

# DAILY TRUST

Trust Is A Burden

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## WEDNESDAY COLUMN

Mohammed Haruna on:  
**International  
IDEA and  
Nigeria's  
democracy**  
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## STAR INTERVIEW

**We will check  
dumping**  
-Commerce Minister  
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## SUJUD FOUNDATION

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**A** PDP stalwart in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Kano State, Alhaji Yahaya Abubakar Kindari, has been arraigned before the 'Yankaba Upper Sharia Court for duping a grains merchant, Alhaji Musa Isa Ibrahim, of N1.6 million. The accused, who posed as the Special Assistant to former Agriculture Minister, Hassan Adamu, was also said to have impersonated

## Minister's impersonator dupes bizman

From Musa Umar Kazaure,  
in Kano

the Minister of Commerce, Alhaji Mustapha Bello.

He was charged with criminal conspiracy and cheating, contrary to Section 120 and 211 of Kano State Sharia Law 2000. According to the prosecutor, Sergeant Umar Mohammed Yakasai, the accused,

Yahaya Abubakar Kindari and two others (Bala Usman, still at large and Murtala Masud) conspired and collected N1.6 million from the grains merchant, Alhaji Musa Isa Ibrahim, promising to secure a grains allocation letter from the Minister of Agriculture. The prosecuting police officer told the court

that after almost a year of promises, the complainant discovered that he was being duped and that the first accused was actually impersonating the Minister of Commerce, Alhaji Mustapha Bello, and also pretending to be the PA to the Minister of Agriculture. Narrating his experience

to *Daily Trust* in Kano, the victim, Alhaji Ibrahim, said he was introduced to the first accused, by the second accused, Bala Usman, who posed as a brother to the Minister of Commerce. Bala Usman, the complainant continued, said his brother, the minister, had offered to assist him with 1,500 tonnes of grains allocation letter using

his ministerial connection with the Agriculture Minister. He continued that the first and second accused intended to sell the allocation to him at N10,500 per tonne.

"They were to make N6.5 million as profit out of which N1.6 million was promised to the PA to the Agric Minister who was to process the approval given by the minister and get the allocation letter. I was asked

contd. on pg 2

## Nigeria Mint for sale

By Osborne Adi Jnr.

**T**he Federal Government yesterday added six other public enterprises to the list of companies and parastatals slated for privatisation, just as it announced the partial commercialisation of the National Hospital, Abuja, and the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Gombe, Gombe State.

Leading the list of the new companies to be sold is

the Nigeria Security Printing and Minting Company (NSPMC) Ltd., the International Conference Centre (ICC), Abuja and West African Refinery Company Limited, based in Sierra Leone.

The last was confiscated from the late General Sani Abacha and his National Security Adviser, Malam Ismaila Gwarzo.

Similarly, government has announced the divestment of its shares from the newly commissioned Abuja Stock Exchange (ASE), Stallion Properties Ltd, jointly owned by the NNPC, the privatised Unipetrol and the Electric Meter Company of Nigeria (EMCON).

Spokesman for the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), Mr. Joseph Anichebe, told newsmen in Abuja that government was selling-off its 40 per cent shares in West African Refinery, 75 per cent holding in NSPMC, while the ICC was to be privatised by concession to the core investor for Abuja Sofitel Hotel, which is adjoining the conference centre.

For Abuja Stock Exchange Plc., Anichebe said, was being privatised in order to level the playing field and deepen the Nigerian capital



From right, Chief of Army Staff, Major-General Alexander Ogomudia, Minister of FCT, Alhaji Abba-Gana and Chairman of FCDA Board, Dr. Olu Alabi, during a press conference on street naming in Abuja... yesterday.

Pix: Felix Onigbinde.

## Oputa summons Ogomudia

By Uwem Umo

**T**he Human Rights Violations Investigation Commission (HRVIC), yesterday, ordered a bench warrant to be issued for the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), to compel him to appear before the commission over allegations of gross human rights violations

against one of his men. The commission came to that conclusion, yesterday, while treating a petition from

contd. on pg 2

## Zero allocation over soon-Commissioner

From Abdul Laro, in Ilorin

**T**he problem of zero allocation confronting local government councils in Nigeria will soon be a thing of the past, the zonal commissioner for the North-Central Zone of the National Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission, Chief John Mankilik, has said.

Speaking during a courtesy call on the Kwara State Governor, Alhaji Mohammed Lawal, at Government House, Ilorin, yesterday, the zonal commis-

sioner disclosed that the new revenue formula, which has been forwarded to President Olusegun Obasanjo, took proper care of states and local governments. He said under the new formula, states and local governments would be able to meet the challenges of providing essential services for their people.

Chief Mankilik said: "Hopefully, by the time the new formula comes on stream, the issue of zero al-

## Streets named after 1966 coup victims

By Emmanuel Ande

**P**resident Olusegun Obasanjo has approved the naming of major streets in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, after the victims of

the January and July 1966 military *Coup d' tats*.

Briefing newsmen yesterday in Abuja, the Minister of FCT, Engr. Mohammed Abba-Gana, said the naming of streets in honour of the eight victims was in furtherance of this administration's programme of re-orientating the citizenry on patriotism, heroism and nationalism.

He stated further that government's decision was a demonstration of its high regard for patriotic and heroic acts.

The minister pointed out that the government of Obasanjo, "is determined to upgrade the Nigerian Military to a world-class status.

"The military remains the main anchor and defender of

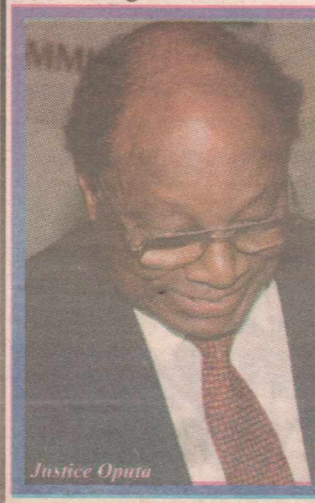
democratic institutions, civilisations, resources and territorial integrity of all nations of the world," he said.

Abba-Gana maintained that the military is now to be well funded, trained, equipped and motivated to defend the nascent democracy and the enormous resources of the country.

He urged soldiers to continue to concentrate on core professional areas of the military rather than dabbling into politics and governance.

