northern Governors Forum (NGF).

The move taken at the last meeting of the governors in Kaduna last month was to secure the economic position of the North should the agitation for resource control by some states of the federation succeed.

The governors had resolved that in the light of re-

cent developmentS in the country, the time has come for states in the north to pull their resources and energies together for an integrated and practical development of agriculture in the region.

"Oil wealth is temporary and exhaustible, but land is permanent," Gov. Boni explained yesterday, adding

## NASS backs police fund

Deputy Senate President, Alhaji Ibrahim Mantu, said in Abuja yesterday that the National Assembly would support the proposed special Police Trust Fund with all the necessary finances for

the purchase of equipment.

Mantu, who was speaking at a workshop on "Policing the nation: the rights and obligations of the police and the public," said "we shall support you with all funds available to enable you to solve the current high wave of crime in the country."

He said that the allowances recently approved by President Olusegun Obasanjo to any officer who lost his life in the course of duty, was not to compensate the dead, but to show appreciation to the bereaved family.

The presidency recently approved that N500,000 be paid to the family of police inspectors and others in the lower ranks if they were

that one will be taken more seriously when one talks of the control of one's agricultural resources.

As a result, three prominent Nigerians who had distinguished themselves in the field of agriculture; Admiral Murtala Nyako, Dr. Shettima Mustapha and Mr. Audu Obe

contd. on pg 2

killed on duty as against the old allowance of N4,000.

It also approved that N4 million be paid to families of senior officers, instead of the old N16,000, if they met their deaths on duty.

Mantu said, however, that "the police need to have a change in behaviour. "You must drop all those military mentality and develop confidence and trust between you and the citizenry so that they can also assist you with useful information in the discharge of your duties."

In his own remarks, the Minister of Police Affairs, Mr. Stephen Akiga, noted that the police needed to change all negative images it had developed in the minds

contd. on pg 2

Area of Sokoto State."

According to the state government, the village is being "devastated by sand-dunes just like it happened in Gidan Kaura."

It added that the "the life of people in that village and of course other surrounding villages is miserable and threatened by turbulent and destructive sand that moves periodically and miraculously southward, eastward and westward.

"Houses are being engulfed and endangered by the moving sand exactly as it happened in Gidan Kaura which led to its eventual re-settlement."

It further explain that sand-dunes from the extreme Sahel zone of the Sahara were observed to have settled in those villages due to what it described as "strong barrier of mountainous landscape that characterised the environment."

The state government recalled that the Gidan Kaura experience "was a clear testimony of how destructive and damaging sand-dunes could be," adding that over 70 percent of farmlands were devastated by sand-dunes at the Gidan Kaura village.

Apart from houses that were engulfed, roads were hardly identifiable, dug wells filled up with sand while livestock were destroyed, it states.

Scientifically, biological control is the only option to sand dune problems," it

contd. on pg 2



Gov Boni Haruna

## Armed robbers kill 4 policemen in Ogun

The Ogun State Police Command on Sunday night lost four of its men to armed robbers at Odo-Oyo Kobiti junction along Ago-Oba area of Abeokuta.

Briefing newsmen on the incident, Ogun State Governor, Chief Olusegun Osoba described it as "very depress-

He said the incident which occurred at about 10 p.m, was carried out by lo-

From Olumide Bajulaiye, in Abeokuta

cal robbers who had earlier raided some filling stations at Odeda.

Gov. Osoba said the robbers allegedly opened fire on the policemen who were on patrol at Alamala area of Abeokuta, and who were driving in an unmarked pick-up van, were attached from behind leaving three of them

contd. on pg 2



Ibrahim Mantu



Gov Bafarawa



# NEWS

## North

Contd. from pg 1

were appointed consultants to the committee with a view to fashioning out a blueprint that would turn around agriculture which had been relegated to the background by successive governments in the region.

Inaugurating the committee at the Nicon Hilton Hotel, Abuja, yesterday, Governor Boni Haruna charged the members to pay particular attention to some of the most critical factors responsible for low level of production, poor quality products and marketing strategies, lack of effective farmer's associations and lack of political will on the part of all tiers of government

Contd. from pg 1

Said he: "the primary objective for setting up this important committee of experts made up of commissioners of agriculture and ADP programme managers is for the committee to come up with a blueprint for the turning around of agriculture which has for years been relegated to the background. We believe that our future depends on our capacity of maximally harnessing our agricultural potentials. It was with this in mind that our Forum found it absolutely necessary to appoint the three agricultural experts earlier mentioned to serve as consultants on matters related to the agricultural development of the region."

He urged them to ignore other regions which he said can afford to be complacent and ignore agriculture because they have oil, stressing that the North had land and human resources which should be developed. Also addressing the committee, retired Admiral Nyako said Northern governors had a duty to develop agriculture so as to eradicate poverty and improve the material well being of the populace which is becoming poorer by the day.

## Sokoto

Contd. from pg 1

NAN reports that Sokoto State which is located in the Sokoto Rima River Basin, lies within what experts refer to as the "Sudan-Sahel ecological zone."

## NASS

Contd. from pg 1

of the people to earn respect and trust.

"The bad eggs in the police force are the ones we will flush out as we attempt to restore the lost glory of the police," he said.

The minister added that the federal government had stepped up efforts to improve the lives of members of the police force and that the police needed to reciprocate government's efforts by surmounting current security problems.

The workshop was organised by the office of the Special Assistant to the President on National Orientation, Chief Tony Ozurumba.

Chief Ozurumba had earlier said the workshop became necessary to address the somewhat stressful relationship between the police and the public and to re-orientate the citizenry on the path of responsible civil society.

## Armed robbers

Contd. from pg 1

dead and wounding one seriously.

The names of the dead policemen were given as Inspector Ismail Ajadi, Corporal David Warri and Constable Friday Idchai, while Sergeant John Bull Omowale later died at about 1 a.m.

Chief Osoba described the incident as "depressing and unfortunate, as I have just come back from a security retreat."

Gov. Osoba, appealed to the people of the State to resort to vigilante group in or-

der to check the menace of armed robbery in the state.

Confirming the incident in a telephone chat with *Daily Trust*, the state police commissioner, Prince Udom Ekpouluwa, who just returned from Abuja, said the sad development will not deter his command's resolve to tackle armed robbery incidents in the state.

He however, commended the State Governor, Chief Olusegun Osoba for his prompt response to his command's need.

## 'IBB will soon appear before Oputa Panel'

Sources at the presidency have revealed that the former Head of State, General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, will soon appear before the Human Rights Violations and Investigation Commission (HRVIC), popularly called Oputa Panel.

According to a BBC Hausa service programme monitored in Abuja, the sources disclosed that the recent visit to the presidential villa by General Babangida was not unconnected with his intention to appear before the panel.

The Oputa Panel had

summoned him several times over allegation of complicity in the death of the founding Editor of *Newswatch*, Mr. Dele Giwa, in 1986.

According to the source, IBB urged his lawyers and the plaintiffs not to bring up any issue connected with Dele Giwa's death.

## Palestinians close shops in anti-Israeli protest

Continuing their protests against recent Israeli moves in occupied East Jerusalem, Palestinians yesterday began a commercial strike in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shops in the Palestinian commercial centre of Ramallah were closed, and the streets of the normally-bustling city were half-empty, witnesses said.

All government offices in Gaza were closed, but transport and bakeries were

working.

Palestinians have also declared yesterday a "day of rage" as part of the protests against the Israeli moves, which began on Friday morning when Israel seized Orient House, the unofficial Palestinian headquarters in Israeli-occupied East Jerusalem, and took over the governor's compound in village of Abu Dis, which borders East Jerusalem.

The Israeli moves came in response to a Palestinian

suicide attack in Jerusalem on Thursday, which killed the bomber and 16 Israelis, and wounded over 100 other people.

Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker, Ahmed Qrei (Abu Ala) said on Sunday that the Israeli closure order for the Orient House was valid for six months only, and there was no reason to suppose Israeli troops would be there "forever."

Meanwhile, Qrei said yesterday that despite a decision on Sunday to allow Israeli Foreign Minister, Shimon Peres to begin talks with the Palestinians on a ceasefire, the Palestinian authority had not yet received any invitation from Israel to begin the discussions.

Israeli Premier Ariel Sharon decided to let Peres hold talks with senior Palestinians - but not with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat - on another ceasefire between the sides. Peres would be accompanied by Maj.-Gen. Giora Eiland, the head of the Israeli Army's planning branch.

According to Israeli media reports yesterday, Sharon agreed to Peres' request to be allowed to hold the talks after the foreign minister threatened to resign from the wall-to-wall coalition.

assist and take delivery of three trucks of AGO.

It was at this stage that luck ran out of the fake ACG, when Mothercat contacted the Immigration headquarters in Kaduna to verify his claim.

The Immigration Department immediately contacted ETOS and Ideal Flour Mills to let them know of the developments and sought their cooperation to help arrest the man.

Meanwhile, Umar Hussaini was not aware of what was happening underground until he appeared at Ideal Flour Mills, where he sensed something fishy and escaped under the surveillance of the company's security men, who were instructed to keep watchful eyes on him.

Unfortunately for him, he resurfaced at ETOS Nigeria where he was arrested by some Immigration officers detailed by the state command to effect his arrest.

After the arrest, Umar Hussaini, in his statement to the police, confirmed that he was not an Immigration officer let alone being an Assistant Controller General.

He also confessed that he produced the call cards and office jotter all by himself.

When contacted, the Chief Controller of Immigration in charge of Kaduna Command, Alhaji Mohammed Babangida Beli, confirmed the incident and directed this reporter to the state police command for details.

The Kaduna State Commissioner of Police, Alhaji Mohammed Shehu, told *Daily Trust* that the police is making further investigation on the matter after which Umar Hussaini will be charged to court.

It would be recalled that about two months ago the Kaduna Immigration Command arrested a money doubler and handed him over to the police for further investigation and conviction.

Up till the time of filing this report no traces have been found of which court the case was referred to.

Alhaji Mohammed Shehu had, however, told *Daily Trust* that the police cannot arrest such common unless somebody reported to them that he has been duped or cheated by them.



L-R: Chief Emeka Ofor, PDP chieftain, Vice-President Atiku Abubakar and the Senate President, Chief Anyim Pius Anyim, at the Presidential Villa during the reconciliation of the governor of Anambra State and his deputy... yesterday

Pix. Kennedy Ekechigbo





## NEWS

## FG to stem industrial pollution in Kaduna State

Consumers of food crops grown along the banks of Kaduna river and residents of the metropolis, may no longer worry about industrial pollutants as measures would soon be adopted to mitigate the impact of pollutants, the Minister of Environment, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'id, said in Abuja yesterday.

Muhammad said at a consultative meeting with representatives of major industrial establishments in Kaduna State that a consultant, CIWAT Engineering Ltd., had been appointed to study the problem of industrial effluent in the state.

Consumption of food items grown along contaminated water bodies, or fish products from contaminated water, could lead to cancer, typhoid and cholera among other health problems.

Some aquatic products

like crabs and fishes which live and feed in contaminated waters have the ability to ingest chlorine-based contaminants which they can transmit to man along the food-chain.

He lamented that previous efforts by government to stop the "continuous and flagrant discharge of untreated effluents" into the environment had not yielded the desired results. "As a responsible government, conscious of the environmental disasters posed by industrialisation, the first legitimate action would have been to close down all factories until effluents are treated to legally satisfactory levels," he noted.

Mohammad said government could not take such drastic action because it was aware of the "socio-economic responsibilities industrialists are shouldering." He said

government needed the industries to promote both social and economic well-being of the polity.



Alhaji Muhammad Sa'id

## 'FG committed to technical education'

The Federal Government is determined to support all federal and state education authorities to revitalize, reform and expand their technical, and vocational education facilities for the rapid socio-economic development of the country.

The Director, Technology and Science Education at the Federal Ministry of Education, Alhaji Ibrahim K. Zaifada, disclosed this yesterday in Kaduna at the opening ceremony of the staff development workshop organised by UNESCO-Nigeria project.

According to the director, who was represented by the Executive Secretary of the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), Kaduna, Dr. Nuru Yakubu, the two-week workshop is being organised for 40 principals and teachers of technical colleges from all the country's six geo-political zones.

in the state.

President Obasanjo urged other members of the reconciliation committee comprising Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, Senate President, Anyim Pius Anyim, Works and Housing Minister, Chief Tony Anenih, and the Deputy Senate President, Ibrahim Mantu, to ensure that the parties involved (Governor Mbadinuju and Chief Emeka Offor) were reconciled before leaving the State House.

The president advised Governor Mbadinuju to be more honest in his dealings with his people and asked Chief Offor to face his business and leave the administration of Anambra to those who had been elected to run the state. "If you have money, don't try to carry an elephant on your head," Obasanjo further told Chief Offor.



President Olusegun Obasanjo

## Mrs. Obasanjo tasks women politicians

The wife of the president, Mrs. Stella Obasanjo, has tasked women politicians in the country to initiate projects that would impact positively on the lives of the people in order to remain relevant in the nation's polity.

She made the call at the weekend in Aba, Abia State, during a ceremony marking the 58<sup>th</sup> birthday of Mrs. Eunice Kalu, the mother of the Abia State Governor, Orji Kalu.

She paid tribute to the governor's mother and commended her humanitarian posture and willingness to always assist the less-privileged in the society and advised other women to emulate her.

Mrs. Obasanjo described Kalu as a role model politician, whose enviable political career should be a reference point to women politicians, adding "we have been following your footsteps and we hope to continue to emulate you."

## Obasanjo intervenes in Anambra crisis

President Olusegun Obasanjo, yesterday intervened in the ongoing political crisis in Anambra State, and assured of the Federal Government's determination to restore peace in the state and all crises zones of the country.

The president, who presided over the reconciliation meeting between the Anambra State Governor, Chief Chinwoke Mbadinuju and Chief Emeka Offor, held at the State House, Abuja, used the occasion to deny reports that the Federal Government was behind the crisis in Anambra State, describing the allegations as "most unkind."

Contrary to these speculations, he said he had personally brokered peace in the state, adding, "to say the presidency is making trouble for Anambra is the most unkind statement to make."

By Suleiman Mohammed  
What do I gain from that? We have done all we can. We are doing everything we can to ensure peace," the president declared.

The meeting, which followed submission by the Anambra State Governor, Mbadinuju at the just concluded security retreat, was to ensure a lasting peace

The Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC) has been warned to stop disrupting the peace of Ilorin or face the wrath of the people.

APP chieftain and a member of the Arewa Consultative Forum, Dr. Sola Saraki, gave this warning on Sunday in Katsina during the forum's courtesy call on the state Governor, Alhaji Umar Musa Yar'Adua.

Dr. Saraki said any move to merge Ilorin with the South-West would be resisted.

He described the OPC members as "intruders who are bent on causing confusion where peace

## Saraki warns OPC

From Hassan A. Karofi, in Katsina

prevails."

Saraki added that, "Ilorin town and Kwara State in general will forever remain part of the North, irrespective of the consequences."

He called on people all over the country to eschew religious and ethnic sentiments so that the country would move forward and achieve its deserved greatness.

The APP chieftain explained that the ACF was committed to dialogue in resolving contending issues.

Dr. Saraki opined that the existence of the OPC had contributed to a lot of upheavals in the country that could have been easily averted.

He further said the ACF tour was borne out of the need to enlighten the public about its activities. The strongman of Kwara politics said the various groups in the North have weakened the North and deprived it of the platform of producing a strong challenge to other regions.

He, therefore, called on people to support the worthy cause of the forum to enable it achieve its common goal.

Responding, the Katsina State Governor, Musa Yar'Adua, who was represented by his deputy, Alhaji Tukur Jikamshi, denied reports in the media that the Northern states' governors and the ACF are in conflict.

He pledged the support of the Northern governors to the aspirations of the forum.



Chief Olusola Saraki

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## NEWS

## Adamawa NLC sets up committee on housing scheme deductions

Adamawa State Council of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), has constituted a five-man committee to ascertain the actual deductions made from workers' salaries in respect of the National Housing Fund Scheme and the amount remitted.

Inaugurating the commi-

tee at the weekend in Yola, the NLC Chairman in the state, Anthony Vakuru, said the action by the congress became imperative in view of the fact that some top government functionaries were feeding fat on the proceeds deducted for the scheme.

Vakuru said it was

disheartening that some ministries and parastatals were yet to remit their deductions to the fund for quite a long time despite the monthly deductions. He urged the committee to identify such ministries and parastatals.

The chairman said the committee has three months to complete the assignment and that at the end of which the NLC would demand for refund of all monies deducted as the programme seemed to have failed.

He called on the state government to co-operate with members of the committee for a hitch-free assignment and urged the body to execute its duties without fear or favour.

Responding on behalf of the members, the chairman of the committee, David Decker, pledged to execute the assignment with the highest sense of commitment and called for support from workers and government agencies.



Comrade Adams Oshomhole

president fulfilled nearly all his promises on agriculture by allocating huge sums of money to the sub-sector, but unfortunately the efforts were thwarted by the minister and other bodies concerned.

The association said that Obasanjo should be absolved from the blame that he neglected the agricultural parts of the North and should blame the Minister of Agriculture, the Permanent Secretary in the ministry and Managing Directors of NARDCB and NAFCON.

It said the association had realized that the interest of Northerners towards agriculture was being toyed with by its sons. The association called on the president to come to the rescue of the country's farmers by ensuring that all strategies were put in place to encourage them to boost food production in the country.

## Association blames ministry on failure of agriculture

All Farmers Apex Association of Nigeria (ALFAAN), Kano State chapter, has blamed the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and other agricultural institutions for exhibiting nonchalant attitude toward agriculture in the country.

In a statement signed by the Secretary to the association, Alhaji Ali Madigawa, and made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Kano at the weekend, the association expressed dismay that despite the N5 billion budgeted for agriculture this year, there was nothing to show for it.

The association recalled that President Olusegun Obasanjo had during his political campaign, promised farmers the necessary support and that he would ensure that subsidy on agricultural inputs were increased.

It stated that the

The Minister for Water Resources, Alhaji Muktar Shehu Shagari, has disclosed that the Federal Government will sink about 23,000 boreholes nation-



Gov Segun Osoba

## FG to sink 23,000 boreholes nationwide - Minister

From Olumide Bajulaiye, in Abeokuta

wide before the end of this year.

Alhaji Muktar, who disclosed this in Abeokuta, Ogun State, at the weekend shortly after his three-day official visit to the state; vowed that "nothing will derail my ministry's vision of digging the wells countrywide."

The minister who was accompanied by the Chairman, Ogun State River Basin Development Authority, Chief (Mrs) Iyabode Apamfa, stressed that each local government in the country will

benefit from 30 of the boreholes in their domains, adding that "our mission is to provide adequate water supply for citizens and other residents."

His words: "This government is committed to the welfare of the citizens. It is a clear fact that provision of water reduces health hazards in our society."

"By the time the file on the subject matter gets to my office in Abuja on Tuesday, I shall approve the sum of N84 million for renovation work," he added.

## Customers owe NEPA N2bn in Kano zone - GM

National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) customers in Kano, Katsina and Jigawa States are owing the authority more than N2 billion, the General Manager in charge of the Kano zone, Alhaji Ishaq Usman, has said.

