

DAILY TRUST

Trust Is A Burden

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TUESDAY COLUMN

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China opposes power politics

-Chinese Ambassador

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N/Assembly may resolve impasse over Obasanjo's jet

By Reuben Yunana

The Joint Finance Committee of the National Assembly which meets today may give its approval for the purchase of a presidential jet for President Olusegun Obasanjo.

The likely resolution of the disagreement between the Senate and the House of Representatives over President Obasanjo's first and second Appropriation Bills is the result of intense lobbying and consultations by members of both Houses yesterday.

Sources at the National Assembly yesterday said members of the House of Representatives were urged to approve the purchase of the aircraft in return for two aircraft to be purchased for leaders of the National Assembly.

According to the source, if both Houses approve the purchase of the presidential jet, the executive would now present another bill for the purchase of one aircraft each for both the Senate President, Pius Anyim and Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ghali Na'Abba.

Also, the Upper House

urged the Lower House to approve the first Appropriation Bill for the purchase of the jet before there can be any harmonisation of the differences in the second Appropriation Bill passed by both Houses.

Yesterday, Speaker Ghali Na'Abba met with Deputy Senate President, Ibrahim Mantu, as consultations continued.

Also wider consultations took place on party, state and senatorial levels in a bid to resolve the logjam.

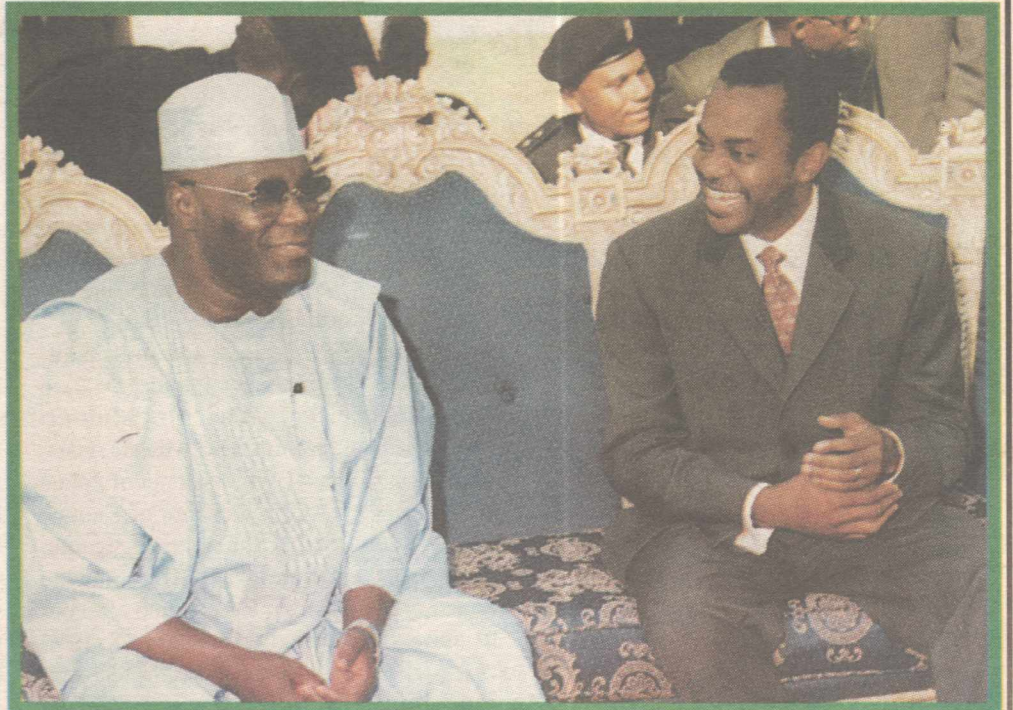
Confirming the development at the venue of one of such meetings, Senator

Adeseye Ogunlewe (AD, Lagos East) said the first supplementary Appropriation Bill for the purchase of an aircraft for the president at the cost of N5.46 billion would scale through.

"The president of Nigeria deserves a new plane," Ogunlewe said, confirming that the planes are to be bought for the National Assembly leadership next year.

"During the Second Republic, former Senate President, Dr. Joseph Wayas had a plane, there is nothing strange about it. It is wrong for the National Assembly leadership to write to the National Security Adviser for

contd. on pg 2



Vice-President Atiku Abubakar and Donald Duke of Cross Rivers State at the commissioning of Federal High Court in Calabar, Cross Rivers State recently.

2003 ELECTIONS

Igbos float own party

A new political party to guarantee the nomination of an Igbo presidential candidate in the 2003 polls will be launched in Enugu on July 28, according to the Igboezue Cultural Association.

Briefing newsmen in Enugu yesterday, the national leader of the association, Chief Chekwes Okorie,

who did not disclose the name of the party, said that the association had since commenced the promotion and coordination for the party's formation.

Okorie said that the party had received the blessings and endorsement of the Pan-Igbo cultural group, the *Ohaneze Ndigbo*, which, in its meeting on June 24, reaffirmed its resolution to contest in the 2003 presidential election.

BAGAUDA KALTHO Police, SSS indicted

The former Chief Security Officer (CSO) to late General Sani Abacha, Major Hamza Al-Mustapha, yesterday at the Human Rights Violations and Investigation Commission (HRVIC) indicted the Nigeria Police Force and the State Security Service (SSS) over the death of Mr. Bagauda Kaltho.

Major Mustapha told the Justice Chukwudifu Oputa panel that Although he did not know the late journalist personally, he got wind of his death on January 19, 1996, when the former Inspector General of Police, Alhaji Ibrahim Coomassie, presented some pictures of the late man to the former Head of State.

According to Al-Mustapha, the former Head of State was about to leave the Presidential Villa for the Abuja Interna

The national leader, who is also a member of the *Ohaneze*, added that the South-East caucus had elected and appointed political office holders at its meeting in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, in June, also endorsed

the Igbo political agenda.

On whether the South-East governors supported the new party, Okorie said "the five South-East governors are under serious threat and there is no way we can con-

test the 2003 presidential election on the PDP platform."

He explained that the Peoples' Democratic Movement (PDM), which is a faction of PDP, planned to take

contd. on pg 2

How self-succession bid started -Al-Mustapha

By Uwem Umo

The self-succession bid embarked upon by late Head of State, General Sani Abacha, was initiated by former Inspector-General of Police, Alhaji Ibrahim Coomassie, accord-

ing to the former Chief Security Officer (CSO) to late General Sani Abacha, Major Hamza Al-Mustapha.

Al-Mustapha made this revelation yesterday at the ongoing sitting of the Human Rights Violations and Investigation Commission (HRVIC) in Abuja.

He said the game plan as initiated by Alhaji Coomassie was that he (Coomassie) would become the Head of the Interim National Government (ING) that was to be put in place to organise the elections that would bring Sani Abacha to power.

The former Chief Secu-

riety Officer said that the former Inspector-General of Police should have been retired in 1994 and castigated him from being one of the principal architects of the self-succession plan because of selfish ambitions.

Although Al-Mustapha told the commission that he was the sole brain behind the two million man march in March, 1998, he also said that the plan was aimed at involving Nigerian youths in the self-succession plan.

Commenting on the prison notes allegedly written by Dr. Yakasai from prison, Al-Mustapha claimed that the so-called notes were fabricated by the former Inspector-General of

contd. on pg 2

FG to curb luxury imports

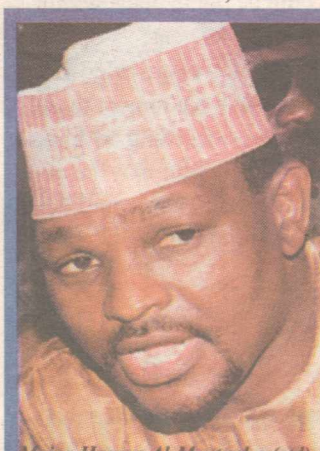
By Osborne Adi Jnr

The Federal Government will soon impose various restrictions to check the incessant importation of unnecessary goods into the country.

The action which is coming against the backdrop of the fall of the naira against major foreign currencies, occasioned by increasing import demand, according to Commerce Minister, Engr. Mustapha Bello, will involve tariff hike, quota introduction on certain goods and other measures that would boost local production.

Engr. Mustapha, who spoke in an exclusive interview with *Daily Trust* said consumables like fruit juice

contd. on pg 2



Major Hamza Al-Mustapha (rtd)

contd. on pg 2

NEWS

Contract: FG harps on financial regulation compliance

The Federal Government has stressed on the need for strict compliance with financial regulations in the award of contracts.

This was reflected in a keynote address yesterday in Abuja by the Minister of Defence, Gen. T.Y. Danjuma (rtd) at the opening of the Defence Workshop on Strategic Planning

By Hameed Bello
and Budgeting Procedures.

This emphasis came at the backdrop of government's concern for the frequent financial imprudence and fraudulent manipulation of financial figures by public officers.

The principle of "Due Process" in budgeting and its

implementation, the Minister said, has been adopted in the implementation of the 2002 budget to ensure that projects proposed for implementation agree with government policy.

The minister who noted that the "Due Process" measure will ensure transparency in project selection, costing, contract management and fi-

ancing recognised the presence of resource persons at the workshop drawn from the budget office of the federation, National Planning Commission and of Accountant-General of the Federation to present papers on how to make the process work.

Commenting on government's effort to raise

the standard of living of the citizenry, Danjuma said government is determined to create employment opportunities and reposition the Nigerian economy to be a major player in the global economy.

While admitting that these laudable objectives

could be achieved only in an atmosphere of peace and security, the Defence Minister added that the present administration has, since its inception, been advocating and working towards revamping the military to enable it attain professionalism.

Niger assembly passes 6 bills for Sharia

The Niger House of Assembly has passed into law six bills that granted the state government legal backing to fully implement the Sharia legal system in the state.

The Speaker of the House, Alhaji Alhassan Toro, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Minna at the weekend, that two other bills on Zakat endowment and establishment of the state Sharia commission were receiving accelerated deliberations.

Toro listed the six bills already passed as the bill for a law to amend the district courts law cap. 37, bill to amend the criminal procedure code law cap. 35 and a bill to amend, law cap. 71.

Others include, the bill for a law to amend penal code law cap. 94, the bill for a law to make amendment on the Sharia courts of appeal law cap. 122 and another one

for law to amend the area court law cap. 8.

He said that the Assembly was committed to the implementation of the Sharia law and ensure that the laws governing its practical application were such that justice would be done to all manner of people resident in the state. To learn from the states that had implemented the legal system and avoid any possible loopholes, the Speaker said that the House Committee on Judicial Matters had travelled to Zamfara, Sokoto and Kano States to compare notes.

He appealed to Muslims in the state to see the introduction of Sharia as an opportunity for them to be pious, God fearing and trustworthy not as an avenue for fermenting trouble and endangering the peaceful co-existence between them and non Muslims in the state.

Bagauda contd. from pg 1

tional Airport, when the former Inspector General arrived in a haste to brief Abacha.

He said his boss who was in a hurry to depart the villa ordered Coomassie to ride with him in the presidential limousine to the airport and brief him on the way.

According to him, the former police boss later presented some pictures of a mutilated body to the former Head of State and informed him that the man in the picture was late Bagauda Kaltho.

He identified the pictures presented to the commission as the same ones he was given inside the president's limousine to keep and added that he was shocked to learn that the journalist died of bomb blast in Kaduna rather than in an auto crash as earlier claimed.

The former Chief Security Officer accused Alhaji Coomassie of using policemen to achieve dubious aims by arranging the "compartmentalisation of

investigations."

On the disagreement between the police and the SSS over the cause of death of Kaltho, the late Kaduna based correspondent of *The News* magazine, Al-Mustapha said the two security organisations were never in good terms except when they had common interests.

He cited the case of late Chief Alfred Rewane who was shot and killed in his home in Ikeja, Lagos in 1996 as a classical case of "compartmentalisation of investigation" to achieve dubious objectives.

According to him, former Lagos State Police boss, Mr. James Danbaba is being roped into the murder of the late businessman because he insisted on telling the truth as a result of the preliminary investigations he conducted into the killing.

Mustapha said investigations into some cases were never concluded by those who started them, adding that preliminary investigations were also truncated by

later day findings because the team that begins investigations never concluded then adding that the actual perpetrators of the Pa Rewane murder were allowed to die in detention while one escaped to Ivory Coast.

Earlier, a deputy commissioner of police (DCP) in Uyo State, Mr. Muktari Ibrahim who was an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) in charge of Kaduna State Criminal Investigation Department (CID) when the Durbar Hotel bomb blast occurred on January 18, 1996 said he was among the first to arrive the scene of the blast.

He said he took pictures of the deceased and confirmed that the SSS later identified the victim as Bagauda Kaltho.

However, the commission's chairman, Mr. Chukwudifu Oputa and other members of the commission disagreed with the police and the SSS that the picture of the late person

they presented as Bagauda Kaltho could not have been the one.

The wife of the late journalist, Mrs. Martha Kaltho also disagreed that the picture she was shown was that of her late husband.

Meanwhile, the commission's chairman had sought to know from the police and the SSS why the late man they claimed died of bomb blast was naked without his shoes on.

However, the commission following the application of their counsel, Mr. Chinwe Uwandu has ordered one Mr. Gadzama and Caleb, both of the SSS and Mr. James Danbaba to be summoned to appear before the commission while adjourning the matter to July 19, 2001.

Self-succession contd. from pg 1

Police and former Head of State, Abdulsalami Abubakar.

He also added that the former Head of State, Abdulsalami Abubakar should be asked to account for the sum of N500 million, 23 assorted vehicles and 45 houses in Gwarinpa Housing Estate which he personally handed over to the former head of state adding that all the vehicles have been distributed into six warehouses owned by him.

Mustapha said that there were intrigues in high places adding that such intrigues is inhibiting the vision of the present administration.

According to him, the introduction of new higher naira currency denomination into the economy is aimed at increasing the inflationary situation in the country so as to discredit the present leadership of President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Meanwhile, the commission could not hear the petition of Dr. Umaru Dikko against former Head of State, Alhaji Muhammadu Buhari because he failed to appear before the commission.

However, counsel to the Minister of Defence, Lt. General T.Y. Danjuma (rtd) who was also mentioned by Alhaji Dikko in the 1984

failed abduction bid, was present at the commission to defend his client.

Counsel to the defence minister, Mr. Sabo Sowemimo, (SAN) informed the commission that he could not cross examine Alhaji Dikko because he had not been given a copy of the transcript of the evidence.

At this stage, the commission's chairman, Mr. (Justice) Chukwudifu Oputa (rtd) ordered the counsel to the commission to serve Chief Sowemimo (SAN) with the transcript and adjourned the case to July 18, 2001.

FG contd. from pg 1

and biscuits, and other products like textiles are flooding the nation's market in an unprecedented manner thus pushing local manufacturers out of business, thereby impacting negatively on the economy.

He said the government was presently looking at the elemental relationship between these imports and the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) with a view to listing items that sum to be injuries to our economic interest in order to apply the necessary remedies.

At the centre of the new initiative, the minister said, were some incentives which the federal government was packaging through the Nige-

ria Export-Import Bank (NEXIM) to assist private entrepreneurs to set up plants that will produce fruit juice of both quality and standard that could compete with the imported ones.

Also, the government was contemplating the introduction of quota on fruit juice, biscuit and other sundry items, by putting a ceiling on the specific amount to be allowed for importation.

"Take for instance, fruit juice. If we find out that we are spending as much as \$200 million to import them, we would now put a ceiling of say \$20 million. In this case we wouldn't accept the importation of more than \$20 million worth of juice.

"Government is taking inventory of all imports into the country. We are starting with the period of January 2000 to January 2001. In fact we may even go up to March this year. By the time we are through, we will be in a position to take a decisive position," he said.

The minister assumed that by the time the government was through with its study, the needed plants would be put in place within the next one year.

He, however, ruled out the outright banning or these items as according to him, countries which may be affected by the ban could decide to retaliate.

N/Assembly contd. from pg 1

the release of a plane from the presidential fleet anytime they need to travel," he stressed.

However, Senate's position is contrary to that of the

Speaker Na'Abba who last Sunday told journalists in Kano that the purchase of a presidential jet for Obasanjo was not a priority of the House.

Making his position clear the Speaker argued that the request by the President had no relevance to the welfare of the people.

Igbos contd. from pg 1

time the party is launched, 19 states would fly, the party's flag."

The party chieftain said that the positions were spread across the six geopolitical zones, with the South-East producing the Chairman and Treasurer, while the North-central will produce the secretary.

Okorie assured Nigerians, especially Ndigbos that the new party would not be hijacked by past Igbo leaders whom, he described as "expired Igbo liabilities."

He warned that any attempt by any person or group of persons to undermine or frustrate the registration of the party "shall be vehemently and forcefully resisted."

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that already, posters of the new party with a red and black feathered cockerel as symbol are in circulation in Enugu.

According to Okorie, the party's motto is "Be your brothers' keeper."

NEWS

Sharia: Emir stresses need to protect non-muslims

The Emir of Ningi in Bauchi State, Alhaji Nusua Danyaya, has called on state governments that have introduced the Sharia legal system to protect the interests of non-muslims, as required by the Holy Quran.

Twelve states out of the 19 in the northern part of the country have so far introduced the Sharia legal system as part of their judicial system. Danyaya was speaking at the weekend in Jos, during a fund raiser for the development of Islamic education and purchase of

science equipment, organised by an Islamic organization known as JIBWIS.

The traditional ruler noted that protecting interests of non-muslims in Sharia states would promote peaceful coexistence among the adherents of all religions. "If God wanted, He would have created all of us muslims or Christians in this country, but he created some Christians,

some muslims and some pagans," he said. The royal father, who was the chairman of the occasion, stressed the need for every muslim to acquire both western and Islamic education.

He also urged Islamic scholars to intensify efforts towards enlightening and educating muslims on the importance of education, pointing out that "no

meaningful development can be achieved in any society if the people are illiterate." He similarly emphasized the need to educate non-muslims on the fact that the Sharia legal system encompassed all aspects of a muslim's life and that there was need for them to fear it.

Earlier in his remark, the Plateau State Governor, Chief Joshua Dariye, who was represented by the Deputy Speaker of the state House of Assembly, Alhaji Usman Musa, had enjoined muslims to donate generously to the fund.

No compromise on Nigeria's sovereignty - Obasanjo

By Hammeed Bello

The President and Commander-in-Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo has said the preservation of Nigeria's corporate unity is not negotiable.

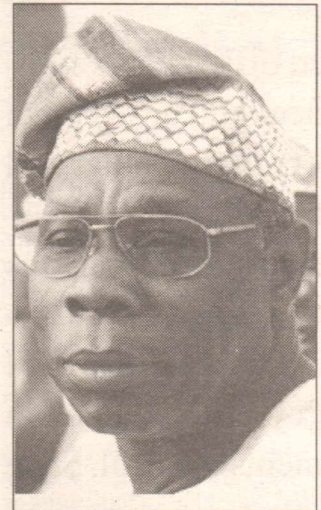
The president, who was represented by the Defence Minister, Lt.-Gen. T.Y. Danjuma (rtd), said this at the graduation ceremony of the Command and Staff College (SCS) in Jaji, Kaduna State.

President Obasanjo branded those who are insisting on Sovereign

National Conference (SNC) as a precondition to our continued coexistence as "undemocratic".

While emphasizing on dialogue as a fundamental element in a democracy, the president maintained that only elected officers can exercise sovereignty on behalf of the people.

He enjoined people to be vigilant for unpatriotic opportunists who may want to distract the military from its constitutional role of



President Obasanjo

defending the territorial integrity of the country.

Similarly, the president advised that "failed politicians and pseudo-intellectuals" who try to incite the military into undermining democracy should be reported to security agencies for proper attention.

Kano approves purchase of N100m teaching materials

Kano State government has approved the purchase, distribution and stocking of teaching/learning materials worth over N100 million, Kano State Deputy Governor, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje has said.

He told a meeting of State Primary Board chairmen and focal officers from 10 northern states in Kano that the present administration in the state, has education as its cardinal principle and will continue to use anything available at its disposal to improve the education of children in the state.

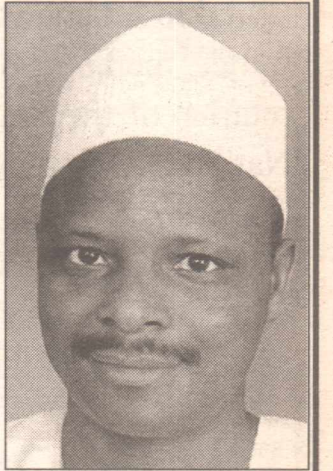
Dr. Ganduje said the government, through local government community re-orientation committees, has succeeded in encouraging community participation in education through which many dilapidated schools were rehabilitated within the shortest possible time and with minimum resources.

"I am happy to say the success recorded in this respect is unprecedented in

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Kano

the history of education in all the northern states," he boasted.

The deputy governor said the child friendly schools



Gov Kwankwaso

initiative's aim at creating conducive learning atmosphere for children, makes the concept more relevant to Kano State and urged the participants to critically examine the issues at stake and come up with workable strategies that will ensure the successful rehabilitation of child friendly schools initiative.

Gani Adams beats security, addresses OPC in Ilorin

A leader of Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC), declared wanted by the police, Mr. Gani Adams, has vowed that a Yoruba Oba for Ilorin would soon become a reality, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports.

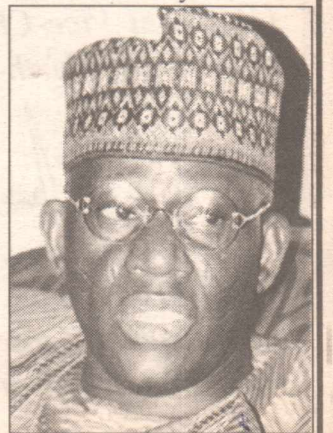
Adams, beat hollow all the

police security to arrive in Ilorin on Sunday where he addressed a meeting of zonal coordinators of the Yoruba militant group, the OPC. According to him, the traditional rulers in the South-West were working out strategies, in collaboration with OPC, toward achieving the Yoruba agenda for Ilorin.

Fuming with anger, Adams told journalists that a Yoruba Oba for Ilorin "is already a settled matter as far as OPC is concerned."

Adams added: "This is our own land; this is our fatherland; it is Oodua's land, and anybody calling himself an emir, who is an intruder on our land, will soon leave."

The Yorubas in Ilorin have been clamouring for an Oba to rule over their affairs in a city that has an emir as its traditional ruler. The Yorubas hinge their claim on the fact that they are the predominant ethnic group in Ilorin while the minority, the Fulanis exercise authority.



Gov Lawal

NUJ honours BON MD

The Managing Director of Bank of the North, Shetima Bulama has been conferred with the award of the man of the millennium.

The award was conferred on him by the Kano chapter of the NUI last Saturday at a man of the millennium award and launching of its calendar.

Speaking during the ceremony, the President of the NUI, Mallam Abdullahi Shanono extolled the sterling qualities of Alhaji Shetima Bulama.