"Coups have fallen out of fashion in the civilised world today, I am happy to note that our military officers are moving ahead with the rest of the world by wholly supporting and identifying with the present civilian adminis-

contd. on pg 2



Justice Oputa

## NEWS

## NPC staff fast over unpaid salaries

Staff of the National Population Commission (NPC) in the six states of the North East Zone have resorted to fasting and praying in a bid to get the backlog of their salaries paid to them. The states are; Adamawa, Yobe, Bauchi, Gombe and Taraba.

The chairman of the Joint Consultative Committee of the NPC in the zone, Mr. Victor Kulani, made this known in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Gombe.

He said fasting and praying were only some of the strategies which the staff of the commission in the region have adopted to resolve the issue.

He, however, stressed that the aggrieved workers have no intention of resorting to violence or confrontation in seeking a solution to the problem.

He said the non-payment of salaries to the NPC staff in the zone for the past five months have forced them to withdraw their children from schools.

Some according to him, have been ejected from their homes, while others have since turned to beggars.

"We can no longer take care of our families' medical bills. Our wards are also being chased away from schools because of our inability to pay fees," he said.

When contacted in Abuja for the commission's reaction, the Deputy Director in charge of the Public Affairs Department, Hajiya Fati Kadiri, confirmed that the commission is having difficulty in paying staff salaries.

The Deputy Director, however, said the problem was not peculiar to the North East Zone.

She explained that the commission did not have any problem with payment of salaries until the recent staff audit of federal ministries and parastatals by the Finance Ministry.

"Problem started when 22 states were screened for the pay parade, instead of the 36 states and Abuja where the commis-

sion has offices," she said.

Since April, the commission had been given N43 million for its monthly salaries instead of the N116 million required for staff salaries, Fati stated.

She said further that the commission made frantic efforts to correct the anomaly but was told at the Accountant-General's Office to wait until the conclusion of the staff audit when the final report would have been compiled.

Fati also explained that the commission then decided to pay part of the staff salary to make the little amount available go round until final resolution of the problem.

She added, however, that the NPC had been given assurance that the correct salary would be released to the commission from this month.

The NPC spokesperson appealed to the aggrieved staff to be patient a little longer, as "there are indications that the problem will be resolved very soon."

Arrangements have been concluded by the Federal Government for the final take-off of the much awaited National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) before the end of this year.

Making the pronouncement yesterday in Port Harcourt during the meeting of the National Council of Health, the Minister of Health, Professor A.B.C. Nwosu, stated that it was the determination of the Health Ministry to see that the health system in the country gets all necessary attention

## National Health Insurance Scheme takes-off

From Aisha Momoh,  
in Port Harcourt

required to achieve a rapid turn around in the health care delivery situation in the next 18 months.

Nwosu said for it to achieve the target goals, the ministry has concluded plans to convene a round table discussion on health by September 2001 to review the situation and discuss the restruc-

turing of the ministry for greater effectiveness.

The minister stated further that, before next year, a comprehensive programme to inject life into the nation's secondary health care system would be put in place.

"The proposal for the programme includes a National Blood Transfusion Service. Indeed the proposals are at the stage of being

## Streets contd. from pg 1

Abba-Gana further disclosed that the strength of western democracy and capitalism is the formidable strength of the American, British and French military, adding also that "well-trained and loyal armies have been essential for the survival of kingdoms empires and civilisations.

Those honoured posthumously include: Brigadier Zakariya Maimalari who has

the street linking road B14 to road A in Central Area named after him and Brigadier Samuel Adesoji Ademulegun who has the street connecting road B4 to road A in the same Central Area named after him.

Also B4 to B in the same area has been named after Kur Mohammed (Col) and B14 to B is now Ralph Sodeinde (Col) Street.

In the same vein, the street linking B6 to B12

Abuja Gardens is now known as Yakubu James Pam (Lt-Col) the Central Market street is renamed Abogo Largeme (Col) Street. The Adekunle Fajuyi (Lt-Col) street, is formerly street N9 in the Central Area and Arthur Unegbe (Lt-Col) street is the road through Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) to the FCT minister's gate in Area 11 Garki II.

## Zero allocation contd. from pg 1

ernments."

The zonal commissioner appealed to local council chairmen to address the issue of verification "so that they will not be short charged" as the commission will soon embark on the exercise.

Commenting on the controversial salary package of councillors, he said the commission recommended N53,833 monthly as part of the strategy to entice competent and quality people to man the local councils, adding that the "position of

councillor is not for drop-outs or people who failed their primary seven."

In his response, Governor Lawal hoped that the next local government election will attract quality people with the enhancement of their welfare remuneration.

## Impersonator contd. from pg 1

to give a deposit of N50,000 to facilitate early release of the allocation letter which was to be deducted from their profit," Alhaji Ibrahim said.

He further told *Daily Trust* that the first accused gave him a cellular phone number purported to be that of the Minister of Commerce, Alhaji Mustapha Bello, asking him to call and thank the Minister for facilitating the approval of the grain allocations.

The complainant said he called the "minister" through the cellular number given to him by Yahaya Kindari and spoke to him several times on the purported grain allocation, not knowing it was Yahaya Kindari's cellular number and he (Kindari) was the one posing as the Minister of Commerce, using Sokoto ascent to deceive him.

"At a point, the said minister insisted I paid Yahaya Kindari's share of the profit upfront i.e N1.6 million because the allocation letters are with him (the minister) and would be given to Yahaya to bring to Kano. It sounded all real, so I had to raise about N900,000 that day and sent my driver to Abuja to deliver it to them. That evening, Yahaya called

again to acknowledge the receipt of the money and even issued receipt and also asked me to give another N200,000 to his friend at Wapa in Kano because the allocation letter are on their way," the duped grain merchant recalled.

The next day, he said, he received an entirely different news that Yahaya and his accomplice had an accident along Abuja-Kaduna road, and he (Yahaya) had multiple fractures which required traditional treatment in Dutse, Jigawa State.

Luck, however, ran out for the dupes when a jilted member of the gang (names withheld) approached the grains dealer and told him he was being duped, that there was no any grain allocation, no minister and that Yahaya Kindari, who was said to be involved in a motor accident was hale and hearty playing tennis at Kano Club.

His words: "I immediately sent my son to verify the claim and he came back to say he did see Yahaya healthy playing tennis, so I immediately informed the police in Kano who swung into action by first of all identifying the ownership of the cellular number given me as that of the PA to Agric Minister as belonging to Yahaya Kindari."