Usman told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Kano at the weekend that the customers included government agencies, private organizations and individuals. However, the authority generated N1.5 billion as revenue last year, he stated.

He disclosed that 228,302 customers within the three states were connected to the national grid, noting that consumers

within the zone were at present enjoying between 110 and 120 megawatts of electricity.

The general manager said that the zone was determined to complement the efforts of the

present administration in providing adequate and uninterrupted power, through a renewed commitment to duty and prompt attention to customers' complaints.

## BASEPA begins pilot scheme on desert control

The Bauchi State Environmental Protection Agency (BASEPA), has embarked on a pilot scheme of desert control in all the 20 local government areas of the state in an effort to check desert encroachment.

BASEPA's Director of Conservation, Mallam Nasir Shehu, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Bauchi yesterday, that the agency has earmarked some hectares of land, where both economic and non-

economic trees would be planted.

Shehu explained that the scheme would provide firewood for villagers and help to stabilise the environment, with a view to increasing the area's micro climate in the long run.

He said the agency, in collaboration with the state government, had commenced dredging of River Sakwa in Gamawa Local Government of the state to cut an ox-bow lake formed by the river which could cause flooding if left unchecked.



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DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

## At the mercy of robbers

**N**igerians have come to a gradual realisation that their country is not safe. Rich and poor, they have watched helplessly as people of the same status are brutalised, maimed or killed in armed robbery attacks.

One incident which introduces another dimension to this state of insecurity is the attack last week on a group of doctors from the United States of America who were in the country to give medical care to the poor in Oyo State. The incident occurred a few kilometres outside the Murtala Mohammed International Airport as the visitors were being conveyed to their destination on arrival. The doctors were not hurt, but their Nigerian driver sadly lost his life and the visitors, in fear, beat a hasty retreat and returned home on the very flight that brought them.

The incident once again, is a reminder to the Nigeria Police Force and indeed the federal government that more needs to be done to make lives and property safe in this country. Police reports regularly show continued increase in the level of crime, particularly in Lagos State where recent statistics reveal that in the first half of this year alone, about 236 persons lost their lives in armed robbery attacks. Figures from other states may only be slightly better.

The federal government's efforts to attract foreign investors to Nigeria, which our economy so badly needs, can only receive a negative boost given this state of all-pervading insecurity. No genuine investor will heed the call to invest where the safety of his investment cannot be guaranteed. The situation also portends doom for the nation's tourism industry which is presently in desperate need of foreign patronage.

It is disheartening that successive administrations have all apparently failed to halt crime on our streets, and the situation has led many to conclude that robberies and the attendant loss of lives have become worse in the present democratic era.

We believe the battle with men of the underworld has not been lost yet. Governments in all the three tiers have the capacity to reduce to the barest minimum or even put a stop to the wanton activities of robbers if crime prevention efforts are redoubled. As has been said many a time, the training and retraining of members of the police force is vital in the war against armed robbers. The provision of modern and sophisticated crime fighting equipment will also help and perhaps fewer will be tempted to crime if they could make a living in an improved economy.

We also urge the government to pursue a vigorous orientation programme to sensitise Nigerians on the need to be committed to the effort to rid our society of miscreants. The war against them must be a collective one, one which All Nigerians must feel they have a stake in and a part to play. The Nigeria Police Force, on its part, must put measures in place to ensure that it cleanses itself of 'bad eggs' who connive with robbers to perpetrate nefarious activities.

Our nascent democracy may be threatened by the recklessness of these armed robbers. We believe the government knows very well that an electorate that does not feel a sense of security in a country is quick to withdraw the confidence it has in its leaders.



## TUESDAY COLUMN

# Women and agenda 2003

By Hajiya Bilkisu

**R**ecently, Plateau hotel played host to an impressive gathering of men and women from all walks of life, politicians, civil society activists, civil servants and professionals.

They were drawn from the 19 northern states to participate in a training of trainers' workshop. It was organised by the Community Partners for development CPD, a Lagos-based non-governmental organisation and sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development's Office of Transition Initiatives us AID/OTI. The workshop was one of several organised in different parts of the country under the democratic development initiative funded by USAID/OTI named Agenda 2003 and facilitated by CPD.

In her introductory remarks, the National Coordinator of CPD, Barrister Ime Essien Udom told participants that Agenda 2003 is a three-year political process "that seeks to stimulate the building of partnerships and coalitions between potential women politicians and change agents, strengthen their capacity to make a difference, position them properly to act as democracy watchers, and eventually produce an impressive corps of women politicians who will contest and win elections in the next Nigerian democratic government". Agenda 2003 has the following objectives, building partnerships between women and other change agents for a more equitable democratic experience, increasing women's political participation by the year 2003 and improving the quality of politics in Nigeria. Others are, negotiating and monitoring the implementation of the Affirmative Action, supporting women candidates to vie for political office and encouraging women's constituencies to be more responsive and proactive to the development of Nigeria's democratic process.

To achieve these objectives, Agenda 2003 has planned various activities between January and December 2001. They are voter's education, capacity building for Democracy Watch platforms in the six geopolitical zones, training of legislative interns for gender watch in the legislatures and intensive training for women politicians and media practitioners in order to enhance the image of women politicians. Other activities such as voters' education, political skills training, developing political manifestoes and mobilization activities are also scheduled to take place in the year 2002.

The Jos workshop had four sessions. The first session on transparency and accountability was facilitated by Major General Ishola Williams, the secretary-general of Transparency In Nigeria, TIN. Adopting a participatory approach, he elicited from participants their understanding of the concepts politics, power, empowerment and civic responsibilities of a citizen. In discussing transparency and accountability, the need to monitor leaders and to ensure that leaders report back to the people who elected them was underscored. To promote transparency in the process of governance, leaders must be willing to open their accounts to the public and also encourage the electorate to form its own monitoring group.

The session on Gender facilitated by my humble self-focused on defining gender and how to ensure gender equity in all activities, projects and development plans. Participants were divided into two groups where they listed the roles and

expectations of men and women, in their various cultural milieus. The outcome of the group work confirmed the classical gender differences already documented in many cultures.

In the social sector, the man is seen as the head of the household and breadwinner who goes out to earn an income for the family's maintenance while the woman is seen as the nurturer of children, cook and care giver. In the political domain, the men are the key decision makers at national and other levels while the women are involved at local level in activities linked to their domestic roles. They are the singers and dancers who welcome delegations, providers of hospitality, community mobilisers and voters.

In the educational sector, differences abound in the opportunities given to boy and girl children.

Boys are often the beneficiaries of the best education because family resources are directed to them while girls are denied education or encouraged to take less challenging academic tracks or careers. In the economic sector, the men have access to financial and productive resources such as loans, credit schemes, land and lucrative careers.

The concepts sex and gender were then defined by the participants. Sex refers to biological differences between women and men which are God given, permanent and universal while gender refers to the social roles and responsibilities of men and women in a particular culture or location. Because gender roles are created by human beings, they do change and are influenced by many factors such as religion, class, economic power, individual and institutional bias.

Other topics discussed under the gender segment were advocacy, mobilisation and establishment of a gender watch, which is platform for monitoring the implementation of gender equity in policies and programmes. The next session on working with the media was facilitated by ace NTA newscaster Mrs. Bimbo Oloyede who is now a media consultant. She elicited from participants their knowledge of the media, and examination of their target audience. The session focused on using the media for political campaigns. The various methods for maximizing the use of the media were also identified which include imaginative and creative advertisements, use of alternative media and other affordable methods.

Other strategies that an aspirant or candidate must explore in organising an effective campaign were listed. They include being good sales people by reaching out to friends, family members, constituency audience and the general public. The candidate must be made newsworthy, should capture and sustain media attention and use media contacts. Under Agenda 2003, the woman aspirant must be a person with integrity who is acceptable to the people and has a dynamic plan.

Participants were then divided into three groups for group work in which they were asked to draw up a profile of their ideal woman candidate for the post of a local government chairperson. The fourth session was on the constitution. Titled: 'Know your constitution', it was facilitated by Dr. Timiebi Koripamo-Agary. It discussed human rights, democracy and the electoral process while the last session was on conflict management and consensus building.

Hajiya Bilkisu is an editor at Citizen Communications Limited, Kaduna.





# NEPA

## NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY

### PRESS RELEASE

## NEPA Weekly Situation Report (19)

### OUR BULLETIN FOR WEEK NO.19:

(29/07/2001 TO 04/08/2001)

#### 1. PEAK DAILY GENERATION FOR THE PREVIOUS AND CURRENT WEEKS

PREVIOUS WEEK (22/07/2001 TO 28/07/2001)			CURRENT WEEK (29/07/2001 TO 04/08/2001)	
DAY	DATE	GEN(MW)	DATE	GEN(MW)
Sunday	22/07/2001	1890	29/07/2001	2215
Monday	23/07/2001	1887	30/07/2001	2190.7
Tuesday	24/07/2001	1964	31/07/2001	2213.2
Wednesday	25/07/2001	2055	01/08/2001	2188.2
Thursday	26/07/2001	2079	02/08/2001	2181.5
Friday	27/07/2001	1837	03/08/2001	2275.4
Saturday	28/07/2001	1600	04/08/2001	2303.2

#### 2. PROJECTED AVERAGE PEAK GENERATION FOR THE PREVIOUS AND CURRENT WEEKS

PREVIOUS WEEK (ACTUAL) (29/07/2001 TO 04/08/2001)	CURRENT WEEK (FORECAST) (05/08/2001 TO 11/08/2001)
<b>2223.9MW</b>	<b>2360MW</b>

#### 3. PEAK WEEKLY GENERATION FROM EACH POWER STATION IN THE PREVIOUS AND CURRENT WEEKS

STATION	PREVIOUS WEEK (ACTUAL) (29/07/2001 TO 04/08/2001)	CURRENT WEEK (FORECAST) (05/08/2001 TO 11/08/2001)
KAINJI	172MW	173MW
JEBBA	183MW	250MW
SHIRORO	413MW	416MW
EGBIN	872MW	876MW
SAPELE	252MW	252MW
AFAM	88MW	92MW
DELTA	295MW	308MW
IJORA	NIL	12MW
CALABAR	NIL	1MW
ENRON	60.7MW	60MW
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2335.7MW</b> (Low water level at Kainji, Jebba & Shiroro)	<b>2440MW</b> (Low water level at Kainji, Jebba & Shiroro)

#### 4. PROJECTED AVERAGE DAILY GENERATION FROM EACH POWER STATION IN THE PREVIOUS AND CURRENT WEEKS

STATION	PREVIOUS WEEK (ACTUAL) (29/07/2001 TO 04/08/2001)	CURRENT WEEK (FORECAST) (05/08/2001 TO 11/08/2001)
KAINJI	171.3MW	173MW
JEBBA	189.4MW	250MW
SHIRORO	401MW	416MW
EGBIN	869.3MW	876MW
SAPELE	185.6MW	252MW
AFAM	67.8MW	92MW
DELTA	290.1MW	308MW
IJORA	NIL	12MW
CALABAR	NIL	1MW
ENRON	47.5MW	60MW
<b>AVERAGE TOTAL</b>	<b>2222MW</b> (Low water level at Kainji, Jebba & Shiroro)	<b>2440MW</b>

#### 5. AVERAGE ESTIMATED DAILY NATIONAL DEMAND FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2001= **3500MW**

##### HYDROLOGY

Lake water level at Kainji, Jebba and Shiroro is low at this time of the year hence reduction of generation output from the hydro based Power Stations

However, the impounding operations of Kainji, Jebba and Shiroro lakes for the year 2001 is progressing. This is expected to bring about rise in water level and gradual improvement in power generation availability and capability

##### ENERGY SAVING

BELOW ARE SOME USEFUL TIPS ON HOW YOU CAN SAVE ENERGY, BY:

- Ensuring, for example, that when they are in use, your refrigerator or freezer is not overfilled. They operate more efficiently and economically only when filled to capacity
- Making sure that your refrigerator or freezer is not set to run colder than necessary. We recommend that you always follow the manufacturer's instructions

- Ensuring that when using the oven for meal cooking, try to use it for a full meal rather than using both oven and surface units. If you have three dishes to be cooked at slightly different temperatures, pick the mean temperature to cook all three. (For example, the mean of 325, 350 and 375 degrees temperature is 350 degrees).
- Making sure you do not use oversized water heaters. The oversized water heater wastes energy heating unneeded water. It should in fact be avoided to reduce your initial cost.
- Switching off all appliances not in use. Especially, when you are not home, remember to switch off your water heater, air-conditioners, television sets or indeed all lights you do not need before dark.
- Switching off security lights.
- Switching off street lights during the day
- Ensuring that when cooking with the electric cooker you use pots or pans that match the ring sizes.
- Using energy-saving bulbs
- Ensuring that you do not fill the electric kettle just to make a cup of tea. Use just enough water to cover the ring. Hot water kettles come in different sizes, you may choose the one to meet your needs.

Next, we serve you the power demand and energy consumption of some domestic appliances:

APPLIANCE	TYPE	RATING	POWER DEMAND IN KILOWATT (KW)	RATED CURRENT IN AMPERES (AMPS)	NO. OF HRS. TO CONSUME ONE UNIT OF ELECTRICITY (i.e. 1 KWH)
Water - heater	50 litre	1200watt	1.2	5.2	0.8
	100litre	2500watt	2.5	11	0.4
Cooker (4-plate With oven)	Small	6000watt	6.0	26	0.2
	Regular	8000watt	8.0	34	1.2
	Large	10500watt	10.5	45	0.1
Single-plate Cooker	Portable	1800watt	1.8	7.7	0.6
Fan	Table	0.08HP	0.06	0.25	1.7
	Standing	0.1HP	0.7	0.3	1.4
	Ceiling	0.3HP	0.2	0.9	4.5
Air-Conditioner	Small	1.5HP	1.1	4.7	1
	Medium	2HP	1.5	6.5	0.7
	Large	3HP	2.2	9.9	0.5
Refrigerator	Small	0.2HP	0.15	0.6	7
	Medium	0.25HP	0.19	0.8	5
	Large	0.3HP	0.22	0.9	4.5
Television- (Black & White)		200watt	0.2	0.9	5
Television (Colour)		300 watt	0.3	1.3	3

- 1000watt=1 Kilowatt (1KW)
- 1 HP=0.746 Kilowatt
- 1KWH=One unit of electricity=1KW x 1 HR. i.e. 1 Kilowatt used for 1 hour.

Finally, we appeal to all our esteemed customers and all good Nigerians to endeavour to report faults promptly wherever and whenever they occur. There are faults sections and complaints centres in all our 56 district offices spread across the country. Only such prompt reports can enable us attend to faults promptly to make life a lot easier for you.

*We thank you for your understanding and patience.*

**LET US CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF OUR COUNTRY.**

*Management*



## Opinion

## Hypocrisy in mediocrity

By Hameed M. Bello

One of the vices detested by God in all its manifestations is hypocrisy. As a reminder, all the major world religions, Islam, Christianity, Judaism and others have condemned this societal anathema vehemently in their scriptures. Painfully however, our society is gradually being infested by this monstrous behavioural pandemic which is threatening to destroy the mainstream values of our coexistence.

Endeavour to examine your environment closely; I mean your home or living environment, your office or working environment, your interpersonal or group relationship, and to a large extent, your community and the entire nation. If you do, you will confirm that not all that glitters is gold; that hypocrisy, indeed, thrives in mediocrity.

A hypocrite does not only live by false pretences and selfish manipulation of situation for own gain, but he claims and assumes standards to which his behaviour does not conform. Most hypocrites are unpredictable and therefore unreliable as they are ready to go to any extent to maximise their selfish interest by victimising others.

Characteristic of hypocrisy are loquacity, pride and treachery. Whenever a hypocrite is caught off-balance or is confronted with the reality of his incompetence, he relies on aggressiveness as a defence mechanism.

Hypocrisy is frequently accompanied with over-ambition, making hypocrites poised to either ridicule or frustrate or even make life miserable for whoever is not ready to tickle their vanity. For hypocrites, praise singing is synonymous to adulation as they mistake sarcasm for encomium.

What makes the situation so disturbing is that our society seems to reward hypocrisy at the expense of virtue and hard work. Take a look at a typical nuclear family with a man, his wife and children. Among the children, the mother's pet is that child who brings gossip to her on the activities of the others. Such a pet even becomes the apple of the mother's eye, if he exposes the secret activities of the father to the mother. Mothers with such a habit should know that the future of their pet is in danger, as he/she would be hated, detested and even ostracised by contemporaries.

A polygamous family is another good example. The most favoured wife is the one who dances to the whims and caprices of her husband. She reassures him constantly of his wisdom and good sense of judgement even though the man is clearly a coward and incompetent in running his home. This singular flaw in a husband can breed hatred, jealousy, ill feeling, malice, rancour, treachery and disunity among the family members, as those aggrieved would like to react viciously. In the end, the man of the house would be at the receiving end of the crises.

A peculiar type of hypocrisy exists at public gatherings, offices and working environment and in our entire national life. It is a more politically oriented type of hypocrisy. It is disheartening to note that, out of fear of complexes, hypocrites tend to relegate and frustrate the progressive forces in a rat race that is apparently geared towards actualising or maintaining undeserved political ambition. To this end, whenever the progressive distinguish themselves or do things that require commendation or recommendation, what they get in return is condemnation. This is unfortunate but time will always vindicate the just.

The hypocrite relies heavily on eye-service, misinformation and disinformation of the appropriate quarters on the conduct of their colleagues. What a vain struggle for undeserved political ambition.

It is often said that the guilty are always afraid and that those who are wicked always run even when nothing pursues them. The hypocrite, in his or her characteristic but false show of benevolence and innocence, exudes a lot of outward simplicity and virtue, but deep in the heart, a sinister feeling of ill will abounds.

Criticism is an ingredient of change, balance and progress, especially when it is constructive and objective. Hypocrites never like that as the fear always is that their hypocrisy would be made manifest and that may tamper with a much-treasured status.

There is the saying that because the hunter has made up his mind to shoot without missing, the bird too has learnt to fly without perching. However, in his frustration, the hunter decided once more to shoot at random without aiming, thereby making the bird to laugh at him in the long run as his effort to kill went in vain.

Since time heals all wounds, we hope that the just will be vindicated and hypocrisy will become transparent and consequently purged out of society, thereby creating an ideal society, where virtue would be rewarded and would reign supreme and vice would be ostracised. There and then, life would become meaningful, fair and just and hard work and productivity would once more become the order of the day. Time, there is no gainsaying, will definitely heal all wounds.

Hameed is a staff of Daily Trust.

## GSM and CIL's misfortune

By Aliu S. Sadiq

Since February 9<sup>th</sup> when the licence of Communication Investment Limited (CIL), the only indigenous communication company that successfully scaled the initial hurdles in the bid for the acquisition of Global System Communication (GSM) licence was revoked, much has been said and written either in condemnation of the Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC) or in sympathy for CIL. We know this much, but our conscience and soul leave us with no alternative than to rant and such rants whether anybody likes it or not, are the echoes of Nigerians with high spirit of patriotism and concern for anything Nigeria.

This piece is not intended to whip up sentiment or arouse sympathy for CIL, but if along the line of our argument, people become emotionally attached and begin to sing the song of solidarity for CIL, we cannot help it but to join in the *Makossa* dance. If we fail to achieve our desire, then it becomes a dirge for CIL.