He stated that the managing director was chosen as man of the millennium of virtue of his performance.

Mallam Abdullahi Shanono said that the award is meant to encourage others in their different fields of endeavour.

Others honoured were the Chairman of Tarauni Local Government Area, Alhaji Kabiru Umar Sanda for his

From Jamilah Nuhu Musa, in Kano

efforts towards the improvement of the people's well-being.

Journalists who had also proved their mettle include Mallam Uba Abdullahi Tudun Wada of the Ministry of Information, Kano, Bashir Habib, Agency for Mass Education, Hassan Tukur Hassan, Triumph Newspapers, Shehu Adamu, NTA, Usman Ahmadu, Kano STV, Mike Idi, SWAN, Habibu Liman, Radio Kano and Haladu Kumbotso, National Orientation Agency.

The Kano State Commissioner for Information, Alhaji Nura Mohammed Dankade was also honoured at the occasion.

In his speech at the occasion, the commissioner said that the state enjoys cordial relationship with the press. He enjoined the NUI to continue to champion the cause of freedom of speech and promote democratic values.



Gov Adamu Mu'azu

Cartoon Contest!

Entries are invited for a cartoon contest in Daily Trust newspaper. Entries could be on any theme, and they should have contemporary relevance and significance.

Rules of the contest

1. All submissions must be original and expressed in the English Language.
2. All entries should provide evidence of talent and imagination.
3. Each contestant is allowed to make three submissions only.
4. The theme of each entry should be clear to any reader.
5. Submissions should be sent to the Editor, Daily Trust, P.O.Box 6873, Wuse, Abuja. 'Cartoon Contest' should be written on the top left-hand corner of each envelop. Tuesday 31st July is the closing date for the submission of entries.

Note: If you have already sent your entries, okay, but if not, please make it 26cm wide by 13.5cm deep.

Prizes

There would be a first prize of N10, 000. 00, a second prize of N7, 000 .00, and a third prize of N5, 000.00. Each award also attracts a commission to produce cartoons for Daily Trust and Weekly Trust Newspapers.

ADVERTORIAL

COMMUNIQUE OF THE NORTH-EAST PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDP) MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, 30TH JUNE 2001, AT DAMATURU, YOBE STATE.

The meeting of the North-East Executive committee of the PDP was held in Damaturu, Yobe State on Saturday, 30th June, 2001. It was attended by the Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Atiku Abubakar (Turakin Adamawa) members of the National Executive Committee, members of the Board of Trustees, Chairmen and Secretaries of the State chapters of the party, members of the National Assembly, Honourable Ministers, Special Advisers, Special Assistants and Ambassadors.

2. The Executive Committee in session reflected on the state of the party in the Zone and committed itself to a programme of revitalisation of the party at the Ward, Local, State and Zonal levels.

3. The meeting congratulated all its elected officials for commendable performance in their various offices and urged them to continue to be responsive to their electors in particular and the people in general in the discharge of their duties.

4. The meeting reviewed the implementation of various programmes of government in the zone and called on all appointed public officers to be faithful to the PDP Manifesto and to implement strictly all developmental projects contained in the various budgets passed by PDP governments at Local, State and Federal levels.

5. The Zonal Committee in session appreciated and expressed its gratitude to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo for appointing several members from the zone to key positions in Government, Boards and Parastatals. It is hoped that this gesture will be extended to other party faithfuls and deserving citizens who are yet to benefit from the President's magnanimity. The meeting however, urged those entrusted with various appointments and elective responsibilities to relate closely and regularly with the people in carrying out their assignments. The PDP controlled states and local governments in the zone have also been encouraged to emulate the example of the Federal Government in spreading appointments fairly and equitably.

6. After reflecting on the fortunes of PDP in the zone, the meeting resolved that the party must avoid the imposition of unpopular

candidates on the people in future elections. It was further resolved that in order to sustain the massive support and popularity enjoyed by the party in the zone, as reflected by its majority position at the Local Governments, State Assemblies and National Assembly representation, the party shall hold monthly rallies in the various states of the zone.

7. The Zonal Executive Committee commends the Yobe State PDP leadership for its cooperation and support in ensuring the success of the zonal rally in Yobe. The Committee calls on the Yobe State party leadership to continue its reunification effort and ensure the return of the state administration to the PDP in future elections.

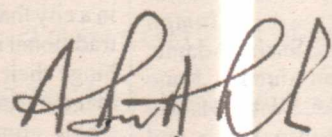
8. The zonal meeting notes the position adopted by other zones on the rotation of the Presidency and restates its firm commitment to the principle of rotation of the Presidential ticket between the North and the South. We believe that the factors that led to the adoption of this principle are as valid today as they were in 1998 when the idea was unanimously supported.

9. The Zonal Executive Committee further resolved that when the Presidency rotates to the North, the North-East shall take its rightful place as the most eligible zone to present a Presidential candidate for the following reasons;

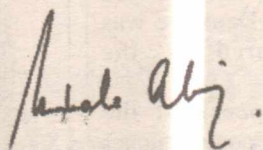
a. Since independence the North-East zone has never produced a Head of State or President, whether military or civilian, being the only zone to be so disadvantaged in the North. The only pivotal position the zone ever enjoyed was the post of Prime Minister held by Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, who operated under the powerful influence of the respected Sardauna of Sokoto, the Premier of Northern Region, Sir Ahmadu Bello.

b. The North-East zone now has the incumbent Vice-President who has continued to demonstrate hard work, commitment and loyalty to both Mr President and the party and these attributes are rewardable

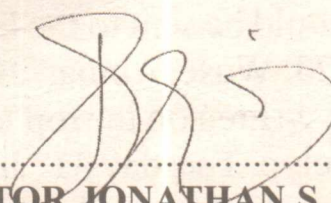
10. Finally, the North-East Executive Committee agreed to hold its next meeting in Maiduguri, Borno State, Saturday 25th August, 2001.



SONG ABUBAKAR AHMED
(National Vice-Chairman P.D.P. (NE)
Chairman, North-East Zonal Meeting



MURTALA M. ALIYU
(Minister of State Power And Steel)
Member Communique Committee



SENATOR JONATHAN S. ZWINGINA
(Chairman, Senate Committee on Information)
Chairman, Communique Committee



TIJJANI TUMSAH
(Chairman, P.D.P Yobe State)
Secretary, Communique, Committee

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

Is the Senate a rubber stamp?

In a democracy, the assembly of the people's elected representatives is the conscience of the nation. In all cases, it is expected to protect the interests of the citizens. In Nigeria, the assembly of the people's representatives at the centre is called the National Assembly. It has two chambers, the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate is the upper house.

The trend in Nigeria's upper legislative chamber seems to indicate a house tied to the apron strings of the executive arm of government. Unlike the House of Representatives, the Senate is now regarded by most Nigerians as a rubber stamp of the Presidency. It is seen more like a body of distinguished men who kowtow to the whims and caprices of the presidency. This impression runs through the election of the Senate President to the passage of bills from the executive.

This much was confirmed a fortnight ago by Senator Saidu Dansadau, the APP whip who resigned his position because of what he called the compromising attitude of the Senate under the leadership of Senator Anyim Pius Anyim. The Senate, he said, is a "rubber-stamp".

The many "sins" of the senate include the approval granted President Obasanjo to purchase a new presidential jet for N5.4 billion when the bill had not been gazetted and even though the request wasn't contained in a supplementary budget.

The cosy relationship between the Senate and the Presidency appeared to be confirmed when against all expectations, it went ahead to pass the N145 billion supplementary appropriation bill into law. The upper chamber never did as much as ask for details of the budget from the executive, neither did it seek clarification on the implementation of the 2001 budget, especially as it concerns the N500 million allocated for constituency projects throughout the country.

On both occasions however, the House of Representatives did otherwise. First, the House rejected the President's request to buy a new aircraft, explaining that such an amount of money would be better spent on projects beneficial to the majority of Nigerians.

Similarly, in respect of the 2001 supplementary appropriation bill, the House not only directed the executive to provide comprehensive details of the demand, but that the executive should justify the additional requests for funds and show the level of compliance with the 2001 Appropriation Act.

We advice therefore, that as much as we and indeed all Nigerians would cherish a cordial working relationship between the National Assembly and the presidency, this should not be at the expense of the necessary checks and balances as required by the constitution. The Senate must remember at all times that it is an independent arm of government and most importantly, respect the philosophy of separation of powers.

Daily Trust reminds our Senators that at the end of the day, they represent the voice of the voiceless in government; otherwise, they might be encouraging the emergence of a civilian dictatorship. They owe it a duty to themselves and the nation to be on the side of the people in all they do.

After going through a two-year "learning process" which saw the emergence of three Senate Presidents, and a fair share of 'scandals', we feel the Senate should have come of age. From the calibre of Nigerians in the Senate, the expectations of the electorate are high. And at the end of four years we expect the Senate to leave a legacy that would nurture democracy. This cannot be possible if it continues to be a mere rubber stamp to the executive.



TUESDAY COLUMN

Adamu Bello: The new PDP whiz kid

By Aminu Iyawa

The invitation card read: His Royal Highness, the Lamido of Adamawa wishes to invite you to a civic reception in honour of the *Dan Iyan* Adamawa and Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Malam Adamu Bello. It turned out to be the largest gathering of who is who in Adamawa state and beyond. The occasion was graced by no less a personality than the Vice-President Atiku Abubakar accompanied by Governors Bukar Abba Ibrahim of Yobe State, Mala Kachallah of Borno, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua of Katsina and their chief host, Boni Haruna.

It is normal for the Lamido to organise receptions in honour of Adamawa indigenes who found themselves at the helm, as a mark of recognition and encouragement. What the palace was not prepared for, however, was the overwhelming response. Yola, the state capital, was full to the brim. It was a day like no other in the life of many.

Malam Adamu Bello is a crowd puller who endeared himself to all those he came across. In fact, he has been equated, in openness and kindness, to the legendary Moshood Abiola and Shehu Musa Yar'Adua, who, he incidentally worked closely with, as Managing Director of Habib Nigeria Bank when they were directors on the board.

He is noted for turning the fortune of things around. It is, therefore, no wonder his potential credit to an administration that has come under fire from Nigerians for lack of impact, could be recognised by his appointment as a cabinet minister. Already, majority of Adamawa people see in him, future *khalifa* to vice-president Atiku Abubakar's political empire.

The new Agriculture and Rural Development Minister has already proven to be a great political asset to the Obasanjo / Atiku 2003 bid. In just five months, he was able to among other things, bridge the gulf created by the Vice-President between himself (VP) and some political heavyweights in Adamawa State on one hand, and with the ordinary masses who lost faith, on the other.

In the early days of the administration, when Atiku came under fire from the northern elite, particularly those from Adamawa State, it was Malam Adamu Bello who facilitated a reconciliatory meeting between the "aggrieved" party and the Vice-President. First, they converged in Yola, where the Lamido of Adamawa himself brokered a ceasefire. The following week, they moved to the presidential villa to iron out their differences for good. Those who attended the meeting included former Gongola State governor and PDP chieftain, Alhaji Bamanga Tukur, his brother and former Commerce Minister in the 20-month Buhari/Idiagbon administration, Dr. Mahmud Tukur and two others who always preferred to remain behind the scene. They reportedly accused the vice-president of betraying their trust by breaching the agreement reached between the two parties. Under the agreement, the Tukur group was to work towards the success of Atiku becoming the governor of Adamawa State, while they lay "exclusive claim" to any national spot available to the state, (which observers translate to mean: Vice-Presidency or at least, ministerial appointment). That

did not happen. They complained that they worked hard to fulfil their own side of the bargain, but, Atiku Abubakar ended up being Vice-President, and to add salt to the wound, "he denied" them the ministerial position.

Atiku, however, swore that he tried his best to have the president accept Bamanga Tukur as a ministerial nominee, but Obasanjo refused, saying that he can only do that after the latter had cleared the over seven years outstanding loan against him with the National Maritime Authority (NMA). Something, I understand, he has not done up to this point in time.

Concerned with the political wrangling and rambling amongst his subjects, the Lamido used the occasion of the reception to invite all notable sons of the soil to a closed door meeting to revisit the continued row between the Vice-President and the Tukur group, but unfortunately, the latter did not honour the invitation. An impeccable source who attended the meeting, told this writer that the Lamido expressed grave concern over the unending feud, which he said was detrimental not only to their personal character, but to the rest of the apolitical masses. He then directed the setting up of a committee of elders that would work towards resolving the conflict.

The minister of agriculture is also said to be the brain behind the recent political strategy adopted by the Vice-President of focusing attention on his mainly north-eastern states constituency which he targets to deliver, 100 percent in the 2003 Presidential election. Last month, Governor Bukar Abba Ibrahim of Yobe State, hosted the maiden meeting in Damaturu, with a communiqué that professed total support for the Vice-President in his bid to return with President Olusegun Obasanjo in 2003, and as presidential candidate in 2007. The next rally is slated for the end of July in Maiduguri, Borno State and subsequently in Gombe, Bauchi, Taraba and Adamawa States in the coming months. For now, Vice-President Atiku Abubakar has proven his worth as an incumbent, by cornering the All Peoples Party (APP) governors, who pledged their unflinching support, as long as the PDP continued to give them a breathing space and federal government patronage. And with the whiz kid on the PDP block, Atiku Abubakar and President Olusegun Obasanjo may have finally found the Midas touch that they have been lacking to move them forward.

Born in Numan, Adamawa State, on May 20, 1951, Malam Adamu Bello is a graduate of Economics from Ahmadu Bello University; 1995, MBA degree from Pittsburgh University Business School, Pennsylvania, USA, and holder of several certificates in Business Administration and banking.

He was Managing Director, Habib Nigeria Bank Limited between 1988 and 1994. He was also chairman, Intercity Bank Limited, 1999 to 2000 and chairman, Habib Nigeria Bank Limited from January, 2000 until his appointment as Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development in February this year. He will be the man to watch in the future, as Nigeria's politics continues to nurture.



**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PRIVATISATION**

**SELECTION OF PRIVATISATION ADVISERS
FOR
ELECTRICITY METER COMPANY OF NIGERIA (EMCON), ZARIA**

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The National Council on Privatisation (NCP) hereby requests Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from Consultants already registered with the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) for the purpose of providing Advisory Services for the privatisation of Electricity Meter Company of Nigeria (EMCON), Zaria, Kaduna State. The Advisory Services to be provided cover the following areas:

- Financial/Lead/Flotation Adviser
- Legal/Solicitor to the Issue
- Accounting
- Asset Valuation
- Technical/Engineering Adviser

Firms may express interest in the enterprise if they have the relevant competence and track record in the industry. Firms may apply as individuals or in consortium providing all the services listed above.

SUBMISSION OF EOIs

Expressions of Interests from prospective Privatisation Advisers should specify the following information as a basis for pre-qualification:

- Profile of Firm/Consortium (local/foreign) including ownership structure;
- Names and Curriculum Vitae of Firm's top executive who will be assigned to the assignment being applied for, including qualification and individual experience in handling similar assignments in Nigeria and abroad;
- Evidence of track record in a similar industry or transaction in Nigeria or elsewhere in the world;
- Experience of Firm/track record (local)
- Technical competence;
- Proof of Alliances/Partnerships (if applicable)
- Experience of Firm/track record (international)
- Intended approach to assignment (work plan and proposed time line)
- Audited Accounts for the last five (5) years
- Evidence of registration with relevant authorities;
- Non-refundable deposit of N50,000.00 or US Dollar equivalent.

Expressions of Interest from prospective advisers must be submitted in six (6) copies for the enterprise in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Expressions of

Interest for Privatisation of Electricity Meter Company of Nigeria" and (type of Advisory Services to be provided), evidence of foreign firm in consortium with local firm must be shown for pre-qualification.

This should be delivered not later than 1700 hours on Monday 19th July, 2001, to the address shown below:

**Attention: Mallam Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai
Member/Secretary
National Council on Privatisation
Secretariat:
Bureau of Public Enterprises
No. 1, Osun Crescent
Off Ibrahim Babangida Way, Maitama
P.M.B. 442, Garki, Abuja**

**Tel: 234-9-4134636-46
Fax: 234-9-4134671, 4134672, 4134674
E-mail: bpe@presidency.com
Web Site: <http://www.bpeng.org>**

NEXT STEPS

The firms will be required to submit separate Technical and Financial Proposals to the NCP. The Technical Proposal will describe how the assignment will be executed and the persons and other resources to handle it. The Financial Proposal will quote the fees and expenses to be paid for the services, and payment terms.

Opinion

The fear of Achaba . . .

By Emmanuel Gabari

Achaba has become synonymous with transport system in Kano. It is the commercial motorbike way of transportation. No matter how one tries to avoid them, one ends up taking a ride on this motorbike that has sent a lot of people to their early graves.

Just recently, on the 6th of May, 2001 to be precise, a very pathetic incident happened. A NAHCO staff took an *achaba* (also known as *Okada* in some states in Nigeria), and was heading or service that fateful Sunday morning, only to meet his untimely death at the traffic light in front of the airport. Let to mourn him were his mother, siblings and sad enough, a widow with a seven-month-old baby. This you man's death got me thinking on the issue of *achaba*-climbing.

Many residents of Kano have come to see *achaba* as a necessary evil. The best reasons a lot of people give for *achaba*-climbing is that of speed. They call it "quick action." Truly speaking, the *dan-achabas* are unbeatable when it comes to getting to a place, or keeping an appointment at record time. You need to see how they dive, swerve, twist, turn and manoeuvre into bends and routes, just to get to a place. With *achabas*, you do not need to endure stoppages at bus stops or taxi parks. You do not even need to worry about where you are going. Just tell the *dan-achaba* your destination and he will be there in a jiffy. What I often ask myself is: are all the *wahalas* worth the risking of one's life? The *dan-achabas* are notorious for careless driving, high speeding, disobedience of road and traffic signs, driving under the influence of intoxicants like hard drugs e.g. marijuana, "school boys", solution, etc. Via this route, many people have been left with deformed limbs, broken teeth and fractured ankles while some unlucky ones have been rendered paralysed or bedridden for life.

There is also the greater risk of *dan-achabas* driving without helmets, for themselves or their passengers. The *dan-achabas* are always in a hurry. Hurrying to make sufficient money as "returns" to their owners and some extras for themselves. This can only explain their impatience and recklessness.

Which is the way out? Well, more public enlightenment campaigns would do a little magic. *Achaba* casualties used to be very high before, but has dropped a little. Dala Orthopaedic and City Hospital – both in Kano – used to have a special ward for "*achaba* casualties".

Also, a law enacting the compulsory use of crash helmets, for both the drivers and passengers should be put in place. Funny enough, most accidents on *achaba* usually spare the driver – the *dan-achaba*.

Lastly, please say a word of prayer when you embark on a trip on one of these "automated beasts" call the *achaba*!
Gabari is with the Armed Forces Specialist Hospital, Kano.

One year of Sharia in Niger State

By Akinade Adeniji

The introduction of Sharia in Niger State is a year old and to mark the occasion, a non-governmental organization that goes by the name Muslim Lawyers Forum (MLF) organised a seminar with the theme "Sharia implementation in Niger State, so far, how far?"

However, a year after the introduction, even Muslims and law enforcement agents took over the chastisement of the legal system which was the limit to which the state governor, Engineer Abdulkadir Abdullahi Kure could take.

"Not up to 10 percent of the police in this state support Sharia and you can imagine, these are the people expected to enforce the Sharia laws. They do not only refuse to support Sharia, they engage in consuming alcohol in contradiction of the very laws they are paid to maintain. They drink in that their officers' mess every close to the Government House", the governor declared.

As if that was not enough, the governor at the seminar confessed to receiving petitions from Muslims who accused him of being responsible for the economic hardship currently plaguing the people of Niger State.

According to Kure: "Initially, I had doubts that anybody who calls himself a Muslim would chastise us for implementing Sharia, so I decided to trace the sources of the letters and, believe me, those letters were actually written by Muslims".

The complaints centred on driving away operators of brothels and drinking joints which they felt had sent many people to the labour market.

The liquor licensing board under the chairmanship of Barrister Mohammed Awal Bida did not also find the task

of enforcing Sharia laws rosy. More than once, his men were attacked and manhandled by those who have vowed that no Sharia would separate them and alcohol. Cases in point are those of Salka community and Sauka Kafuta where the Sharia enforcers were engaged in bloody confrontations by lovers of the green bottle and other traditional alcoholic drinks.

It was at this level of stalemate that the Muslim Lawyers Forum came into the scene to help straighten out some rough edges. Either by accident or design, the president of the forum turned out to be one and the same Barrister Awal Bida, chairman of the Niger State Liquor Licensing Board.

Not a few people believe that the idea of Muslim Lawyers Forum was indeed put together by Awal Bida in order to correct the initial errors of thinking that the people of Niger State, Christian or Muslim, would embrace Sharia without proper information and education.

The forum, according to its president, is out to educate and enlighten the public on Sharia, especially its scopes, method of application as well as its values. The forum, he said, would also "protect and defend the rights of individuals whose fundamental human rights is being or has been infringed unjustly".

But one allegation both the state government and the liquor licensing board have never been comfortable with is the accusation that the state was operating a liberal Sharia. Even when petitions are flying about that the Kure administration had stifled social and economic life of Nigerlites, the fundamentalists

are accusing the same government of operating a Sharia with too much of human face.

"I always feel disturbed about the misconception, misinterpretation and mischievous remarks being made regarding Sharia in this state", Awal Bida said during the seminar, adding, "our penal code has been proved to be substantially in conformity with Sharia except in *hadd* punishment of some offences. It is our considered opinion, therefore, that any state government that amends the penal code to conform with *hadd* and *Qisas* punishment and follow it with action as is the case with Niger State, that state can be said, without hesitation, to be implementing Sharia in full".

Awal Bida further came to the rescue of the governor by disclosing that the state government had submitted bills on *Zakat* and for the changing of area courts to Sharia courts.

Said he: "The fact that the law has been amended and passed, the fact that Engineer Kure has displayed genuine efforts to enforce the Sharia is worthy of commendation".

Also reacting to the allegation of half-hearted implementation of Sharia in Niger State, Kure told his audience at the U.K. Bello Arts Theatre venue of the seminar point blank that the success of Sharia implementation should not be measured by the number of hands chopped off, saying he does not need to start looking for hands to amputate if no one is caught, prosecuted before a Sharia court and convicted so as to convince his detractors that he was really implementing Sharia.

"Sharia is not all about chopping off hands. You don't have to go out looking for hands to amputate and in fact in most of the cases under Sharia, especially the case of adultery, the people involved must be extremely careless to be caught in a manner stipulated in the law to get conviction. Some of these stringent conditions were there to prove that Allah is merciful to us".

Another allegation which Christians in the state had kept repeating and government kept denying was that Sharia was a prelude to total Islamisation of Niger State.