He further stated that he called Yahaya Kindari pretending to be unaware of the conspiracy, and he (Kindari) requested for another down payment of N200,000 to pay a tender on a contract he hoped to secure for the grains dealer. The first accused was asked to come and collect the money at the complainant's house and that was when the police arrested him.

Though, the syndicate leader made a confessional statement to the police and promised to refund the amount collected, he, however, reneged on his promise, capitalising on his very powerful connection with Nigeria Police Force leadership in Kano and Abuja. He, therefore, went to file an injunction at the Kano High Court seeking the release of a Mercedes Benz V-boot which was impounded on the day of his arrest by the police in kano.

The duped grains dealer, however, opted to take his case before the 'Yankaba Sharia Court seeking Islamic justice. The judge, Malam Habibu Suleiman, refused Yahaya Kindari's bail until the equal amount he collected is deposited as surety. He is to remain in prison until tomorrow the 19<sup>th</sup> of July, 2001 when the case comes up for hearing.

the family of one Prince Emeka Ahumibe allegedly killed on November 3, 1998 in Imo State by a soldier identified as Gunner Hashim Abubakar attached to 32 Artillery Brigade, Obinze, Owerri, Imo State.

The trigger happy soldier at the time of the killing was attached along with other soldiers and policemen with the Abia State robbery outfit code-named "Operation Bang."

Leading the petitioner and brother of the deceased, Prince Ikenna Ahumibe, counsel to the family, Mr. Emma E. Nwonye said despite an earlier summons, the army high command has persistently refused to honour the invitation of the commission.

The commission learnt that the deceased was killed by the soldier while in company of his colleagues on patrol at No. 18, Ekenna Avenue, Aba, Abia State over an undisclosed offence.

The commission had earlier been availed with a photograph (marked exhibit one) which showed that the de-

## Oputa contd. from pg 1

ceased was shot from the back at a range not more than 50 metres.

A number of people including the wife of one of Nigeria's most famous boxing legend, Dick Ihetu Tiger, were named as witnesses.

The matter was said to have been investigated by the police in Umuahia, who arrived at the conclusion that the murder was indeed premeditated and unlawful and referred the case to the Abia State Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) who in his legal advice recommended that Gunner Hashim Abubakar be arraigned and tried for the murder of Emeka.

The police were unable to carry out the DPP's advice because the commanding officer (o/c) of the 32 Artillery at Obinze, Owerri, had gone to "bail" the soldiers.

However, the police were said to have written several times to the o/c 32 Artillery Brigade, Obinze, but received no reply while the family's complaint letter to the o/c, 82 Division of the Nigerian Army, Enugu, has

received no acknowledgement either.

The family is demanding the prosecution of the erring soldier and monetary compensation for the killing of the 31 years old man. The case has been adjourned to August 3 for hearing.

Earlier, the commission had also slated August 3 to be briefed on the outcome of a settlement (out of the commission) between the widows of Army, Airforce and Naval officers who died in the September 1992 Hercules crash in Ejigbo, Lagos, over claims of government and the Ministry of Defence's neglect to effect several promises made to them when their breadwinners died in the disaster.

Counsel to the aggrieved women, Mr. Patrick Ediale had informed the commission that there were moves in several government circles to amicably resolve the matter and requested the date to brief the commission on the outcome of the settlement.

## Nigeria contd. from pg 1

market by encouraging competition between Lagos and Abuja Stock Exchanges.

He said the authorised share capital of the company, which is N1 billion, was divided into N1,000,000,000 ordinary shares of N1 each. Details of the share structures of the ASE showed that

Central Bank of Nigeria owned N225,000,000 shares; NICON Insurance, N1000,000,000; NIDB, N40,000,000; Nigerian Re-Insurance Corporation, N40,000,000; NBCI, N10,000,000; NICON Lekki Limited, N10,000,000 and NIDB Trustees Limited,

N50,000,000 shares.

The BPE spokesman also said the 51 per cent equity of the Federal Government in Stallion properties, which was held by NNPC, would be sold through Initial Public Offer in the Stock Exchange since Unipetrol has been fully privatised.

NEWS

## Nigeria to convert \$400m frozen facility for rail development

The Federal Government is to utilize about \$400 million, accumulated facility given the country but frozen in foreign accounts in Brussels, Belgium, during the past military era, in the development of the railway sector.

This was one of the outcome of the recent two-day official visit of President Olusegun Obasanjo to Belgium, where extensive discussions were held between Nigerian authority and Belgium.

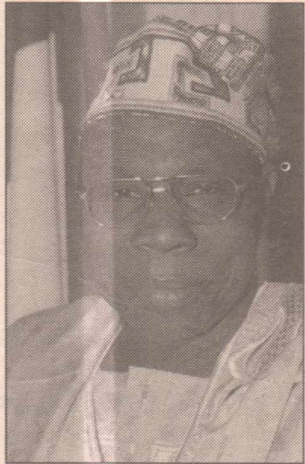
Already, a Belgium firm, which specializes in the railway development, has been asked to submit a proposal on how to rehabilitate the Nigeria railway system, as Belgium authority promised to defreeze the account for utilization of the stashed fund.

The firm, Transurb Technical Rail, is considered as a leading player in the rail system in Brussels with franchise over several metrolines routes in Europe, and they are the major repair firm of Brussels intra-city tramps. The company was

By Suleiman Mohammed, just back from Belgium

selected among other railway firms who submitted proposals, and whose bid were defended before a committee of ministers who accompanied the president to Brussels.

Minister of Economic Matters, Prince Vincent



President Olusegun Obasanjo Ogbulafor and Transport Minister, Chief Ojo Maduekwe, who were on the trip, hinted in a separate chat with newsmen in Belgium that Mr. Pat Steyart, Chief Executive Officer of the Transurb, will lead a team of

technical experts from the firm, expected in Nigeria soon for assessment of the railway industry.

According to Ogbulafor, government want to convert the stashed fund into developing a meaningful and more efficient transport system, cheaper in the country for the citizens. He said government is aiming at the use of rail in the transportation of coal from its mines in Enugu, the flour mills and food items, as well as intra-city transportation.

The packages contained

in a fact-sheet circulated during the business forum by Nigeria embassy held at Sheraton Hotels, Brussels, covered the conversion of wagon bearing from the existing plain bearings to roller bearings to eliminate frequent incidence of hot axle, modernization of track maintenance on a scale consistent with the size and traffic on the Nigeria railway network among others.