We can only understand and appreciate the true picture of the whole story of GSM and CIL if we can cast our mind back to the early days of this present administration.

At the beginning, President Olusegun Obasanjo promised to break the monopoly enjoyed by NITEL in the telecommunication industry by revolutionising the industry. He made good his promise early this year when he set up necessary machinery to introduce GSM.

The auction of GSM licences was initiated with the NCC as the umpire and CIL was one of the four companies with evident financial backbone which earned the licences. It was the only wholly indigenous company to make the exclusive league. South Africans own MTN and Econet the other two successful companies. The fourth company was NITEL, which simply benefited from federal government decision to reserve a licence for it.

The law required each of the successful companies to pay a non-refundable deposit of \$20 million. They were also expected to pay up the balance of \$264,850,000 fee to NCC through the Central Bank of Nigeria on or before February 9, 2001. This was the beginning of the waterloo for CIL in the bid to launch itself to the world through the GSM.

While NITEL, MTN and Econet met the requirements, CIL could not. Its financiers, Paribas Bank of Paris discovered

that the frequency allocated to CIL was a subject of litigation between the federal government and Motophone, one of the 14 companies granted GSM licences in 1998.

The bank asked for a guarantee that the interests of its client would not be affected by the litigation and the NCC considered this "conditional" payment a breach of the auction laws and therefore rejected it. It immediately applied the penalty provided under article 4.7.11 and withdrew the provisional licence issued to CIL.

This action by NCC to revoke the license earlier granted ignited public outcry.

A few days ago, CIL sought to remind Nigerians of its outstanding case by taking up newspaper pages to argue that the decision to revoke the licence to it was illegal and unjust. Ever since the licence was revoked, CIL has been begging and explaining its own side of the story to Nigerians.

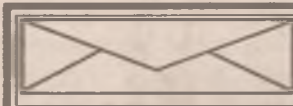
What is more worrisome is that CIL is the only wholly indigenous company among the competitors. Apart from launching the name of the country in the international market, the company would have served as another avenue to assess our level of performance in telecommunication development.

The argument of strict adherence to the rule of the game put forward by the NCC is not tenable at all. The issue is more of prejudice than sentiment. We always want to claim that we copy America in everything we do. But Americans always put American interest first before any other. The argument by Ernest Ndukwe of NCC that GSM is a global system is therefore rubbish and unpatriotic. If the communication business is global, does that mean we should sabotage our local companies so that foreigners can continue to make billions of naira at our expense. It is rather unfortunate that we still have plenty Mr. Johnsons in our midst's who, perhaps, have all been promised appointments as directors, while million of others will be mere labourers.

The bitter lesson one can learn from this is that the reward of patriotism in the Nigerian context is frustration, and victimisation.

In conclusion, I strongly appeal to the government to at least bend the rule to refund part of the whopping non-refundable registration fee paid by CIL. By doing this, CIL's hope will be rekindled and the spirit of patriotism will continue to be enlivened.

Aliu writes from Open Press Limited, Zaria, Kaduna State



## YOUR LETTERS

## On made-in-Nigeria goods

Recently there were calls by several government officials on Nigerian manufacturers to produce high quality goods that will compete favourably with the foreign goods that have practically invaded our markets. These insensitive statements typify the innate hypocrisy that is the trademark of most Nigerian officials.

The local manufacturer in Nigeria is at a disadvantage from the day he ventures into manufacturing. It is only in Nigeria that as a rule before siting a factory at least two 500 KVA generators (imported of course) must be considered if that manufacturer wants to remain in business. These generators have to be fuelled with diesel, bought at black market prices. When you add these initial costs to the high wages paid, the expected product is already bogged by high costs before its debut. The only compromise left for the manufacturer is that of reduced quality, otherwise the price of the final product will be so prohibitively high that it would not make sense to produce. It would be ridiculous for instance, to produce a tablet of soap that will eventually sell for N200.

Serious governments elsewhere regulate the influx of foreign goods through

high tariffs or complete ban of certain goods. Take India for example; the Indian government taxes imported goods to a level as high as 500 percent to make it unattractive to the consumer and encourage the local manufacturer which invariably leads to improvement in the quality of locally manufactured goods. For instance, in the 70s the made-in-India Tata vehicles were said to be motorcycles on four wheels but in the 90s more than 80 percent of Nigerian armed forces trucks were Tata trucks. Today, India produces every thing from

wheat to computer chips. The reverse holds true for our dear country where everything - from toothpicks to safety matches - is imported. Even the USA, which has always been the champion of free trade, just a few days ago lifted a ban on certain European goods. This ban was imposed three years ago to protect the American banana industry. Yes, banana!

If America could go to this length against its allies, what stops Nigeria that is still 'sleeping' to at least stir and do something in favour of its citizens for once? If however,

this trend of nonchalance continues, the options left for local manufacturers are either to close shop or move to favourable environments in neighbouring countries. The obvious consequence is that of further unemployment in a country where unemployment is already endemic. Since the government cannot employ everybody, it is only fair to create an enabling environment for the private sector to at least survive.

Aliyu Samaila,  
No. 7, Dogarawa Ward,  
Sabon Gari,  
Zaria.

## NIPOST: Wearing a new look

I would like to commend the postmaster-general, his management team and the entire staff of Nigerian Postal Services (NIPOST) for bringing or injecting new life into the age long passive organisation. Their effort is highly commendable. More grease to your elbow.

It is very interesting that NIPOST is fast changing for the better. Letters now reach their destination within three days of posting. In fact, sometimes I receive letters sent to me after two days of posting. The maximum days I received letters (within Nigeria) sent to me is seven days. Added to this is the fact

that letters now get to their destinations without being mutilated. This is the real dividend of democracy the masses are looking forward to in the nation's power sector as well as telecommunications (i.e. NEPA and NITEL).

Various techniques were employed for the purpose of fast and efficient delivery system in the NIPOST. The "postal coding" system for instance makes easier identification of letters to their various localities or destinations. I therefore implore the management of NITEL and NEPA to borrow a leaf from the new

reinvigoration of NIPOST. I also call on the federal government to kindly rescind its decision of privatising or commercialising these two organisations to the foreign multinationals, but instead, reinvigorate them, give their management crew a free hand, remove all administrative bottlenecks from their paths. I am sure the twin benefits of efficiency and productivity would be achieved. As for NIPOST, we said the dividend of democracy has come to stay.

Abdullahi Salihu Abubakar,  
Abuja.  
dogonringo@yahoo.com



# TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA &amp; THE MIDDLE EAST

Your contributions to our democracy are monumental  
—Lamido

Nigeria has recorded monumental bilateral relations with Senegal, France, Egypt and Canada. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alhaji Sule Lamido made the disclosure last week at a farewell dinner hosted in honour of the departing Ambassadors, namely H.E. Mr. Salio Cisse of Senegal, H.E. Mr. Philippe Pettier of France, H.E. Mr. Essam Abdel Meguid of Arab Republic of Egypt and H.E. Mr. Ian Ferguson, Higher Commissioner of Canada.

According to a press release signed by the Press Secretary, Mrs. Odeka, the Foreign Affairs Minister credited the excellent diplomatic relations achieved, to the departing envoy's effort and support for the democratic government of Nigeria under President Olusegun Obasanjo.

The Minister urged the envoys to represent Nigeria creditably in their respective countries adding that "Nigeria shall always count on your co-operation and assistance, as well as that of your countries," particularly in her bid to play an important role in Africa and world Affairs.

Responding, the envoys lauded Nigeria's remarkable changes and successful transition to democracy, which they individually witnessed, each having served from two to 10 years in Nigeria. They also commended Nigeria's significant role in peacekeeping and conflict resolution in the African region.

Their prayer for Nigeria's fulfilment of her dream of a permanent seat in an expanded UN Security Council and the realisation of her plans, were capped up in their affirmation of their continuous support and friendship with Nigeria.



Alhaji Sule Lamido,  
Foreign Affairs Minister



A father holds his daughter as they wade across the flooded Kuseh River towards safety, Sunday, August 12, 2001.

## Floods in Iran kill over 100

Army helicopters are continuing to search northeastern Iran for missing people after at least 100 were confirmed dead in flash floods.

President Khatami has urged officials to do what they can to alleviate the effects of what he described as a huge disaster.

It is feared that the number of the dead will rise. The deputy governor of

the province of Golestan has said that about fifteen hundred homes had been destroyed in the worst flooding the region has known for 200 years.

Gas pipelines, electricity and phone lines have been cut and over eighty kilometres of road have been destroyed, as well as thousands of hectares of farmland.

## Suicide bomber kills self, injures 15

A Palestinian suicide bomber has killed himself and injured 15 people at a cafe near the Israeli coastal town of Haifa on Sunday.

And in continuing violence, a seven-year-old girl was killed in crossfire between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian gunmen in the West Bank city of Hebron.

The explosion at a busy coffee bar on the outskirts of Haifa happened three days after a suicide bombing at a Jerusalem restaurant on Thursday that killed 15 people.

Speaking after the latest bombing, Raanan Gissin, spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, told the BBC that they would be taking additional measures to stop such attacks.

The Israeli Government responded to the bombing in Jerusalem with air strikes on Palestinian targets and by seizing the unofficial Palestinian headquarters in Jerusalem, Orient House.

With sirens wailing, ambulances rushed to the scene of Sunday's blast at the Wall Street Cafe in Kiryat Motzkin, a Haifa suburb.

Witnesses said a man got out of a taxi, walked to the restaurant terrace and detonated

the explosives, which he was carrying in a bag.

The militant Palestinian group, Islamic Jihad, said it carried out the bombing and warned that more will follow.

The group named the suicide bomber as 28-year-old Muhammad Mahmoud Nasr.

BBC correspondent in Jerusalem said that if there had been Israeli loss of life, the pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to take the military option against the Palestinians might have proved irresistible.

Mr Sharon is reported to have given his Foreign Minister, Shimon Peres, the go-ahead to hold more talks with the Palestinians on a ceasefire.

But an Israeli political source said there would not be negotiations about political solutions while the violence continued.

Palestinian officials have already described the move as meaningless unless the Israelis leave the Palestinian offices they seized in reprisal for Thursday's bombing.

"There's nothing new in Peres having talks with us... What we want is for Sharon to revoke his latest orders," Palestinian minister Saeb Erekat told Reuters.

In an attempt to stop

## Hundreds still missing in Angolan train attack

Hundreds of people are still missing in Angola after an attack on a train in which more than 90 people are reported to have died.

The train detonated an anti-tank mine, which had been placed on the track, and armed men attacked the passengers who survived the explosion.

The attack appears to be the work of UNITA rebels, who have carried out a number of assaults in Northern Angola in

the last few months.

The attack occurred on Friday about 150km southeast of the capital Luanda.

The train, which had been heading for the town of Dondo, apparently detonated an anti-tank mine that had been placed on the track.

The explosion caused the train's fuel tank to catch fire.

Then, as passengers tried to flee the burning carriages, armed men - believed to be from the UNITA rebel movement -

appeared from the bush and began firing on the passengers with automatic weapons.

But of the 500 people believed to have been on board the train, hundreds are still unaccounted for.

It is not known whether they were kidnapped by UNITA or fled into the bush, or whether their bodies are still to be recovered from the burnt-out train.

Funerals have already taken place for about 20 of the people whose bodies were carried from the wreckage.

Nearly 150 people were injured, some of them sustaining serious burns.

They are being treated at hospitals in Luanda and in the provincial capital Ndalatando.

There are concerns that the provincial hospital may not have adequate medical supplies to treat the victims.

The 180km route between Luanda and Dondo is one of the few functioning railways in Angola, with three services a week - an economic lifeline for the provinces it serves.

In the past three months, UNITA has conducted a number of high-profile assaults in areas close to the capital, aimed at causing maximum disruption.

This latest incident coincides with a visit to Angola by an American delegation, which is trying to assess whether conditions are right for a general election, which has tentatively been scheduled for next year.

The attack is being seen as an attempt by UNITA to embarrass the government by reminding the visitors that Angola is still far from stable.

## S/Leone election may be postponed

The national electoral commissioner in Sierra Leone, Walter Nicol, has said elections planned for December may have to be postponed until next year.

Speaking on a private radio station Mr Nicol said too many people still carried weapons, despite the disarmament programme in Sierra Leone.

He said a fact-finding mission to rural areas had shown that many voters would not feel free to cast their ballots if all combatants had not been disarmed.

He said it would be difficult in the circumstances to achieve voter registration in all areas by next month, in time for voting in December.



The body of a Palestinian girl, Sabreen Ijrewi lies in Hebron hospital after she was killed by Israeli soldiers, West Bank City of Hebron August 12, 2001.



## TRUST INTERNATIONAL

## World Report

## Adams denies NIreland minister's peace claims

Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams has rejected claims by Northern Ireland minister John Reid that a peace deal is "tantalisingly close".

Mr Adams also appeared to rule out decommissioning by the Provisional IRA within the next six weeks.

His comments followed the restoration of devolved government to Northern Ireland, which came after a 24-hour suspension in an attempt to give parties more time to agree to a peace package.

"Behind the soft words really what is being opened up is a six- or seven-week period in which the British Government and unionists are going to try to put pressure on republicans to move to resolve issues on British Government or unionist terms," he said.

Mr Adams was speaking at a rally to mark the 20th anniversary of hunger strikes by republican prisoners.

He said: "I hear a British Government that says a deal is almost within reach," he said.

"Does this mean they're going to pull troops from south Armagh, from south Tyrone, west and north Belfast?"

"I hear also the patronising tone that the institutions have been stood down for only one day and now it's OK again. Well, it's not OK again."

Mr Adams' words followed a warning from party colleague Martin McGuinness that the IRA's recent offer to put its weapons beyond use may have been jeopardised by the suspension, and by unionist rejection of the offer.

The plan - to put its weapons permanently and verifiably beyond use - had been accepted by General John de Chastelain's international decommissioning body.

But Mr McGuinness said suspension had seriously damaged his community's confidence in the institutions and could now have implications for the IRA's plan.



A Macedonian policeman escorts a wounded ethnic Albanian guerrilla fighter as he is taken to the city hospital in the Macedonian capital, Skopje, August 12, 2001.

## Fresh fighting in Macedonia

There have been reports of fresh bombardments near the Macedonian capital, Skopje, hours before a peace agreement is due to be signed between the government and ethnic Albanian politicians.

Shelling was heard around the villages of Ljuboten and Ljubanci, 10km (six miles) north of Skopje, from 0030 (2230 GMT Sunday), in defiance of a unilateral ceasefire announced by the government.

Macedonian officials have insisted that the peace deal will be signed, despite the fighting. US envoy James Pardew urged both sides to make further efforts.

"The peace document is the best hope for peace in Macedonia. The leaders should take this opportunity and sign the document," he said.

But diplomats say it has little chance of ending a six-month insurgency by the ethnic Albanian rebels, unless hostilities cease.

Nato is due to send in 3,500 troops to disarm the ethnic Albanian rebels, but it is unclear where Operation Essential Harvest would begin if fighting

were to continue.

BBC correspondent in Skopje says events on the ground appear to be moving towards a sustained conflict, with the government's military response becoming increasingly robust in the battle for territory.

"The most realistic thing... is to undertake a very strong offensive to destroy the terrorists," said Interior Minister Ljube Boskovski.

The main road from Skopje to Macedonia's second city

Tetovo has been closed by the authorities, and there were reports of more fighting near the northern border with Kosovo on Sunday.

The Macedonian Government has demanded Nato action to stop what it says is infiltration by armed rebels from across the border.

It said it had evidence that rebel incursions had led to Saturday's outbreak of fighting in the north.

## Rescue team search for Thailand flood victims

Rescue teams in northern Thailand are searching for bodies trapped in mud and debris following flash floods that killed at least 74 people and left 79 missing.

On Sunday a six-year-old boy was found hanging onto a clump of bamboo, more than 30 hours after the floods swept through his home.

But officials have given up hope of finding anyone else alive.

More than 110 soldiers have been searching seven villages in Phetchabun province that were destroyed before dawn on Saturday as inhabitants slept.

Many of the victims were women and children who were

unable to climb to safer ground.

The boy who was rescued, Nakhin Phansaeng, was found about 3km from his house. An official in the town of Lomsak said he was swept from his house but managed to cling to floating debris and then grab hold of the bamboo.

"That bamboo was the only thing that saved him. Had he been swept further, he would not have survived," one rescuer told *The Nation* newspaper.

But officials in the district of Lom Sak said they believed the missing people were dead.

"They [the soldiers] are searching for the dead by smelling for their bodies," said district chief Samran Boonrodreuk.

## ODD WORLD

## American double amputee climbs Everest

An American mountaineer who lost both his lower legs in a flying accident is attempting to become the first double amputee to climb Mount Everest.

Ed Hommer, a 45-year-old pilot from Duluth, Minnesota, who arrived in Kathmandu Sunday, plans to tackle the 29,035-foot mountain from the Tibetan side with a seven-member team.

The expedition, led by Jim Wickwire from Seattle, expects to arrive at their base camp on August 20 for the assault on the North Face of the world's highest mountain.

They hope to reach the top in the first week of October. "I have been climbing since 1975. Just because I'm a double amputee, I shouldn't stop. You do the best of your abilities," Hommer told *Reuters*.

Hommer lost both his lower legs after a light plane he was piloting crashed over Mount McKinley in Alaska in 1981.

His legs became frostbitten after he was stranded on the mountain for several days, and had to be amputated several inches above the ankle.

"I think my climb can be an example to other amputees about what we can do," he said.

The first amputee to climb Everest was Tom Whittaker, who lost his right foot in a car accident. He reached the summit in 1998.

## DIPLOMATIC Suite

## Sharon's insult to Bush

By Lawai Samaila Hilin-Bugu

Of course everyone knows that the Americans invited the Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, for the second time and it is common knowledge that they (Americans) were hoping to persuade him to relax the draconian conditions he has imposed on the Palestinians. Little did the Americans know that the Jewish strongman would "slap" his eager host, the President of the United States, George Walker Bush Jr., in the full glare of the public.

George Bush had said his piece about the crisis in the Middle East and concluded to the effect that the shaky ceasefire should be allowed to blossom so that peace talks could soon commence. Ariel Sharon however, quickly interjected as if he was waiting for the moment. He interrupted Bush and eyes bulging with fury delivered his classic intransigent rhetoric. In the process he clearly belittled the American President in front of the TV cameras. Sharon's words: "Look here... (Mr. Bush) five Jews were killed last week and you call that ceasefire. You Americans can afford to have (people like that) killed but not Jews..." And he went on and on like that.

Americans ought to have been outraged by this uncouth and undiplomatic behaviour directed at their president inside the Whitehouse. In fact the citizens of any country would be justified to condemn such an action and vilify whoever dared to belittle their leader. To understand the issues clearly, imagine someone like say Charles Taylor or Thabo Mbeki giving such a dressing down to Chief Obasanjo at Aso Rock. No doubt there will be strident calls for Taylor's head and some would even urge for war. Nigerians would be in order to behave or react that way. But not Americans, oh no. When it comes to Jews and Jewish affairs Americans are just a yellow bunch. This day no one has voiced any concern about Sharon's affront and even the pressmen who covered the event live were scared stiff to report it as it should.