In reply, Awal Bida cited a case of debt recovery he personally handled on behalf of a non-Muslim against a member of the National Assembly who happens to be a Muslim, through the application of Sharia, stressing that to the greatest surprise and admiration of the non-Muslim, the justice he could not get to recover his money in a conventional court for almost two years, he got in less than two months in Sharia court.

Justice Dalhatu Adamu of the Court of Appeal in his submission at the seminar attributed the delay in the full implementation of Sharia in

Niger State to its ethno-religious diversity, acknowledging the existence of a substantial Christian population opposed to the system, leading to violence in some areas.

He said Niger State being one of the most peaceful in the country, care must be taken so as not to fragment the cohesive extended family system existing among the people of the state in which both Christians and Muslims could be found in a family.

Christians and other non-Muslims, he said, have no cause to entertain any fear under the Islamic legal system which protect their rights. For example, Christians living in an Islamic state have a higher status than other non-Muslims because they are recognised by Sharia as a people of the scripture. Their higher status is informed by the fact that they believe in a monotheistic religion mentioned in the Holy Qur'an with their scripture as Holy Bible. Muslims are enjoined to believe and recognise both Prophet Isah (AS) as one of the prophets of Allah and the Bible as the Holy Scripture revealed to him.

"As long as they lie peacefully in an Islamic state, they are entitled to practice their religion and lead their peaceful lives unmolested provided they pay their taxes to the authorities concerned". Justice Adamu said.

Justice Muri Okunola, presiding justice, Court of Appeal, Ilorin, in his paper at the closing ceremony of the seminar, emphasised that Sharia which has been in use in the northern part of Nigeria for some 500 years now, applied to Muslims only, citing several cases decided over the matter in the past.

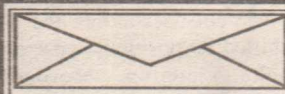
In the paper titled: "Sharia in Nigeria: To whom applicable?" Justice Okunola appealed to "all Nigerians of all faiths to embrace the spirit of tolerance as contained both in the Holy Qur'an and the Holy Bible, so that we can all live in peace and unity to the betterment of our country and generations yet unborn.

With this understanding of the position of the law on the non-applicability of the Sharia to non-Muslims in Nigeria, it is hoped that the fear of imposition of Sharia on non-Muslims in some of us would be allayed for the progress and development of our country."

Reverend Joseph Ocheje, a chieftain of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN) in Niger State, posited that if the Kure administration had not gone full blast in the implementation of Sharia as alleged by some Islamic fundamentalists, it is because he is not trying to impress anybody like some other governors.

"I believe he is also aware that Niger is not Zamfara in terms of religious diversity. Ut is the best way, for now, to maintain peace in the state," Ocheje said.

Adeniji is of S.W. 26, Bosso Road, Minna, Niger State.



YOUR LETTERS

Gov Makarfi's worthwhile visit

By realising the importance of peaceful co-existence as a tool for the growth and development of any given society, Governor Ahmed Makarfi of Kaduna State paid a state visit to some states across the country.

It could be recalled that, as at May, 1999 when Governor Makarfi took over the mantle of leadership of Kaduna State, many crises had disrupted the peaceful co-existence of the people in the state.

No doubt, peace is one basic requirement of life. No society can fully develop in the absence of peace. Peace brings about economic growth and development of any given society. It is in this regard that, Governor Ahmed Makarfi took the pain of touring some states of the Federation so as to launch a campaign on the doctrine of peaceful co-existence among the various ethnic groups in the country.

In all the states he visited, the people there appreciated and understood the benefits of harmonious living and at the same time realised the dangers associated with lack of peaceful co-existence which always leads to poor economic development of the society.

With these, I would wish to commend the efforts of Governor Ahmed Makarfi and also his laudable programmes particularly in the areas of education, water supply, electricity, health, roads, commerce, agriculture and a lot more. While commending

Ahmed Makarfi for these laudable and commendable achievements, I will like to solicit the co-operation of our emirs, chiefs and obas and implore them to emulate Governor Makarfi in inter and intra-state visits as this will enhance peaceful co-existence amongst their subjects living in other parts of the country just as Governor Ahmed Makarfi exemplified.

M. Idris H. Gimi,
(Vice Principal)
G.S.S. D/Wai,
Kaduna State.

What is under the surface?

In Sharia states, the vacated houses that deal in unlawful business like cinemas, brothels, gambling dens etc. were not transformed to serve in good causes or destroyed. Why?

Is there any hidden agenda to activate them to resume

their previous functions? Do the governors want the evildoers to feel the permanent impact of Sharia?

Lawal Mohammed Funtua,
Dept. of Physics,
Faculty of Science,
Bayero University, Kano.

The task ahead for Mukhtar Shagari

Iwish to congratulate the new Minister for Water Resources, Alhaji Mukhtar Shagari and to call his attention to the poor drinking water situation in the country.

Since independence, about 41 years ago, Nigerians are still drinking dirty water which causes different kinds of diseases. This is because the water treatment system in the country is very bad.

The minister must wake up seriously to fight for clean water throughout the country.

Also, the minister must use his office to encourage irrigation, especially in areas which are in the desert, and look at the existing dams such as Zobe dam for utilisation. Zobe dam was built about 22 years ago, but up to now it has not been properly utilised.

I wish the minister God's guidance.
Yusufu Sani Yassanta,
P. O. Box 249,
Funtua,
Katsina State.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST



Former South African President, Nelson Mandela (second left) shares a laugh with the Libyan leader, Moammar Gadhafi (second right) Kenyan President, Daniel Arap Moi (left) and Yoweri Museveni of Uganda in Lusaka last Sunday.

Car bomb kills one in Israel

A car bomb has exploded near an Israeli checkpoint in the Gaza Strip, apparently killing a Palestinian, driving the vehicle believed to be a suicide bomber.

Israeli Army reports say

Israel demands Hezbollah tape

Israel has demanded that the United Nations in Lebanon hand over an unedited copy of a videotape made by UN peacekeepers at the scene of the abduction of three Israeli soldiers last October.

The 30-minute video was made the day after Hezbollah guerrillas abducted the men.

It reportedly shows bloodstained vehicles, forged license plates and bogus UN uniforms believed to have been used by Hezbollah to trap the Israeli soldiers, whose whereabouts are still unknown.

But the UN says it first has to obscure the faces of people in the film suspected of being Hezbollah guerrillas, in order to protect UN staff from retribution.

Both the Lebanese authorities and the Hezbollah movement say the tape should not be handed over under any circumstances.

"What we want is to have this full video without any alterations or any censorship in order to be able to understand better what happened during the kidnapping and maybe know more about what happened to our people," Avi Pazner, an adviser to the Israeli Prime Minister, told AFP.

"We don't want to create polemics with the United Nations, but there are question marks on why it is that for nine months this tape was not made available to us," he said.

Israel says it still has no idea what has happened to the three soldiers. Hezbollah wants the release of its activists held in Israel in return for the soldiers' release.

The UN offer to release an edited version of the tape has brought condemnation from the Lebanese Government.

the explosion happened at the Kissufim crossing point between Israel and Gaza. There were no other injuries.

In the West Bank, an Israeli soldier wounded by an explosion while on patrol near Hebron has died of his injuries.

The latest violence comes a day after angry scenes in Gaza at the funeral of an 11-year-old Palestinian boy killed by Israeli gunfire.

Khalil Mughrabi was with a group of as many as 20 other children when he was shot by Israeli soldiers from a nearby Israeli observation tower.

The Israeli defence forces say that there had been grenades fired from the area, and they were returning fire.

However, local residents say there was no trouble in that part of town, which runs along the border.

A masked man told mourners that the militant group, Hamas, had 10 more suicide bombers ready to take revenge on Israel.

An Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) spokeswoman says that Israeli posts in Rafah had been under heavy fire throughout the 24 hours preceding the boy's death, with a barrage of 26 grenades as well as Molotov cocktails and hours of stone-throwing.

Relatives of the boy mourned in the presence of his body.

Two other children, aged 10 and 12, were also shot. The younger of the two was seriously injured, but doctors now say that he is out of danger.

He is presently in a hospital in the refugee town of Khan Yunis.

The incident has raised passions in the Southern town of Rafah, which is a flashpoint for violence between Palestinians and Israeli posts.

Seventeen Palestinians

and 10 Israelis have been killed since a ceasefire drawn up by the US CIA Director George Tenet was supposed to have taken effect on June 13.

Both sides have accused the other of breaches of the agreement, which now appears in disarray.

At least 476 Palestinians, 122 Israelis and 13 Israeli Arabs have been killed since a Palestinian uprising began in September after peace talks stalled

Palestine jails collaborator for life

A Palestinian court has sentenced a man, Taher Walid Hassan Jabr to life imprisonment with hard labour for collaborating with Israel over the killing of a member of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

The accused was convicted in Nablus for giving information which led to an Israeli helicopter attack on a car carrying Motassem al-Sabagh, killing him and a policeman near Jenin in May.

The Palestinians have accused Israel of assassinating more than 30 activists suspected of organising anti-Israel attacks since the Intifada began in September.



Taher Jabr, 21, escorted by two Palestinian police officers, as he arrived at a military court in the West Bank town of Nablus last Sunday.

Africa backs Zimbabwe's land reforms

African ministers rallied behind Zimbabwe over its controversial land reform programme on Sunday, ahead of the annual summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

OAU foreign ministers accused the UK of seeking to isolate and vilify its former colony in Europe and North America, according to diplomatic sources in Lusaka, where the summit opened yesterday.

The ministers proposed that South Africa, Nigeria, Algeria, Cameroon, Kenya and Zambia make up a committee to support Zimbabwe in future talks with the European Union and other parties on land reform.

"It's very likely that it will go through in its present form. Zimbabwe was seen as victim and there was lots of sympathy. The feeling was that the EU and the United States were pressing too hard on Zimbabwe," one senior diplomat told Reuters.

Zimbabwe has been in a state of economic and political crisis since February last year when self-styled war veterans, encouraged by the state, seized hundreds of white-owned farms across the country.

The land chaos in the southern African country has left at least 31 people dead and has disrupted economic activity.

President Robert Mugabe says land redistribution is

necessary to address a century-old imbalance in land ownership in the country.

Mr Mugabe says Britain, the former colonial power, must pay compensation as it earlier pledged for the land to be seized by the state.

But London has said it will not finance land reform amidst chaos and disregard for the rule of law. Both the EU and the United States back Britain on the issue and have threatened sanctions.

Mr Mugabe plans to confiscate five million hectares (12 million acres) of the 12 million hectares (30 million acres) held by white farmers and has earmarked more than 5,000 farms for redistribution to landless blacks.

The OAU ministerial resolution said the land issue was essentially a colonial one despite British efforts to internationalise it.

"The ministers noted with concern British moves to mobilise European and North American countries to isolate and vilify Zimbabwe, leading to

the imposition of formal and informal sanctions against it," the resolution said.

After the summit, its 37th, ends on tomorrow, the OAU will officially disappear, having effectively voted itself out of existence.

It will be replaced by the African Union modelled on the European Union, with its own parliament, central bank and court of justice.

A combined plan to develop Africa, which will be presented to the summit, calls on African leaders to consolidate democracy, and on the developed world to increase aid and investment.

The African Initiative, as it is known, is a merger of the Millennium African Recovery Programme (MAP) led by South African President Thabo Mbeki and the Omega Plan spearheaded by Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade.

Meanwhile, a mob of Zimbabwean war veterans freed four white farmers on Sunday that they had been holding at a farm since Friday.

Morocco's readmission divides Africa

A proposal to allow Morocco into the African Union (AU), the successor to Organisation of African Unity (OAU) divided African foreign ministers who met in Zambia ahead of yesterday's summit of the (OAU).

There is division between African states about whether to allow Morocco to return to the fold or not.

Morocco is the only country in Africa to have been excluded from the organisation.

However, the Moroccans believe the OAU's transformation over the coming year into a new regional grouping, the African Union, is an opportunity to rejoin the African family.

Behind the scenes in recent weeks, the Moroccans have been working to secure support for their position.

The country's new king,

Mohammed VI, has received a number of African heads of state, including the president of Ghana, and has visited Senegal, where the issue of Morocco's admission into the African Union is believed to have been discussed.

Morocco was forced out of the OAU in 1984, when a majority of African states lined up behind Algeria to recognise the POLISARIO movement's claim to the territory of Western Sahara, which Morocco had annexed in 1975.

For 10 years, the United Nations and the OAU have jointly supported the idea of a referendum to resolve the issue.

But this has failed to take place and last month the UN shifted its position, apparently acknowledging Moroccan sovereignty over the territory.

More clashes in Algeria's Berber region

There have been more clashes between Berber youths and the Algerian security forces in the town of Tizi Ouzou in the mainly Berber eastern region of Kabylia.

Riot police are reported to have used tear gas in a bid to disperse a crowd of protesters throwing stones.

Reports say the trouble broke out when police upset the stall of a deaf cigarette vendor.

The incident comes three days after 5,000 Berber delegates were prevented from holding a protest march through the capital, Algiers.

More than 50 people have been killed in months of demonstrations by Berbers demanding an end to what they see as cultural discrimination.

In Paris, an estimated 7,000 people are reported to have attended a concert to show solidarity with the Berber community.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

World Report



US congressman, Tony P. Hall, (D/OH) (L) meets with Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid (R) as American Ambassador to Indonesia, Robert Gelbard looks on before their meeting at the Presidential Palace in Jakarta last Friday.

Trial of Fiji coup leader begins

In Fiji, a preliminary hearing into charges of treason against coup leader George Speight and his accomplices has started in the capital, Suva.

He was arrested with 12 of his close advisers after hijacking the elected government of Mahendra Chaudhry in what the rebels claimed was a nationalist revolt against the growing political influence of Fiji's ethnic Indian minority.

As expected, defence lawyers have argued that an amnesty offered by senior army commanders in return for the safe release of the hostages a year ago still stands.

The military, which took control of the country after the parliament was stormed, claimed the amnesty agreement was breached by the rebels' failure to return all weapons stolen from the army and used in the uprising.

The hearing will establish if there is enough evidence for a treason trial in the High Court.

Treason is a capital offence in Fiji, although there have been no executions since independence from Britain in 1970.

The case has suffered repeated delays. The prosecution has accused George Speight of

employing stalling tactics after he sacked his defence team last month, forcing yet another adjournment.

The situation became almost farcical when a US-based lawyer later appointed to defend Mr Speight was himself arrested and charged with possessing fake legal qualifications.

A local lawyer, Kitione Vuetaki, now represents Mr Speight, a failed businessman.

He told the Chief Magistrate Sailesi Temo that his client is not disputing his role in the storming of the parliament last May, but has insisted the immunity agreement is still valid.

The court was told that Mr Speight now wants all evidence to be presented in writing rather than read out and subject to cross-examination.

The request has prompted yet another adjournment, this time for two days.

Prosecutors intend to call more than 250 witnesses, including the former President, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, who was forced to resign after the uprising.

His evidence could be explosive. The ageing former leader has accused senior public and political figures of supporting and financing last year's coup.

British and Irish PMs in talks

Tony Blair and his Irish counterpart Bertie Ahern are hosting "make or break" talks to try and overcome the deadlocked Northern Ireland peace process.

The two-day talks with the leaders of the province's main

pro-Agreement parties are being held at a country manor hotel in Staffordshire.

The aim is to find a way for the power-sharing institutions to function following David Trimble's resignation as the province's First Minister on July 1.

Under legislation, which made the Agreement law, the government must call fresh Assembly elections within five weeks or suspend devolution.

Northern Ireland Secretary John Reid has warned the process is in a "critical phase."

Dr Reid said the negotiations would be "very intensive indeed."

"All of the parties know what the outstanding issues are, everyone says they are committed to doing their utmost to resolve them," he said.

"So if people live up to their commitments on this, it is possible to do something, but I don't want to raise expectations.

"The talks of course are taking place outside Northern Ireland and I hope that will help concentrate minds on the resolution of those parts of the Good Friday Agreement that have yet to be implemented," Dr. Reid added.

Corrigendum

In our May 21, 2001 edition, we published an interview in which we referred to the Syrian Charge d' Affairs as ambassador. We regret the mix-up
Foreign Desk Editor.



British Prime Minister, Tony Blair (left) talks with his Irish counterpart, Bertie Ahern as they leave Hillsborough Castle, Northern Ireland...recently.

Rioters attack businesses in Bradford

An Asian restaurant and a pub have been attacked in Bradford but there has been no repeat of the violence, which gripped the West Yorkshire city last Saturday.

A group of up to 30 white youths targeted a restaurant and a petrol station, causing thousands of pounds of damage.

However, the trouble was nowhere near the scale of the Sunday night, where Bradford witnessed some of the worst violence seen on mainland Britain for many years.

Police, out in force to try and prevent any repeat, said generally it had been a quiet night.

Eight people have been arrested following the renewed violence, three are being questioned on conspiracy to riot.

The group of youths, wearing bandanas to cover their faces, targeted a petrol station and Asian restaurant in the Greengates area of Bradford.

Tayub Amjad, 20, director of the Kebabeesh Restaurant,

said the youths had started throwing bricks through the window.

"The attack went on for about 10 minutes - it was terrifying," he said.

"Fortunately there were no customers in at the time, but it's caused thousands of pounds damage," he added.

Mr Amjad said he did not think the youths were National Front supporters and thought the attack was retaliation for Saturday night's violence.

"I think they were local lads because they targeted the cars of some of my workers," he said.

The gang also attacked a petrol station with bricks and stones.

Khalid Mehmood, manager of the garage said some members of the gang ran into his shop.

"They broke the windows on my freezers and took my till," he said.

"When I saw the trouble in Manningham yesterday I feared there could be some trouble."

A pub in the centre of Bradford on Manningham

Lane was firebombed earlier.

Reports say two white men smashed the windows and threw in two petrol bombs.

Saturday night's violent clashes left 120 police officers injured, two people stabbed and 36 people arrested.

Police admitted they came close to being overwhelmed by the violence, which saw up to 1,000 youths fighting running battles with police in the Manningham area of the city.

Officers were pelted with bricks, bottles, petrol bombs and fireworks, and attacked with baseball bats and hammers.

Police summoned reinforcements from surrounding forces, and had up to 1,000 officers on duty at times.

Although 13 of the 36 people arrested were white, police say the rioters were predominantly of Asian origin. All but two of those arrested were from the Bradford area.

The trouble flared after an Anti-Nazi League demonstration against the National Front last Saturday.

Odd World

Boy's arm reattached after shark attack

An eight-year-old boy, Jessie Arbogast, whose right arm was bitten off by a shark and retrieved from the predator's throat was recovering from surgery to reattach the limb, a Florida hospital official said last Sunday.

The boy was in a critical condition but had begun to regain consciousness and was showing signs of recognizing his family, said spokeswoman Pam Bilbrey at the Baptist Hospital in Pensacola, Florida.

"He had a good 24 hours. He shows no sign of infection. There's no sign of loss of blood supply or blood flow to the arm, which are all good signs," Ms Bilbrey said.

Jessie was playing in knee-deep water at the Gulf Islands National Seashore in northwest Florida at dusk on Friday when a seven-foot (2.1-metre) bull shark bit off his arm between the elbow and shoulder. He also got "a big chunk bitten out of his leg," Ms Bilbrey said.

Jessie's uncle carried him to shore, where relatives and beachgoers gave him cardiopulmonary resuscitation until he was flown by helicopter to the hospital.

The uncle then wrestled the shark to the beach, where a park ranger shot it four times in the head, causing it to relax its jaws.

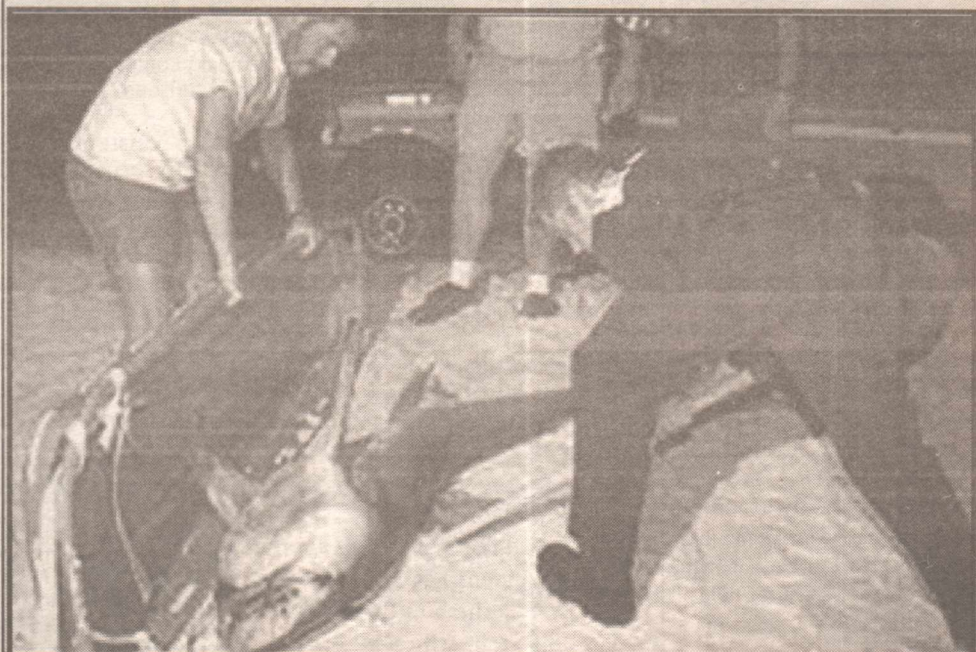
The ranger pried the shark's mouth open with a police baton while volunteer fire-fighter Tony Thomas reached in and pulled the arm from the shark's throat using a pair of forceps, park officials said.

Emergency workers put the arm on ice and it was reattached during 11 hours of surgery on Saturday. Doctors said it was too early to tell if Jessie would regain full use of the limb.

Dr Ian Rogers, the plastic surgeon who reattached the arm, told a news conference that the wound was "remarkably clean" for a shark bite but that Jessie had lost a lot of blood and had no pulse or blood pressure when he arrived at the hospital.

Dr Rogers said he was hopeful that Jesse could regain near normal use of the arm within 18 months.

The boy required more than 30 pints (14 litres) of blood during surgery. Jesse, from Ocean Springs, Mississippi, had been on holiday in Florida with his family.



The shark wrestled to the beach after it had attacked the boy.

BUSINESS DAY

Odili pleads for release of 13% derivation fund

Governor Peter Odili of Rivers has appealed to the Federal Government to release the state's share of the 13 percent derivation fund to it without further delay.

The governor made the call in Port Harcourt at the weekend at the launching of "Operation Produce More and Buy Nigerian-Made-Goods."

Odili said that it was fair that the state was given its full share of the fund because it had a lot of projects to executive with the money.

He pledged the support of the people of the state to the present administration, saying "our support for the Federal Government remains unshakeable."

The governor commended President Olusegun Obasanjo for approving the nationwide media tour to enable journalists "to see the evidence of democracy dividends and inform Nigerians correctly about the country's level of achievement since the present administration assumed office two years ago."