Ogbulafor declared that a strong economy strengthen democracy, and that foreign investment would help put the country's economy on a sound footing and boost the people's confidence in democracy.

## Gana to inspect 90 projects in Cross River

From Bassey Ita, in Calabar

Minister of Information and National Orientation, Prof. Jerry Gana, is to inspect over 90 projects initiated by the three tiers of government in Cross River State during his three-day media tour of the state.

Special Assistant to Governor Donald Duke on Information, Mr. Gabriel Onah, hinted newsmen in his office on Monday that the proposed inspection of projects embarked upon by the minister was in furtherance of the Federal Government's desire to

showcase the dividends of democracy in all the states of the federation.

According to Mr. Onah, the minister will visit the sites from Thursday, July 19 to Saturday, July 21, adding that a public forum will be held on Saturday, July 21 where the minister will be expected to brief the press and members of the public on the programmes of the government since the last two



Prof. Jerry Gana

years. While highlighting the itinerary of the minister's visit, special assistant to the governor on special duties, Mr. Joe Ndem Ndifon, hinted that on Thursday, the minister will inspect both completed and ongoing projects at Calabar South, Calabar Municipality, Akampa and Biase Local Government Areas.

Projects in Obubra, Iko Etung, Boki, Bekwarra, Ogoja and Yala Local Government Areas will be visited on Friday. Projects in Obaluku Local Government Area, the special assistant maintained will be inspected by Prof. Gana on Saturday, July 21.

## Jigawa lawmakers blame govt over Sharia implementation

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru

The Jigawa State House of Assembly members have indicted the government for not making prompt arrangement for the implementation of the Sharia legal system.

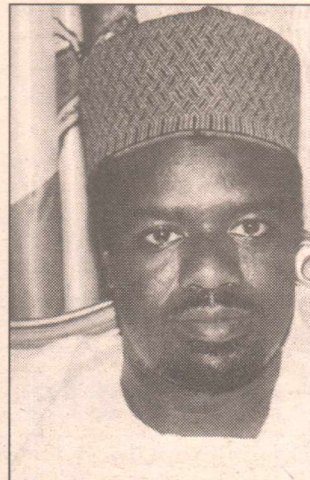
According to a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Hausa service report, monitored in Abuja, Alhaji

Danzomo, Majority Leader of the House, stated that the assembly members have since approved the full implementation of Sharia in the state, adding that they had made a provision of enough funds in the state budget to be spent on the

arrangements for the full implementation of the legal code.

He said up till now, the governor has not explained the delay. He then directed the House of Assembly Committees on Sharia and Religious Affairs to invite the Sharia Implementation Committee, constituted by the state government for dialogue.

Reacting to the allegation, the state Deputy Governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Shehu Kwatalo, said that the delay was not from the executive, saying that the book which contained the crimes, punishments and guidelines for the Sharia implementation has been sent to the legislature, "we are waiting for them to finish the debate on it, approve it and send it back to us before we can implement the Sharia," he said.



Gov Saminu Turaki

## ABUTH chairman pleads with striking nurses

The Chairman of the Board of Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital (ABUTH), Zaria, Chief Rex Onyeabo, has appealed to nurses and midwives to suspend their ongoing strike and enter into dialogue with government

"for the sake of humanity."

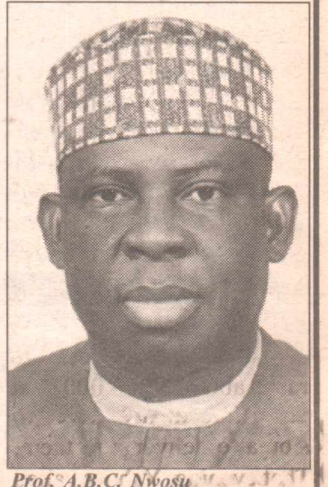
Onyeabo made the appeal in a telephone interview from Chicago, USA, with a Zaria-based correspondent of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) last weekend. He charged the striking nurses and midwives not to allow themselves to be used by "enemies of democracy who are bent on frustrating government's laudable health programme and policies."

The chairman urged them to, as a matter of urgency, suspend the strike to save the lives of patients who have been subjected to untold hardships as a result of their action.

He commended friends of the hospital, who recently announced a plan to deploy nurses, midwives and other auxiliary staff to three units of the hospital in Kaduna, Zaria and Malumfashi, to assist in offering skeletal services to patients

throughout the period of the strike.

He said he was optimistic that the redeployment of the nurses and midwives from local government areas in Kaduna and Katsina States to the hospital's units by the league of friends of ABUTH, would go a long way in sustaining the clinical and out-patient services of the hospital while awaiting the resolution of the crisis.



Prof. A.B.C. Nwosu

## Kaduna crisis: Victims launch cooperative society

Victims of the February and May Kaduna crises living in the southern part of the metropolis have launched a Poverty Eradication Cooperative Society (PECS) to assist members who were rendered homeless and jobless by the crises.

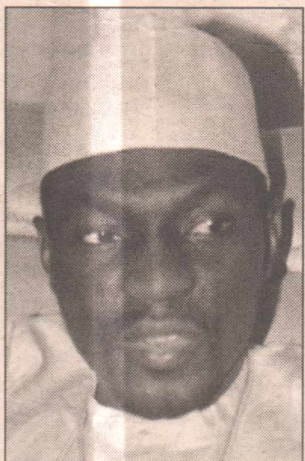
In a press release made available to Daily Trust, the National Coordinator of the programme, Mrs. Janet Dogo, said that the society was formed in December 2000 as an economic empowerment society with major objective of assisting to eradicate poverty, illiteracy, disease and enhance political progress, peaceful environment and conducive atmosphere for national development.

Said she: "PECS is non-religious, non-political and non-ethnic and is borne out of our belief in the ongoing government's poverty alleviation programmes, meant to assist the teeming and suffering populace of our country, Nigeria."

The coordinator added that the society intends to give out soft loans to members to embark on trade, by grouping them and imparting on them vocational skills which they could use to earn a descent living. She further stated that

By Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman

the society would meet relevant government agencies for micro-credit and training facilities.



Gov Ahmed Makarfi

According to the coordinator, the society also intends to carry its activities to the wards and local government levels, after which it would extend to cover the 23 local government areas in Kaduna State.