Well the reason for this is not far fetched. The fear of Jews is the beginning of wisdom for all Americans.

All the same, Sharon's show of shame at the White House is bound to arouse the Americans from their deep slumber. This is because the arrogance displayed by Sharon is not only unprecedented but defies all logic and decency. Remember that Americans like to be seen as champions of human rights and all. Sharon's proposal for peace talks with the Palestinians is not only so lopsided in favour of Jews but their current policy of stalk and kill can never go down well with the Americans. Ditto the concentration camp policy that essentially bars the Palestinians from leading their lives as human beings. Jewish soldiers now march into any Palestinian area they feel like and impose curfew. This effectively seals off such areas from simple trade and results in shortages of essential commodities necessary for daily life.

**Americans ought to have been outraged by this uncouth and undiplomatic behaviour directed at their president inside the Whitehouse. In fact the citizens of any country would be justified to condemn such an action and vilify whoever dared to belittle their leader.**

As if this is not enough their bulldozers also rumble inside Palestinian areas to demolish houses with the pretext that they were built without permit. Or they send out their tanks and apache helicopters to do the dirty job with impunity. These atrocities are comparable if not worse than what Hitler did to them.

That is not all though. The Jewish president had the effrontery to insist on dictating the terms and conditions that must be met by the Palestinians before any peace talks commence.

For Sharon to dictate the conditions to be met before peace talks begin is just playing dumb to historical antecedents. How can one party to a conflict dictate the terms of the conflict's resolution. Even in conflicts between individuals this is not the accepted practice. Between nations this is unheard of.

However just as it took time for ordinary Americans to realise the stark immorality of the black South Africans' situation and act appropriately, it will take time for them to see the immorality of the situation under which the Palestinians continue to be subjugated.

*The Tampa Tribune* in particular has recently run an editorial that could just be reflecting the views of the average American. The paper courageously called a spade a spade by pointing out in clear terms that there will never be peace if the occupied territories remain occupied by settler Jews and if Palestinians are not allowed to live like human beings in their land.

Soon such cries for justice would reach a crescendo and, perhaps, it is then that the American government would see the handwriting on the wall and act appropriately. When that time comes America would then be able to play the role of an unbiased and objective arbiter in the conflict. It is then that the Americans would have the moral courage to tell the Jews to move out of the occupied lands and Golan Heights without delay. In fact it would indeed be in the interest of Jews to do just that because then and only then could they stop running Israel like a garrison state. Only then will the state of Israel enjoy true peace - the kind it has never known or enjoyed since it was created.

Lawai Samaila Hilin-Bugu is of P.O. Box 25, Katsina.

Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams speaks to fellow republicans at a rally marking the 20th anniversary of the IRA Hunger Strike in West Belfast, Northern Ireland, August 12, 2001.



# BUSINESS DAY

## CBN mops N31.4b excess liquidity

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) last week mopped a total sum of N31.4 billion excess liquidity from circulation. This represents an N11 billion drop from previous week's record of N42.4 billion.

However, the amount mopped in the money market did not surprise experts who have long been emphasising that the money situation in the system has become relatively stable.

**Business Day** learnt that this has encouraged the CBN to put its monetary instrument, the CBN certificate, in the cooler for

some weeks now.

The CBN, in the week under review, offered about N31.8 billion in the primary market. But despite the fact that its public subscription totalled N21.1 billion, only N19.1 billion was mopped up.

In the secondary market transaction, bids received amounted to N12.3 billion and the same amount was also achieved.

The bid rates for the secondary and primary market are 17.4 to 17.5 percent and 17.5 to 19 percent respectively.

comparing this to previous week's rate, it would be discovered that while the secondary market

remains the same, that the apex bank upped the cap for the primary market to 19 percent from 18 percent in order to attract more transactions to that segment of the money market.

True yield for secondary market is 17.8 percent and for the primary market 18.8 percent. The minimum discount rate remains unchanged at 18.5 percent.



Joseph Sanusi, CBN Governor

## NDIC declares N4b liquidation dividend for 23 banks

By Ahmed Shekarau & Bright Ewulu

As part of its on-site examination of insured banks, the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation has declared an aggregated liquidation dividend of N4.402 billion for 23 out of the 31 banks closed between 1994 and 1998.

This was disclosed in the corporation's 2000 Annual Report and Statement of Accounts which was released at the weekend in Abuja.

The report stressed that out of the total liquidation dividend so far declared, "over N1.6 billion had been paid as at the end of 2000."

The report stressed further that the NDIC has in respect of the 31 banks in question paid a total sum of N3.35 billion out of the N5.08 billion total insured deposit claims to bonafide depositors in such banks, which were closed between 1994 and 1998.

It also noted that "the corporation continued with the realisation of fixed assets, recovery of debts from debtors who had more than the statutory insured amount in the closed banks."

The corporation commended the credible

performance of the banking sub-sector, saying that it acted as the engine of growth in the entire financial sector.

This, it hinted, could have been responsible for the increase in the number of bank branches nationwide, adding that within the year under review, a total of 229 bank branches and offices were opened across the country.

It revealed on the other hand, that 66 bank branches and offices were closed within the year under review.

Presently, according to NDIC, Lagos State accounts for the highest number of bank branches with 643, representing about 26.5 percent, followed by Rivers with 133 (5.5 percent), Kano 122 (5.0 percent) and Federal Capital Territory 117 (4.8 percent).

According to the report, "the increase in the number of bank branches in 2000, was as a result of increased rate of expansion by existing licensed commercial banks, the addition of two new banks... and the conversion of eight merchant banks to commercial banks."

## NITEL rakes in N2b from government agencies

The Nigerian Telecommunications Plc has raked in over N2 billion since it began its mass disconnection of telephone lines in government offices and parastatals.

Given the success so far achieved, the national carrier's management is bent on continuing its activities in this direction to compel government agencies to pay up the sum total of N10 billion they owe NITEL.

The telecommunications giant's General Manager, Public Affairs, Tayo Ekundayo who made this revelation at a press briefing in Lagos, said that his establishment was emboldened to carryout this drastic action by the democratic situation in the country.

According to him the mass disconnection has been so successful that NITEL received, within a month, in certain parts of the country amount, "close to N2 billion".

Explaining further, he said the action by NITEL will help to ebb the trade of corruption in agencies and government offices since funds for bills are normally provided in the budgets but are normally looted.

"So when we disconnect you, someone is bound to remember to ask questions where the funds set aside for the service are. This will certainly check corruption," he said.

Meanwhile, the announcement by NITEL's Chairman, Mr. Martin Igbokwe that its GSM will not kick-off until close of the year was a shock for most

proposed subscribers enticed by its much-hyped low tariff and the impression given by government that GSM services will begin this August.

Apparently, the situation was not helped by the seeming inability of subscribers to MTN and Econet to connect land lines or mobile to mobile, making individuals who spoke to us under conditions of anonymity wonder at the urge by government to hurry operators to meet its August 9. Nevertheless, experts believe that once the interconnectivity agreements take off, the present confusion over GSM connections will be put to rest.

## Bank of the North posts N1.2b profit

By Ahmed Shekarau, Just back from Maiduguri

Bank of the North Limited (BONL) has recorded a profit after tax of N1,201,000,000 million (or N1.2 billion) at the end of its transactions for the year ended December 31, 2000. This shows an increase of N136 million or about 18 percent above the N1,015,000,000 million (or N1.01 billion) profit recorded in the previous year.

This was disclosed at the bank's 41st Annual General Meeting (AGM), held last week at the International Conference Centre of the Musa Usman Secretariat, in Maiduguri.

According to the BONL Chairman, Alhaji Muhammadu Lugga in a statement at the AGM, the bank's gross earnings increased remarkably by 81 percent from N3,979,000,000 (or N3.97 billion) in 1999 to N7,187,000,000 (or N7.18

"Total deposits rose dramatically by 89 percent, from N22.341 million (or N22.34 billion) in 1999 to N42,130 million (or N42.13 billion) this year (2000). This is as a result of increased aggressiveness in deposit drive adopted during the year," the BONL chairman affirmed.

Lugga stated further that "as an indication and guarantee of continuous growth and expansion, the bank's balance sheet size in terms of Total Assets rose by 60 percent from N32,264 million (or 32.26 billion) in 1999 to N51,548 million (or N51.54 billion) in the year 2000."

Though the bank did not declare any dividend to be shared to its shareholders out of the profit recorded, the bank's shareholders' funds increased by N1,200 million

(or N1.2 billion) or 16 percent to stand at N3,175 million (or N3.17 billion) as against the N1,975 million (or N1.97 billion) achieved at the end of 1999.

Meanwhile, the Board of Directors of Bank of the North Limited has raised the banks paid-up share capital to N1,200 million (or N1.2 billion), with the transfer of N600 million to its bonus issue reserve, while that bank's authorised capital was accordingly raised to N1,500 million (or 1.5 billion).

The bank, which for the first time held its annual general meeting outside its headquarters in Kano and away from the country's federal capital city of Abuja, also commissioned two new offices in Maiduguri. The offices are its regional office located along Bama Road and its Maiduguri Monday Market branch, both of which were commissioned by the Borno State Governor, Alhaji Mala Kachallah, ahead of the AGM.

A total of 289.5 million shares worth N2.2 billion were exchanged last week in 8829 deals, in contrast to 408.4 million shares valued at N3.0 billion traded last week on the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) in 8587 deals.

All the transactions last week were in the equities sector of the market, as there were no transactions in the Federal Government Development Stocks Sector and the Industrial Loans/Preference Stocks Sector.

The banking subsector accounted for 207.5 million shares worth N1.42 billion exchanged in 4116 deals. The building materials sector followed on the activity chart with a turnover of 17.1 millions shares valued at N309.5 million.

The Nigerian Stock Exchange All-Share Index dropped by 2.2 percent to close the week at 10237.61. The index dropped by 0.31 percent last week.

Niger Insurance Co. Plc led the week's price gainers, as it chalked up 106 kobo to close at N6.06 per share. Other price gainers in the top ten bracket are: Lever Brothers Nigeria Plc (49 kobo); SCOA Nigeria Plc (41 kobo); Crusader Insurance Plc (34 kobo); Cadbury Nigeria Plc (25

## Banking sector dominates NSE transactions

kobo); NCR Nigeria Plc (22 kobo); Nigeria Bottling Company Plc, Cappa and D'alberto Plc and Lasaco Assurance Plc (20 kobo apiece); Costain West African Plc and Prestige Assurance Company Plc (19 kobo apiece) and Morison Industries Plc (16 kobo).

Mobil Oil Nigeria Plc led on the price loser's chart, losing 400 kobo to close at N60.50. Other price losers in the top ten bracket include: PS Mandrides Plc (381 kobo); Unipetrol Nigeria Plc (350 kobo); First Bank Nigeria Plc (170 kobo); Union Bank Nigeria Plc (130 kobo); National Oil Company Plc (96 kobo); Union Dicon Salt Plc (94 kobo); DN Meyer Plc (86 kobo); Universal Trust Bank Plc (69 kobo); and PZ Industries Plc (65 kobo).

Amongst the losses in share prices recorded, Universal Trust Bank Plc and Omega Bank Plc were adjusted for a final dividend of 25 kobo and 17 kobo respectively. PS Mandrides & Company Plc was adjusted for final dividend of 25 kobo and script of 1 for 1.

## Plateau Accountant-General urges strategic budget planning

From Buhari Bello, in Jos

The Accountant-General of Plateau State, Mr. S. Y. Damisa has emphasised the need for strategic approach to budget planning among the three tiers of government.

Speaking during a 3-day workshop on "budget implementation, monitoring and control organised for accounting officers in the state recently, the accountant-general said such approach is necessary for national development.

He said, "plans can be regarded as strategic approach to national development. However, such strategic plans need to be broken down into administration. It is a principle of government accounting that annual budgets are prepared whether required by law or not."

According to him, the direction of the autonomy regarding the utilisation of the nation's resources must be put into consideration in budget planning, stressing that in structuring the budget, it is essential "to weigh the complexity of task of economic management."

"The budget must have a meaningful correction with development plans and facilitate all aspects of financial management," he said.

He said at each stage of the budget exercise, accountability has to be recognised in the final analysis, pointing out that the

"policy choices in this regard include the specification of the amount of growth that is compatible with factors such as employment and price stability."

Earlier, the Head of Service of the Plateau State Government, Mr. C. L. Tsemwan explained that financial integrity and efficient management of finances are important in budgetary system in both private and public sectors of the economy.

He described budget as the life-wire of an organised society, saying that the level of a budget's success depends largely on the efficiency of the budget system in operation and quality of the budget operators or implementors.

According to the head of service, the state government is committed to the reform of government budgetary processes and procedures.



Joshua Dariye, Plateau State Governor



# BUSINESS DAY

## Eleme petrochemicals' process units now functional —Dennar

The Eleme Petrochemicals Company Limited, (EPCL), a subsidiary of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has fully resumed production after it was shut down about five years ago.

The Managing Director of the EPCL, Dr Eze Dennar told the NNPC Group Managing Director, Mr. Jackson Gausi-Obaseki, in Eleme, near Port Harcourt at the weekend that all the process units of the petrochemicals plant have resumed production.

The process units are Polyethylene, Polypropylene, Olefins, and Butene, which produce raw

By Ahmed Shekarau

materials for plastics, among others.

A statement signed by NNPC's Group Public Affairs Manager, Ndu Ughamadu said Obaseki who visited the corporation's facilities in Rivers State to parley with the staff on the need to be vigilant in the plants, was told that "this was the first time in five years that all the process units of the petrochemical plant would be functioning simultaneously."

Until recently, the Eleme plant was shut down for a long time "because of technical problems," the statement add.

Mr. Gausi-Obaseki, impressed by the new development, implored the staff to work harder, assuring them that the NNPC management would generously reward them if they sustain for six months, the prevailing level of production, with all the units of the plant functional.

Earlier, the Group Managing Director visited the Port Harcourt refinery, Eleme, where the plants are fully operational, assuring the staff that the corporation was satisfied with their input

in the refinery.

At the Warri refinery, the GMD informed the staff that the process for the next Turn Around Maintenance (TAM) of the refinery had begun, saying that it would turn out to be one of the best TAM exercises to be executed by the corporation.

Mr. Obaseki while at the Nigerian Gas Company urged the staff to work harder, informing them that they would play a crucial role towards NEPA's realisation of uninterrupted power supply deadline of December 2001.

## Maritime unions support port reforms

From Tokunbo Oloke, in Lagos

leadership of the two unions to mobilise their members towards realising the federal government's desire of an improved and efficient port systems in the country.

He appealed to them to co-operate and support the federal government through the council in ensuring the successful implementation of the JODLIC mandate as enshrined in the Nigeria Dock Labour Decree 37 of 1999.

"This council, MWUN and indeed DUN all have a stake in the greater success of the on-going port reforms and we should be seen to be supporting this cause and nothing else," he said.

In his response, President-General of MWUN, Comrade Onikolease labor commended the management of JODLIC on its efforts to ensure payment of labour on tonnage and a means of eliminating wage exploitation.

The three maritime groups operating in the maritime sector have renewed their efforts towards ensuring the success of the on-going port reforms and to work together in ensuring industrial peace and harmony in the nation's sea ports.

This renewed effort was unanimously taken at a meeting held by the three groups at the Joint Dock Labour Industrial Council (JODLIC), Marble House in Lagos.

These groups are Joint Dock Labour Industrial Council, Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN) and Dock-Workers Union of Nigeria (DUN).

Presiding over the meeting, the JODLIC Chairman, Alhaji Ahmed Tijjani Ramallan urged the

## Nigeria's crude production hits 16m bpd

The nation is recording a gradual rise in its total crude oil production with the figure hitting approximately 16 million net barrels per day (bpd) for the period July 23 - 29, 2001.

It would be recalled that the figure for the previous week was 15,214,005 net barrels.

A breakdown of the figure for the week under review in a report by the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) showed that 9,164,776 net barrels was from the east while 6,803,344 net barrels was recorded in the west.

Total export for the period was 13,014,328 net barrels of crude oil with 7,194,864 from the east and 5,819,464 from the west.

NNPC, PPMC lifted 269,537 net barrels from Escravos. Condensate production and export were 676,267 and 950,429 net barrels respectively, while LPG production was 4,073,421 metric tonnes out of which none was exported during the week under review.

A further analysis of upstream activities for the week indicated that 13 oil spills were reported, one of the incidents from Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) was a major spill that resulted in the loss of about 2,000 barrels of crude oil along the

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, in Lagos

12-inch Diebu Creek-Nun River and adjoining farmlands.

On downstream operations, DPR/Police Task Force which carried out surveillance activities across the country, sealed five fuel outlets in Plateau State for diversion.

A total of 25 dispensing pumps in various filling stations in Lagos, Warri, Benin, Ore and Kaduna areas were sealed.

The task force also confiscated 910 litres of petroleum products.



Diamond Bank Chairman/CEO, Pascal G. Dozie sharing a point with the Special Adviser to the President on Petroleum and Energy, Dr. Rihwanu Lukman during the workshop on Improvement of Local Content and Indigenous Participation in the Upstream Sector of the Oil and Gas Industry, recently in Abuja. Pix: Felix Onigbinde.

## Kupolokun assures of sufficient fuel after deregulation

The Senior Special Assistant to the President on Petroleum, Engr. Funso Kupolokun said the liberalisation of the downstream oil sector would ensure competition and would afford choice to the members of the public.

He stated this at Government House Lokoja while delivering key note address at the on going lecture by the committee on deregulation.

According to Kupolokun, Nigerians should be in a position to make choices of what they are buying as well as what they are paying for.

Kupolokun noted further that if liberalise comes into being in the country, smuggling, and hoarding could be properly checked, thus funds accruing from gains would be made available to the three tiers of government.

He argued that when liberalise of the sector was embraced Nigeria would not only be in a position to export but would make available the product in such way that no more queues would be witnessed in our filling stations.

From Mamman Akpena, in Lokoja

Turning on some questions raised by some members of the audience on the initial price hike that accompanied government

policies and programmes, the senior adviser explained that there is a machinery in place to check such abnormalities, stressing that the issued of one or a group of people taking advantage

of certain lapses would not arise. He argued further that in any by case, whatever price hike witnessed would naturally come down by the time the product is available in every part of the country.

## NEPA commissions 15MVA transformer in Kano

The General Manager of NEPA Kano Zone, Alhaji Ishaq Usman, has commissioned a 15MVA 33/11KV distribution transformer.

Speaking after the commissioning ceremony, the General Manager said that the project was part of the short-term improvement projects being carried out under the zone preparatory to the generation of 4000MW electricity by December 2001.

Alhaji Ishaq Usman said that the installation of the power transformer was aimed at reducing the burden of load-shedding as a result of low power generation in the country.

And that as a result of low capacity of the distribution facilities, Kano zone of NEPA comprising Kano, Katsina and Jigawa States, has embarked on

massive rehabilitation and upgrading of its facilities under a short term action plan.

This, would enable NEPA play its vital role as a socio-economic catalyst for meaningful development.

## Plateau Govt tasks LGs on budget

Local Government Chairmen in Plateau State have been advised to submit their budget proposals for the 2002 financial year early enough to avoid the problems associated with the exercise in the past.