In his message to the people of the state, the Minister of Information and National Orientation, who was present at the occasion, urged the youths and Nigerians in general to produce more goods and desist from patronising only foreign made products.

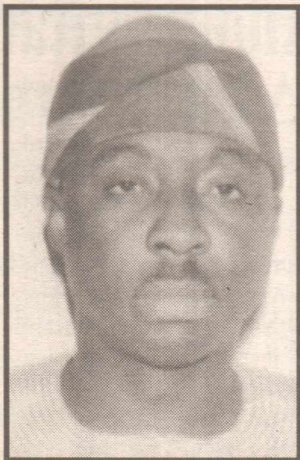
He enumerated the advantages of producing and buying locally manufactured products, saying that it would conserve and beef up



Governor Odili of Rivers State

the value of the country's currency, create jobs and reduce poverty in the country.

The minister commended Odili for the projects he had executed within the two years of his administration and urged him not to relent in his efforts to develop the state.



Governor Adebayo of Ekiti State

Ekiti raises N4 billion from capital market

The Ekiti State government has announced its intention to raise N4 billion from the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE).

This was made known by the governor of the state, Otunba Adeniyi Adebajo in a brief ceremony at the NSE headquarters held to flag off

the investment move over the weekend.

According to him, "my current visit to Lagos will flag off activities for the raising of N4 billion from the capital market to meet our capital receipt and expenditure gap."

"We intend to satisfy all conditions for grating approval to raise this amount and I assure you that its proceeds will be directed at programmes that will tremendously improve the lives of all stakeholders in Ekiti State."

The state government stated that the amount is needed to take care of the state water resources, roads, cash crop plantation and housing estate.

The president of the exchange, Dr. Abdul Razak in a short speech commended the state government's effort, saying it would be to the benefit of Nigerians domiciled in Ekiti and beyond.

Work resumes on suspended railways project

**As FG, Chinese firm agree*

The suspended railway rehabilitation project being handled by the Chinese Civil

Engineering and Construction Corporation, CCECC, is set to resume as the both the Federal Government and the Chinese firm have resolved all contending issues surrounding the contract which was temporarily put on hold.

Disclosing this to newsmen in Abuja over the weekend, the Minister of State in the Federal Ministry of Transport, Alhaji Isa Yuguda said that the resumption of works on the nation's railways reflected the deep commitment the Federal Government has for the resuscitation of the railways.

Alhaji Yuguda who recently led a Federal Government delegation on a trip to China observed that the government rejected the Chinese request for compensation owing to the stoppage of work by conceding to supplying the remaining track materials in accordance with the governing laid down rules.

The minister also pointed out that both the government and the CCECC agreed on the reassessment of steep gradients, sharp curves, especially the "notoriously dangerous" Langa-Langa in Nasarawa State, pointing out that the "the cost of removing the dangers is almost equal to the total cost of the entire project CCECC and NRC agreed on a joint assessment of the area

By Tashkalmah Hallah

with a view to coming up with a modest and realistic cost for the once-and-for-all solution to the problem."

On the current drive to ensure an effective maintenance culture, Alhaji Yuguda said that the Chinese firm is considering the possibility of establishing maintenance workshops and concrete sleepers to facilitate smooth operations of Nigerian locomotives and rail corridors.

The Chinese, according to Yuguda, who showed strong interest in strengthening Nigeria-China bilateral ties through joint venture investment in solid minerals prospecting also expressed their desire to also invest in tantalite prospecting and exploitation as well as participate in export processing zones of Kano and Calabar.

Calling on the Chinese to assist the Nigeria government in fighting corruption by offering

assistance to Nigeria's anti-corruption institutions, Yuguda noted that the Nigerian economy had no better partner to rely on than the far east and the pacific higher economies which have common values with that of the Nigerian economy.

The Federal delegation headed by Yuguda also had in attendance, the permanent secretary, Federal Ministry of Justice, Mrs. T. A. Osinuga, the NRC chairman, Alhaji Waziri Mohammed, the MD of NRC, W. A. Adegoroye and Ambassador D. M. Abubakar, Nigeria's Ambassador to China.



Isa Yuguda, Minister of State Transport

CIBN, APCON to boost finance advertising

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

The Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN) and Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria (APCON) are making moves to improve financial services advertising management in the country.

To this effect, the two bodies held a 2-day seminar for financial experts and their advertisement counterparts at Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Lagos.

Speaking during the seminar, CIBN president,

Prince Kola Odubango said that performance in the sector justified the seminar, adding that it would "enable financial institutions to identify the needs of their customers, develop products to match them and utilise appropriate media."

Odubango stated that the hyper-competition reigning supreme in the financial sector mandates that financial institutions should respond by utilising technology and developing products that will give them competitive edge.

APCON president, Olu Falomo, however, averred that looking through the taunted new service products of banks readily display that they are in most cases poorly developed.

According to him, most of the so called new products in the financial markets are all saying the same thing, which suggests that they are betting poorly marketed.

He therefore, called on the banks and their advert companies to research their products and make efforts to

learn the intricacies of financial service advertising management, adding that bank products should be effectively advertised to make inroads into the market.

Falomo said that the effort of APCON and CIBN is to create needed energy for capacity building.

CIBN's registrar and chief executive, Mr. Esu Ogunleye in his contribution thanked the participants from both the financial sector and advertisement industry, saying that CIBN is building bridges in order to contribute for the betterment of the economy.

The idea to reach out to other associations, according to him, was a holistic approach being championed by the current regime in CIBN.

He extended his institute's gratitude to Sheraton Hotels and Towers management for their numerous support to the body.

The managing director of Wema Bank Plc., Mr. Tunde Lemo and the chief executive Prima Garnet Limited, Mr. Lola Akinwumi delivered papers during the occasion.

Bicycle policy will ease transportation -Maduekwe

By Ahmed Shekarau

The Minister of Transport, Chief Ojo Maduekwe has said that the proposed Bicycle policy is intended to ease transportation in the country by widening the choice of means transportation in the country.

The minister, who rode on a bicycle from his Mabushi residence to the Presidential Villa, venue of the weekly Federal Executive Council meeting last Wednesday, had proposed a bicycle policy for Nigeria.

The proposed policy however attracted a lot of criticism in some quarters.

Defending the policy however, the minister said his

decision to champion the cause of the bicycle as a basic and modest means of transportation, Chief Maduekwe said was to "widen the choice of transportation for Nigerians" adding that the policy is not indifferent to the safety of the Nigerian people.

"The bicycle policy is not indifferent to the issue of safety. No mode of transportation is accident free. But the hope is that if it becomes government policy, our city planners will incorporate bicycle alleys into street planning," he said.

Briefing members of the Financial Correspondents Association of Nigeria (FICAN) in his office, the Transport Minister said the bicycle programme is "not intended to course Nigerians to use bicycles, nor intended to be the solution to our transportation problem, it is not indifferent to the risk on the road for bicycle users and it is not being recommended because of the so called-fuel crisis and it is not aimed at punishing any section of the country."

Chief Maduekwe said "what we are saying is that if you have a bicycle plan, it fits into a rail plan, fits into the other models. And because it is a plan, it begins to reflect government policies."

According to the minister, if you have a bicycle policy, you may now be able to influence government policies that can encourage manufactures to build plants that will create jobs and also spare parts.

More than everything else, according to the minister, is the possibility of using the policy to change our value system. His words: "We ought to know, that we don't manufacture anything. Everything is imported. India that got its independence not too long before us can manufacture aircrafts, locomotives and bicycles. Now what we do in this country is to buy Lexus, buy jeep."

Chikwe gives NAMA 7-day ultimatum to repair radar

Aviation Minister, Dr. Kema Chikwe has given the Management of the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) a seven-day ultimatum to repair the radar at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport in Abuja.

Chikwe gave the directive last week in Abuja, following the delay experienced by Virgin Atlantic aircraft in obtaining

clearance to land.

Virgin Atlantic Airways, owned by British business tycoon Richard Branson, is billed to join British Airways from July 17 in plying the lucrative Lagos/London route.

The Minister, who was visibly angry at the time the aircraft spent hovering, promptly summoned the airspace manager and directed him to ensure that the radar was made

functional within seven days.

Chikwe and the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Mr. Robert Audu, waited for about an hour before the aircraft was able to land.

A senior officer with Aeronautical Information Service (AIS), who pleaded anonymity, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) at the weekend in Lagos, that the radar had been malfunctioning for a very long time.

BUSINESS \$ DAY

Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE) Price List as at 2/07/2001

COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE
7UP	5.90	6.00	0.10	6	37,782	225,513.80
ACCESSBANK	1.20	1.25	0.05	8	3,088,794	3,858,468.62
ADC	2.69	2.69	0.00	1	2,000	5,380.00
AFPRINT	1.00	0.98	0.02	12	195,410	191,807.80
AFRIBANK	8.99	8.56	0.43	31	74,876	640,249.80
AGIP	31.99	31.53	0.46	31	59,607	1,901,385.77
AGLEVENT	1.18	1.18	0.00	1	5,000	5,900.00
AIICO	3.70	3.70	0.00	3	7,000	25,900.00
AP	19.34	19.34	0.00	18	55,011	1,064,072.74
ASHAKACEM	16.73	16.70	0.03	80	820,164	13,491,531.90
AVONCROWN	1.70	1.62	0.08	1	5,000	8,100.00
BCC	4.40	4.40	0.00	5	5,925	26,070.00
BERGER	2.65	2.65	0.00	6	60,292	159,773.80
C&ILEASING	1.37	1.37	0.00	1	25,000	34,250.00
CADBURY	25.50	25.00	0.50	50	325,848	8,108,210.09
CCNN	3.07	3.07	0.00	2	1,500	4,605.00
CHARTERED	8.24	8.49	0.25	33	1,146,020	9,442,062.20
CMB	0.72	0.72	0.00	6	27,937	20,114.64
CORNERST	1.80	1.80	0.00	6	106,000	190,800.00
COSTAIN	1.42	1.36	0.06	5	61,200	83,394.00
CRUSADER	2.29	2.40	0.11	6	51,915	124,596.00
DELTGLAS	6.40	6.40	0.00	4	4,879	31,215.80
DNMEYER	16.10	16.10	0.00	4	1,550	24,955.00
DUNLOP	3.43	3.27	0.16	32	411,224	1,369,959.03
EKOBANK	1.79	1.79	0.00	5	109,084	195,130.36
ENAMELWA	3.95	3.95	0.00	1	1,000	3,950.00
ETERNAOIL	1.12	1.17	0.05	2	18,000	21,060.00
FIRSTALUM	2.47	2.50	0.03	2	11,000	21,000.00
FIRSTBANK	32.35	33.20	0.85	244	1,044,645	34,150,840.00
FLOURMILL	18.00	17.98	0.02	34	178,989	3,185,740.96
FSB	6.92	6.58	0.34	9	91,200	600,096.00
GCAPPA	6.40	6.40	0.00	1	944	6,041.60
GUARANTY	5.70	5.70	0.00	16	260,000	1,482,000.00
GUINNESS	37.85	37.16	0.69	13	13,736	514,997.60
HALBANK	5.15	5.05	0.10	2	3,000	15,170.00
IGL	6.25	6.25	0.00	1	7,000	43,750.00
IMB	1.75	1.67	0.08	14	261,500	436,705.00
INLANDBANK	1.48	1.55	0.07	2	17,220	26,045.60
INTBREW	1.26	1.32	0.06	8	1,398,600	1,846,152.00
JOHNHOLT	2.63	2.50	0.13	17	107,206	268,015.00
JOSBREW	0.62	0.62	0.00	1	100,000	62,000.00
LASACO	1.35	1.35	0.00	1	1,003	1,354.05
LEVIBROS	25.01	24.99	0.02	35	185,565	4,542,024.88
LIBERTY	2.22	2.11	0.11	2	11,000	23,300.00
LONGMAN	5.80	5.52	0.28	6	18,400	101,568.00
MANDRID	6.68	6.68	0.00	1	5,000	33,400.00
MANNYBANK	1.99	1.90	0.09	8	91,500	172,850.00
MAY&BAKER	3.60	3.60	0.09	4	11,669	41,408.19
MOBIL	64.00	64.00	0.00	13	37,523	2,396,599.60
MORISON	4.29	4.29	0.00	1	1,147	4,920.63
NAL	5.42	5.42	0.27	25	737,337	4,195,447.53
NB	27.85	27.85	0.15	49	295,595	8,238,264.43
NBC	21.90	21.90	0.90	39	127,226	2,655,242.00
NEM	0.61	0.61	0.03	3	6,120	3,916.80
NESTLE	64.90	64.90	0.90	16	92,209	5,864,035.50
NIG-GERMAN	2.53	2.53	0.12	5	498,552	1,201,552.56
NIGERINS	6.35	6.35	0.31	1	5,000	30,200.00
NIWICABLE	2.17	2.17	0.00	4	20,035	43,475.95
NOLCHEM	44.39	44.39	0.00	13	3,247	151,699.84
OKOMUOIL	9.45	9.45	0.00	5	4,278	40,427.10
OWENABANK	3.77	3.77	0.00	4	430,555	1,663,192.35
POLYPROD	0.50	0.50	0.00	3	1,000	500.00
PRESTIGE	2.55	2.55	0.00	1	10,000	25,500.00
PZ	14.12	14.12	0.38	31	166,198	2,372,597.54
ROYALEX	5.35	5.35	0.25	3	16,255	82,900.50
RTBRISCOE	1.35	1.35	0.00	5	3,000	4,050.00
SAVANNA	1.22	1.22	0.00	8	48,684	59,074.86
SKBEECHAM	2.52	2.52	0.04	10	56,684	144,257.84
TEXACO	64.00	64.00	1.00	9	10,555	668,291.00
TOTAL	65.00	65.00	0.00	12	7,430	482,950.00
TRIPPLEG	1.29	1.29	0.00	3	10,000	12,900.00
UAC-PROP	2.70	2.70	0.00	43	14,456,710	39,062,304.30
UACN	3.61	3.61	0.06	36	226,995	813,098.20
UBA	12.75	12.75	0.26	87	872,125	11,360,662.25
UBN	39.00	39.00	0.65	117	546,203	20,927,422.45
UNIONDICON	15.80	15.80	0.30	8	23,380	362,390.00
UNIPETROL	49.64	49.64	2.48	58	130,959	6,152,044.58
UNTL	3.15	3.15	0.15	3	30,959	93,252.00
UPL	4.00	4.00	0.00	4	10,050	40,200.00
UTB	4.70	4.70	0.23	23	169,396	800,084.20
UTC	1.44	1.44	0.00	2	5,000	7,200.00
VITAFOAM	4.15	4.15	0.05	12	73,179	305,541.45
WAPCO	42.38	42.38	2.11	24	166,900	6,721,063.00
WAPIC	1.36	1.36	0.06	1	131	170.30
WEMABANK	2.85	2.85	0.03	13	71,223	204,793.80
TOTAL				1,475	20,898,205	206,026,141.79

Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE) Gainers/Losers as at 2/07/2001

Gainers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
FIRSTBANK	32.35	33.20	0.85
PZ	14.12	14.50	0.38
NAL	5.42	5.69	0.27
UBA	12.75	13.01	0.26
CHARTERED	8.24	8.49	0.25
NB	27.85	28.00	0.15
CRUSADER	2.29	2.40	0.11
7UP	5.90	6.00	0.10
INLANDBANK	1.48	1.55	0.07
INTBREW	1.26	1.32	0.06
ETERNAOIL	1.12	1.17	0.05
VITAFOAM	4.15	4.20	0.05
ACCESSBANK	1.20	1.25	0.05
WEMABANK	2.85	2.88	0.03
NEM	0.61	0.64	0.03

Losers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
UNIPETROL	49.64	47.16	2.48
WAPCO	42.38	40.27	2.11
NBC	21.90	21.00	0.90
MORISON	5.15	4.29	0.86
GUINNESS	37.85	37.16	0.69
FIRSTALUM	3.12	2.50	0.62
CADBURY	25.50	25.00	0.50
AFRIBANK	8.99	8.56	0.43
FSB	6.92	6.58	0.34
NIGERINS	6.35	6.04	0.31
UNIONDICON	15.80	15.50	0.30
LONGMAN	5.80	5.52	0.28
ROYALEX	5.35	5.10	0.25
UTB	4.70	4.47	0.23
DUNLOP	3.43	3.27	0.16
UNTL	3.15	3.00	0.15
JOHNHOLT	2.63	2.50	0.13
NIG-GERMAN	2.53	2.41	0.12
LIBERTY	2.22	2.11	0.11
MAY&BAKER	3.60	3.51	0.09
MANNYBANK	1.99	1.90	0.09
IMB	1.75	1.67	0.08
AVONCROWN	1.70	1.62	0.08
COSTAIN	1.42	1.36	0.06
AFPRINT	1.00	0.98	0.02

Summary of Transactions

DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE	No. OF COMPANIES
1,475	29,898,205	2,065,024,613.23	85

Source: NSE, Abuja Area Office

Bulls and Bears tie at NSE on 2/07/2001

Trading reports collected from Abuja Area Office of the Nigerian Stock Exchange indicated that a total of 18.62 million shares valued at N168.60 million in 1,796 deals were traded on the floors of the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

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

Price Movement:

The bears won the bulls on the floor, with a total of 15 companies gaining and 25 losing in their share prices.

Gains were recorded in the Banking, Conglomerates, Breweries, Insurance, Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Petroleum Marketing and the Industrial & Domestic Product sub sector.

Firstbank Plc led the price gainers, as it appreciated by 85 kobo to close the day at N33.20 per share, followed by PZ Plc, which appreciated by 38 kobo to close at N14.50 per share.

Other price gainers include NAL (27 kobo piece); UBA (26 kobo piece); Chartered (25 kobo piece); NB (15 kobo piece); Crusader (11 kobo piece); Seven-up (10 kobo piece); Inlandbank (7 kobo piece); Interbrew (6 kobo piece); Eternaoil, Vitafoam and Accessbank (5 kobo apiece) and Wemabank and NEM (3 kobo apiece).

Losses were recorded in the Petroleum Marketing, Building Materials, Food/Beverages & tobacco, Healthcare, Breweries, Industrial and Domestic Product, Banking, Insurance, Printing and Publishing, Automobile and Tyre, Textile, Conglomerates, Chemical and Paint, Packaging and the Construction sub sectors.

Unipetrol Plc led the price losers, crashing by 284 kobo to close at and N47.16 per share, followed by WAPCO Plc, which lost 211 kobo, to close at N40.27 per share.

Other price losers include NBC (90 kobo piece); Morison (86 kobo piece); Guinness (69 kobo piece); Firstalum (62 kobo piece); Cadbury (50 kobo piece); Afribank (43 kobo piece); FSB (34 kobo piece); Nigerins (31 kobo piece); Uniondicon (30 kobo piece) and Longman (28 kobo piece).

Congratulations on your recent victory at the United Nations on the motion sponsored by the United States on the issue of Human Rights in China. What is the significance of that victory to your country?

Thank you. On April 18, the 57th session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission decided to reject the so-called draft resolution on the "Human Rights Situation in China" sponsored by the United States. This is the 10th time that the U. N. Human Rights Commission has rejected an anti-China motion on human rights since 1990. It once again proved that any attempt to interfere in other countries' internal affairs and the pursuit of hegemonism and power politics under the pretext of the so-called human rights issue is like an arrow at the end of its flight and is doomed to failure. Facts speak louder than words and justice will always prevail. It is a victory not only to China, but also to all justice-upholding countries. I would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to all

those countries, which uphold justice including Nigeria.

The Chinese government has all along attached importance to the human rights issue, and has dedicated itself to promoting and protecting the human rights and basic freedoms of the Chinese people in accordance with the actual national conditions. In recent years, China has made great achievements in this regard, which have been universally recognised and won praise from the international community. Although the human rights situation is not perfect in China and I think no country can say its human rights situation is perfect, I can proudly say that the human rights situation in China is now the best in its history.

In the meantime, the Chinese government has always maintained that all countries should embark upon dialogue and exchanges on the basis of equality and mutual respect so as to enhance common understanding, reduce differences and expand consensus. It is ready to work with other members of the interna-

tional community to continue to make positive contributions to the sound development of the human rights cause in the world. Following the rejection of the anti-China resolution, the US failed to be re-elected into the UN Human Rights Commission. This reflected the opposition of the world to its hegemonism and power politics. The U.S. is suggested to realise its errors, and return to the right track.

The newly inaugurated Bush administration has announced that it would start a national defence system. China has reacted saying that the system would encourage the arms race.

In specific terms, how does the programme undermine the security of China and the world at large? What would China do if the United States goes ahead with the programme in spite of your criticism?

The development of missile defence systems violates the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM Treaty) and runs counter to the trend of the times of peace and development. It would only undermine security and stimulate missile proliferation, hamper the international arms control and disarmament efforts and bring widespread and profound negative impact on the global and regional strategic balance in the 21st century.

The plan of the US government to develop de-

China opposes p

fence only impairs the legitimate security interests of the other countries, but also undermines the US's own interests. We hope that the US side should take into consideration the political and strategic price it would have to pay in pursuing this plan and withdraw from it as early as possible.

Why did China insist on the apology over the spy plane crisis? Is it normal diplomatic practice? Now US spy planes have resumed their missions again in spite of your warnings that such over-flights should stop. What is your country's reaction to this development?

This incident had been widely reported by the world media. Everybody has seen the facts and could make their own judgement. What I want to note here is that it is a very serious incident. The US military reconnaissance plane rammed into and destroyed a Chinese military plane, leading to the disappearance of the Chinese pilot. It thereafter entered China's airspace and landed at the Chinese airfield without permission in violation of international law and the provisions of the relevant laws of China. The Chinese side is the victim and the US side must bear full responsibility for this incident. It is entirely reasonable and legitimate for the Chinese side to ask for an apology to the Chinese people from the US side. This is easy to understand if anyone thinks it on the assumption that this happened to their own country and they are victims.

I also want to point out that the root cause of the incident is the fact that the US side frequently dispatches its planes to China's coastal areas for reconnaissance purposes in disregard of repeated opposition from China. This act has posed a serious threat to China's security interests. We hope that the US side would draw

The Ambassador of the People grant press interviews easily. thorough. In this interview with Foreign Desk, he bares his mind on the controversy, the Falun Gong m

a lesson from it and correct such erroneous acts in the future. The Chinese side will continue to lodge solemn representations on this issue with the US.

China has always valued its relations with the US. Actually it is in the light of the overall interest of China-US relations that the Chinese side has been handling this incident in a calm and restrained manner. We hope the US side could take a positive and constructive approach and work with the Chinese side to bring the bilateral relations onto the track of normal development.

Recently, President Jiang Zeming toured some South American countries including Cuba. Putin, the Russian President also visited China last year. Some have interpreted these visits to mean that the Communist world is regrouping under the leadership of China to counter the West, especially the United States. What is your reaction to this?