It is also expected that the activities of the society will reach out to other states of the federation. The coordinator then called on the federal and state governments as well as individuals to help enhance the progress of the society by providing opportunities for training, loan facilities, skill acquisition and benevolence to the less-privileged. About N200,000 was realized at the launching.

## Five governors bag Ohaneze business forum awards

Five South-Eastern governors will be conferred with a millennium merit award for excellence by the Ohaneze Business Forum International, it was reported in Ontisha.

According to the National President of the Pan-Igbo organization, Mr. Cletus Amaraegbu, the award would be conferred on Dr. Chinwoke Mbadinuju of Anambra; Dr. Chimaroke Nnamadi (Enugu), Dr. Orji

Kalu (Abia), Dr. Sam Egwu (Ebonyi) and Dr. Achike Udenwa (Imo).

Amaraegbu told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) yesterday that the Secretary-General of Ohaneze, Prof. Ben Nwabueze, the Minister of Transport, Chief Ojo Maduekwe, "and other Igbo great sons and daughters will also be conferred with awards."

He explained that the millennium award was

designed to encourage Igbo who had "contributed to the development, promotion and projection of Ndigbo in business, industry and politics."

"The award is in recognition of the Igbo nation, to make our Igboess glimmer and vibrate again," he said. According to him, the merit award will straighten the history of Ndigbo for posterity and avoid distortion and misrepresentation by those championing the cause of Igbo race at home and in the diaspora.

# NEWS

## Group makes case for the unemployed

A non-governmental organization in Kaduna, the Welfare Initiative Project (WIP), has advocated the introduction of a social security scheme as a way of assisting the unemployed.

From Dare Oyewole, in Kaduna

scheme would drastically reduce these social vices.

He also stressed the need for the prompt payment of pensioners' monthly

In a statement issued in Kaduna on Monday by its National Secretary, Mr. Adedeji Moses, said the introduction of such a scheme would go a long way in curbing the crime wave in the country.

He argued that the high rate of unemployment in the country has contributed in so small measure to the spate of violent crimes, adding that he is convinced that the introduction of such a



Gov Ahmed Makarfi

entitlements as a way of alleviating the problems they face.

Mr. Moses condemned the economic policies of the government, stating that most of its policies aggravate poverty, undermine popular

welfare or national development.

He emphasized the need for equitable federalism based on the cardinal principles of devolutions and decentralizations with a view to guaranteeing political and fiscal autonomy to the component units ensuring equity in relations among them.

## NLC embarks on AIDS campaign

The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) has finalized arrangements to embark on a nationwide campaign to sensitise Nigerjans on the need to keep the dignity of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in place.

From Samson Ojo, in Lagos

interview in his office in Lagos, Monday, that the congress is worried that most employers have been denying people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), the right to work.

Comrade Odeh disclosed that the congress considered such attitude on the part of employers as a gross violation of PLWHA human rights, which the NLC has resolved to fight.

On NLC position, the NLC scribe argued that though HIV/AIDS has not yet got any cure, denying the PLWHA the rights to work will amount to sending them into early grave. He stated that HIV/AIDS patients should be considered and treated just like people with other diseases.

Comrade John Odeh, the NLC General Secretary, told Daily Trust in an exclusive

## Demolition of illegal structures to continue - FCDA board

By Suleiman Mohammed

The newly constituted board of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) has alerted that all structures erected on sewage lines, security zones and green areas would be pulled down. "We have compiled

houses on sewage lines, security zones and green areas, and we are going to pull them down, approval or no approval, so long as they violate the master plan of Abuja," declared the FCDA board chairman,

House, Abuja, said the president has already given approval for the exercise.

He declared that though the exercise will be unpleasant "if we have to do it, we will do it. This is more so as the persons who erected the illegal structures did not comply with the building regulations. We will not lose sleep doing it. If a situation is created for the board to do unpleasant things, we have a job to do, and will do it."

He regretted that the Phase I plan of Abuja was only meant to accommodate 250,000 residents, but as it is now, about 1 million people live in Phase I, thereby leading to shortage of space, social facilities and other necessities for a befitting city."

According to him, in order not to repeat similar mistakes in Phase II of the Abuja master plan, a contract has been awarded for the construction of a ring road to demarcate Phase I and Phase II as well as open-up satellite towns for meaningful development.



Engr. Abba-Gana

Senator Olu Alabi.

The board chairman, who briefed State House correspondents shortly after a meeting with President Olusegun Obasanjo at the State

## I have never visited Olabayo - Obasanjo

President Olusegun Obasanjo has denied ever visiting Theophilus Olabayo, as contained in some media reports. Reacting to Olabayo's claim, published in the Sunday Champion of 15 July 2001, that "Obasanjo came to me at 1.00 a.m., in my house," the president said since he could not have gone alone, Olabayo should disclose who else was there.

heart," the Lord said (Jeremiah 14:14).

President Obasanjo



President Olusegun Obasanjo

"Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves," (Matthew 7:15).

"They have envisioned futility and false divination, saying 'thus says the Lord!' But the Lord has not sent them, yet they hope that the word may be confirmed." (Ezekiel 13:6).

"The prophet's prophecy lies in my name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing and the deceit of their

wondered why those who see visions about others never see ahead or talk about adverse developments capable of affecting themselves. Said the president: "When the time comes, I will decide and announce my political intention regarding year 2003. I will do so, not because of a false prophet or any prophet that matter, or because of advice from the likes of Olabayo," he said.

President Obasanjo stated that all believers know that the good Lord talks to his children or servants directly in diverse ways without any false prophets as intermediaries.

## Relief materials rot away

From Bassey Ita, in Calabar

In what may appear to be a denial of justice, materials sent by the Federal Disaster Relief Agency, Abuja to provide relief to the war-ravaged Ikot Offiong refugees are presently rotting away, while the refugees

continue to wallow in untold discomfort.

The relief materials which were in the form of building materials, zinc, planks, rods, cement and nails as well as

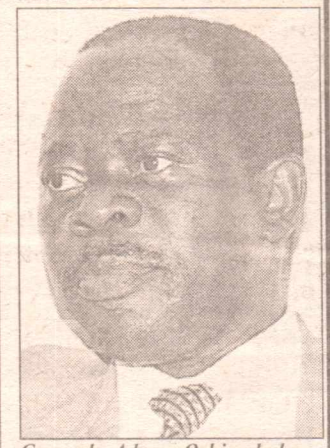
clothes, foodstuff, beddings among others have all been rotting away as they continue to pose as eyesore at the Odukpani Local Government Council secretariat.