The Permanent Secretary, Bureau for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs in the state, Mr. Sunday Andong reiterated the need for the budget submission as it was

in line with section 45 of the law establishing the local government in the 1999 constitution.

Andong who was addressing the local government chairmen at the last monthly meeting held at the Bureau in Jos, said that the submission of the proposal in good time will facilitate the immediate and final approval by the state government.

## Mandilas launches Skoda Fabia

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

Mandilas Motors Nigeria Limited and the Volkswagen Group have launched the Skoda Fabia Sedan into the Nigeria market.

The impressive launching ceremony which was held at the Le Meridien Hotel, Eko attracted important personalities in the International Auto Industry.

Among the dignitaries that graced the occasion was the Manager, Overseas Export of Skoda Auto, Dr. Dietmar Prager who told Business Day that Skoda Auto standards has gained tremendously from its chase relationship with Volkswagen group.

He said that the new Skoda Fabia which won awards in 2000/2001 across the length and breathe of Europe is at heart of German technology master piece that is the best in its class of cars.

Said he: "This car has Skoda's body. But behind this car is the technical and quality standards of Volkswagen. I want to tell you that we are ready to satisfy our Nigerian customers.

In an address of welcome, the Executive Director of Mandilas, Mr. Anthony Hadjundo said that Fabia is a world class car which is sure to make an in road into the auto market in the country, saying that Mandilas in its over 55 years in Nigeria is known for marketing classy cars and that Skoda Fabia is one of such.

According to him, "by launching the Fabia Auto we are solidifying our position in the Nigerian market.



Gausi-Obaseki, NNPC GMD





Town hall or Sodorkoping, constructed in 1977

Coming from Nigeria, where changes in weather do not have any cultural significance, summer has only one meaning for me in this part of the world: the temperature would be more tolerable. There is of course the trouble of having to go to bed in the night when the sun is still shining. So when Dr. Gunilla Andrea, my co-host in Stockholm suggest that we go for a mid Summer holiday, I thought she was carrying her love for summer too far. Somehow, however, on Thursday when I went to *Statsvetensk* (that is how they refer to the Department of Political Science at the Stockholm University. *Statsvetensk* in Swedish means Science of the State), and everyone at the coffee room was talking about the holiday.

By this time, however, one had come to learn that the day was going to be a public holiday. This I learnt because we needed to get to the Immigration office and Prof. Bjorn Beckman, my other co-host, had said that we had better do that on Thursday or else it would have to wait till Monday. When I asked him why we could not go on Friday, he, with an astonished look on his face, educated me that Friday was midsummer Day eve and midsummer is a national holiday.

Midsummer celebration is an old practice in Sweden. The actual midsummer is supposed to coincide with the summer Solstice, which is the longest day. But in modern times, the Swedes celebrate this occasion on the Saturday nearest to the actual Solstice day. The Friday before the celebration is then observed as a national holiday to enable people to prepare for

the celebration, which for many involved a trip to the countryside or some other scenic spots. For this year, midsummer was celebrated on June 16th, a few days to the actual solstice, which was June 21st.

On that Thursday, both Bjorn and myself closed early from the office so that we could join Gunilla for dinner after which we could concretize the plan for the midsummer holiday. The Swedes love holidays, but love summer even better, especially when the summer is not too rainy. This year's summer was all-bright, the heat quite right at the average of 17 degrees centigrade. The rain was isolated and not too heavy. Sunlight was about 20 hours a day, starting from about 3 a.m.

A report of a possible rain forecast against Friday altered our plan and I was happy it did. Essentially, what we agreed was that we could spend the Friday in Stockholm to attend the Maypole celebration and then hit the way to Gunilla's country house on Saturday morning on Friday evening. Dr. Ebrima Sall was to join us from Uppsala. In the evening he phoned to say he could not make it because he was just coming back from a journey and was rather tied up with other engagements.

We were going to spend the afternoon at Skansens, a different island from the Sodermalm Island where I was staying. We had to take a bus from Ljusterogatan which was the street where I lived to Slussen from where we joined the boat to the other island. This island is actually opposite Sodermalm, with the water that is dividing them forming an inlet through which one could go to Finland.

By the time we arrived at



Flourishing Rose flowers

## A flowery celebration

Stockholm is the capital of Sweden, and it possesses so many charming scenes. Mid-summer celebration is a marvellous experience. Y.Z. Yau was in Sweden

the Slussen anchorage we met long queues of people waiting to board the ship. We thought we might not make it but somehow the organizers have made adequate arrangement with a number of ships making the trip at a time. The event is annually coordinated by the Swedish Foundation for Culture, which is also responsible for management of the venue.

Now Skansens is a mixture of both tradition and modernity. It is one huge amusement park that occupies a large part of the Jysdegatan Island. The amusement park is divided into two. The first part, adjoining the sea facing Sodermalm is the very epitome of modern recreation. The inner part is an expanse of forest that is taken by a number of projects. There are many shops and small-scale factories for handcrafts such as glassware, furniture and other cultural artefacts. There is a huge concert hall. There is the open space for picnickers and open air events, and then there is the zoo, so natural in the forest that you think the animals were actually there and the fences were the only thing added. This in a way is true, because it was converted into a public space, animals inhabited it.

In addition to these is the dwelling exhibition. This is a collection of a prototype of houses from different parts of Sweden. They were actually brought down from their native locations. There were also various granaries and animal housing. Backgrounded by rising hills and sloping valleys, all these give you a rich panorama of architectural Sweden.

When we arrived at this part of the park, even Bjorn and Gunilla were shocked by the

mass of people who had come out for the event. It was as if everyone in Stockholm, if not in Sweden was out at this place. Sweden has a population of about eight million of which close to two million live in Stockholm and its archipelago. The situation is only comparable to a *sallah* day in Kano, at the time of returning from the *eid* prayer. And they were dressed in costumes depicting the different parts of Sweden. These costumes are colourful. But one common thing was the flower ring on the head. Almost every woman, girl and boy had such beautiful flowers. Children in child-carriages were also decorated with flowers.

Curiously, the men did not have flowers and I did not find out why, or did I? Sweden boasts of strong gender equality. The current national government has a council of ministers of 20 with equal representation from both sexes. There is a law for equal opportunities and there is even paternity leave. The first time Nelly, from the Department of Political Science, who had delivered before my arrival, told me that it was the turn of her husband to be on paternity leave, I thought it was an informal arrangement. I discovered that a father is entitled to three weeks paternity leave. But in this flower business I did not see gender equality!

I tried to find out the significance of the flowers. Unlike Nigeria, where we do not have even a national dish, Sweden has a national flower. It is the white rose. I was told that this flower symbolizes dignity, austerity and high moral standards, which is a nostalgic look into the early years of industrialization when Sweden was comparatively poorer than its other

European neighbours. But there is actually more to the flowers than just a matter of a national symbol. It took us several minutes to decide if it was worth joining the queues for the ticket or to catch the ship back to Slussen. The problem was that we had aimed to stay for three hours so that we could be back home in time for midsummer dinner. If we had to spend one of these three hours on the ticket queue, we would lose a lot of time. Anyway we decided to stay and eventually got our tickets and joined the shorter queue for the entrances. Here I must note the efficient way in which the queues were attended to, which made it appear much shorter than we had seen.

We made our way up the hill through a winding path. The main event was taking place at the summit of the hill, where it was flat. Immediately we scaled the height, Bjorn drew my attention to a single tall pole-like flower. We were of course far so at this stage I could not relate it with the mass of people pressing around it. He said it was the Maypole.

Now I thought Maypole was the name of that particular flower. After all one is very poor in knowing the names of flowers or even other plants. I guess that was what scared me from the study Botany.

This Maypole, I found is not just a flower. It was really a very tall constructed stick structure around which leaves and flowers of all colours were wrapped. I asked why the structure is called Maypole and not Junepole given that midsummer is June. We agreed that we would find out. The Swedish name for it is actually midsummer pole. At home, Laura, the

Beckmans' daughter, fresh from her examination, decided to look at the encyclopedia of European ceremonies to tell us why the name is Maypole. It turned out that Midsummer was actually a European wide tradition usually celebrated on May 1. Somehow across Europe, where the tradition has survived, the date of celebration has shifted from the beginning of summer to midsummer but the name of the pole has retained its origin, at least in the English language.

You must be wondering what this Maypole has got to do with the celebration. The fact is that it is so central to the occasion. By the time we reached the place, it was a huge system of concentric circles with the Maypole as its centre. At one tip of the outer circle was a raised platform with the Swedish national flag flying. A canopy shaded the platform. In the shade were a group of musicians dressed in white and red costumes. They actually looked like sisters in the church or female nurses in hospital. But they were folk drummers and singers.

By the time we arrived, the announcer over the public address system was asking those who were not dancing to step out of the circles but no one really moved out. It was so jammed with old men, people in wheel chairs, children in carriages and young adults both men and women. Having made her point, the announcer let it be known that it was time to dance. All of a sudden the folk musicians started singing and drumming. The thick crowd soon picked up the tunes and sang in unison. In the meantime, everyone who could find space for his/her feet was dancing. We danced left and right, forward and backward, up and down.

**Sweden has a national rose. I was told that this austerity and high morality is a nostalgic look into industrialization when Sweden was poorer than its other European neighbours. There is actually more to the matter of a national symbol.**



# elogue



Cache Castle looks accross a lake

## on in Sweden

nes, and beautiful parts. Visiting Sweden at the time of the  
n recently and wrote this rather flowery account.

When it was time to change tunes, we clapped for ourselves.

The announcer then said the next dance was going to be the frog dance. She asked if there were people who had not seen a frog. She explained what a frog looked like and then set us rolling into dancing the way a frog could. We then danced the pig, the elephant, the mosquito (I wonder how many of the kids had seen a mosquito) and the favourite mother's child.

I found the favourite child somehow an expression of Swedish nationalism. This dance required us to tell the people on our left and right that each was the mother's favourite child. They in turn also do the same. In all, it means that we are all the favoured citizens of Sweden. This is a celebration of the fact that Sweden is the country with the least income inequality in the world.

We had a last dance to shake up. This was called doing the laundry. The tales took us through five days during which the laundry is done. It starts with soaking of the clothes on a Monday, so the dance steps had to imitate the soaking act. On Tuesday we squeeze the clothes, Wednesday is for rinsing, while Thursday is for beating and pooling. The clothes are pressed on Friday. Saturday we could wear them and drop them into the wash basket on Sunday I suppose.

This dance was general: everyone who wanted to could. When the free for all dance was over, it was the turn of the folk dancers, who were really professionals. They came in various colourful costumes in pairs that is, male and female. With the surrounding architecture depicting different parts of Sweden, the dancers did various exhibition

flower. It is the white flower symbolizes dignoral standards, which the early years of ineden was comparatively ropean neighbours. But the flowers than just a nbol.

dances from these different parts of the country. At the beginning of each dance, the chaperone took time to explain the origin of the dance, the occasion for which it was first performed and for whom, the place it was performed and the region from which it originated, all of which dated to the 18th century. After this it was again the turn of the public to dance. So the celebration continued with public and professional dancers taking turns and this I understand stretched up till midnight.

We went and inspected the various houses and granaries (these look like those in my village in Azare except that whereas ours is built using either grass and wood or clay, theirs are completely wooden).

The Sami people (also called Lapp people) are an ethnic minority in Sweden, occupying the northern tip of the country. They also inhabit the adjoining areas in Russia, Norway and Finland. There are about 60,000 of them of which about 18,500 are in Sweden. Most of them are nomadic, living on reindeer breeding, much like my own Fulani people who specialise in cattle breeding. Recent legislation to protect the Sami language in Sweden has recognized the language for official transactions in those Sami areas in the north.

On our way to the hut we met two Sami people dressed in their ceremonial dress that shows some striking resemblance to those of the Fulani in matters of decoration but the length is something else. I think this might have to do with the weather differences. Now I should confess my emotional and symbolic attachment to the Sami people: I insisted that

Bjorn photograph me with my rediscovered sister! After all I am a Fulani.

Having visited the Sami hut with fire burning inside, the way Fulani warm their huts during harmattan, it was only logical that our next call at the zoo was the reindeer house. They look like overgrown goats with a lot of forest in the head. Thereafter we visited several other animals of that clime. I was surprised to see an antelope. I thought it was a tropical animal but here it was in a climate that is never above 18 degrees centigrade. Later I was to encounter more antelopes while walking home late evenings from the Stockholm University campus. They just appear from the forest that provides a natural boundary to the university. I also saw a fox for the first time in my life. I have heard too many stories about it during the moonlight tales of my Doganjeji childhood but it looked so disappointing. I wished it were more beautiful.

By this time, we were thoroughly tired so we looked for where we could refresh and rest. We ate a light meal of crisp potato in onions with Coca-Cola. Thereafter we joined the throng to the handicrafts section where the technicians were busy explaining their trades to the people. I was fascinated by the glass blowers making intricate shapes, patterns and colours out of tiny drinking glasses. We then went to see a live concert by a youthful Swedish international woman music star. The melody was beautiful even when I could not understand the Swedish language. But Sweden has always had a striving pop culture since the days of ABBA.

Much as we liked the mu-

sic, we had overspent our initial three hours and we had to head home. By the time we came back, the streets were empty and all shops closed except for the migrant shops that were making brisk business. At the Beckmans' we had a special traditional midsummer dinner, eaten with the etiquette of the occasion. Even the drinking of water was timed and the food was accompanied with folk songs. The Swedes love singing and I asked Gunilla whether there were professional singers in Sweden, my reason being that they would not sell since virtually everyone could sing!

Talking about food, I never got to know the names of the various Swedish dishes that my host treated me so generously to. I recall the first time I ate in a restaurant; Bjorn had to explain the dishes for me to make my choice. At the university restaurant they usually have sample plates of all the dishes of the day by the counter, so one just indicates the plate containing his choice.

The Swedes eat a lot of vegetables and green with a taste for sugar and less of solid food. The latter was to be a source of protest by Sylvester Odion. We had eaten lunch provided by the International IDEA during its conference on Democracy and Information Technology at the Stockholm Conference Centre. The meal consisted of two pieces of potato and salad. Odion had asked whether the main course was coming but after a while we left with only tea coming. Potato was the main course. When we met Babatope Babajide of *Nigeriassemblyonline*, he complained about the lightness of the food. I mentioned this to Bjorn, who kindly agreed to host this Nigerian crowd to a dinner in his house where we ate a lot of rice to compensate for the previous meals.

So much for Maypole, it was time to take to the sun and watch the flowers bloom in the countryside. Setting off for Gunilla's country home, was itself not uneventful. Gunilla had left very early to the office, from where she was to catch the bus at the university station to Norrtalje, the first leg of our journey. She wanted to clear her desk and outstanding commitments, since she was going to stay longer at the country home. Bjorn and myself set out by taking the train at Slussen, hoping to drop at Technista station, from where we would join the Norrtalje bus. Somehow, we became engrossed in discussing our project that we missed the station. It was only when we got to the university station that we realized we have missed our stop.

As we got out of the station to take the bus there, we met with Gunilla as if our arrival at the point was somehow timed. Gunilla was surprised because she was expecting to see us in the bus, rather than outside since we were supposed to join

it earlier. We joined the bus but it could not move. Soon the driver came round, talking to people. Bjorn did the translation: there was an unusual flow of passengers and since getting connection is timed, everyone wanted to join the bus. But the drivers had instructed that they could not take an overload of up to eight people (without luggage) and five (with luggage), otherwise if the driver is caught, he loses his/her driving license. The orderly passengers soon obliged and we got going.

However, because of this little complication, we could not arrive at the right time and all the connecting buses for those of us going out of Norrtalje had left. This meant we would have to wait for 20 more minutes to get into the next bus. For those of us who were going to Grisslehamn way, the driver decided to pursue our connecting bus, an unusual option, since he was going to create another problem for those going to Stockholm, where he was to return. For more than 10 minutes he could not establish contact with the bus and most of the passengers were cursing privatization as the cause of the problem.

Until recently, the transport system in the Stockholm region has been run by the government. However, the ruling Liberal government had introduced some limited privatisation, which allows private companies to run the bus system on more or less commission basis. For a Nigerian, where public or private, the buses are crowded, untimed and arbitrary, the delay seemed quite amusing. I still could not understand where the fault of privatization lies in this particular instance.

Going up north from Stockholm one is struck by the variegated landscape of Sweden. First, we left the waters of Stockholm. Immediately after Taby one gets a fine view of well-maintained forest. Going further up, the land begins to appear rocky. This supports little agriculture and indeed proceeding up north where what is called the Lappland, no agriculture takes place. It is incredible that only eight percent of the total land of Sweden is under cultivation with only 2.5 percent of the labour in agriculture, yet the country is self-sufficient in food production.

We got to Orp at about 4 p.m. and crossed a stripe bridge, which separates the inland we were going from the main Stockholm Island. This is yet another thing about Stockholm. It is officially referred to as the city on an island. Truly, Stockholm is a city in water. The city, which consists of over 1000 islands, is actually on the inlet of the Baltic Sea.

A few kilometres from here we were at our place. This is a very remote rural setting, much like the Fulani settlements in the plains of Hadejia-Jama'are River basin. The Andrea home consists of two main houses and three other smaller ones. One of the big ones is the Gunilla's while the other is her brother's. Up the road, their neighbour is about half a kilometre away while further in, the next neighbour is about a kilometre. Facing the house, for about one kilometre is a thick forest, which ends up in the sea.

We settled into our new houses and had tea and later rested. I was shown to the conveniences, including the latrine as Bjorn calls it. Later we decided to take a walk through the forest to the sea.

*Y.Z. Ya'u lectures at the Faculty of Engineering Bayero University Kano.*



Yachts dock in Harbour, Gothen Canal, Sweden



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## NEWS

# Don lists ways of tackling universities' problems

A university don, Professor Yusuf Jatto, of the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, has listed five cardinal ways government needed to complement efforts of authorities of the nation's ivory towers and all major stakeholders of the country's educational sector to save the sector from irreversible decay.

Speaking at a national seminar at the Federal College of Education (Technical), Bichi, Kano State, at the weekend on the theme, "The future perspectives for education in Nigeria," Professor Jatto said that all programmes of studies offered in our universities must be intensified and diversified for the development of high level manpower within the context of the needs of the economy.

To enable the universities do this, he said, there must be more effective machinery for the identification of the manpower needs of the economy.

In professional fields, course content should reflect

From Waziri Isa Gwantu, in Zaria

Nigeria's national requirements and consultations should be encouraged between the universities, the employers and the government in this regard.

The government, the employers and the universities, he stressed, were expected to dialogue continuously to create and maintain the right atmosphere for co-operation with a view to utilising the talent and expertise in the universities more in national development and decision making than at present.

"Universities' research programmes should be relevant to the nation's developmental goals and to assist in national development," he said.

The university don assured that if these points were brought into play, the nation's dream towards meeting with educational needs of the 21st century would be achieved and would lead to the revolutionisation of the entire educational sector.



Prof. Borisade, Education Minister

The Minister of Education, Prof. Babalola Borisade, has emphasised the need for community participation in the Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme, adding that only this would ensure its success.

Speaking at the opening of a two-day orientation workshop for UBE zonal coordinators, monitoring and Liaison Officers in Abuja last week, the minister said communities should be owners of the programme and its projects while the co-ordinators would serve as facilitators.