China pursues an independent foreign policy of peace. It is ready to establish and develop relations of friendship and cooperation with all the countries in the world on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence namely, mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence in disregard of their ideologies and social systems. China strongly opposes hegemonism and power politics and would not enter into alliances or strategic relations of any



Mr. Liang Yinshu, Ambassador

China will also assistance to T rican countries specific econ countries and South coopero the form of an interest-free le terminated by b

type with any big power or g of nations. China would never hegemonism even if it beco strong one day.

President Putin's visit to C and President Jiang Zemin's to Cuba is part of the high-level change of visits that is going o tween China and these two c tries which at the same time n



President Jiang Zemin

Interview

Power politics — Chinese Ambassador

Republic of China, Mr. Liang Yinzhong, does not whenever he chooses to speak, he is precise and Kevin Ebele Adinnu and Musa Aliyu of the on China's human rights policy, the spy plane er, and much more. Excerpts:



People's Republic of China

cific region and the world as a whole.

In recent times China has been demonstrating increasing concern on the plight of poorer third world countries. For instance, it wrote off half of Burundi's debt and offered an interest, free financial assistance. Why this increasing presence?

A cornerstone of China's foreign policy is to strengthen solidarity and cooperation with developing countries in the third world. We sympathize with the plight of poorer third world countries, especially those African countries that are heavily burdened by debt and are ready to offer help within our capacity. Although China is itself a developing country and a net debtor, and the African debts to China does not constitute the bulk of the continent's debt stock, China would like to contribute to the debt relief efforts of African coun-

try. During the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation held in Beijing in October last year, China announced that it would reduce or cancel debt amounting to 10 billion RMB yuan owed by the heavily indebted poor countries and least devel-

oped countries in Africa in the coming two years. It is now working with relevant countries on details with regard to debt relief through bilateral channels.

China will also continue to provide development assistance to Third World countries including African countries within its capacity, in the light of specific economic conditions of the recipient countries and within the framework of South-South cooperation. This support will mainly take the form of aid grants, concessional loans and interest-free loans to be mainly used in areas determined by both sides.

President Jiang Zemin met with protests by members of the Falun Gong movement during his recent trip to Hong Kong. Falun Gong practitioners claim that they are exercising their freedom of worship but Beijing, perhaps, thinks otherwise. What does China have against the Falun Gong?

Numerous facts have proved that Falun Gong is a cult organization instead of a religion. It has endangered people's lives, created family tragedies and disturbed social order. Now in China Falun Gong has claimed nearly 1700 lives of practitioners who went insane, refused medical treatment, and committed suicide. No responsible government would tolerate such evil.

The Chinese government protects the freedom of speech, gathering, association and religious belief of its citizens. However, it will never allow anyone to use any cult to bring social disorder or harm the life or security

of its people. It is exactly for the purpose of protecting its people's basic rights and freedom that the Chinese government has banned and cracked down on the Falun Gong cult. It has won the firm support of all the Chinese people and wide understanding of the international community.

During the regime of late General Abacha, Nigeria was believed to have found a better friend in China given the strained relations with countries of the west. You were even given the contract to renovate our railway system. Since President Obasanjo assumed power, we hear little about this project. How are Sino-Nigerian relations faring now?

The Chinese and Nigerian people have always maintained a profound traditional friendship. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries on February 10, 1971, our bilateral relations have always been cordial despite the dramatic changes that have taken place both in-

ternationally and domestically in either of our two countries. We have always firmly supported and closely collaborated with each other in the national construction of our respective countries, and in international affairs, and the friendly cooperation between us in political, economic, cultural and other fields have been strength-

ened continuously.

Since the democratically elected administration led by H. E. President Olusegun Obasanjo assumed office in 1999 and with the care and attention from the leaders of our two nations and the joint efforts of our two governments and two peoples, a sound momentum of development has been witnessed in Sino-Nigerian relations. High level contacts and bilateral visits between our two countries have been increasing. The two sides have maintained sound cooperation in international affairs and made new progress in bilateral economic and trade cooperation. Meanwhile, the cultural, scientific, technological, educational, and health cooperation between our two countries have also been further strengthened.

Facts have proven that the Sino-Nigerian relations, which are built on the basis of traditional friendship and the five principles of peaceful co-existence enjoys great vigour and vitality and

can stand up to the test of time, and dramatic changes, in the world situation. China attaches great importance to its relations with Nigeria. We are confident that, through the concerted efforts being made by the two governments and the people of China and Nigeria, the Sino-Nigerian relations of cooperation will develop continuously, steadily, comprehensively and profoundly and bear richer fruits in the new century.

As for the Nigerian railway renovation project, so far as I know, the project had been discussed between China and Nigeria long before Abacha's government. China was requested to help as early as in the 1980s. The Project has not been completed due to some reasons. Now the Nigerian democratic government has finished reviewing the project and would let the Chinese Company complete it soon.

continue to provide development aid World countries including Africa within its capacity, in the light of economic conditions of the recipient within the framework of South-South cooperation. This support will mainly take the form of aid grants, concessional loans and interest-free loans to be mainly used in areas determined by both sides.

reflects the friendly and cooperative relations existing between us. China also attaches importance to the development of relations with the US and believes that the development of friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries serves the interests of both sides and is of vital importance to the peace and prosperity of Asia-Pa-

tries. During the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation held in Beijing in October last year, China announced that it would reduce or cancel debt amounting to 10 billion RMB yuan owed by the heavily indebted poor countries and least devel-



A Chinese man takes a break after sweeping a stage in preparation for celebration of the upcoming 80th anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party.

Feature

Declining fortunes of cinema houses in Lagos

In the late 1970s and through the 1980, Danjuma International Cinema, Moricass Road, Agege was the toast of cinema lovers in Lagos.

A brainchild of the late business Mogul, Alhaji Danjuma Haruna, Danjuma International Cinema was the place to go for the best in American, Indian and Chinese films.

There was also Jebako Cinema, located on Capitol Road, which was established as an arm of the more popular Jebako Cinema in Idi-Ovo; Mushin Larco Super Cinema at Agbotikuyo and Pen Cinema which later swelled up the number of cinema houses in Agege.

Throughout the period mentioned above, cinema lovers were indeed getting so much fun and Agege was also fittingly tagged the "Home of cinemas."

But unfortunately today, only Pen Cinema, out of the four cinema houses mentioned above is still functioning at full throttle.

Even then, Pen Cinema itself is having a feel of the hard times as it is operating under a very harsh business climate and its declining infrastructure is all too apparent.

To say Danjuma Cinema is in the throes of death is to say the obvious as it only occasionally renders skeletal services. The others (located in the Agege area), Jebako and Larco Super Cinemas have since died prematurely.

The problem with Danjuma Cinema started about seven years ago when its owner, Alhaji Danjuma Haruna, got afflicted with a life-threatening illness. The illness rendered him bedridden for four years before he gave up the ghost about three years ago.

It is an understatement that Danjuma's illness gulped a lot of money and with the dwindling fortunes of cinema business in the country, the cinema aspect of Danjuma's business ceased to thrive.

When *Daily Trust* visited the Moricass Road base of the cinema house, two things made the place look like a pale shadow of its former self. In the first instance, unlike what obtained in the past, there were no posters to indicate what films to expect.

Secondly, those good old fellows who used to sell roasted meat, otherwise known as suya, in the vicinity of the Cinema house were nowhere to be found. They were said to have all left.

An observer informed *Daily Trust* that "they still show films there, but you yourself can see that it is no longer regular, I think the place is almost totally dead now."

The case of Jebako Cinema situated along capitol Road is even worse. The cinema house is no more being used for the purpose for which it was originally set-up. It has since

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, in Lagos

been converted into a brothel! "Which day did they even show film here last? Is it not many months ago?" A resident of the area asked the *Daily Trust* reporter.

Of course, Jebako is located in the ghetto area of Agege, linking Isale-Oja with old Abeokuta Motor Road. The area, *Daily Trust* findings revealed is totally over-crowded, giving room for all sorts of nefarious activities-prostitution being one of them. Little wonder that the old Jebako Cinema now plays host to women of easy virtues, who have since found a new use for it.

For Larco Super Cinema, also in Agege, cinema ceased in the place in the early 90s. An insider informed *Daily Trust* that its cinema came to a halt following what he called "low returns."

Initially, some apartments in the Cinema house were rented out to businessmen dealing in provisions. Now, however, a parish of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) has fully taken over the top floor of the building, while the ground floor is being used for supermarkets.

The success story of Pen Cinema, also in Agege, which is still "standing" according to one of its co-ordinators, Mr. Wale Ayinde, is about sticking to the old game. The cinema house now concentrates more on showing Indian and Chinese films.

"At Pen Cinema, we only show Indian, Chinese and American films and not all those home video stuff. The response of people has been quite positive. The home video has not in any way hindered people from visiting Pen Cinema," Mr. Ayinde boasted.

He continued: "There is nothing so spectacular about the home video that makes it more special, or makes it a threat to the cinema business. The cinema industry despite all odds is still thriving."

According to Ayinde, films are shown three times daily there beginning from 3.00 p.m. Except on Sundays when it opens by 12.00 noon.

Daily Trust also discovered that apart from Pen Cinema, the Community Cinema, Egbe is also still in business.

The survival strategy of the Egbe Community Cinema situated at Ile-Iwe bus stop is the ability to get the best of both English and Yoruba films.

"Egbe has developed and this is the only cinema house here, so it is not surprising that the cinema house is thriving," a resident of the area told *Daily Trust*.

The cinema houses in La-

gos, are the most notorious ghettos, Ajegunle is also suffering the same fate as many of those in Agege.

Daily Trust investigations revealed that out of the four cinema houses that hitherto existed in the area, only one is at the moment functioning, while the rest have either been converted to churches or simply abandoned.

For instance, the popular Oregie Cinema at I Durojaiye Street, Ajegunle, built in the 1970s has since stopped functioning.

Sources said the cinema house "died" about seven years ago following the death of its owner. The place was said to have been briefly managed by the son of the proprietor before it finally collapsed.

Today, the top floor of the cinema house is now occupied by the Redeemed Christian Church of God (Zion Chapel). A member of the church told *Daily Trust* that they have been there for the past six years.

Similarly, the ground floor of Oregie Cinema has been turned into a school. Presently there are about four coaching centres owned by different people preparing students for such examinations as GCE, JME and the like. They have now become Common Entrance Examination Centres for pupils and adult education class.

Ajegunle area in the 1970s and 1980s, noting that the place simply collapsed upon the death of its owner.

He hinted that apart from the church and educational centres operating there, the place is normally used for wedding receptions, parties and other social gatherings.

Ige blamed the collapse of the cinema house on the



Ms. Boma Bromilow-Jack, Minister of Culture

emergence of home videos, arguing that people are no longer patronizing them, as was the case in the 70s and 80s.

When *Daily Trust* visited the place, it was a beehive of activities. From afar, one could easily hear the cacophony of voices emanating from the cinema house as a result of the activities of the church and those of the preparatory classes.

Like Oregie Cinema, the Boundary Cinema situated at Baale Street, Ajegunle has also ceased to exist. But unlike the former, Boundary Cinema is not being put to any use.

At the time *Daily Trust* visited the place, a large signpost had been erected in

front of the cinema house with an inscription: "For sale." It was gathered that ever since the notice was erected, no tangible result has been achieved to that effect.

Similarly, it was gathered that the cinema house built in the 1970s was very popular until its demise.

Daily Trust investigations revealed that the only cinema house still operating in the area at the moment is God Dey Cinema Limited, located at 163, Kirikiri Road, Olodi - Apapa.

Like Pen Cinema in Agege, its survival strategy, it was gathered, lies in the ability to show the best of America, Indian and Chinese films.

On Lagos Island, the cinema houses that hitherto operated there have been converted to churches.

Like locusts, Christians now storm erstwhile cinema houses in their thousands for weekly devotional services and gradually, the former den of robbers are being transformed into houses of God!

The first cinema house to be converted into a holy sanctuary on the Lagos Island was the Plaza Cinema situated at the plaza building, 5/7 McCarthy Street, Onikan, Lagos. It now houses the Grace Assembly of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG).

Today, the entire Plaza Cinema House has been taken over by the church, while other areas in, the building have been turned to business outfits such as salvation travel Agency and Computech Services Limited. According to *Daily Trust* checks The RCCG took over the plaza building in 1995.

The Plaza Cinema prides itself with facilities such as permanent collapsible seats,



A recent performance at the Tafawa Balewa square, Lagos

Mr. John-Ken Ige, a professional teacher who operates an evening lesson there told *Daily Trust* that he had been occupying the place for the past four years. He said Oregie Cinema was the most popular cinema house in the entire

Flaming Sword Ministry headed by Rev Babalola, its spiritual head and founder. However, the acquisition of the cinema house by the ministry has been described as a God-omen.

In a nutshell, the

which has a sitting capacity of between 700 and 1000 people. The landlord, sources said, is based in Warri, Delta State.

Adjacent to Plaza Cinema is the Kings Cinema at 97A Lewis Street, Lafiaji, Lagos, which had since been taken over by the

environment around Kings Cinema had been very unsafe. Hoodlums usually sit both in and out side the Cinema house, selling Indian hemp and, as well as indulging in immoral acts. But the coming of the Church has broken the yoke, a resident of the area and church member declared.

In Surulere area of Lagos, the story has been the same. The fact that things were no longer at ease with cinema houses in the area become noticeable in the late 1980 when popular cinema house in Akerele, Super Cinema began to play host to a congregation, the popular Christ Chapel led by Pastor Tunde Joda.

First timers to that end of Surulere on the weekend then would assume the film house was having a special session, especially on Wednesday when the church normally has its midweek evening service.

As far as Kolawole Adedajo Ogunbanwo, an ace Cinematographer and retired film Director/Manager of the Nigerian Film Corporation (CNFC) is concerned, the film industry will continue to decline for as long as the Nigerian economy remains in comatose.

He stressed that in Nigeria today, there are more video productions than the actual film, noting "video is cost effective while celluloid requires some capital to get out because of its complex process of production."

He called on well-to-do Nigerians to back film production, whereby enough training facilities would be provided, maintaining that this is the only way to bail out the film industry from its present dwindling status.

One other very vital factor responsible for the declining patronage of cinema houses and by extension their collapse, is the security situation of the city of Lagos.

Since the Nigerian economy began to depreciate, crime wave has appreciated, forcing people to keep indoors rather than go to cinema houses, which are often patronized by robbers and other anti-social elements.

Daily Trust investigations revealed further that it is only the National Theatre, Iganmu that appears to be restoring the cinema culture in Lagos. Yet, the National Theatre is just a shadow of itself in the sense that most of the facilities that were enjoyed in 1977 during the 2nd World Black Festival of Arts and Culture, a.k.a. FESTAC 77, for which purpose it was built are no more there.

It is so bad now that in some of the halls, cinema goers are no longer protected from getting wet whenever it is raining outside. The roofs are leaking and nobody seems to care.

NEWS

Dep Gov urges FG to announce 2002 hajj fare

Kano State Deputy Governor, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Gonduje, has urged the Federal Government to announce the hajj fare for 2002 to enable intending pilgrims make early preparations.

He equally appealed to the Federal Government to reduce the hajj fare, as against last year's hajj operation which he said therefore, was too much. He made the call last week while receiving the report of 2001 hajj operation from the state pilgrims welfare board.

Dr. Gonduje commended the board for a job well done, pointing out that members of the board had performed wonderfully, for ensuring a successful hajj operation in

From Aliyu M. Sulaiman, in Kano

the state.

A press release signed by the board's Public Relations Officer, Muhammad Yusuf Yola, stated that the deputy governor declared open the hajj deposit for intending



President Olusegun Obasanjo

Bizman commends FG over search for oil in the north

The recent resolution by the Federal Government to go ahead with the search for oil in the north and dredge the River Niger will fetch Nigeria billions of naira worth of economic and social benefits, a renowned businessman, Alhaji Salihu Garba Gyabe, has asserted.

Speaking exclusively to Daily Trust in Kaduna last weekend, Alhaji Garba noted that the resolution had to a great extent reconciled the north with President Olusegun Obasanjo who, he said, would naturally enjoy corresponding loyalty and confidence of northerners.

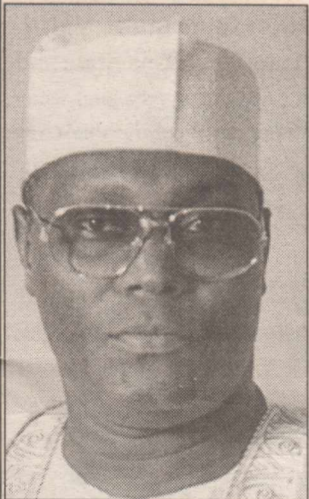
From Ibrahim Ka-Almasih, in Kaduna

The direct economic gains, according to him, included expected fall in prices of goods and services due to extension of water ways transport to the north which, he said, was the largest market in not only Nigeria but the entire West Africa.

He said if oil was eventually found in the north in commercial quantity, it would solve the economic interest of not only the north but the entire country and therefore, called on southern members of the elites to politically support the ventures.

Alhaji Gyabe, who is also the Sarkin Yakin Gindiri, expressed dismay over the threat of ethnic clashes to not only lives and property, but also the economic and social development of the nation.

He, therefore, called on both federal and state governments concerned to temporarily set up local intelligent and pre-emptive groups in all areas with potentials for trouble because that, he said, would be cheaper than the millions of naira being paid as compensation to victims of such crisis.



Vice-President Atiku Abubakar

Kwara govt vows to expose trouble shooters

Kwara State government has vowed to expose the brains behind last Thursday political violence which erupted in Ilorin, the state capital just as the Ilorin Emirate Chiefs Forum has called for restraint in the community.

Alhaji Razaq Lawal, Commissioner for Special Duties, said in a statement signed by the Special Assistant on Media Affairs,

Alhaji Razaq Gidado, that the government has more tasking assignments to handle than pursue individuals.

He absolved the state government of complicity in the Thursday's political fracas during which Dr. Olusola Saraki was allegedly waylaid in one of his outings in Ilorin at Idi-Ape area, saying "those behind all the rumours were enemies of progress in the state."

The commissioner said no

pilgrim for the year 2002.

The chairman of the board, Sheikh Kanbullahi Nasiru Kabora, commended the state government for waving the inoculation fees for the pilgrims and assisting them with S.R. 50.00 while at Saudi Arabia for Hajj 2001.

Shiekh Kanbullahi further expressed satisfaction with the immense contribution made by Customs, Immigration, Bank of the

North Limited, and the Royal Consulate of Saudi Arabia towards the success of the hajj operations.

In his remarks, the Executive Secretary of the board, Alhaji Laminu Rabi, recommended that the state government should implore the Federal Government to vest on her the right of choice of an air carrier for the annual pilgrimage.

Edo pounces on churches over absconded pilgrims

The Edo State government is set to close down any church and prosecute the pastor who recommend any Christian pilgrim that ends up absconding to other lands.

Handing down the warning in Benin City during a seminar organised for Christians intending to participate in this year's pilgrimage, the Edo State Chairman of Christian Pilgrims Welfare Board, Rev. Humphrey Arheghan, said the government is worried that the churches have failed to bring sanity into the system which prompted government's action.

Expressing fears over the ability of churches to discharge their own side of the responsibility, Rev. Arheghan said: "In the year 2000 alone, 18 persons absconded from the state contingent to the holy land. The most unfortunate part of

From Shehu Abubakar, in Benin City

it was that, eight of them were pastors, two church founders, two female evangelists, one male evangelist while the remaining five persons were ordinary church members."

The board chairman said the state government has now resolved to only screen and authorize a christian to perform pilgrimage after he/she might have been identified and recommended to the board by a church, adding that "the state government has constituted a screening committee comprising of representatives of the pentecostal and orthodox churches among others.

Rev. Arheghan accused churches and their leaders of collecting money from prospective pilgrims and signing recommendation letters for people of

A new acting Managing Director has been appointed for the National Fertilizer Company of Nigeria (NAFCON), Onne. He is Mr. Monima Nelson.

The chairman of the NAFCON board, Ambassador Hassan Adamu, stated at the weekend when he paid a courtesy call on the Rivers State Governor, Dr. Peter Odili.

Ambassador Hassan said the board was determined to restore NAFCON to its sound footing in line with the Federal

NAFCON gets new MD

From Aisha Momoh, in Port Harcourt

Government's mandate. He also restated that the board was working towards revamping NAFCON's production facilities in order to reduce the nation's dependence on fertilizer importation.

The chairman told the governor that they were in the state for the first meeting of the new board which was inaugurated last May by Vice-President Atiku Abubakar.

Earlier, the Rivers State Governor, Dr. Peter Odili, said by the inauguration of the board, the Federal Government has displayed element of seriousness to reactivate the company.

According to him, "this will be one of the greatest challenges in life, to prove NAFCON to what it takes to be."

Zamfara to boost educational standard

From Salisu Maradun, in Gusau

The Zamfara State government has reiterated its determination toward improving the standard of education to achieve desired development in the state.

The Deputy Governor, Alhaji Mhamud Aliyu, made this known in Gusau at the occasion of first speech and prize-giving ceremony of School for Continuing Education for Women held at Women Arabic Secondary School, Gusau.

The deputy governor also explained that in order to achieve the desired goods, government has committed much resources, both human and materials to see that all problems facing institutions of learning in the state, right from primary level to secondary, are solved by making education available and accessible to all.

According to him, because of it's the importance of women education government felt it necessary to create a female education board in order to match side-by-side with that of its male counterpart aimed at addressing educational problems of womenfolk.

He advised both staff and students of the pioneer college to reciprocate government gesture to provide enabling environment of teaching by learning to work hard and rededicate themselves towards achieving the goals.

Irate youths attack secretariat over non-payment of salary

Non-payment of salaries by Yakur Local Government Council in Cross River State has made a group of irate youths to storm the council secretariat unleashing mayhem in the process.

The council chairman, vice-chairman and 10 councillors out of 13 are now taking refuge in Calabar South Local Government Area as they were said to be chased

away from the council area at Ugep during the melee.

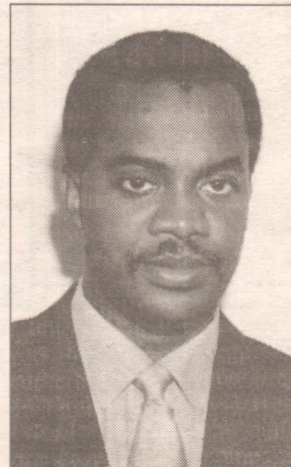
The chairman, Mr. Godwin Etta, was alleged to have been spending council's fund on personal aggrandizement even as he was said to have delayed the payment of workers' salaries for three months.

He was also alleged to have recorded low development strides and has been busy looting the council's treasury to buy his personal effects and build houses.

When contacted, the chairman, Mr. Etta, said the group whose name he gave as "Delta Force" was being sponsored by one Barrister Okoi Obono-Obla and another Okoi Ofem to perpetrate violence in the area.