When Daily Trust visited the stores at the secretariat to ascertain the level of devastations the materials had reached, it was observed that all the about 10,000 bags of cement had blocked and solidified while the woods and planks were either bent or broken

as a result of exposure to the conditions of the weather.

When contacted, the Supervisor for Works of the local government area, Mr. Emmanuel Effiong Okon, hinted that the disaster relief agency of the state government was responsible for endorsing the distribution of the materials, adding that except that is done, the local government would not delve into the matter.

Mr. Okon maintained that other sundry materials like beddings, clothes, and foodstuff were distributed immediately on arrival owing to their perishable nature.



Comrade Adams Oshiomhole

The congress, according to him, will soon embark on a re-orientation campaign to change the wrong attitude of employers towards PLWHA. The NLC scribe blamed the wrong attitude towards PLWHA to the social stigma that goes along with HIV/AIDS.

Comrade Odeh argued that Nigerians should know that HIV/AIDS is not the end of the world. The NLC nationwide campaign according to the NLC scribe, aims to educate Nigerians that PLWHA people need to be assisted and cared for just like people with other diseases.

The campaign to re-orientate Nigerians attitude toward PLWHA, the congress scribe explained, would entail both the congress, the government and other non-governmental agencies.

## Bayelsa governor swears-in eight advisers

The highest number of special advisers in the history of Bayelsa State were sworn-in on Monday by Governor Diepreye Alamiyeseigha in Yenagoa. The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports at the swearing-in ceremony of the eight advisers, the governor charged them to work hard to ensure that the state assumes highest status in development.

explained that the present number of special advisers is the highest since the creation of Bayelsa in 1996, said their experience and knowledge in their various fields of human endeavour, were required for

the rapid development of the state.

Alamiyeseigha said that they were expected to perform creditably well, pointing out that their appointments were based on their excellent credentials and past experiences.

He said that nobody would claim absolute knowledge and stressed the need for consultation for the effective performance of governmental businesses.

Those sworn, in on Monday included Chief Thompson Okorotie, Political matters; Chief Asara Asara, Intra-party matters; Sylvernus Abila, Legal matters; and Mr. Solomon Apreala, Economic matters.



Gov Diepreye Alamiyeseigha

## FUT Yola reopens today

The Federal University of Technology (FUT), Yola is to reopen today, for the remaining part of the first semester, following the end of the nationwide strike by ASUU, NAN reports. The decision was taken at the end of the meeting of the Senate of the institution in Yola.

Mohammed Ibrahim, told NAN in a telephone interview shortly after the Senate meeting, that academic activities in the university would resume on July 18, while the first semester examinations would commence on July 25 and end on August 4.

According to Ibrahim, the pre-degree and post-graduate students of the university are to resume on August 6. He said that the Vice-Chancellor of the

university, Prof. Salihu Mustapha, had called on parents and guardians of the students to ensure that their children and wards reported back on time for their examinations.

He also assured the students that the university authorities had put in place, facilities needed to ensure a hitch-free academic programme.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I formerly known as MISS ADEBAYO BILKIS FUNMILAYO now wish to be called MRS KABIAWU BILKIS FUNMILAYO. Former documents remain valid. NYSC and public to note.

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

# Towards disciplined budgeting

The passage of the national budget has been a source of heated disagreement between the executive and the legislature since the inception of the present administration. Particularly, the first – the 2000 budget – over which the two arms battled each other almost to a standstill before it was eventually passed.

Following the delay it suffered, several aspects of that budget could not be implemented to the expectation of Nigerians and the result was that little was achieved by way of improving the quality of life of most Nigerians. Although policy makers envisaged that the budget would address some of the micro and macro-economic problems that have continued to keep the economy in the doldrums, the grinding poverty, collapse in infrastructure, high cost of food and essential commodities and the general high cost of doing business in the country, coupled with the crash of the national currency, have combined to make life more miserable for the average Nigerian.

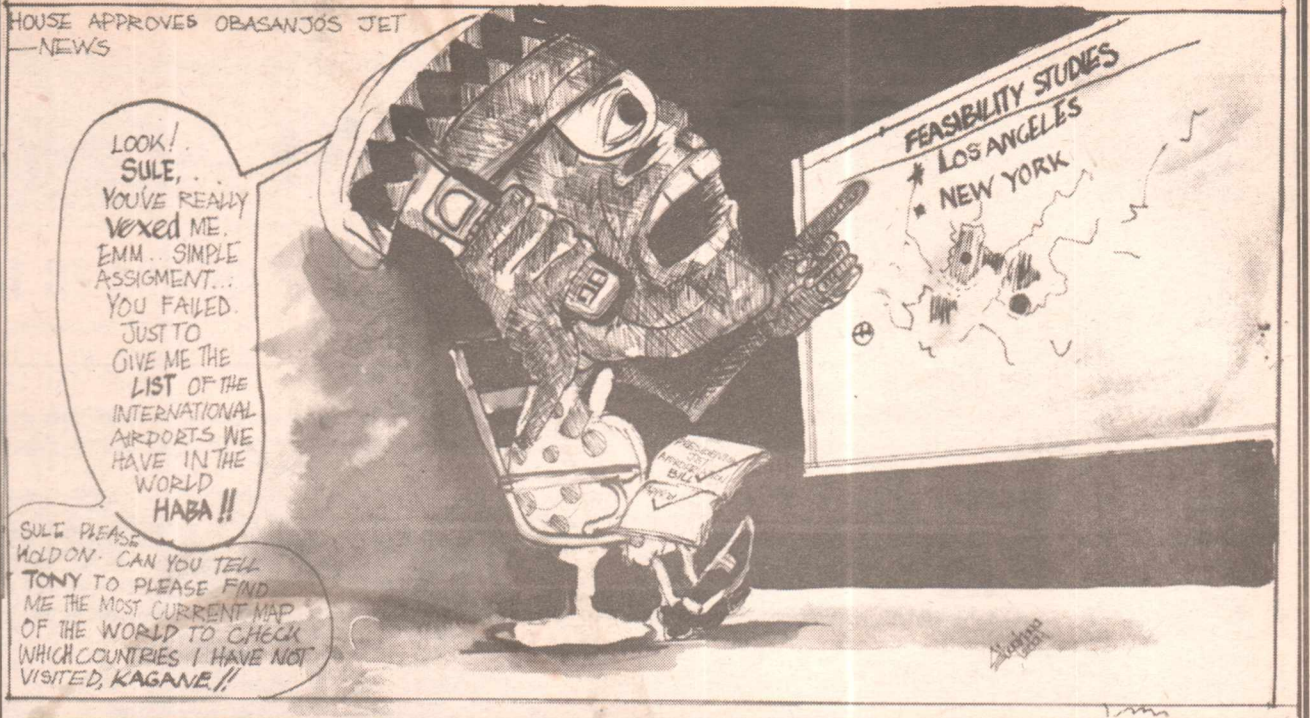
For this, it was expected that the year 2001 budget would be tailored to check the ugly trends that manifested the previous years. However, it is a source of concern that up to the middle of this fiscal year, the situation does not appear to have changed.