Charging the co-ordinators to embrace the new UBE focus which he said emphasises effective co-ordination, viable field activities and sustained social

## Minister stresses community participation in UBE

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

mobilisation, Prof. Borisade assured them that the government would provide them with all they needed to succeed.

"I have always emphasised that the UBE programme necessarily needs to be heavy in mobilisation if it were to succeed and that all hands need to be on deck.

"The implication of this is that at various level of the project administration, all the officers involved should be adequately equipped and sufficiently motivated and mobilised to carry out their

assignments," he said.

According to him, the handing over of keys of vehicles to zonal officers which took place at the occasion was in fulfilment of this gesture, even as this will bring about effective monitoring.

The UBE zones, two in each geo-political zone, comprise of Ilorin and Makurdi for North-Central; Ado-Ekiti and Ibadan for South-West; Yola and Bauchi for North-East; Sokoto and Kano for North-West; Owerri and Enugu for South-East; Uyo and Benin for South-South

Expatriating on the functions of the zone, the UBE National Co-ordinator, Prof. Gidado Tahir, said they should function as a replica of the programme's headquarters.

He said the zonal officers were being strengthened in terms of staff, funding, field and administrative functions.

Prof. Tahir charged the co-ordinators to be good ambassadors of the programme at the local level.

## High court restrains OYSG from demolishing estate

From Yinka Oladoyinbo, in Ibadan

An Ibadan high court has restrained the Oyo State government from demolishing a private estate known as "Prebaye's world" pending the hearing and determination of the suit filed by the defendants.

Rural Development Nigeria Ltd, owners of Prebaye's world had dragged the Oyo State government to court seeking an interlocutory injunction restraining the state government, Alhaji

Lam Adesina, the Attorney-General of the State, Commissioner for lands and housing and the state director of town planning from effecting the demolition of the estate.

The Governor of Oyo State, Alhaji Lam Adesina, had last month threatened to demolish the private estate, adjacent the University of Ibadan, alleging that the land was not developed according to the approval of the state government.

Consequent upon this, the counsel to the plaintiff, Barrister Olayinka Bolanle, filed a suit on 2nd August, joining the governor and three others as co-defendants, urging the court to preserve the property because the defendants had given a seven-day demolition notice.

He, however, noted that the defendants have right to seek for adjournment, "we will be requesting that they give an undertaking to preserve the subject matter," he added.

Counsel to the defendants, Mr. N.A. Ganiyu, a senior legal officer, however, stressed that the defendants were law abiding citizens

who would not do anything that would prejudice the adjournment of the case, "they should not entertain any fear, within seven days we should be able to put appropriate process in place," he said.

At the hearing of the motion, the presiding judge, Justice A.A. Sanda, said that both parties should uphold the status quo until the determination of the substantive suit:

He also said that the defendants or their agents should not tamper with the property in question pending the determination of the motion on notice.

The case was, however, adjourned to August 23, 2001 for further hearing.



Gov. Lam Adesina

## NLC investigates pay cut

The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Adamawa State Chapter, has set up a five-member committee to investigate the deductions being made from workers' salaries by various government agencies.

Inaugurating the committee in Yola, the state chairman of the congress, Comrade Anthony T. Vakuru, alleged that the monies being deducted from workers' salaries were being diverted.

"The setting up of this committee has become imperative as labour would not continue to sit and watch a few individuals feeding fat from the proceeds of the National Housing Fund.

"We had cause to intimate government on several occasions that the monies so

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, in Yola

deducted in respect of the scheme were not properly channelled to the appropriate quarters, but rather being diverted into private use," he alleged.

Comrade Vakuru charged the committee to ascertain the actual deductions made from workers' salaries, and find out the agencies that might have defaulted in remitting theirs.

He also charged them to ascertain the "security of the deducted monies in order to enable us demand for refund to our workers."

"It is sad to state here that since the commencement of the deductions from our salaries in respect of the scheme, government has failed in its responsibility to ensure the security of the monies deducted," he said.

## Amputee advises Nigerians

From Abdulfata Abdulsami, in Sokoto

The second convict awaiting amputation in Sokoto has called on members of the society at large to always strive to seek their daily bread through lawful means.

Speaking to newsmen after his conviction by the Upper Sharia court I Sokoto, Umaru Buda advised the general public not to indulge themselves in criminal offences.

Sentence of amputation of right wrist was passed on Umaru Buda of Kambama village of Shagari Local Government, Sokoto State by Upper Sharia court I, Sokoto.

Delivering the judgement, the judge, Ahmadu Bello Gidado, disclosed that the sentence passed on Umaru Buda was based on some items worth N5,060 he stole and reached an aggregate amount or value (NISAB) stipulated by Sharia law for amputation.

He further said that the convict had the right within the Islamic legal code to file an appeal within two days, if he disagreed with the judgement passed by the court.

During the court proceeding, the prosecution, Corporal Mohammad Mohammad, explained that the convict was charged for theft and trespass contrary to sections 146 and 191 of the Sharia penal code (SPC), adding that he confessed before the court to committing the offence.

### KANO STATE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (MANR) INVITATION FOR TENDER CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS FOR SECTOR 5, 6 AND 7 WATARI IRRIGATION PROJECT

DATE: 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2001  
TENDER NO. IFB/KNARDA/NCB/001

1. The Kano State Government in its effort towards continuous support for Agricultural Development under Irrigation Scheme has approved Construction Works of Sectors 5, 6, and 7 under Watari Irrigation Project.
2. Kano State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MANR) is therefore, hereby inviting Bids for construction works of Sectors 5, 6, and 7, Watari Irrigation project. Bids for incompleting work will be considered non-responsive. Discount offered by Bidder would be accepted.
3. Interested eligible Bidder may obtain information, inspect and purchase the Tender Documents at the office of:-

The Honourable Commissioner Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources Post  
Office Road, Kano, Nigeria  
Email:KNARDA@Yahoo.Com  
Telephone Number 064-630532,632875,640543

A completed set of Tender Documents may be inspected and purchased by interested eligible Bidder on submission of written application giving full name of the intending Bidder and the address for sale of Tender Document specified above upon payment of NON REFUNDABLE FEE in the form of a Bank Draft or CASH for Twenty Five Thousand Naira Only (25,000.00) in favour of the purchaser.

4. The Tender must be accompanied by Security of N500,000.00 and should be address to:  
The Honourable Commissioner Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources Post  
Office Road, Kano, Nigeria  
Email:KNARDA@Yahoo.Com  
Telephone Number 064-630532,632875,640543

On or before 3rd September 2001.

5. Tender will be opened in the presence of those Bidders Representatives who choose to attend the Tender Opening on 3rd September 2001 by 10:00am (Local Time). At the office of:

The Honourable Commissioner Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources Post  
Office Road, Kano, Nigeria  
Email:KNARDA@Yahoo.Com  
Telephone Number 064-630532,632875,640543



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# INSIDE POLITICS

## N90m trip: Kano Assembly under fire

**K**ano State House of Assembly has come under severe criticism following the planned foreign trip by the entire members of the House which is expected to gulp N90 million.

Reacting to the trip which is sponsored by the state government, an elder of All Peoples Party (APP) Alhaji Tanko Yakasai, said it is abnormal for all members of the House to embark on foreign trip.

He told *Daily Trust* in Kano that the practice during both the first and second republics was that selected members of the relevant committees were allowed to undertake such trips in order to study certain areas of specialisation.

"I do not see any justification for the entire members to travel and on such mission. They may have their

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Kano

reasons but it doesn't make sense to me," he stated.

Alhaji Tanko Yakasai said spending such huge amount of money on foreign trips of legislators who may have no relevance to the area of specialisation amounts to wastage of resources.

One of the three members who declined going on the trip, Alhaji Abdullahi Yusuf



Gov Kwankwaso

Atta from Fagge constituency told *Daily Trust* that he backed out because the trip was not going to be beneficial to the society. He said that most of the 37 members going on the government sponsored trip were doing so for their personal benefits and not that of their communities.

He also recalled that the recommendation they submitted to the government on *Sharia* after their last foreign trip to Kuwait was kept aside during the *Sharia* implementation which has resulted in half-hearted adoption of the Islamic legal system in Kano State.

The present trip of Kano State House of Assembly members has caused an uproar among the citizens especially the involvement of the entire House members except for the three that declined the offer, Yusuf Atta, Abdullahi Gwarmai (former speaker) and Alhaji Abubakar representing Bichi constituency.

Each of the 37 members is to receive \$6,400 as estacode for 14 days on the trip that is expected to take them to US, Canada and far eastern countries.

The trip was said to have been planned since the tenure of the former speaker, Alh. Abdullahi Gwarmai, but was only approved by the executive after his impeachment.

## AD condemns FEC over National ID Card

By Reuben Yunana

**N**ational chairman of Alliance for Democracy (AD), Alhaji Ahmed Abdulkadir, has condemned the decision of the Federal Executive Council to endorse the use of the National Identify Card for future elections in the country.

Speaking exclusively to *Daily Trust*, the AD boss questioned the constitutionality and relevance of the decision taken at last Wednesday's Federal Executive Council meeting.

Said he: "The Federal Executive Council has no right to take that decision. It is not within their jurisdiction to determine how elections are

to be conducted in this country. This is an issue that should be addressed by INEC."

He advised the federal government to hands off all matters concerning elections, warning that the opposition would not allow PDP to hijack the job of INEC.

"The federal government led by the PDP today must not teleguide INEC. The National Assembly is about to pass the bill that will empower INEC to determine design how the next elections would be conducted, not the federal executive council.

"We in the opposition will never ever succumb to this kind of intimidation, INEC should determine how the next election is to be conducted. We are aware that INEC requested for N7 billion to prepare grounds for the local government election and the general elections.

"Without this money INEC is handicapped. But this does not mean government should take over and determine how the election is to be conducted. It is the responsibility of INEC," he stated.

Alh. Abdulkadir warned that his party will boycott forthcoming elections if government goes ahead with its unconstitutional stance of making INEC a parastatal of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

"INEC should be allowed to organise next voters registration exercise and not the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs just because they want to have N27 billion for whatever reason, they should not drag INEC into it and we in the opposition as said will resist it. INEC must not be a parastatal of the Federal Ministry of Information," he said.

## Ex-minister canvasses support for Dariye

From Buhari Bello, in Jos

Governor, Chief Joshua Dariye, in his efforts to transform the state.

Dr. Madugu, who is also the chairman, Board of Directors of Lower Benue River Basic Development Authority (LBRBDA), made the appeal while assessing two years performance score-card of the Dariye administration.

The former minister in an interview with *Daily Trust*, said Governor Dariye has lofty plans for the development of the state and suggested that his administration be encouraged to succeed.

He noted with satisfaction how the state government has done all within its power to complete most of the projects embarked upon by past administrations in the state.

Said he: "Dariye's administration is now two years in office and you can best assess it by taking two years of Fidelis Tapgun in the

state and two years of Chief Solomon Lar which were all elected government, then you can come out with a fair result."

In the area of education, he pointed out that most primary schools in the state, that were hitherto in a dilapidated condition are now been reliabilized by the state government.

Dr. Madugu explained that other policies of the state government, which have touched the lives of the masses in the state, include the provision of health facilities and the rehabilitation of bad roads in the state.

"The state capital, Jos, is being totally transformed through the construction of roads in all nocks and crannies of the city," he said.

He, therefore, called on those criticising the state government to have a re-think and allow the governor to concentrate on the act of governance and provision of basic amenities to the people of the state.

## Encourage retired officers to participate in politics -youths leader

From Abdu Labaran, in Katsina

**N**igerians have been urged to encourage retired military and police officers to participate in partisan politics rather than view them with suspicion whenever they venture into the political terrain.

Making the observation in a chat with *Daily Trust*, the protem chairman of the Katsina State IBB Youth Forum (IYF) Malam Ali Kuku, said the country will do well to emulate other advanced democracies, whereby political parties jostle for military and police officers to come into their fold as soon as they drop their uniform.

He noted that countries like the United States, Britain and other European nations have always found this group of people useful enough to encourage them take active part in partisan politics, especially the highest level with some of them ending up as presidents lawmakers or holding key ministerial portfolios like the current US Secretary of State, General Collin Powell(rtd).

The youth leader asserted that there was no better guarantee to sustainability of democracy and national security than the participation in politics of retired military officers, who have distinguished themselves during their previous calling as "they will now use their privileged experience to advance the interest of the nation."

He particularly urged Northerners to restrain from

castigating retired uniformed officers from the region, but rather encourage them to integrate into the civil society basically without subjecting them to the scorn of the society.

Malam Kuku canvassed for concerted efforts by Northerners to entice people like General Mohammadu Buhari, General Ibrahim

Babangida and former Inspector-General of Police, Alh. Ibrahim Coomassie, to go into full-time politics "so that the military class may feel a sense of belonging and not that of rejection."

He disclosed that the forum would soon embark on a state wide tour to sensitise people on the need to persuade General Babangida to contest the 2003 presidential election.

## Benue Assembly workers threaten strike

From Terna Doki, in Makurdi

**L**egislative staff of the Benue State House of Assembly have rejected the N.5 million outfit allowance approved by the Assembly for payment to the staff instead of the N3.5 million being owed the workers since the inauguration of the Assembly in 1999.

Reports from the Assembly indicated that the release of the amount came after immense pressure had been mounted by the staff and which had led to two previous strikes.

The aggrieved legislative staff comprising official reporters, Sergeant at Arms, Clerk at table and other administrative staff, described the approved amount as "meagre".

They are insisting that unless half of the N3.5 million owed them is released, they will embark on another strike this week.

Some of the affected staff

who spoke to *Daily Trust* on the issue said they were surprised that out of the N15 million monthly allocation to the Assembly as overhead cost, the legislators have deliberately refused to approve a reasonable amount for their wardrobe allowance.

However, while reacting to the workers' threat to go on strike, Deputy Speaker, Alhaji Sule Audu, stated that contrary to the workers' claim that N1 million was released for the payment of their allowance, the actual figure is N500,000.00 and assured that the Assembly will clear all outstanding allowances before the expiration of their tenure.

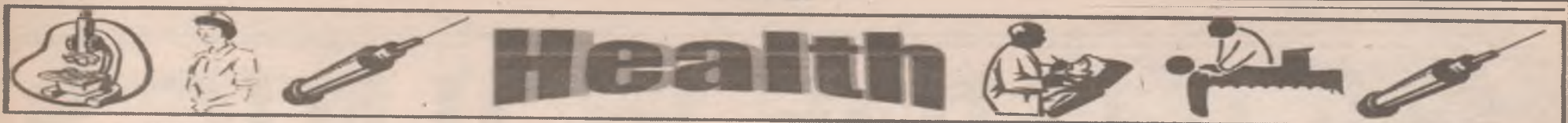
He warned those warning up to frustrate sessions of the Assembly in the guise of demanding for outfit allowance to have a rethink because of the serious repercussion of their actions.



The Emir of Dutse, Alhaji Nuhu Sunusi (l), being welcomed by the Emir of Birnin Gwari, Alhaji Zubair Jibri Magwari II at the four-day retreat for 31 Emirs and Chiefs in Kaduna State, organised by Even Development Projects, Kaduna State Government and USAID - OTI (Nigeria) held at Arewa House, Kaduna...recently

Pix: Joe Orov





## NAFDAC destroys N83m worth of drugs

The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), has so far destroyed fake drugs worth over N83 million in its renewed bid to rid the country of fake drugs.

The Minister of Health, Prof. Alphonsus Nwosu, who was chatting with newsmen at a dinner last week, said the agency has compiled a list of companies manufacturing fake drugs in Asia and had forwarded the list to their home countries for investigation and prosecution.

He pointed out that the re-energisation of NAFDAC was one of the major achievements of this administration in the health ministry, but regretted that unknown mischief makers attacked the residence of the Director-General of NAFDAC, Dr. (Mrs) Dora Akunyili.

To stem such a development, the director-

Stories by  
Ikenna Emeka Okpani

general's security has been beefed up to ensure her safety in her bid to deliver in her duties. On other achievements made by the ministry, Prof. Nwosu said immunization of children under the national programme on immunization which rose under his predecessor from 10-40 percent has risen further to 50 percent under him in the



Dr. (Mrs) Dora Akunyili.

## Health professionals to go on retreat

All health professionals in the health sector will soon embark on a retreat where decisions would be taken on how to move the health sector to a greater height as part of the plans for restructuring the health ministry for maximum performance.

This was revealed by the Minister of Health, Prof. Alphonsus Nwosu, last week while receiving a "Friend of Doctor" award from the Medical and Dental Consultants Association of Nigeria (MDCAN) at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University Teaching Hospital, Nnewi, Anambra State.

The minister used the opportunity to thank the doctors on the way they handled their last industrial action, adding that government will not renege

on the agreement reached with the doctors.

However, he said the improvement in their remuneration and condition of service demanded greater responsibilities and duties. The minister said the ultimate goal of government was to achieve patient's satisfaction, adding that this cannot be achieved if the professionals were not satisfied with their working environment.

Earlier in his speech, the President of the Medical and Dental Consultants Association of Nigeria (MDCAN), Dr. Stanley Anyawu, who described the minister as a real "Friend of the Doctors," said the award was given to the minister for his dedication, sincerity and purposeful leadership quality.

## Emzor receives award

The Board of Fellows' Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN) Tuesday in Lagos gave Emzor Pharmaceuticals Nigeria Limited an award of excellence as the best indigenous manufacturer of the year 2000.

The award was presented during the annual luncheon and mid-year meeting of the PSN in Lagos by a representative of Pharmacists, Yaro Budah, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of

From Adelanwa Bamgboye,  
in Lagos

Nigeria (PSN).

According to Prince Julius Adelus - Adeluyi Chairman of the occasion, the board of fellows PSN had set up a criteria, which looked at the profession and found out that the manufacturers are the key to the profession.

Prince Adelus-Adeluyi stated further that the award was to encourage manufacturers and also as the PSN's contribution to the society.

last six months.

Furthermore, the Ilorin specialist hospital, one of the major projects under him is billed for commissioning soon. To this end, the minister is to visit the project soon to inspect the level of preparation towards its take-off.

Speaking on what he called a six-point agenda set

by him for the ministry, Prof. Nwosu said repositioning of primary health care was one of the major aims he would pursue.

Promising that the first set of insecticide treated bednet would soon be available and distributed to wards and local governments, he added that President Olusegun Obasanjo was determined to achieve this as promised during the last African malaria day.

## Community participation important to good breastfeeding habits – Ndalolo

The minister of State for Health, Dr. (Mrs) Amina Ndalolo, last week said community participation was vital to the success of government's campaigns, especially the adoption of improved breastfeeding for babies.

The minister, who was speaking at Old Karo village during the launching of the ministry's baby-friendly community initiative as part of the activities marking this year's World Breastfeeding Week, described the community as the first baby-friendly community in Nigeria.

"I am aware that this community has been very busy for the past eight weeks undergoing training on how to feed our babies with breast milk only for the first six months. You also learnt your

practically cook foods for the older babies that are above six months," the minister observed.

She expressed optimism that the training will expose the women to available local items which will increase the variety, provide fresh meals for babies and save money for the families.

Dr. Ndalolo assured the community that the ministry will continue to encourage them to ensure that they remain baby-friendly, adding that communities will develop only when they embrace useful programmes presented to them by government.