Stating that their intentions are often malicious, the chairman conceded that although he was making efforts to pay the three months salaries owed workers, yet he was very articulate in developing the council area with projects spread across the wards.

He, however, recalled that the youths who stormed the council secretariat last week carrying all sorts of dangerous weapons, destroyed vehicles including his official car, and those of some councillors who were also burnt down, a Peugeot wagon, the vice-chairman's car among others. They also looted the council secretariat and carted away files and office effects while his driver was seriously injured in the process.



Gov Donald Duke

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The Trustees are:

1. Emenike N Eme - Chairman	2. Celestine Nwali
3. Obinna C Akobundu	4. Ndubisi Nwankwo
5. Malachy O. Ugwu	

Any objections to the registration should be directed to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja within 28 days of this publication

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I formerly called **GARBA JIBO** now wish to be called **BELLO JIBO**. All former documents remain valid. Ministry of Education Kaduna State and public to note.

I, formerly known as **MISS UMMA ABUBAKAR** now wish to be addressed as **MRS. UMMA AHMED ABUBAKAR**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and the general public to take note.

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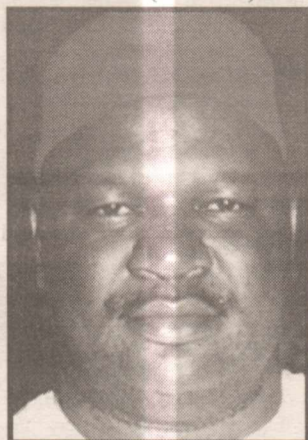
State assemblies to sue Senate

As the senate and states houses of assembly continue to join issues on the creation of local governments in the country, the conference of speakers of state houses of assembly has threatened to again drag the senate to court.

This was disclosed by the chairman special committee on the creation of additional local governments in the Cross River State House of Assembly, Hon. Barrister Bassey Ewa.

Apparently reacting to the senate's rejection of the newly created council areas in Ebonyi and those of Bayelsa States among others, Hon. Ewa stated that the senate has no powers to stop houses of assembly from

From Bassey Ita, in Calabar
creating local governments even as he accused the senate of operating in accordance with the "financial drumbeat of the Association of Local Governments (ALGON).



Senate President Pius Anyim
He further stated that it was an exclusive right of the

houses of assembly to create local governments just as it is the right of the Senate to create States.

"The constitution empowers the house of assembly to create local governments as it is in section 8, and at the same time that same section 8 empowers the senate to create states."

The lawmaker further stressed that even at that, the houses of assembly have extra powers to consent to the issue of states creation just as the senate would do on local governments.

The lawmaker whose committee has just recommended the creation of 26 additional local governments in Cross River State, described as unfounded the senate's position on the issue of local government creation, adding that the law will certainly justify this course.

"If we are practising true democracy, I don't think the Senate president can go on air to make such an unfounded utterance. He cannot be personal about an issue that is of a very serious national and democratic importance. His assertion must be reconsidered by him. He needs to read the constitution very well," he said.

Crisis looms in Lagos PDP

The lingering crisis bedevilling the Lagos State chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has finally turned the party into two camps with different party secretariats.

Indications to this emerged at the weekend, when the so called Sarumi faction comprising 32 members of the party's executive council declared in a press briefing the suspension of the chairman, Alhaji Murtala Ashoronbi for anti-party activities.

The group also passed a vote of no confidence on the south-west national vice-

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos
chairman of the party, Chief Bode George.

But during the official opening of a new party secretariat the next day, the national vice-chairman called the bluff of the Sarumi camp, giving them a 14-day ultimatum within which to change their minds or the party would organise a fresh congress to select new executive for the PDP in Lagos State.

George, who is alleged to be in support of the Yomi Edu faction stated that the movement of the secretariat to the new site in Ikeja, was imperative as they could not continue to stay on someone's property.

He said although the property was offered for the use of the party free of charge for two years by Chief Dapo Sarumi, the party, the PDP chieftain added must move on in order not to be tied to the apron strings of any individual.

According to him "the new secretariat was sanctioned by PDP's national secretariat.

He said the old secretariat was inhibiting the progress of the party and gave the impression that PDP in Lagos State belonged to a faction, saying that was why the movement to a new place became imperative in order to give a sense of belonging to all sections.

Former Lagos Island council chairman, Prince Ademola Adeniji Adele in his contribution praised the sbhv outh west vice chairman of the party for his effort to ensure that PDP performs creditably well in the south-west come 2003.

Adele moved a motion of confidence on Bode George which was carried by voice vote by the thousands of PDP faithfuls who graced the official opening of the secretariat.

A plethora of dignitaries graced the occasion, and they include minister of special duties, Yomi Edu, former governorship aspirant Chief Tony Adeteye, senatorial aspirant, Mrs Onikepo Oshodi and former Alliance for Democracy (AD) governorship aspirant, Chief Funso Williams.



Gemade

Nassarawa crisis: Mantu preaches reconciliation

Deputy Senate President, Senator Ibrahim Mantu has warned against the use of

violence to settle political scores saying such actions may disrupt the present democratic process.

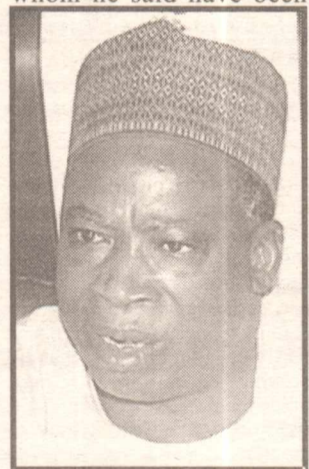
Senator Mantu gave the warning in Makurdi, the Benue State capital over the weekend when he led a powerful Senate delegation to sympathise with thousands of people currently taking refuge in the state as a result of the communal crisis in Nasarawa State.

According to him, the team was in the state to sympathise with the government of Benue State, and debunked the rumours that the crisis was between Benue and Nasarawa States.

Alhaji Mantu who condemned some prominent indigenes for fuelling the crisis that has claimed thousands of lives, said peace and stability are the only

necessary ingredients of democracy.

The lawmaker expressed disappointment over the killings among peoples, whom he said have been



Gov Adamu
living together for more than 100 years, to now turn around to take up arms against themselves.

The deputy senate president who was accompanied on the tour by two senators from the state, Senator Daniel Saror and Joseph Waku, warned that posterity would not forgive the elites that claim to know too much for playing politics with human lives.

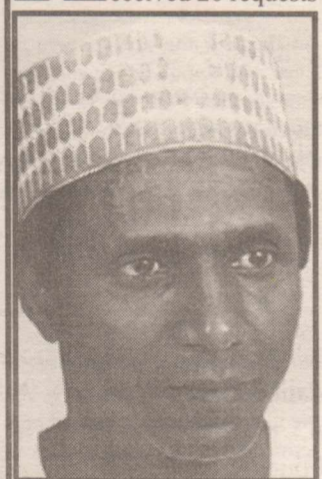
He described the crisis as dangerous for farmers who are preparing for next year's harvest and therefore advised traditional rulers who are the custodian of the people to be on the alert to avert future occurrence.

Mantu charged the warring factions to lay down their arms to enable the displaced persons go back and take care of their crops, as everything short of that will spell doom for people of the area during the next harvest.

In his response, the state deputy governor Chief Ogiri Ajane who represented the governor said the Benue State government had been under tremendous pressure for the past three weeks, as a result of over 100,000 displaced persons taking refuge in different camps in this state.

Katsina Assembly receives request for new LGs

Katsina State House of Assembly has received 20 requests



Gov Yar'Adua

From Hassan A. Karofi, in Katsina
for the creation of new local governments.

Speaker of the Katsina State House of Assembly, Dr. Kurfi told *Daily Trust* that about 20 agitations for local government creations have been received, but no definite action had been reached on any of these demands.

He further stressed that so far, the house has established a committee to assess and recommend those communities eligible for establishment as local government.

He emphasised that the house will do everything possible to ensure that communities whose agitations are genuine and deserving would be satisfied.

He called on the people to stop the act of speculating on the issue of local government creation.

According to him local government creation is a constitutional issue that could only be dealt with constitutionally, hence the need for patience and understanding in matters affecting local government creations.

Edu denies guber ambition in Lagos

The Minister of Special Duties, Chief Yomi Edu has refuted speculations making the rounds that he is interested in contesting the governorship position in Lagos State.

According to him, his only political interest was ensuring that the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) produces the next governor of Lagos State and that President Olusegun Obasanjo is returned to power come 2003.

Edu who declared this at a PDP function in Lagos over the weekend, stated that "it would be anathema for the party to think that they would have an easy ride over the Alliance for Democracy (AD) Governor, Bola Tinubu, maintaining that it is very difficult to defeat an incumbent.

The minister, therefore, called for seriousness of purpose and unity among the rank and file of the party.

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

Edu who said he is content with his ministerial position, also called on all PDP faithfuls to work for the

success of the party rather than their own selfish interest.

Said he: "Let nobody deceive you, it is difficult to remove an incumbent. So for us to do that we must be

united."

He enjoined PDP members to ensure that the doors of the party are open to new members, saying "the party is not a club."

Kachalla submits N46bn supplementary budget to Assembly

Governor of Borno State, Alhaji Mala Kachalla has sent a N4 billion Supplementary Appropriation Bill to the state House of Assembly for approval.

Information commissioner, Alhaji Adamu Yamta told newsmen that the supplementary appropriation is to enable the government undertake development programmes not budgeted for in the year 2001 Appropriation Act.

He said that the supplementary appropriation will be financed by the government's improved allocation from the federation account as well as locally generated revenue.

The commissioner, who briefed journalists on the

outcome of the state executive council meeting held last week, said that the state is to spend nearly N15 million on the rehabilitation of grazing reserves as an intervention measure to address the perennial clashes between herdsmen and farmers in the state.

Such clashes, he added has peaked of recent especially, in southern Borno, as Udawa cattle rearers have consistently clashed with farmers, when they graze their cattle.

In Ajigil village, Damboa local government areas, over a dozen lives were lost recently as the villagers and Udawa herdsmen clashed, he explained.

From Abdullahi Bego, in Maiduguri



INSIDE POLITICS

2003: PDP will sweep South-West - Nkwocha

The Vanguard for the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) was created by concerned party members, mostly professionals who felt there was need for reconciliation, especially after the last national convention of the party. Barrister Mike Nkwocha, national co-ordinator of the Vanguard spoke to our man, Henry Omu in Abuja, on the objectives of the group, the expulsion of some PDP heavyweights, PDP's in-road into the South-West, the sack of non-PDP ministers, the agitation for a national conference and more.

Excerpts:

What does your association, the PDP Vanguard stand for?

The Vanguard is a movement of members of the PDP and our focus is to mobilise support for the party, to reconcile the various factions within the party, be they imaginary or real factions, so that we can get the party stronger and united.

Why the need for your Vanguard when the PDP has its own internal mechanisms of resolving crisis?

Well, you see at times, the normal machineries of the party might not be in a position to do certain jobs, like the issue of reconciliation. It's even an adhoc arrangement. You need a movement like our Vanguard. At least they are people you can say are neutral, because, some people within the party might say the leadership of the party has taken a position. But, you can now use members of the Vanguard, they are not leaders of the party, they are the followers. Let the reconciliation start from the followership of the party.

How has the association been received by the PDP?

The response has been quite tremendous. In fact, when we started this, I couldn't have imagined the kind of support we are getting and the leadership of the party is in total support of what we are doing. We have operated for some months, but it was just last week that we went and paid a formal visit to the leadership of the party. It was all over in the media. They are giving us their support because they know what we are doing is needed in the party.

Your party recently asked non-PDP ministers to resign from the cabinet. Does your Vanguard support this idea?

Very well, we support the idea. We stated this much, the day we met with the National Working Committee (NWC). PDP government is not a national government, it is a PDP government and there is no how you will put a non-PDP member in a sensitive position and you expect them not to sabotage the government.

What role will your Vanguard play in sensitising the presidency to accept the party's position in respect of non-PDP ministers?

Well, the presidency ... we are happy that the President listens. At least there is one or two occasions we have made representations to him and he listened to us and I believe that by the time we table our suggestions on the table, I think the President will listen to us. I believe we are doing it in the interest of the PDP government. We don't want the government to fail. As a matter of fact, the mandate is a PDP mandate and tomorrow if by sabotage the government couldn't perform, then we will all have ourselves to blame. So, I believe the president will listen. We are making efforts to put these suggestions on his table.

What did your association do to help resolve the recent crisis in PDP?

Ehm... One, you are quite aware that the president is the flagbearer of the PDP and he is one of the leaders of the party, and I know that the president listens too. But, there are some ex-

pectations people might have and if those expectations are not met, they decide to cause trouble. I believe most of the troubles in the party or the so-called crisis were not caused because of patriotism. It's because people didn't get what they expected from the president and that's not all about democracy. We are talking about Nigerians and not individuals. And as for the crisis we tried to mediate and talk with some of the people, but its like when you allow personal interest to out-weigh the public interest, your sense of judgement might be clouded. So, we tried to talk sense with them, but obviously, it was like they never saw reason with us.

But, did the party had to go as far as, expelling its founding fathers?

But expulsion is in the constitution of the party. There is no way you cannot have expulsion in any party. If the discipline is such that the party can no longer contain you, then its expulsion. As regards the personalities involved, well nobody is bigger than the party, or bigger than Nigeria.

Does your group support the registration of new parties by the INEC?

For, the avoidance of doubt and for clarity purposes PDP is not saying that there must be very stringent conditions for the registration of new parties. What the party is saying is that there are constitutional provisions leading to the registration of new parties. And the parties that are seeking registration, they must abide by them. You cannot jump the constitutional provisions, so the PDP is saying, look there are constitutional provisions. You should go ahead with those constitutional provisions and if you meet the requirements, well you will be registered. We are not afraid of these new political parties and I tell you, most of them will fizzle out.

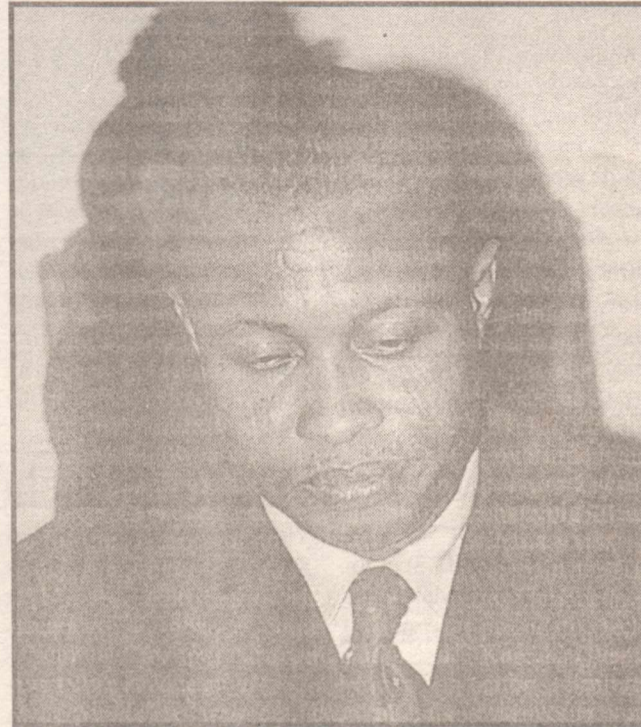
But the new political associations are complaining that it will be difficult for any group which is not populated by money-bags to fulfil INEC's requirements?

Is PDP populated by money-bags... If you look at the PDP and the other groups, PDP is a mass movement. It is not populated by money-bags. When we started this party, most of us were offering our personal offices and we were contributing to the party. Its not populated by money-bags. You see, the new political associations know their inadequacies and they have started offering excuses and before you know it, they will start saying that the PDP government does not want the registration of new political parties. What efforts have they made towards securing registration. I mean look at the personalities, their constituencies. How do you think they can register a political party in the country and they can cover the whole of Nigeria with the kind of people involved in these new political formations. That's why we say, we are not afraid of them.

Does your Vanguard believe that the PDP government has delivered democracy dividends to Nigerians?

I know you will ask me this question. One, we believe that the PDP government has

achieved one thing, and that is freedom; freedom of speech, freedom of movement, freedom of



Mr. Nkwocha, National Co-ordinator, PDP Vanguard

lives and property. We have achieved that, and the government has started laying a solid foundation. You see it took several years for us to find ourselves in this present mess and you don't expect the solution to come up within just two years. And I think we have a lot to celebrate. When you look at the efforts the president is putting in sectors like power, communication and petroleum products, you can see that in the next few years, democracy dividends will start rolling down.

But, the economy is still a big problem?

Well, the economy was in tatters before the PDP government came in. And this thing will take time, because if you look at the Nigerian situation the mess the military has put us into is so much that we expect only magic for it to be cleared over-night. But, the luck we have in this country is that the president is well intentioned and the leadership of the party, they are equally well intentioned. They are putting pressure, look we want you to solve this, its our electoral promise to the masses. So, I think with the way we are, that at the end of the day we will deliver on our promises.

Obasanjo has vowed to fight corruption, but do you think the administration is doing enough?

Why. Yes! The administration is doing enough. We have just had the anti-corruption bill, which has been passed. We have seen that the commission had been set up and if you go through the pages of newspapers, you will see the efforts of the chairman of the commission. As for Mr. President, he doesn't give a damn who you are, once you are involved in any corrupt practices you will go, and I think the will is there and the progress so far is good. We are all going to join in the fight against corruption. It's a joint fight, it's not only the PDP, its everybody. If you see anybody involved in corrupt practice you have the right to report. In fact its mandatory under the law that you report it.

What is your reaction to claims that your group was cre-

ated in readiness for the party's convention?

You see... our attitude is that you cannot be talking about the

ground because, when you're outside, you won't know what is inside. The expectations..... And by the way the PDP and the government is doing everything possible to meet expectations of Nigerians. At the end of the day, the most important thing is that at the end of this four years, the people can look back and say look this people have done a good job. You see, the electoral mandate given to us, we intend to make sure that they come to fruition. The people have the right to expect so much from us, but the only advice I will give is that these expectations should be very, very realistic.

Do you intend playing any role in resolving the constant friction between the executive and the legislature?

Well, it's a young democratic process. We are still learning. There is no way you expect that within two years of democracy, we will perfect it. You expect some of this frictions to be there, but I believe as I know that the leadership of the party is doing everything possible to see that the relationship is smoothed. Even we on our own part, the Vanguard, we are equally moving. Very soon, we will have a meeting with the Senate President, the Speaker and when we have gotten to the party leadership then we can resolve the friction now within the house. But we expect that the friction will be there for some time.

What is the position of your association on resource control?

Resource control is a very controversial issue and as a lawyer, I don't like talking about issues before the court. Let's hear from the supreme court and then we can now comment.

Am more concerned about whether it is proper for states to agitate for this?

You might say their agitation is right. If am agitating for something I believe is mine, it is proper for me to agitate. But then, you see at the end of the day, you're agitating for something and the other person is agitating for something else and at the end of the day, you will bring all these things to the table. The south-south say it's resource control, well they have the right to do that; the easterners are saying marginalisation, that the east is still been marginalized they may be right and in the north most of them are saying Sharia, that it's a way of life; the south-west is saying sovereign national conference, but at the end of the day these issues will be brought to the table for discussion. That's why we are a nation, you cannot just take something yourself without regard to others. At the end of the day however, it has to be sorted out.

So you believe in the holding of a conference whether sovereign or national?

No! The idea of a sovereign national conference is almost anachronistic because it is only in times of crisis, that you call for a national conference when there is no sovereign. We have a sovereignty. The president is there and the legislature is there, some of these issues can be settled there. When you look at it, most of the states that have had sovereign national conferences, after such conference things are not always the same.

Most Nigerians have expressed disappointment and disenchantment with the performance of the PDP-led government. How correct do you think they are?

I would say that certainly, the expectations of Nigerians were quite high. You concede that to them because after long years of military misrule, they expected magic from this government. But you see the reality is different from what is on the

So, I think we can sort ourselves out in the National Assembly. If we feel that the calibre of people in the National Assembly are not such, that will be able to present the cases of their constituencies very well, then the next election is there. You now make the right choice and bring the proper people to be in the National Assembly. I think it's a more proper way of doing things.

In your membership drive, how do you intend to break into the south-west?

I can tell you that the reception from the south-west is so much. You see, in this country most of the time, we live in the past. We don't look at the reality on the ground. I can tell you in the next election, there's going to be a change. AD is not going to clear the table again in the south-west. The PDP leadership in the south-west is doing a lot of things, and the national leadership is backing them up. So, certainly I believe in the next elections there are going to be a lot of changes.

How do you intend to break AD's stronghold in the zone?

It's almost broken. The AD is in a state of comatose. There is no party like AD now. It's not identifiable now, so they are not in a position to contest for any election now. But the PDP is in a better position even when you go through the newspapers or even when you visit Lagos, you can see that PDP has more activities on the ground going on in the south-west and there is no way the AD will capture the south-west. They are not in a position again to contest for election.

Do you believe Obasanjo deserves a second term?

The issue of second term doesn't come in. Look, why are we always talking about second term. This is two years of a four-year mandate and in fact we have just crossed half-time and we are talking about another match. Let's finish the match. Let's finish this four years, and besides that, the party has stages in some of these things. By November, we are going in for our convention, after that is the issue of primaries beginning from local governments to states before you come to the presidential election. And Mr. President hasn't said he is going, in fact he said he hadn't thought about it.

How do you rate your party's chances in the 2003 general elections?

Brilliant! You see some of these people making noise that PDP will lose election, they make it on the pages of newspapers. But when you look at the structures on the ground, there is no way you expect PDP to lose election. When you look at the calibre of people in PDP, they are people with electoral values, they are the great mobiliser of the people and they are the people that would be matched against others, so how do you expect them to lose election. That's why we are saying let us harmonise the various differences within the party, once we harmonise this, no party can challenge the PDP in the next election.



Health

Expert committee recommends adequate funding for NCDS

The expert committee on Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) has called on government to provide adequate funding for the prevention and control of NCDS.

The committee in a communiqué made available after its inaugural meeting in Abuja observed that government was paying more attention to HIV/AIDS epidemic and other communicable diseases leaving Non-Communicable Diseases to be killing Nigerians silently.

The 13-member committee has Prof. G.C. Onyemelukwe as chairman and Dr. Musa Borodo as vice-chairman. Other members are Prof. Wura Shokumbi; Dr. J.N.A. Ajuluchukwu; Prof. N.E.N. Obianjo and Dr. Akin Osibogun.

Others are, Dr. Cynil Chukwu, Dr. C.O. Akitoye, Dr. H.T.O. Ladapo and Prof. F.A. Dursinm-Etti, Dr. (Mrs) L.K. Sadiq is representing the World Health Organisation

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

while representatives of UNICEF, and the National Programme for Prevention of Blindness, National Eye Centre Abuja, are also on the committee.