Although the National Assembly quickly passed the current budget with little bickering, the implementation has not manifested in the life of the ordinary Nigerian. Of particular concern is the inability of the federal government to do away with the World Bank and IMF sponsored neo-colonial economic policy of globalisation. Instead of evolving policies that will boost local production to create employment and promote the alleviation of poverty, the government has chosen the path of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to allow all sorts of goods to come into the country.

This development has also given rise to capital flight as the Minister of Finance, Malam Adamu Ciroma recently disclosed at a public forum that of every one naira government spent in the country, 75 kobo goes into other economies.

Daily Trust calls on the National Assembly to perform its required constitutional role of providing checks and balances by ensuring that all appropriation bills it passed into law are strictly implemented before new ones are passed.

We also counsel that with the passage of the N157 billion supplementary budget, the federal government should endeavour to tackle the issues of poverty alleviation, crumbling urban and rural infrastructures, agriculture, education and other matters that have direct bearing on the lives of the people and not the pursuit of a white elephant agenda.



## WEDNESDAY COLUMN

### International IDEA and Nigeria's democracy

By Mohammed Haruna

A little-known organisation, International IDEA, (International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance) with headquarters in Oslo, Sweden, has just published a 380-page book on the challenges of democracy in Nigeria. Titled *Democracy in Nigeria – Continuing Dialogue(s) for National Building*, the book, in the words of International IDEA itself, is “based on a process of dialogue and consultation with the people who are most involved – the Nigerians themselves. The institute brings together different groups in Nigeria from the military to civil society, from government officials to opposition parties, from ethnic groups to traditional leaders – so they can discuss how to consolidate democracy in Nigeria”.

Altogether, 55 people, mostly academics, 11 of them non-Nigerians, plus a few senior journalists and human rights activists, anchored the book. According to its publisher, the contributors travelled around the country in groups carrying out extensive interviews with Nigerians from all walks of life on how they think democracy can be sustained and nurtured in the country.

A survey conducted on behalf of the publisher in January-February 2000, showed that 81 percent of Nigerians preferred democracy as against 9 percent who preferred non-democratic rule and 10 percent who were indifferent. A further survey of the vast majority that preferred democracy said its most important features in descending order were, education for all (95 percent), jobs for all (95 percent), basic necessities (93 percent), party competition (89 percent), majority rule (86 percent), free speech (83 percent), economic equity (82 percent and regular elections (80 percent).

This article is less a review of the book than an attempt to publicise it on account of its well-structured and well-articulated contribution towards making the prospects for democracy in Nigeria bright. Because it is not quite a book review, I have not attempted a chapter and verse discussion of the book. Instead, I have decided to focus on the 17-page synthesis at the beginning of the book. This summary argues that Nigerians need to negotiate a “new social compact” i.e. a new constitution between the state, civil society and the private sector. The content, form and process of this new social compact, it says, must be “an inclusive national dialogue”, if it is to have the legitimacy that all previous compacts have apparently lacked.

The litmus test for the legitimacy of the new compact, says the book, is the next general elections in 2003. If the compact can provide a basis for successful elections in two years’ time, Nigeria, it said, “will be well on the way to becoming a mature democracy.” From all this and from the conclusions and recommendations in at least chapters one and six of the book, it seems the publisher has given a ringing endorsement to the calls for a national conference, sovereign or otherwise, as a prelude to Election 2003.

At least two criticisms can be made of this. The first criticism is that the endorsement is a contradiction of sorts. The publisher acknowledges that working out a sound constitution necessarily involves continuous dialogue over a long period, certainly longer than the two remaining years before the next general elections. Yet the publisher seems to want a new constitution in place before then.

The second criticism, which stems from the first, is that International IDEA also seems to share the popular but mistaken belief that each and every constitution we have had, have been almost an elite affair. This may be true of the Clifford (1922) and the Richards (1947) constitutions, and it may also be true to some extent of the constitutions under the regimes of Generals Aguiyi-Ironsi (he toyed with unitarism rather unwisely), Babangida, Abacha and Abubakar, but it is not true of our independence constitution and the 1979 constitution under General Obasanjo’s military rule. This is in spite of the fact that non-elected governments – the colonial government in the first case and a military regime in the second – held the veto over the constitutional process.

As anyone can see from the autobiographies and writings of some of the leaders of the independence struggle and from the memoirs of Alhaji Abubakar Imam, the first editor of *Gaskiya Tafi Kwabo*, the leading vernacular paper in the country since 1939, the independence constitution was arrived at after a most extensive and painstaking grassroots debate, much of it under the aegis of the regional and provincial political parties whose membership were in hundreds of thousands, if not millions.

That similar widespread consultations at all levels of society also preceded the 1979 constitution, can be seen from a reading of the first annexure of the book itself which is chronology of

major events in the country from 1899 to October 1, 2000. True the first draft which the Constitution Drafting Committee, under Chief FRA Williams, submitted to Obasanjo regime was a fundamental shift from the parliamentary framework of the First Republic to a presidential one. Also, although it endorsed a multi-party system as of old, it was the first constitution which restricted the number of parties by making party registration by the federal electoral commission compulsory.

Because of these paradigm shifts there were widespread accusations of “soft subterranean influence” against the military, to use the words of Malam Aminu Kano, one of the leading first generation nationalist politicians. Even then, there can be no denying the fact that the draft received widespread grassroots support following a long debate on it in our mass media and various fora from September 1976, when Chief Williams first submitted it for debate, to September 1978 when it was promulgated by the then Supreme Military Council.