Earlier in her welcome address, the Secretary of Old Karo village Breastfeeding Support Group, Mrs. Margaret Olukwu, assured the

## Israel seeks greater health cooperation with Nigeria

The Israeli Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Arie Avidor, has pledged his nation's commitment to the provision of technical assistance to the health sector in Nigeria as a way of improving cooperation with Nigeria.

Speaking when he paid a courtesy call on the Minister of Health, Prof. Alphonsus

Nwosu, in his office, Mr. Avidor pointed out that there was already an existing relationship between Israel and Nigeria in the area of medication education.

He, therefore, called for the deepening of the cooperation between the two countries in the field of public health.

According to the envoy, Israel possesses medical know-how in the area of medical education and equipment production which Nigeria can benefit from.

Already, an Israeli non-governmental organization (NGO), Save the Child's Heart was already engaged in providing medical care services to impoverished children at the University of Ibadan Teaching Hospital.

In his response, the Minister of Health, Prof. Alphonsus Nwosu, said he was aware of the potentials of Israel in the area of medicine and was working towards training of some Nigerian doctors in Israel in the area of ophthalmology and heart surgery.

The minister said his ministry will encourage the Israeli NGO in Ibadan in its activities. He announced government's intention to make eight teaching hospitals in the country centres of excellence.

## Expert identifies cause of failure of population policy

A population expert and country representative policy project (USAID), Nigeria, the Futures Group International, Dr. Jerome Mafeni, has said that the population policy of four children per woman failed because it did not put into consideration our cultural values which allows polygamy.

Speaking at the national

informed stakeholders review of the draft national population policy in Abuja last week, the expert said the new policy avoided such prescriptions but relied rather on the rights of individuals and couples to, "decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children."

"This new draft also

highlights the advantages of limiting population growth, the advantages it offers for the children and maternal health, family income and economy, improved education and access to quality services.

"If our population continues to increase unchecked as it was done since independence, a time will come pretty soon when the country's land mass will be unable to

sustain the people contained within it. The food shortages we are currently experiencing, long fuel queues, breakdown of public utilities and environmental degradation are nothing but early symptoms of this impending catastrophe," he said.

Dr. Mafeni said despite previous experiences, it was important to incorporate incentives to individuals in the policy to maintain smaller family sizes as being done in China and other highly populated countries.

For example, he said, tax rebates are still given only for the first four children of any family. Dr. Mafeni noted that though population sizes were viewed as a political asset and have been used by politicians to determine revenue allocation, location of industries and representation in government, modern technology has, however, shown that size was not equivalent to strength.

He called on government to make available to people information on options and services available for limiting family size and empower them to make their own decisions based on their preferences.

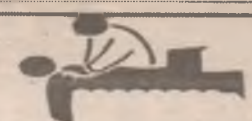


Prof. A.B.C. Nwosu, receiving the "Friend of Doctors" award from the Medical and Dental Consultants Association of Nigeria (MDCAN) ... last week.





# Health



## 600 VVF patients in Illela

The Illela Local Government Council of Sokoto State has the highest number of VVF patients with about 600 patients spread across the council areas.

This was disclosed by the Commissioner of Women Affairs and Social Development, Dr. Aisha Madawaki Isah during her visit to the area with the V.V.F. campaign team last week.

She said they were in the area in order to educate and enlighten the public on ways and method of preventing the disease adding that the disease does not only affect the underage women, but also adults due to complication experienced in an attempt to put to bed.

The commissioner remarked that the state government is doing its best in ensuring good healthcare delivery for both women and



Governor Bafarawa of Sokoto State

children, and that the council should also not relent in this direction by providing the required health facilities.

The team leader for the campaign against V.V.F. Dr. Ahmed Rufai, who is also the medical director of Maryam Abacha Women and Children Hospital, said V.V.F. is a female problem but caused by his male counterpart.

He urged the people of the council to always take all these cases relating to pregnancy to reputable hospitals/clinics for proper medical check up to guide

against unforeseen circumstances.

The medical director call on all local barbers who embark on circumcision to desist from tampering with the female organ at birth adding that people should seek for medical advice.

Responding the council chairman, Alhaji Yusuf Mela speaking through his supervisory councillor for health Alhaji Bello Darna Tsaulawo thanked the visiting team for their noble exercise and that the council would try its best by coming out to complement the governments efforts by the provision of adequate infrastructural facilities in the existing health centre.

## HIV/AIDS and its cure

By Ifeanyi Endeh Heart

Without being too technical, the HIV Virus is one of the large micro-organisms, between 20mm and 250mm in diameter, whose structure can only be seen in detail with the electronic

microscope. They are obligate intercellular parasites containing predominantly only one kind of nucleic acid (DNA or RNA) and surrounded by one layer of protein.

The infection is a genetic phenomenon due to release of the viral genetic materials into the cells. This then uses the synthetic machinery of the cell to replicate its nucleic acid and to make new viral capsid components which are later assembled into new materials virus.

It depends on the biochemical machinery of the host i.e. the granular leucocytes for their reproduction. The intimate relationship with cells during replication has made it difficult to find drugs which will inactivate the virus without also damaging the host cells, this is to say that they inhabit (live) in the

leucocytes which contains the white blood corpuscle, the various colourless amoebic cells found in normal blood to the number of approximately 8000 per mm<sup>3</sup>. These are classified as granular-leucocytes, namely: Neutrophil, Eosinophil and basophilic and we have also small and large lymphocytes and monocytes. The are an found in the blood stream and are responsible for the growth (reproduction) of cells and maintenance) i.e. "regeneration."

When the HIV (virus) enters the body relying on the leucocytes to reach all the parts of the body. They go into the lymphatic tissues and in the glands and in the nodes which is present in most organs of the body so that if there is a lymphoblast from reticulate endothelium, the result will be the virus cells been secreted into the blood stream replacing the granular leucocytes but doing a different destructive functions detrimental to the host body due to is destructive qualities and quantities.

At this stage it gives the body a clinical defect "leucocytes syndrome" due to an increase tendency to infections either by bacteria or others alike. This is the more reason why a HIV carrier tend to look pale and dry, on their faces (no oil is been felt), due to the lack of new, normal, nourishing cells to replace the death or destroys cells for the fact that, cell of the body dies and grows new ones against o replace them.

In a nutshell HIV as it stand means "human immune virus which is responsible for causing the gross damage to the entire body systems rendering them destroyed and incapable of its normal functions due to a clinical defect syndrome otherwise referred to as AIDS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), which is the sum total of the worked of the virus in the body.

The body at this stage is proved to accommodate and strange sickness or diseases, because its defence systems are deformed and are not able to resist those sicknesses so long as the virus remains in the body.

Mr. Heart, an AIDS cure claimant wrote in from Jabi.

## NITR alerts on epidemic

The Nigeria Institute of Trypanosomiasis Research (NITR), Kaduna has alerted the nation over the possible outbreak of animal sleeping-sickness (trypanosomiasis) epidemic in the country.

The Director General of the institute, Dr. Ibrahim Halid, who gave the hint while receiving the Minister of Science and Technology in his office yesterday, said severe outbreak of the disease has been reported recently in ten local government councils in the state and parts of Kwara, Ondo, Ogun, Niger and

Taraba State.

According to Dr. Halid, even the highland areas of Plateau, Taraba and Cross River States which were considered sleeping-sickness free zones, in the past, have been infected with tsetse flies, which are the transmitting agents of the disease.

He further stated that another disease which has assumed an endemic status in Nigeria was River Blindness (Onchocerciasis), which according to him is assuming a hyper-endemic level in 30 out of the 36 states and Abuja.

## WHO ranks Nigeria health system low

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

Recently, the World Health Organisation (WHO) released its 2000 Report ranking Nigeria low in the comity of Nations in terms of provision of health for citizens.

However, the Minister of Health, Professor Alphonsus Nwosu has made it clear several times that the WHO 2000 report was not an assessment of the present administration but that of the military era.

Speaking last week during a press dinner, Professor Nwosu said the year 2003 WHO report would be different as it would then be an assessment of the present administration. According to him, the year 2000 report reflects the level of dilapidation recorded in our health sector during the military era.

"By the time, the body comes out with its next report our ranking will definitely improve. You watch and see," he said.

As if the Minister has been vindicated, Professor Adetokumbo Lucas in his review of the report had stated, "It is gratifying to note the tremendous effort that the present government is putting into tackling the

formidable challenges facing this nation. In the health sector, the government has to contend with a massive accumulation of past mistakes, misallocations, and mismanagement.

Superficial cosmetic changes cannot produce the desired results. The situation calls for radical measures and strong leadership in each section of the health care system. Reform of the health system calls for integrated action among all relevant stakeholders but the primary responsibility lies with the government. The buck stops there."

The above statement contrasts with a summary of the Nigerian health system in the report which clearly states that "the Nigerian health system is sick, very sick and is in urgent need of intensive care. It is blind, lacking vision of its goals and strategies; it is deaf, failing to respond to the cries of the sick and dying; and it is impotent, seemingly incapable of doing things that neighbouring states have mastered.

In the WHO 2000 Report, a summary index of

performance of health system placed Nigeria in position 187 of 191 member states. This and other studies consistently show the poor performance of the Nigerian health system."

What is responsible for this low rating of the Nigerian health sector in the year 2000 WHO report?

According to Professor Lucas, a lot of factors are responsible, these include shortage of human resources; failures within the public sector; poor infrastructures and neglect of civil society.

His words: "Nigeria has more medical schools, more erudite Professors, more outstanding scholars and regrettably, more deaths, more disease and more disability than in our neighbouring states. It is a painful irony that Nigerian professionals and academics are highly regarded all over the world and yet, our health system does not seem to benefit from their knowledge and experience."

Part of the reason for this includes ineffective professional leadership in the associations which has led to disputes which sometimes degenerate to the point at which some groups take industrial action.

## Nature's Pharmacy



With Zainab Ujudud Shariff

## Zee's Family First Aid Kit

The kitchen is a most convenient place to discover and demonstrate the medicinal value of herbs. This is because the kitchen spices shelf or rack contains numerous available species with medicinal values. They are often referred to as "Emergency or crises medicines," and could be useful for the first stages of disease.

Thus the kitchen spice shelf can be regarded as a safe and natural alternative to the synthetic drugs found in most first aid cabinets. The spices can be used to treat common ailments ranging from wounds, bleeding, diarrhoea, headaches, heart attack, ailments of the bones, and acute infections.

It has become necessary that a family, or mother to be precise, should ensure that the following herbs which I term "Family First Aid Kit," is constantly available. Not only are they available all year, round they are also very cheap and very safe when used properly. The family first aid kit include the following herbs - Anise, Garlic, Lemon, Honey, Onion, thyme, Rosemary, Cayenne (red pepper), Ginger, Cinnamon, Basil, Cloves, Fenugreek, Nutmeg, Aloe Vera Gel, Swedish Bitters (if affordable), also in the kitchen most of the preparations are carried out using boiling water and common utensils (bowls cups and weighing scales).

Clove is one such herb it has antiseptic and anti parasitic properties it a digestive aid, warms the body, promotes circulation, and it is used to treat yalotence, vomiting, and nausea. the oil of it is used to relieve tooth ache or chew 1-3 seeds of cloves and place around the aching tooth.

N.B Clove oil should be used with care because of irritation but can be diluted with olive oil or distilled water. Suitable as mouth wash.

Celery, reduces blood pressure. It is an Appetite-stimulant, suitable in arthritis and kidney problems. Acts as antioxidant and as a sedative.

N.B. Do not use large amounts in pregnancy.

Corn silk aids bladder, kidneys and small intestine. Suitable diuretic. good for enuresis (bedwetting), oedemat, obesity, pre-menstrual syndrome. When combined with kidney herbs, opens the urinary tract and expels mucus from the urine.

Fennel is a very valuable seed spice and appetite suppressant, eye wash, promotes kidney, liver spleen and functions, clears mucus from lungs, relieves abdominal pain, gas and g.i.t. disorders. (Use: one teaspoonful of crushed seeds to a cup of boiled water and steep for 10-15 minutes) 2 x daily.

Fenugreek is a Good laxative, lubricant, reduces fever, good for eyes, helps asthmatic people and sinusitis by reducing mucus. good for inflammation and lung disorders. Useful in ulcer patient, treatment of diabetes and gout. Aphrodisiac and a rejuvenator.

Decoction: of one ounce of crushed seeds + seven crushed black pepper arms in a pint of water relieves congestion and eliminate excess mucus.

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(A) To prepare garlic oil used in colds, fevers, flues, and infections diseases. Take 4 ounces of crushed garlic in a jar and add enough olive oil or vegetable (cotton seed oil) to over. Shake well and allow to stand in warm place for 3 days-garlic oil.

Dose: 1 table spoonful every 3-4 hours. Use 2-3 drops for earaches, for body aches, sprains and minor skin disorders rub directly to the affected area.

(B) Garlic syrup is prepared by using around of crushed garlic (or 453 grams) put in ajar, add 2 pints of apple Cider Vinegar + 2 pints of distilled water cover and let it stand in warm place for four days, shaking a few times a day. Then add one cup of glycerine and let it stand for another day and strain. Filter the mixture and add honey and mixed thoroughly. Store in a cool place.

Dose: take one tablespoon of the syrup 3 x daily before meals incases of coughs, colds, sore throats, high or low blood pressure etc.



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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### PUBLIC NOTICE

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**ALHAJI. MUHAMMAD ABDULLAHI AMEER**  
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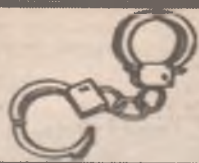
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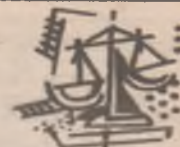
## CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as **MISS NA'OMI DAVID**, now wish to be called **MRS. NA'OMI JONATHAN**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.





# Crime & Punishment



## Police arrest corps member over bank robbery

The police in Lagos have arrested a youth corper who served in Jigawa State suspected to have master minded a bank robbery at Union bank, Ilupeju, Lagos were about N13.7 million was allegedly carted away.

Briefing newsmen in Lagos, Mr. Mike Okiro, Lagos Police Commissioner said a member of the gang of seven armed robbers that robbed Wema Bank Plc, Okokomaiko branch, Ojo, on June 7, 2001, Kingsley Okire was arrested and in the process of interrogation also confessed to the Union bank robbery which Paul Samuel Chime the youth corper master minded.

The armed robbery suspect also confessed robbing Atlantic Textile Manufacturing Company Limited, Rose Pure Water and a bakery at Igbosere in Lagos.

Other places robbed by the gang included A.A. International School and Boutique Fashion House in Satellite town.

According to Mike Okiro, effort is being made to arrest other members of the gang still at large in order to recover the robbed money and property as well as their guns.

### ..... nab 14 suspects

Police authorities in Port Harcourt have arrested 14 persons suspected to be men of the underworld while in the process a member of the gang allegedly died in a shootout with the police.

Speaking to the *Daily Trust*, the State Police Public Relations Officer, Dr. Uche Mike Chukwuma (ASP), said the first batch of the bandits were chased to their hide-out by the police and rounded up after a gang duel.

Chukwuma stated that the suspected robbers upon sighting the police at their enclave around Bundu area of Port Harcourt, the leader of the gang opened fire on the law enforcement agents but later lost-out because of the superior fire power of the police and were all rounded up, while one of them died in the process.

The Assistant Superintendent of Police and the State's Police image maker told *Daily Trust* that four member of the gang were arrested while the remaining six were picked up at different locations following con-

Other members of the gang include Rashidi Abu 24, Sunday Akaka 23, Alex Nagberi 23 and Amaechi Emmanuel 43.

The rest are Darlinton Ejike 30, Paul Samuel Chime 25 and 23 year-old Udo Chukwu.

*Daily Trust* had earlier reported that F/No. 80685, Police Corporal Olusakin Oyeniran and one Adewunmi Dada were both shot dead in the bank robbery operation at the Union bank Plc, Ilupeju on March 27, 2001. The police corporal's service pistol was also taken away by the gang.

Okiro stated further that on July 31, 2001 armed robbers attacked one Mechukwu Onigire and robbed him of N283,000 along Isaac Williams Street Lagos.

According to him, a police patrol team raced down to the scene and following a gun battle that ensued, three of the robbers were killed and one pump action rifle No. L926087 with one live cartridge was recovered.

Meanwhile, the office of the Police Community Relations Committee on July 24, 2001 made a cash gift of N120,000 to the families of the slain policemen.

fessions by the arrested four.

Police said in another development, an SS III student of Stella Marris College, Port Harcourt and two others were arrested following a distress call by members of the public while they were trying to snatch a car from a man.

Dr. Chukhuma added that one Mohammed Beshin who recently fled from the police command cell and had been on the wanted list of the state CID was also among those picked up.

Police said all the suspects "have confessed" to their alleged crimes and would soon appear in court as soon as investigations into their cases are completed.

### ..... gets new headquarters

The President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo (GCFR), is to commission the new multi-million naira Police Force Headquarters located at central area, Shehu Shagari Way, Abuja on Thursday, August 16, 2001.

In a release signed by Haz Iwendi, Force Public Relations Officer, the magnificent edifice, named

While taking stock of its performance in sustaining the war against crime in Lagos State, Okiro said that his men and officers are mindful of the increasing demand for public safety hence, the strengthened motorised patrol with back up within the state.



Mr. Misiliu Smith, I.G.P.

## Woman docked for 419

By Uwem Umo

A 30 year-old woman, Helen Ezenwanyi alias Helen Oliver has appeared before an Abuja Upper Area Court Judge charged for criminal conspiracy and cheating.

According to the police First Information Report (FIR), Helen who resides in Jabi village, Abuja and acting in conspiracy with two others, allegedly deceived one Fatima Ahmed of Gwarimpa Housing Estate promising that they could solve her financial and other spiritual problems and in the process deceitfully extorted N55,000 from her on the pretext they could make her

rich.

*Daily Trust* findings revealed that Helen acted as a bait to a fellow woman while the two arguing co-conspirators who are men played the role of a herbalist and the assistant to the herbalist to perfect their criminal act.

However, the woman pleaded not guilty to the two criminal charges of conspiracy and cheating contrary to sections 97 and 322 of the penal code preferred against her.

Her co-conspirators, according to the police are still at large hence the

prosecuting police officer, Mr. Yakubu Sani vehemently opposed her bail arguing that if granted bail, she could jump bail even as her co-conspirators are still at large also.

The presiding judge, Alhaji Aliyu Abdulrahman upheld the submissions of the prosecutor and ordered away with wrist watches valued N2.5 million.

## Three bizmen in court over N2.5m wristwatches

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, Lagos

The trial has started in Lagos of three businessmen who allegedly broke into a shop and stole assorted wrist watches valued N2.5 million.

The accused persons, Boniface Ayogwu, Bernard Adega 36 and 40 year-old Augustine Obieze are pressed with three count charges of criminal conspiracy, theft, and burglary.

According to the police prosecutor, the three accused persons on July 7, 1994 at about 2:00 p.m. at No. 27, Idumagbo Avenue Lagos did conspired gether with intent to commit felony, to wit stealing.

Testifying before the court, the first prosecution witness narrated how the accused persons over powered the complainant Alhaji Wahabi-Yusuf and bolted away with wrist watches valued N2.5 million.