Speaking with newsmen shortly after the inaugural meeting, the chairman of the committee, Chief G.C. Onyemelukwe called on the National Assembly to mobilize for legislation and advocacy to ensure effective prevention and control.

Government at all levels in Nigeria, according to him, should not abandon the funding for the prevention of non-communicable diseases to external donors and members of the community should be mobilized to be fully involved in the prevention, control and community based management of NCDS.

Prof. Onyemelukwe advised Nigerians to watch their habits as several risk factors are linked to major NCDS and these include alcohol excess, tobacco use, excessive salt



Prof. A.B.C. Nwosu, Health Minister

intake, obesity or overweight, lack of physical exercise, risky sexual behaviour etc.

WHO focuses on treatment gap in fight against epilepsy

A reduction in treatment gap is the new focus of the Global Campaign Against Epilepsy (GCAE) launched by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the world health body has announced.

The second phase of GCAE, launched in February, already has demonstration projects in Senegal, Zimbabwe, China and Argentina.

Epilepsy is a brain disorder caused by a violent electricity discharge in the brain.

WHO has identified that in the overwhelming majority of cases, epilepsy can be successfully controlled by anti-epileptic drugs and surgery.

"Plugging the so-called treatment gap, the number of persons with epilepsy who are not covered by public health services, is the biggest challenge for the GCAE, a joint programme of WHO, the International League against epilepsy in developing countries," it says.

The report regrets that epilepsy is often referred to as a hidden disease, its origins, causes and treatment shrouded in mystery and solutions reserved for traditional healers in developing countries.

"More often than not, traditional healers are the first port of call for epilepsy patients especially in rural areas," it adds.

The new projects are to highlight means of "drastically reducing the treatment gap" which exists in all developing countries, it says.

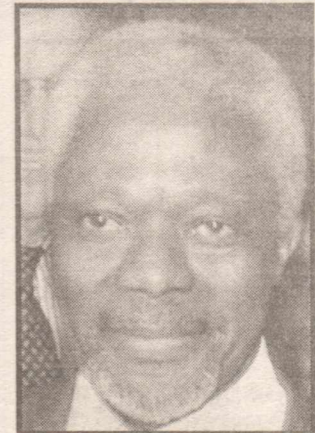
Epilepsy, the most common serious brain disorder, affects at least 50 million people worldwide, 85 percent of them in developing countries.

About 80 percent of the infected persons can lead normal lives if properly treated.

At present, only about 50 countries have joined the GCAE.

UNFPA wants more men in fight against HIV/AIDS

Greater involvement of men in the fight against the HIV/AIDS is imperative now to curb the ravaging effect of the incurable pandemic, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) has said.



Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General

In a publication marking this year's World Population Day, the body said that men,

as 'superior' partners, play a dominant role in a sexual relationship and could therefore help in reducing the spread of the disease.

"Cultural beliefs and expectations about manhood may encourage risky sexual and drug-taking behaviour in men.

This puts them, and their partners, at heightened risk," it said.

The publication, titled 'Population Issues,' also says that HIV/AIDS levels are more than 50 percent higher than predicted 10 years ago, with the world population of people living with HIV/AIDS now standing at 36.1 million.

It says that in the most-affected countries, the scourge is spreading fastest among people below 24 years, who account for half of new infections.

It says, however, that by 2005, about 90 per cent of young people aged 15 to 24 should have access to the means to prevent and control HIV/AIDS, with the figure increasing to 95 per cent five years later.

According to the publication, infections among the young people will reduce by 25 per cent in the most-affected countries by 2005 while global reductions up to 25 percent will be achieved in 2010.

Health leaders' forum seeks improved statistics

Nigeria runs a decentralised health statistics system and thus a strong co-ordination arrangement is required to produce expected results.

This was the view of a crop of health leaders who gathered to discuss health issues in Nigeria.

According to them, a co-ordinated system will lead to production of integrated statistical outputs from the agencies. The interdependency of various government policies and programmes requires production of integrated outputs and not just statistics produced in various agencies.

Furthermore, it will assure development and implementation of uniform statistical standards, definitions, concepts, classifications and methods.

The leaders noted that some factors have led to the inability of health statistics in the country to meet the elements of good statistical delivery. Such factors include the multiplicity of data production agencies; lack of collaboration and weak co-ordination.

Currently, the status of health statistics production in the country is bedevilled by inadequate institutional capabilities and capacities at

the sectoral level. Other problems include lack of effective collaboration at different sectoral levels and weak coordination at the centre which inhibits orderliness in programme, harmonization and data production due to various legal instruments establishing each agency.

Another problem, experts say, include uncoordinated interventions on improvement of health statistics in the international agencies.

Elements for good statistical delivery, the forum identified include comprehensiveness, adequacy, accessibility, relevance, reliability, timeliness, flexibility and adequate funding.

These elements are what the health statistics coordinating bodies should pursue. Such bodies are the National Council on Statistics, National Consultative Committee on Statistic; National Adversory Committee on Statistic; Federal Statistics Advisory Committee; Intra-Ministerial Coordinating Forum; State Statistics Advisory Committee and LGA Statistics Coordinating Forum.

An improvement in health statistics delivery will translate into better health policies, experts say.

WHO decries rising maternal mortality

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has said that despite UN calls for reductions in maternal mortality, deaths arising from child-births are stagnating at high levels and even increasing in some places in sub-Saharan Africa.

In its latest bulletin, the world health body says many developing countries are not likely to meet UN targets for reductions in maternal mortality.

The report quotes a UN study as showing that maternal mortality claims the lives of some 515,000 women a year, 99 percent of them in developing countries.

The study, however, points out that accurate data are lacking for most of the countries as up to 50 percent of such deaths are not reported.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the UN targets that by 2005, up to 80 percent of all childbirths be assisted by a skilled health

worker. "In sub-Saharan Africa, only about 40 percent of women are likely to have an assisted delivery and the situation has not improved over the past decade.

"The figures for many countries in this region paint a sombre picture of slow change, stagnation and even

reversal," the report says.

It says that on current trends, only Latin American and Caribbean countries will attain the goal by 2005 while countries in the Middle East and North Africa will not attain the goal until around 2010.

Asian countries, it says, will fall short of the goal even by 2015.



Women and children at the flagging-off ceremony of this year's national immunization exercise in Abuja. Pix by: Kennedy Egbonodje

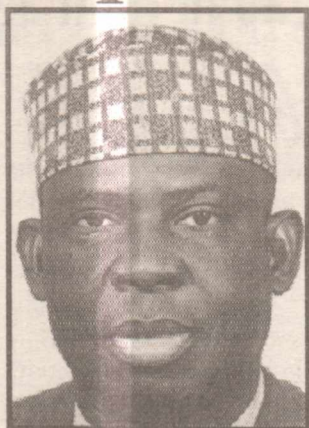


NMA leadership faces contempt charges

An Ikeja High Court will on September 10 determine whether principal officers of the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) will be committed to prison over charges of contempt instituted by a former president of the association, Dr. Boniface Oye-Adeniran.

The News Agency of Nigeria reports that Doctors Dominic Osaghae (president), Dan Gana (first vice-president), Solomon Enjidah (second vice-president) and Bayo Aderiye (secretary) are alleged in the suit to have disobeyed the court's orders restraining them from discriminating against or suspending Oye-Adeniran from the association.

The suit alleges that the four disobeyed Justice (Mrs.) O.M. Falase's order of February 8, 2001, restraining them from "... effecting, carrying out, circulating, circularising, publishing or in any other way or manner taking any step



Prof. A.B.C. Nwosu

to facilitate or procure the alleged suspension of the applicant ..." at a meeting of its national executive in January in Enugu.

It also alleges that the respondents disobeyed an April 23 order restraining them from "... barring the applicant from exercising his right as a member of the NMA..." especially from participating at its annual general meeting in Benin in April.

Attempts by NAN to reach Aderiye, the secretary of NMA, failed as he was said to be away on several occasions.

Reacting to the suit, the immediate past president of the association, Dr. George Okpago, said efforts were made to counsel the NMA leadership to obey all court orders but that they were ignored.

"If our views had been respected, this looming crisis would have been avoided because it will be unprecedented if the entire leadership of the NMA is committed to prison for contempt of court, especially in a democratic dispensation," he said.

A former Minister of Health, Prof. Olikoye Ransome Kuti, has said that the failure of the Extended programme on immunization in Nigeria was due to the emphasis placed on immunizing 80 percent of the children by December 1990 while a health care system capable of sustaining the target coverage was not put in place.

Addressing stakeholder on primary health care in a conference organised by the National Primary Health Care Agency of which he is the chairman, Prof. Ransome Kuti decried the policy of un-planned intimations by donor agencies. "It has been said that the reason why international agencies implement their planned projects in developing countries is because most of us do not articulate

Why EPI failed

— Ransome Kuti

Stories by Ikenna Emeka Okpani



Prof. Ransome Kuti

any plans of our own to solve our problems."

"So, these solutions are found for us either in WHO, UNICEF, the World Bank or in the AID ministries of developed countries. There is evidence that our problems are farther from being solved," he said.

He announced that the primary health care agency was refocusing on the devel-

opment of wards, rather than the district health services.

The agency, he said has commissioned a study on the present financing mechanisms of health systems in local government areas. The result, he said will determine the ageing's thinking in the area of financing.

Prof. Ransome Kuti expressed displeasure at the failure of the primary healthcare agency to achieve its aims since the creation of the agency in 1992.

"Almost 10 years after its birth, the system has deteriorated greatly, and the leadership expected from the agency never materialised," he said, adding that the determination of President Obasanjo will revive the nations primary health care system.

He expressed optimism that with the conference of stakeholders, the primary health care services would be improved.

WHO Nigeria office lists bottlenecks

The World Health Organisation Nigeria office has said that the implementation rate of its programme of cooperation is seriously hampered by delay in submission of proposals, delay or non-response on the part of Federal Ministry of Health and communication breakdown between it and other agencies.

In its observations and recommendation at the dialogue on the World Health Report 2000 – implications for public health in Nigeria, the Nigerian office of WHO said the cooperation programme with Nigeria for 2000-2001 biennium is being implemented through 18 areas of work in 7 priority programmes of communicable diseases, non communicable diseases, health system and community health, sustainable development and healthy environment, social change and mental health; health technology and pharmaceuticals, and evidence and information for policy.

According to the report, for the 2002-2003 Biennium, 23 areas of work has been proposed to include among others, making pregnancy safer, blood safety and clinical technology, HIV/AIDS, Malaria and emergency preparedness and response.

These areas were identified jointly with the Federal Ministry of Health and other components of the health system.

To make Nigeria's health system effective, the



President Obasanjo

WHO Nigeria office recommended revisiting the adopted three-phased African Health Development Scenario adopted in Lusaka in 1985 and backing it up with the necessary legal requirements to make our health system effective.

"The scenario, specifically require the Federal Ministry of Health to undertake policy formulation and its supervision as well as set standards and guidelines. While the states are to offer technical supervision to the local governments in delivery of health care services and the local government to carry out the actual implementation of health care services," the report said.

The WHO Nigeria office complained that some of the activities in its programme of cooperation had been hampered by non-release of government counterpart funds or input.

According to the office, the ministry's programme officers indicate lack of funds even when there was budgetary provisions in the books.

Expert decries strike actions in the health sector

A leading medical expert and professor of preventive and social medicine, Prof. Adetokunbo Lucas has condemned strike action as major means of protecting union interest.

Speaking recently in Abuja at the health leaders forum, Prof. Lucas noted that doctors, nurses, midwives and other health personnel make important contributions to health care delivery adding that the ineffective professional leadership in health associations has been due to the fallen standard in the medical profession.

He said that unions are supposed to play two major roles – that of promoting best practice within their profession, described as a professional role and that of protecting and defending the interest of their members especially in negotiating service conditions with government described as trade union function.

"In fulfilling the latter function, these associations often aggressively pursue negotiations in confrontation with government and in competition with other professional groups. Disputes sometimes degenerate to the point that some groups take industrial action," Prof. Lucas said.

He observed that, quite uncharacteristic of usual professional standards, doctors, nurses and other health workers in Nigeria have on several occasions resorted to strikes in pursuit of their

claims. "At the same time, the professional function of setting and maintaining standards has not been emphasized. Standards have fallen. It is frightening to note that many of our doctors do not know how to treat malaria and are confused about the diagnosis of typhoid," the Professor noted.

He expressed regret that Nigeria has not been able to translate the acceptance of its professionals and academics in the health sector to a sustainable health policy and system.

Nigerian experts, he said serve well in the World Health Organisation and in other international agencies but back home, they make little use of their expertise.

He pointed an example where the work of David Morley at Imesi-Ile led to the development of the UNICEF package for child survival. While other countries absorbed the lessons rapidly and implemented the strategy Nigeria was slow and inefficient, according to him.

To correct these ills, Prof. Lucas advocates rebirth of the civil service, improvement of professional standard; strengthening of management skills and empowering the public.

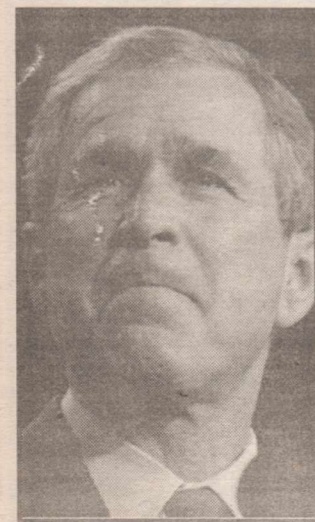
He commended the efforts of the present administration adding that the government had to contend with a massive accumulation of past mistakes, misallocation, and mismanagement.

US, WHO collaborate on tobacco

The U.S. National Institute of Health and World Health Organisation (WHO) are offering \$17 million to boost tobacco control in developing countries, a WHO press release has indicated.

The International Tobacco Health Research and Capacity Building programme is to support research on tobacco consumption and related health risks in developing countries, according to the release.

It is to study the impact of tobacco on low and middle-income countries in



President Bush

the next five years.

The programme will also build up institutional and personnel capacity of developing countries in tackling the tobacco epidemic.

While acknowledging that most tobacco control researches in the past had concentrated on developed countries, the release informs that a large gap exists in knowledge about tobacco consumption, patterns of use, the health impact of traditionally-used tobacco products, the efficacy of cessation methods and other aspects of use in developing countries.

It says that tobacco consumption is on the rise in developing countries through increasing advertisement, while tobacco-related deaths are also on the increase.

It estimates that 70 percent of such deaths will occur in developing countries from 2020, a figure more than deaths caused by HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, maternal mortality and childhood diseases combined.



Crime & Punishment



Uwais calls for rule of law

The chief justice of Nigeria (CJN) Justice Mohammed Uwais over the weekend in Lagos charged all judges and the entire legal practitioners in the country to ensure that the rule of law prevails.

According to the CJN, the period of paying lip service to the rule of law was over.

While reading his address at the launching of the book "law and practice of evidence in Nigeria" by Chief Afe Babalola (SAN), the CJN stated that two years after the return of the nation to democratic rule, the signs are emerging that more persons are waking up to the reality that the period of authoritarian rule is over.

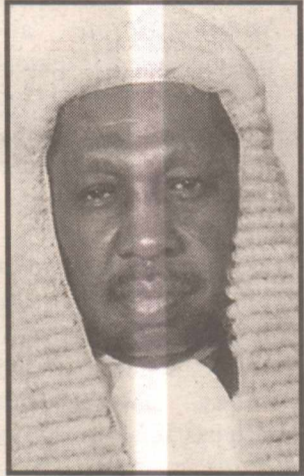
His lordship said that "in a democratic dispensation, such as we now have, law takes its proper place in the affairs of the man and of the nation."

He said that the responsibility of government at all levels to strengthen our

From Adelanwa Bamgboye
legal and judicial institutions essential to the substance of the rule of law.

This responsibility according to the CJN can only be discharged by persons whose attitude to the use they make of law, their thirst for knowledge of the law and their possession for justice, demonstrates a commitment to the rule of law.

His lordship stated that everyday, the need to deepen



Mohammed Uwais

and broaden the knowledge of our laws by members of the legal profession is becoming obvious.

On the book, the CJN commended Chief Afe Babalola for making the book a collaborative work in which not less than 16 specialist contributors and the author have conveyed to the read. Their several perspective on aspects of our law of evidence.

"It is noteworthy that the contributors consist of judges, both of the court of Appeal and of the High Court, Senior Advocates of Nigeria and legal academics of note.

This, in my view, makes a unique contribution to our legal literature.

"This is why I have always believed that intensifying all efforts to make our legal literature richer and more responsive to our real needs is one of the soonest ways of strengthening our legal system."

The Chief Judge (CJ) of Lagos State, Justice I.A. Sotumnu in her address, said that the book underscored the importance of evidence in law practice. According to her lordship, "a judge cannot shut his eyes to evidence both oral and documentary including the police."

A minute silence was also observed for late Fidelis Nwadiakor (SAN) whose death was announced at the launching. The deceased was the author of chapter six of the book.

Man remanded for killing wife

Lagos Chief Magistrate Court over the weekend ordered that a 33 year-old man, Oboh David Williams, who allegedly murdered his wife be remanded in prison custody.

The accused person according to prosecuting police Inspector Ephraim Oniya, on June 3, 2001 at No. 4 Christopher Way, Surulere Lagos was alleged to have beaten his wife Mrs. Imaobong Williams with a stick after a misunderstanding between them.

The homicide section of the Nigerian Police, Zone II, following an investigation into the case claimed that as

a result of the beating, she was on June 4, at the General Hospital Ikeja, confirmed dead.

Daily Trust investigation revealed that the deceased had an issue for the accused person.

The offence for which the accused person is charged is punishable under section 319 (1) of the criminal code cap 32 vol. II laws of Lagos State of Nigeria 1974.

According to the Chief Magistrate Ayo Odugbsan, further hearing in the case has been fixed for August 31, 2001, pending the legal advice from the office of the Lagos State Director of Public Prosecution (DPP).

Two pastors, landlord arrested for murder

The police in Lagos have arrested two pastors and a landlord at Ajegunle in connection with the death of a pregnant prostitute found beheaded at the notorious Achakpo bridge, Ajegunle recently.

Daily Trust investigations revealed that the suspects were apprehended and have been helping police detectives at the Lagos State Criminal Investigation Department (CID) homicide section

Panti, Yaba.

It was gathered that the murdered woman was a prostitute at a nearby hotel called Midwest Hotel who according to sources had gone to the Global Success Fellowship Church when she heard that the Pastor could cure Aids.

Police investigations also revealed that she went in search of spiritual help, but she was reportedly locked outside the church gate, forcing her to stay outside where she died Sunday, May

20, 2001.

Daily Trust learnt that the landlord of the building later hired a night guard to take the corpse away from the front of his building to a place near the Achapo bridge where the woman was allegedly beheaded by suspected ritualists for money making rituals.

Police sources confirmed that the landlord paid those who removed the corpse N100.

Following his arrest, the

landlord confessed to police that the deceased attended a church in his building.

He later took the police to the residence of the Pastor of Global Success Followership, Chima Emmanuel Okereke with his assistant Pastor taken to the CID Panti for investigation.

According to the police sources, the pastor denied that the deceased was not a member of his Church. He has been making useful statements to the police.

Ukpo loses case against Senator

The court of Appeal sitting in Calabar, Cross River State, has dismissed an appeal against the judgement of the National Assembly Election petition tribunal instituted by Dr. Paul Ukpo against Mr. Unim Musa Adede and 10 others.

The judgement which was delivered by Mr. (Justice) John Afolabi Fabiyi sitting with Justices Okechukwu Opene and Albert Gbadebo Oduyemi and delivered on June 26, 2001. came to the conclusion that the appeal by Ukpo "lacked merit from all fronts and is hereby dismissed." The appeal court judges held that the judgement of appeal tribunal "remained inviolate as it is hereby affirmed" and ordered the appellant to pay N5,000 as cost to Mr. Unim Musa Adede.

It will be recalled that Dr. Ukpo was a candidate for the Cross River North Senatorial seat under the banner of the Alliance for Democracy (AD) during the bye-election held on July 24, 1999 while Mr. Adede and one Christopher Eriba were candidates on the platforms of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Peoples Party (APP) respectively.

On the completion of the said bye-election, Dr. Ukpo scored 71,244 votes while Mr. Adede scored 120,516 and 962 votes respectively

By Uwem Umo
and Mr. Adede was duly returned as the elected candidate and winner of the bye-election.

However, Dr. Ukpo commenced his petition on August 6, 1996 and maintained that Mr. Adede was not qualified to contest the bye-election because he did not pay his tax and as when due, was not sponsored by the PDP and that Adede presented a forged certificate of voters registration to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

In his petition, Dr. Ukpo further stated that Adede was not educated up to at least school certificate that he presented a forged declaration to INEC and that he was dismissed as a clerk from the employment of the Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna.

The petitioner testified and called two other witnesses to prove his case while Adede called three witnesses and the tribunal admitted a host of exhibits and marked them A-N while rejecting five others.

After reviewing the plethora of evidence and considering submissions made by counsel to both parties, the tribunal in its judgement dismissed the petition on grounds of failure to prove the allegations contained in the petition.

In upholding the earlier

decision of the election tribunal, the court of appeal in their judgement first of all over-ruled the preliminary objections as made out on behalf of the respondents and considering tax evasion allegations, they held that no evidence was led as to that issue or his age or that he was dismissed as a clerk with the NDA and also dismissed the allegations relating to fraud against Musa Adede.

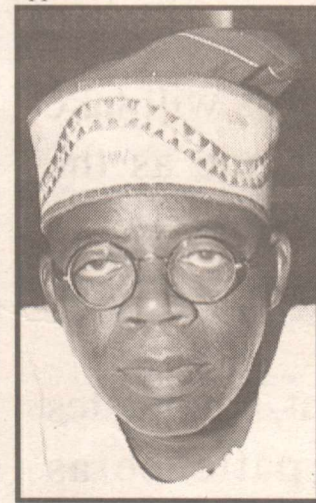
Delivering judgement on party sponsorship, the trial judges held that the name of Musa Adede was sent to INEC and was duly cleared by the commission and the party.

Concerning educational qualification, the appeal court ruled that evidence before them showed that Adede "has been educated up to at least school certificate level and is a member of a political party i.e. Peoples Democratic Party and was duly sponsored by his party to contest the bye-election of July 24, 1999.

In concluding their ruling, the three learned judges held the view that "there being no prayer to the effect that the election be declared void, this court cannot entertain an appeal seeking such a relief," adding that "there is no doubt that from whatever angle one looks at the appeal, it must be dismissed."

Lagos robbers device new tactics

Armed robbers in Lagos have devised a new strategy as they now operate in police and army camouflage uniforms just as the police claim that it has initiated a more-result oriented approach to maintain law and



Gov. Ahmed Tinubu

order in the state.

Briefing newsmen over the weekend in his office, Mike Okiro, the Lagos State Police Commissioner, disclosed that some of the suspects recently apprehended were caught with police uniforms while their vehicles was marked with Rapid Response Squad (RRS) insignia.

According to the Police boss, more research has been put in place so as that few cases of attempted robberies will be nipped in the bud.

He disclosed that on June 29, acting on an information that armed robbers were planning to attack a new generation bank in Lagos, a detachment of the Special anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) working on the security intelligence report intercepted some of the

armed robbers in a Peugeot 504 station wagon on their way to the bank.

During interrogation, the suspects were alleged to have confessed that the operation was billed for June 30, 2001.

According to the police boss, one of the suspects who was a private security guard of the bank had confessed that he disconnected the alarm system and equally poured acid on the wall of the strong room for easy accessibility to the vault.

The names of the suspects were given as Abiodun Michael, Anyian Okenessi, Ikoi Itam and Alloysius Osuebi. They were among 17 other suspects including a woman paraded before newsmen by the Lagos State Police command last Friday.

Lawyer petitions IG over threat to clients

The unending dispute over a piece of land in Agbade village of Ikorodu, Lagos may lead to a breakdown of law and order if unchecked as both parties are poised for a show down.

A group led by Chief Olayinka Odugbe, who claims to be the bonafide owner of the disputed piece of land in the village that another group led by Madam Ayisatu Odigbosa is threatening to forcefully eject them from the piece of land,

despite a court order barring them from doing so.

On the strength of this, a save our soul, (S.O.S.) message has been written by Lagos lawyer Rotimi Williams Akintokun to the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Musiliu Smith on behalf of the Odugbosa family.

In the petition dated July 3, 2001, the lawyer alleged that some police officers at the Federal Special Anti-robbery Squad (Team 2), Adeniji Adele were

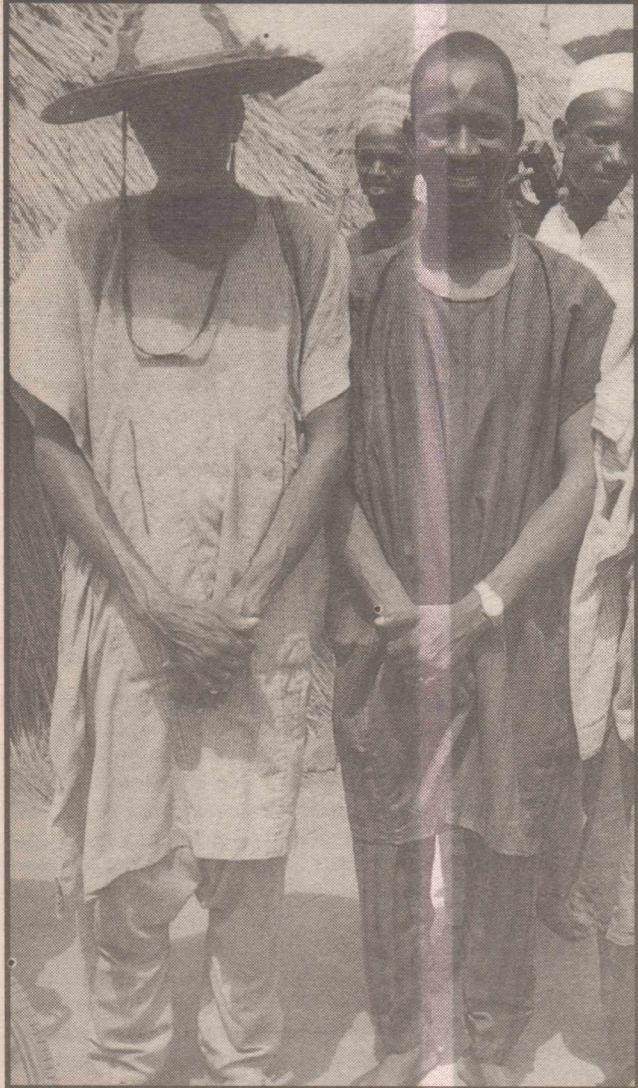
instigated against his chambers with a view to put the other party in possession.

According to the lawyer, this amounted to using uniform officers to perpetrate the acts and evict other faction from the disputed land.

"Their aim is to use both allegation of murder and armed robbery to disposses our clients of their age long inherited piece of land.

Abuja News

NGO coordinator makes case for pastoralists



Some pastoralists pose with PDI Coordinator, Dr. Zakama, during the visit of Centre for Research and Development (CRD) consultants to Dutse.

Pastoralists, nomads and semi-settled peoples are bona fide citizens of Nigeria who deserve the protection and accommodation from the Nigerian government and people respectively.

The Coordinator, Pastoralists Development Initiative (PDI), Dr. Kabura Zakama, stated this when he led a delegation of pastoralists from Dutse (FCT), to *Daily Trust* office on the first leg of a tour of media houses in Abuja.

Dr. Zakama decried the insensitivity of relevant government agencies to the plight of pastoralists saying; "eventhough they reside in Nigeria, pay tax and perform their civic duties, they (pastoralists) are treated as stateless persons."

The veterinary doctor also called on people, especially the enlightened public, to stop exploiting pastoralists' non formal

education, adding, "they have no western education, but that does not mean that they are unschooled".

According to him when pastoralists report the theft of their cattle to the police and no arrests are made on occasions, where arrests are made they are bailed without investigations.

"So if law-abiding citizens cannot get justice in the country on the basis of their education or lack of it in their country, it negates the universal principle of equity before the law."

Dr. Zakama said it was to call attention to these problems and seek ways of redressing them that the tour is being undertaken.

Additionally, the PDI is helping pastoralists in capacity building measures like para-legal trainings and their familiarisation with basic constitutional procedures.

By Simon Imobo-Tswam

Agric minister makes case for co-operative activities

The Minister of Agriculture Mallam Adamu Bello has charged people to engage in

co-operative activities.

The minister declared this while speaking at the 79th International Co-operatives Day recently in Abuja.

Malam Adamu Bello noted that such activities were necessary for the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) of the Federal Government. He stated that co-operatives was an effective and efficient means in ensuring poverty eradication in the country.

Earlier, in his address the President Co-operative Eradication of Nigeria, Chief C.E. Ayoola stated that at least 20 million people have been employed through co-operative activities.

Minister preaches politics of tolerance

The Minister of Water Resources, Alhaji Mukhtar Shagari, has expressed his determination to work for the interests of the common man and to ensure the unity of the country.

Shagari made the pledge last week in Abuja, when the Secretary to the Gombe State Government, Alhaji Dauda Abdulsalami, led a six-man delegation to him with a message from Governor Abubakar Hashidu.

"As a grassroots politician, my interest is hinged on those actions that could be taken to move the nation forward and to forge unity for the nation," he said, adding that he did not believe in politics of bitterness.

"I am now thinking beyond politics, as I see

Kuje gets Kudos for crime control

The Chairman, Kuje Area Council in the FCT, Honourable Usman Jibrin Wowo, has been commended for his initiative at crime prevention.

The Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Engr. Mohammed Abba-Gana, who was represented at the launching of crime prevention clubs in Kuje Area Council, by his Director of Administration and Supplies, Dr. Hezekioah Oyedepo, described Hon. Wowo's initiative as a right steps which other area councils should emulate.

The minister called for concerted efforts to rid the society of criminals whom he noted, lived among law abiding citizens. He advised peace loving citizens of the council not to allow criminals to overwhelm them, by co-operating

with government and law enforcement agents to wipe them out. Alhaji Abba-Gana noted that a crime free society should be where peace and tranquility is allowed to reign without suspicion and corruption.

The minister decried the increasing rate of crime and called for a complete check on it before it inflicts more damage on the nation's development.

The council chairman, Hon. Wowo earlier in his speech, explained that he took the initiative of the crime prevention groups in recognition of the negative effects of crime and its effect in the society. He promised to support the area council and the FCT in general, in all aspects of crime prevention and control, adding that crime is everyone's business.

By Austine Odo

Lagos govt bans night refuse collection

The Lagos State Government has imposed a ban on refuse truck pushers from operating between seven o'clock in the evening and seven o'clock in the morning.

This was indicated in a Government statement saying the move was to stem the rising crime wave in the state.

The statement explained that intelligence report has confirmed that many carts

were being used to convey weapons hidden under the gabbage.

According to the statement, the report advised those affected to comply in their own interest.

Similarly, the Lagos State government has also banned commercial taxi operators from operating between midnight and five o'clock in the morning.

By Victor Akobundu

AMAC begins fight against ghost workers

The Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) have embarked on a staff auditing exercise in the seven zones of the area council in other to flush out ghost workers in the primary schools of the council.

Vice Chairman of AMAC, Engineer Chris Expumobi disclosed this to our correspondent during a media chat last week, marking his 47th anniversary. He pointed out that ghost work-

ers have been identified as another instrument of zero allocation of the Abuja Municipal Council (AMAC). According to Ekpunobi the exercise is aimed to collecting a comprehensive data of both teaching and non-teaching staff in the area council, "I am the committee chairmann, though it is not easy for us, but we must do it, so that we would be able to address the zero allocation problems."

PRESS RELEASE

TAC 2001/2003 SELECTION INTERVIEW

- * This is to notify all TAC candidates that the selection exercise is not yet completed.
- * However the selection process will take much longer time to conclude as the acceptance of recipient countries is necessary before the final list is released.
- * In view of this development, candidates are advised to exercise patience as successful candidates will be informed of dates and venue of orientation exercise through some national daily papers.

Signed:

MRS. F. MOHAMMED
Head of information

For: Director (C.E.O)

09/07/01



SPORTS



Why we nominated governors into associations' board, by Aku

Following the criticism that greeted the nomination of some state governors into sports associations' board, the Minister of Sports and Social Development, Ishaya Mark Aku, has put up a stout defence of the ministry's decision.

Addressing journalists in Lagos recently, the minister said the decision to have governors on the board was taken in the right direction.

Aku stated that the governors were chosen on the basis of their immense contributions to sports development since they assumed office, stressing that their nomination into the board of various association would serve as an encouragement to them.

He noted that the ministry

cannot function properly without the sports associations, therefore, he will ensure that capable hands take over the leadership of the associations.

He stressed that a committee had been put in place

to look into petitions received from the zonal elections.

"Thereafter, elections into the associations board would come up," he said. He explained that the zones had been divided into six units in line with the arrangement of

the country's six geopolitical zones.

"Each of these zones would be headed by a senior staff of the ministry to make them more effective and result-oriented," he stressed.

2003 All Africa Games gets official airline

Virgin Atlantic, a London-based airline which begins operations in Nigeria on July 15, has been named as the official carrier of the eight All Africa Games to be held in Abuja in 2003.

The Minister of Sports and Social Development, Mr. Ishaya Mark Aku, broke the news in Lagos when he declared open a two-day conference of the National

Committee on Problems of Sports Development in Nigeria.

He said Mr. Ted Branson, the owner of Virgin Atlantic, has also expressed his willingness to sponsor some sporting competitions in the country.

The minister, who was the special guest of honour, said the ministry was in discussion with Daimler Chrysler of Germany for part sponsorship of the Abuja Stadium currently under construction, adding that the stadium would be named after the company.

He said plans were in top gear to complete facilities for

the games, adding that President Olusegun Obasanjo had approved last week of April to the first week of May, 2003 for the Africa Olympic.

On his numerous trips abroad, Aku said that something positive was coming out of them as the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) had agreed to set up a second office for Africa in Nigeria. The other office is in South Africa.

"I have gained ideas on sports marketing and preparations bid documents. This is part of seeking private sector participation for facilities and training," he said.



Rabiu Baita of Katsina United watches as El-Kanemi's Sani Sardauna heads the ball away from danger during a league tie in Kaduna.

Division Two Play-off

Sunshine outshines Pillars

Sunshine Stars Football Club of Akure has emerged winners of the Pepsi proleague division two play-offs after recording a 5-3 victory over Kano Pillars in penalty shoot-out last weekend.

The match which was watched by a scanty crowd at the National Stadium, Lagos, witnessed some brilliant display as both teams struggled to outshine each other.

The first half ended goalless with both teams recording unpardonable misses.

Early in the second half, Kano Pillars dashing striker, Kasali Mohammed, outpaced two Sunshine defenders before slotting the ball into the net.

From Babs Oyetoro, in Lagos

This goal was the tonic that gingered up the Kadiri Ikhana tutored side, as they took the battle to their opponent's half.

Their efforts, however, paid off when they levelled in the 65th minute.

The score line remained 1-1 at the end of regulation time and resulted into penalty shoot-out with Sunshine Stars scoring all four of their spot kicks as against Pillars, who could only held two out of four.

Meanwhile, Kano Pillars' Iliyasu Muhammed was named the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the match.



Lleyton Hewitt of Australia hits a forehand shot during against Spain's Albert Portas at the Tennis Masters Tournament.

World Youth Championship

Argentina clinch fourth youth title

*Satellites brought down to earth

Argentina secured a record fourth World Youth Championship success with victory over Ghana in Buenos Aires.

It is their third triumph in the past four competitions, following their victories in Qatar in 1995 and Malaysia in 1997. The first, inspired by a young Diego Maradona, was in 1979.

Defender Diego Colotto set the South Americans on the way to victory with a crisp volley in the sixth minute much to the delight of the huge home crowd at the José Amalfitani stadium.

Javier Saviola, who has been the subject of a recent £17.8m bid from Barcelona, doubled the home side's advantage after 14 minutes.

Left unmarked in the middle, he deftly glanced in a cross by Maximiliano Rodriguez.

It was the striker's 11th goal in the tournament, the highest goals tally in the history of the competition.

The Africans, who were also beaten finalists in 1993, never recovered from the early setback and could not find the flowing attacking football which had taken them to the final, eliminating Brazil on the way.

The rest of the game was an anti-climax as Argentina seemed content to rest on their lead.

Most of the highlights were provided by playmaker Andres D'Alessandro, whose trickery tormented and embarrassed the Ghana defence, often leaving their defenders on the ground.

Like Saviola, D'Alessandro, who shone against England under-21s last February, is a product of River Plate's youth programme and has also been linked with a move to a top European club.

D'Alessandro created an excellent chance with a run and cross from the right early in the second half but Nicolas Burdisso's far post header was saved by Maxwell Banahene.

In the 73rd minute, D'Alessandro chipped a pass over the Ghana defence and Rodriguez blasted in the third.

Compounding Ghana's misery, Abdul Ibrahim missed a penalty in the 89th minute.

A tearful Argentinian coach Jose Pekerman paid fulsome tribute to his players afterwards.

"They have played quite brilliant football throughout the tournament," he said.

"It's difficult sometimes to play in front of your home fans because there is extra pressure but these young men were more than able to stand up and be counted when it mattered.

"This is a really great win achieved with wonderful football and as talented a squad as one could wish to coach," he added.

This defeat means Ghana have failed for the second time to become the first African country to win the trophy since 1977. In 1993, they lost

to another South American nation, Brazil.

Meanwhile, Egypt won the third-place play-off when they

beat Paraguay 1-0. Mohamed El Yamany's 65th-minute goal sealed the victory.



Scoring sensation Saviola in action for his Argentine club, River Plate.

FIFA boss attacks racism

FIFA President Sepp Blatter has launched a blistering attack on racism and called for action to eliminate it from world football.

Speaking at the FIFA Conference against Racism, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Blatter said the time has come for everyone involved with the game to tackle racism head on.

Blatter said: "We must launch a permanent operation against this scourge. Let us raise a loud voice against racism in football and in society"

The conference was prompted by growing incidents of racist abuse directed towards black players, many of them African, in some of Europe's top leagues.

Many Africans playing in some high-profile leagues like

Italy's Serie A and the German Bundesliga have suffered torments of abuse from the terraces because of their skin colour.

Just recently, Nigerian youngster Schengen Omolade took to the field for his Italian club Treviso only to see the local fans raise a banner saying: "We don't want a black player in our team."

There have also been numerous cases of black players in Europe being abused by white players, mostly from opposing teams.

Observers say Blatter's comments will help keep the racism issue top of the agenda when new league championships kick-off across Europe in the next few weeks.

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Enyimba dedicates Super League victory to Gov Kalu

From Babs Oyetoro, in Lagos

As the Enyimba FC players were celebrating their victory in the just concluded Pepsi Super League in Lagos, the team's coach, Godwin Uwua, has dedicated his team's victory to the sports loving Governor, Orji Kalu.

Coach Uwua described the state governor as the brain behind the team successful outing in the competition.

The state governor throughout the competition, coach Uwua said, gave the team tremendous moral and financial boost that gingered the team to go extra mile in winning the trophy for the state.

Uwua also commended the players for their commitment and dedication to the competition, saying that without their co-operation it would have been pretty difficult to get this far.

Only last Sunday, Enyimba put paid to ticket when Nwana scored the only goal of the match in the 81st minute.

By this victory, Enyimba FC clinched the maximum nine points having beaten Gombe United 2-1 and NPA of Warri 1-0 in the earlier matches.

Wimbledon Centre Court erupts as Goran triumphs

Wimbledon's Centre Court erupted in an explosion of tears and cheers on Monday as Goran Ivanisevic finally won the World's Most Prestigious tournament.

Three times a runner-up in the 1990s, Ivanisevic landed the title in a heart-stopping five-set thriller against Pat Rafter.

The 29-year-old Croatian collapsed on the court, face down and shook with emotion after finally winning Wimbledon on his 14th attempt.

"This was my dream all my life," Ivanisevic said, his eyes glistening.

"So many match points... I thought, 'Oh God, not again... what have I done to you to deserve this?'"

"I don't know if it's a dream and I'm going to wake up and someone is going to tell me you didn't win Wimbledon again."

Ivanisevic, the first wildcard entrant to win a Grand Slam tournament, scrambled upright and ran to the net.

He hugged his friend Rafter and the Australian, sporting as ever, ruffled the giant Croatian's hair.

"I said 'welldone' to him... at least that's what I said to him," Rafter said.

"I don't think I said anything too horrible to him," added the 28-year-old, runner-up for a second consecutive year.

Ivanisevic climbed into the players' box, his fists

pumping, roared on by a 14,000 crowd to hug his father.

"I want to thank my dad. If I had not won at last this time I think his heart would

have exploded... so thanks Dad, and be careful."

After hugging friends and family, Ivanisevic, savouring every moment after heart-breaking defeats in 1992, 1994 and 1998, stood on top of the scoreboard and showed his muscles to a crowd on the point of frenzy.

During the two-week tournament, Ivanisevic has stripped off his shirt and paraded before the fans after winning.

Horns, bugles and roars of 'Goran, Goran' drowned out much of the

players' speeches as the frenetic crowd turned the normally staid Centre Court into Caesar's Palace.

Croatian flags were everywhere in the arena as Ivanisevic's fans, in red and white wigs and Croatian football shirts, cheered their man to victory.

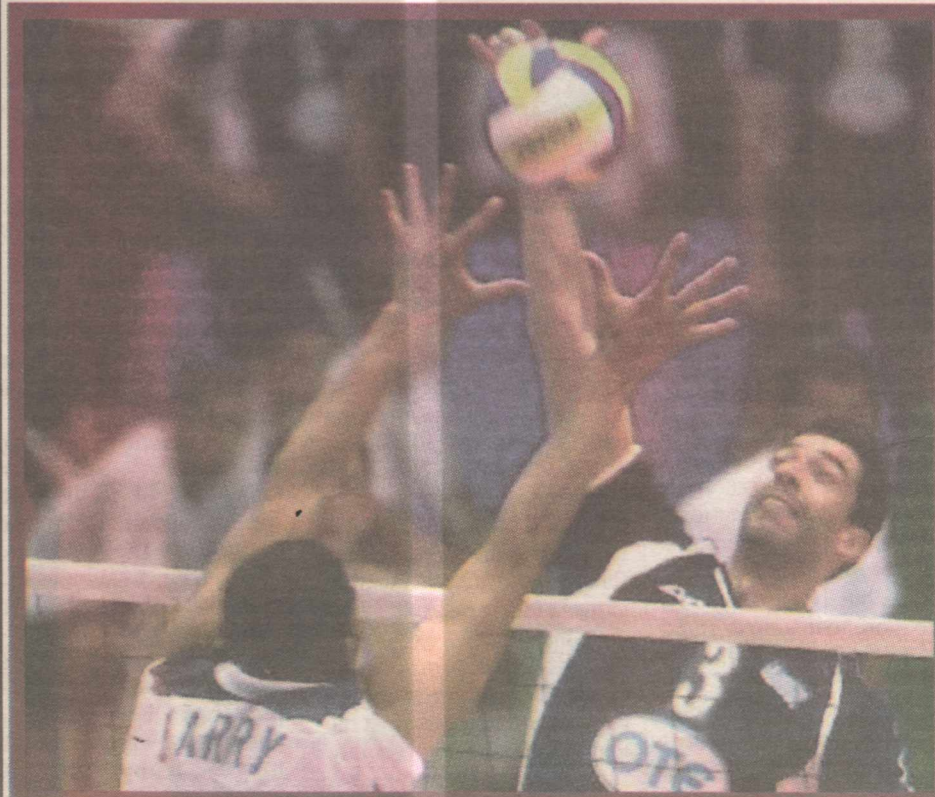
Rafter was well represented too - one half of the crowd had donned green and yellow wigs, or were waving Australian banners and inflatable kangaroos. The Australian cricket team were also in the stands.



Jose Maria Olazabai of Spain hits on the ninth fairway during practice for the 101st US Open Golf Championship at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa.



France soccer idol, Zinedine Zidane joined Spanish giants, Real Madrid from Juventus on Monday in a world record transfer worth \$65 million.



Theodoros Chatziantoniou from Greece, right, smashes the ball against Emaldo Gomez from Venezuela during their World League Volleyball match...recently.

Transparency c'mtte indicts NABA official

By Patrick Andrew

The Transparency Committee set up by the Sports Ministry has submitted its interim report.

Trustsports learnt from dependable sources that the interim report allegedly indicted an official of the Nigeria Amateur Boxing Association (NABA) who had been in fierce contention with the ministry over a number of shady deals.

The official, said to have diverted funds meant for official purposes into personal use had been the centre of controversies in petitions from aggrieved boxers and individuals whose estacodes were allegedly misappropriated.

Trustsports further scooped that the committee that was inaugurated some four months ago addressed only three cases. Apart from the case involving the former NABA officials, the other cases that were treated are the LOC Nigeria 2000 and Nigeria '99 non-payment of contract brought by a private citizen.

Though these cases were addressed in their face value, Trustsports learnt, that the committee is effeminate, as it cannot recommend any punitive measures for offenders unless directed by the Sports Minister, Ishaya

Mark Aku. Trustsports learnt that members of the public heave shrived away from the committee because they do not reckon with it nor have confidence the matters referred to it would be judiciously treated.

Trustsports was told that since the inception of the committee some four months ago no more than the cases contained in the interim report have been referred to it, a situation that has made it near moribund.

Aside from the Sports Ministry transparency committee headed by Mrs. Barbaras Molokwu, its NFA version headed by Mallam Ibrahim Tanko has not received a single case.