In their defence, the accused persons claim on that the complainant was owing them some money and as he failed to pay, they opted for self help.

Meanwhile, all the accused have been released on bail at N.5 million with two sureties.

## Robbers join breast feeding campaign

dence, he was however woken up by the persistent crying of the baby before it later became silent.

"I overheard the robbers abusing everybody including the nursing-mother whom they accused of attempting to use her baby to distrust their operation," he said.

He said that the robbers who were about 20 in number carted away money, electronic gadgets and clothes, adding that they however abandoned some items like pants and other underwears near a bridge behind Federal College of Education, Zaria.

A gang of bandits in Zaria, Kaduna State last week joined the campaign on breast-feeding when they advised one of their victims, a nursing-mother to breast-feed her baby to stop its crying.

The robbers, who were operating at Gyallesu area, near Kongo Conference Hotel, Zaria, on the fateful day ordered the nursing-mother to stop the baby from crying or face their wrath.

The victim was however "helped out" by one of the robbers, who, advised her to breast-feed the baby to end the crying.

Narrating the episode to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), a neighbour of the nursing-mother, one Malam Aminu said though the robbers did not rob his was resi-

## Girl killed in boy friend's residence

Police in Enugu have arrested two members of the Vigilante Group in Abakpa Nike area of the metropolis for allegedly killing a girl, who went to seek their assistance over the boy friend's threat to her life.

A police source told NAN in Enugu at the weekend that the girl was killed by a shot fired accidentally from the gun of one of the vigilante members at the residence of the girl's boyfriend.

"After lodging her complaint, two members of the group accompanied the girl to her boyfriend's residence where the incident took place.

"But as they were waiting for the boy to open the door to his room, the gun of one of them fell and killed the girl on the spot," the source added.

Meanwhile, five undergraduates from ESUT, UNEC and Ebonyi State Universities arrested two

weeks ago by the police in Enugu for alleged armed robbery have been charged to court.

Police source said that when the case came up for mention on Thursday, the boys were remanded in custody by the magistrate while a secondary school boy arraigned with them for house breaking was granted bail.

Two of the undergraduates were arrested during a robbery operation at Agbani Road in Enugu while the other three were found with a double-barrel gun and six live ammunitions at a police check-point along Enugu-Abakaliki road (NAN)



Former Inspector-General of Police and the Sardaunan Katsina, Alhaji Ibrahim Commassie discussing with General Ibrahim Salihu (rtd) at the meeting of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) in Kaduna.... recently



# Abuja News

## FCT minister calls for more resourceful youths

Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Engr. Muhammad Abba-Gana, has urged youths in the country to reflect on their problems, prospects and plans for future challenges through meaningful programmes.

Abba-Gana, made the call at the weekend during the international youth week celebration in Abuja.

The minister who was represented by the director of health in the ministry, Dr. Moses O. Ayo, said that youths in the country should imbibe the virtues of the theme of this year's celebration "Youth volunteerism in Nation Building," adding that youths are the most vibrant group and should make themselves available as vanguards of volunteerism.

"This is your weekend, you should allow the spirit of comradeship and competitiveness to pervade throughout this occasion and thereafter," he said.

The minister further added that as leaders of tomorrow, the lessons learnt and the friendships made at the celebration should ever remain fresh in their memories and should serve as a

By Emmanuel Ande

pivot for the future development of the nation.

He maintained that great thinkers worldwide have focused their minds on the search for the best way of harnessing the energies of the youths, who are considered the most vital resources for national development.

Abba-Gana pointed out that apart from the global concern, here at home, from pre-mordial times through the colonial period till date, communities, agencies and governments have made strenuous efforts to develop



Engr. Abba-Gana

the potentials of the youths, adding that this was informed by the present administration's commitment towards youth development.

The celebration which is organised by the Ministry of Women Affairs and Youth Development in collaboration with the FCT Ministry, is to last for five days papers are to be presented by different speakers on issues effecting the Nigerian youth.

## Isma'il counsels on nation building

The Minister of Women Affairs and Youth Development, Hajiya Aishat Isma'il, has charged youths to participate in nation building through volunteerism and conscious imbibement of the virtue of hardwork.

The minister gave the charge at the opening ceremony of the International Youth day celebration in Abuja, at the weekend.

She said to realise the aspirations of good

The Head of Civil Service of the Federation, Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, has called on all Trade Unions throughout the Federation to reciprocate government's good gesture by embracing negotiation and dialogue, instead of strikes and protests.

Alhaji Yayale Ahmed made the call on Thursday, while inaugurating the National Public Service Negotiating Council at the Presidency, Abuja.

The Head of Service noted that strikes and work stoppages should be sparingly embarked upon, more so, when most aspects of the Public Service were grouped

governance and mature democratic practice, the youths should face the challenge of volunteerism as a way of moving the nation forward.

The minister pointed out that the Federal Government recognised that the country needs the positive influence of its young generation as her future depends on how actively engaged they are in the process of development.

"It is with this knowledge that the clarion call is made to arouse your consciousness towards nation building through volunteerism. This I believe, can be achieved through conscious imbibement of positive and acceptable virtues of hardwork, discipline integrity and honour," she said.

Hajiya Aisha also enjoined youths to stop the act of vandalising government property. This she said, would make it hard for them to get improved infrastructure as money

## Yayale tasks trade unions on dialogue

By Austine Odo



Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, Head of Service

under what constitute essential services. He enjoined the council in addition to its primary function of bargaining with government, to address productivity, efficiency, optimal utilisation of manpower and personnel discipline and adherence to the ethos and ethics of the Civil Service.

Alhaji Ahmed assured the council of government's resolve not to violate trade union rights, including the rights of any worker on union membership as government would continue to promote trade unionism in all its establishments not prohibited by law.

The representatives of the Public Service Negotiating Council, Comrades Ejorfor Sunday Job and S.C. Ede, said the inauguration was a dream fulfilled, especially when it came just six months of Alhaji Ahmed's tenure as Head of Service, noting that incidences of undue interference and dictatorship had gone. They promised to make the council function well for the development of the service and the progress of the nation at large.

## Kwali chairman gets good performance rating

The people of Kwali Area Council in the FCT have expressed gratitude to the chairman of the council, Hon. Samuel Gwamna, for providing them good drinking water.

According to a cross-section of residents in the area who spoke to *Daily Trust* in separate interviews at the weekend, Honourable Gwamna has to a great extent, transformed the lives of people in the area within his two years in office. They said many developmental projects had taken place to better their lives. For instance, in Kwali town, residents praised the chairman for the provision of many culverts which they said, had made their roads more assessable. In Daka, the residents were thankful to the chairman for constructing wells for water supply.

The people of Pai village however appealed for the rehabilitation of the primary school, just as the people in Kwali town called for the reactivation of the road linking the town to the council headquarters.

A resident of Pai, Malam Danladi Guwang, told *Daily Trust* that he, like most residents of the area, were pleased with the performance of the council chairman whom he said, had been very responsive to their

yearnings and aspirations.

Another resident of Pai village, Mrs. Eugenia Agum said she was "inspired" by Honourable Gwamna's approach to developmental projects in the area council, adding that if all council chairmen were like him, rural communities within the FCT would record rapid infrastructural development.

In Daka village, a cross section of residents also expressed gratitude to Honourable Gwamna for the wells which they said had helped to alleviate the sufferings of the people as a result of persistent water shortages.

A resident who simply identified himself as Malam Dahiru said the Kwali council chairman is one of those politicians who fulfil their promises thereby trying as much as possible to avoid letting the people down.

He however, urged Honourable Gwamna to continue to strive to provide other basic amenities to the people to ensure that he has less campaigns to embark upon if he were to aspire to any other office in or out of the Kwali area council.

Another resident, Mr. Daniel Fwah, however said the council lacked most of the basic facilities that could make life comfortable for an average resident and called on the chairman to sit up.

## Lizard disrupts wedding in Idu

A traditional wedding was disrupted in Idu, an Abuja suburb at the weekend by the killing of a giant Lizard by the groom to the chagrin of the bride's relatives

Arrangements for the final rites of the marriage were getting to a climax when the giant Lizard was sighted at the bride's compound, taking in the run's rays. It refused to leave despite several efforts to drive it away.

The groom was said to have been enraged by the sight of the Lizard, which he described as an inauspicious sign. He said he dreamt the previous night that a witch transformed into a Lizard to invoke ill luck into his marriage on his wedding day.

"I vowed to kill the Lizard, even in my dream, but it disappeared, only to resurface in real life. I had no choice than to destroy the miserable thing," said Okopi, the groom.

He was said to have made the killing of the Lizard a matter of life or death, even as on lookers, especially the bride's relatives spoke against it. The bride's relatives were reported to have become "highly" embarrassed with Okopi's "unusual" outburst at the Lizard.

The relatives then felt he must have developed some

By Austine Odo

mental problems, and decided to suspend the wedding that day," a relative told *Daily Trust*. But this did not go down well with Okopi, who insisted that he killed the Lizard to remove what he regarded as an ominous sign for his marriage. "He was very

pleased that he killed the Lizard" said Unuku, his brother.

The bride was said to have wept profusely, but her relatives impressed upon her, the need to have the wedding shifted for 'obvious traditional considerations.'

"It will not shake my love for Okopi, let ten more Lizards come around," she sobbed.



Head of Service of the Federation, Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, (in suit) at a recent parley with Permanent Secretaries and Directors in the Federal Civil Service in Abuja





## Nigeria's contingent disqualified for fielding over-aged players

Three of the four-member national contingent to the West African U-14 Tennis Caravan were disqualified for being over-aged.

Two boys and a girl, led by coach Henry Ubochi, were disqualified in Cotonou, Benin Republic, on the eve of the championships - barring them from proceeding to the next stage of the tournament in Togo.

Those disqualified include Chinenye Azuonye, Monday Igbinovia and Keinde Amosun leaving only Kuburat Oladele.

Oladele was later withdrawn from the competition by the coach, who claimed there would not be any need for her to continue in the competition since her teammates have been disqualified.

One of the disqualified players, Igbinovia, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Lagos on Saturday that the team was sent packing on Thursday after it was discovered on Wednesday that himself and two other players were over-aged.

According to him, "we did not know what happened but after coaches of the participating countries met with Nicholas Ayebea, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Co-ordinator and Secretary of the African Tennis Confederation (CAT), our coach told us that we have to leave since we have been disqualified on grounds of age."

"I do not yet understand why they registered us knowing that we are over-aged for the championship," said disappointed Igbinovia.

A tennis coach who pleaded anonymity blamed the development on poor

### Bayelsa ready for scrabble tourney

From Babs Oyetoro, in Lagos

Bayelsa State government has accepted to host the forthcoming National Scrabble Championship slated for next month in Bayelsa State.

Speaking with Trustsports, Scrabble Association of Nigeria chairman, Chief Toke Aka, said that the government has promised to put everything in place to ensure a successful hosting of the championship in Bayelsa.

Chief Aka revealed that states and various clubs are qualified to send their eateries saying that the association is trying to carry everybody, in a bid to set the stage for the National Sports Festival, where scrabble will feature as a scoring event.

Also, SCAN has commenced a familiarisation tour which kicked off from Port Harcourt last week.

Commenting on the rationale behind the familiarisation tour, the chairman said is to sensitise the whole nation about the game of scrabble.

At Port Harcourt, Trustsports learnt that the chairman donated two scrabble boards to the state sports council, in a bid to popularise the game of scrabble in that state.

### Tennis

management of the children. "This kind of situation has often made the country lose

### 300 athletes benefit from basketball clinic

About 300 children and basketball lovers on Saturday benefited from a clinic organised by a visiting Canadian basketball team - Athletes In Action (AIA) at the National Stadium, Lagos.

Athletes in Action, an arm of Campus Crusade for Christ International has been in the country on a 10-day playing tour and evangelical mission.

The team, made up of selected students from Canadian Universities had as part

out in international competitions and training opportunities."

"Nigerian tennis has gone beyond this as the nation is

endowed with talented players. There is need to check such a development to avoid frustrating budding players," he said.

of their objectives, exposure to African as well as impart basketball skills to children and other lovers of the game.

Frank Thoutenhoofd, coach of the Canadian team told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) after the clinic, which lasted an hour and half that they had held similar clinics in Jos and Kaduna.

According to him, about 500 children participated in the clinic held in the area.

"This is the little we can offer for the development of

basketball in Nigeria," said Thoutenhoofd.

The team played a total of six matches, while on the tour, winning three and losing three.

The Canadians lost a match to the Plateau Peaks, but defeated Tapgun Rockers also of Jos.

The Canadians had also defeated the NUGA team camped in Zaria and the Cardinals Basketball team also in Zaria, while in Lagos the Islanders and Dodan Warriors basketball clubs both of Lagos had avenged the string of defeats.

The team donated a ball, video cassettes entitled "Jesus" and religious pamphlets to the various clubs they played against in fulfilment of their evangelical tour.

### Kuerten crushes Rafter

Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten turned on the style to beat Pat Rafter in straight sets and win the Masters Series event in Cincinnati.

The Brazilian, who earlier put Tim Henman to the sword, played some stunning tennis on his way to clinching the first set 6-1.

In the second set, Rafter struggled to cope with Kuerten's powerful serve, and never managed to break.

Kuerten's huge band of supporters were never in any doubt their man would win,



Gustavo Kuerten, of Brazil, the number one seed, returns a volley from Yevgeny Kafelnikov, of Russia, the sixth seed, in their quarter final match at the Tennis Master Series Tournament in Cincinnati, Ohio on Saturday. Kuerten won in three sets 6-4 3-6 6-4 to advance to the semi final.

and he duly did when Rafter failed to return another fine serve in the ninth game.

The world number one, who picked up for \$400,000 for his efforts, admitted: "I was very motivated for this final."

"On Saturday I went home late and didn't get much sleep because my match with Tim kept being delayed."

"However, I found my form and am delighted to pick up another trophy after my win in Monte Carlo."

"The fans were incredible again. They push me very

hard and make me try the extra bit harder," he added.

Pat Rafter, who is making a habit out of losing finals, confessed that Kuerten was the better man on the day.

"I was just totally outplayed on the day," said. "Gustavo hit the ball well and didn't give me a chance."

"Every time I come here I seem to get better so maybe next time I will win it."

"I've been here eight times and I always respond well to the crowd and I hope to be here again."

### Cameroon star in Afro-Asian Games

Olympic champions Cameroon will be the main attraction at this

year's Afro-Asian Games tournament, Indian Olympic Association secretary general

Randhir Singh has confirmed.

The African Nations' Cup

Eight months before the World Cup finals are due to start, Cameroon are hunting in earnest for a new coach.

The job of managing the reigning African and Olympic champions was left vacant after the departure of Pierre Lechantre.

The Frenchman guided the Indomitable Lions to their third African triumph in Lagos last year.

Lechantre was replaced just before Cameroon defeated Togo 2-0 in Yaounde last month which secured them a place at the World Cup.

Since the Frenchman's shock dismissal, a number of names have been echoing around the den of the Indomitable Lions as possible successors.

Most obvious is Lechantre's French compatriot Roland Corfou, who guided the side through their remaining World Cup qualifiers.

His short contract has expired and he is reported to be interested in taking the job permanently.

However, if the Cameroonian FA, FECAFOOT, are keen on Corfu, why isn't he in the job now?

With the Olympic gold medal added to their Cup of Nations title, the Indomitable Lions are a team many coaches would cherish guiding at the World Cup.

Hence word from the street has it that several top European coaches are knocking on FECAFOOT's door.

The name is on the lips of many Cameroonians is a familiar one - Claude le Roy.

The Frenchman is widely respected after a three-year stint with Cameroon from 1985 which ended with victory at the African Nations Cup in Morocco.

Le Roy was re-appointed in 1998 as a last-minute solution to take Cameroon to the World Cup in France.

The Frenchman left an indelible image in high places and is regarded as a figure of authority whenever the Lions are in disarray.

However, the team's failure to get through the first round in France could be a factor that counts against his chances of leading Cameroon to another World Cup.

Frenchman Roland Courbis and former Dutch stars Frank Rijkaard and Ruud Gullit have also been linked to the job.

Other possibilities include Portuguese Artur Jorge and former Liverpool star John Toshack.

Despite not having a regular coach Cameroon have still managed to achieve huge success.

But surely their hopes of going a long way at the World Cup need somebody more permanent.

It's not just foreigners who are interested.

Deputy-coaches, Jean-Manga Onguene and Thomas Nkono - both former internationals - who were at loggerheads with Lechantre, are also keen to take up the post.



holders will be one of four teams representing the African continent at November's tournament, with South Africa, Nigeria and Morocco also taking part.

The quartet will face 1999 Asian Games gold medallist Iran, runners-up Kuwait, Thailand and hosts India.

The Asian tournament will serve as a useful pre-World Cup exercise for Cameroon, South Africa and Nigeria, who have already booked their places for next year in Japan and Korea.

Iran and Thailand have both made it through to the second round stage of Asian qualifying but Kuwait and India have already been knocked out.





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# NFA disowns Julius Berger

Nigeria's representatives in this year's African Champions Cup competition, Julius Berger FC should not expect any financial assistance from the Nigerian Football Association (NFA). The NFA Chairman, Brig. Gen. Dominic Oneya has said.

In a chat with

From Babs Ayetoro,  
in Lagos

Trustsports in Lagos, Oneya said the football house could not give Julius Berger any financial assistance in their quest to win the elusive Champions Cup because the NFA is not financially buoyant.

"Our hands are full al-

ready. The football house is not financially buoyant to support any club vying for honour at the continental level now," he said.

The retired army general disclosed that the NFA is saddled with the responsibility of generating money for the Nations Cup in January and the World Cup in Japan/Korea 2002.

In fact, our hands are full."

He stressed that it is not the policy of the football house to give financial support to any Nigerian team representing the country in any continental campaign. "We can give technical and moral support, as the case demands."

"Look, Julius Berger

has money. The construction company is in a position to fund the Super Eagles Nations Cup and World Cup campaigns," he said.

Meanwhile, the Bridge Boys lost 0-1 on Saturday to Congolese side, Mazembe Pembe, in their opening match of the African Champions League series.



Oneya



Tim Henman, from Great Britain, hits a volley against Gustavo Kuerten, from Brazil, during a semi-final match at the Tennis Masters Series Cincinnati tournament on Saturday in Mason, Ohio, USA.



Wavell Hinds, West Indies batsman middle, takes a quick run to reach his fifty as teammate Marlow Samuels, left, and Kenya's wicketkeeper, David Otieno, right, look on at Mombasa Sports Club ground, Mombasa, Kenya on Sunday during the final day of the second four day test match between West Indies and Kenya. Kenya were all out for 290 in 136 overs. West Indies were 277 for 5 after lunch.

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## MICHELIN

Best performances are those that last

asprn-0081



AC Milan captain, Paolo Maldini (left) receiving the TIM trophy after his team defeated Juventus and Inter in the triangular tournament.

## Strands of Fate:

written & illustrated by Bulama Mustapha

ALTHOUGH SAMIR WAS ABLE TO DODGE THE TRAILER, HE DROVE INTO A POLE

UNFORTUNATELY FOR SHAMSU, HE LOST CONTROL AND COLLIDED WITH THE TRAILER.



To be continued