A constitutional lawyer, Professor Ben Nwabueze, has been arguing that even the electoral mandate conferred on President Obasanjo and members of the National Assembly – and by extension, elected executives and legislators at the lower levels – is too limited a mandate to take away the power of the sovereign people of Nigeria to make a constitution for themselves or to change it. This is hardly in dispute. What is in dispute is how this sovereign power of the people should manifest.

Conservative, some would say, reactionary elements like Nwabueze think the procedure should take the form of a sovereign conference of representatives of the ethnic nationalities of the country, while radical/liberal elements think it should be a dialogue of the working class, professionals, political parties and their elected representatives, a dialogue whose outcome should be subjected to at least a referendum before it becomes the supreme law of the land.

Any objective comparison of the two is likely to conclude that an ethnic based national conference is more likely to undermine democracy rather than enhance it. Yet the better alternative of the radical/liberal approach is unlikely to produce any radical departure from the 1979 constitution. Any national conference, sovereign or otherwise, before the next elections, would then seem like a superfluous attempt at re-inventing the wheel.

In that case, far from a sovereign national conference, what we probably need is one of three options suggested in the book, i.e. the option of “a small and focused department of constitutional development within the ministry of justice... charged with the task of public education and awareness-raising on the powers, rights and obligations of citizens in order to demystify the constitutional process”. A partnership of such a department and NGOs would most likely do the trick in the long run.

Granted the 1999 constitution has more defects than that of 1979 but the fundamentals – federalism, presidential system, multi-party democracy and so-called secularism – remain the same. The basic problem really is less these defects than the attitude of the political class, which is basically selfish, to put it mildly. The most glaring manifestation of this selfishness has been the seemingly never ending demands for the creation of states and local governments, demands which have been the single biggest source of weakening our federal structure and thus turning it virtually into a *de facto* unitary state. A thousand sovereign national conferences will not change this attitude without a proper reorientation of the political class.

*Democracy in Nigeria* identifies two main challenges in forging a new social compact i.e. a new constitution to guide our politics aright. The first, it says, is “the challenge of braking the alliance among Nigeria’s anti-democratic ‘troika’, militarism, negative communalism and petrobusiness.” The second, it says, is the task of “delivering the ‘democracy dividend’ equitably, in order to improve the quality of life of Nigerians and thus consolidate their optimism in democracy”. The publishers of the book identified these dividends as noted above.

In this respect perhaps, a third criticism of the publishers is that they did not conduct an opinion survey on HOW these dividends can be realised. All we are then left with are such conflicting claims by various sections of the political class about Resource Control, Sharia and Restructuring through a sovereign national conference, as the means of securing the democracy dividends. For all the empirical evidence provided by members of this political class to support their claims, it is difficult, if not impossible, to tell which of the claims are merely opportunistic and which ones are valid.

Perhaps, next time International IDEA embarks on another of its democracy enhancing projects, it will seriously consider looking into these and other shortcomings of *Democracy in Nigeria*.



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Opinion

Sharia and the randy secretary

By Aliyu Umar Mohammed

The agony of watching helplessly while your beloved ones are being snatched away is better left to the imagination; that for a boss to send you on any assignment elsewhere only to take your wife away explains the degree of the devastation.

In reference to the above assertion is a case reported by the Kebbi State Television, Birnin Kebbi in its 7.30 pm bulletin on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2001 of the secretary of a local government council in the state who allegedly sent a subordinate on an assignment and took the subordinate's wife to far away Sokoto for relaxation.

Interestingly, the unholy affair is coming at a time the governor of Kebbi State, Alhaji Muhammad Adamu Aliero pledged to bring any Sharia violator to book no matter his status in the society. "Even election rigging and political thuggery will be tried in Sharia courts", the governor said just before the postponed Kebbi North senatorial by-election. This case therefore, will serve as a yardstick in measuring the sincerity, uprightness, and impartiality of the government in the application of Sharia in Kebbi State.

It is a known fact that in Kebbi State all issues that demand justice, fair play and the fear of God are being politicised in order to derail the course of justice. Already, rumours are that the state government is doing everything possible to set free the secretary just because he is sympathetic to the ruling All Peoples Party in the state. It is pertinent therefore to draw the attention of the governor that he swore by the Holy Qur'an to uphold the cause of justice, defend the powerless and discharge his functions without fear or favour. The "pre-Islamic practice" re-introduced by the randy secretary at a time when all Muslims are clamouring for full implementation of Sharia should not be condoned. He should be made to face the wrath of the law to serve as a deterrent to others.

The whole world is now watching with keen interest the BBC publicised case, more especially that a near similar case just occurred in Zamfara where a higher Sharia court judge in Kanwuri, Gusau, tried, found guilty and sentenced one Alhaji Sani Mustapha the chairman of Zamfara State Local Government Monitoring and Evaluation Committee to 50 strokes of the cane in addition to three years imprisonment or an option of N5,000 for just giving a lady a free ride in his car. The sentence was carried out on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2001 (*Tribune*, Thursday June 14, 2001).

The world will surely question the credibility, sincerity, impartiality, uprightness and holiness of the special adviser to the governor on Sharia implementation, Sheik Umar Isah in particular and the state Sharia implementation committee in general if the said secretary is unjustly set free as widely speculated.

Mohammed is of No. 3, Road X, Wali Street, Nassarawa, Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State.

Militant groups and the due process of law

By Abdulrahman Abdulyekeen

The increasing incidents of robbery, among many other criminal activities in the country, particularly since inception of civil rule on May, 29 1999, has expectedly become a source of concern to the government and law-abiding citizens. Violent crimes, especially in our major cities, daily assault our senses and newspapers are frequently filled with chilling and devastating activities of daredevil robbers which often result to death of prominent and not so famous citizens.

It is therefore, a welcome relief that the government at various levels has renewed, with vigour, its determination and resolve to put an end to criminal activities in our society. To this end, a number of security measures have been initiated and implemented at local, state and federal levels by governments.

In Lagos State, the nation's economic/commercial centre, a military formation christened "Operation Sweep" was set up to wage war against robbers and other criminals in the state. Other states have since followed the footpath of their Lagos State counterpart by setting up similar military operations to arrest the upsurge in criminal activities in their respective states.

It is, however, disheartening that in spite of all efforts, the police and other special military formations in various states have been incapable in the arduous assignment of confronting and combating the rising wave of crime in our society.

Many reasons can be adduced for this apparent failure. One, our police are deficient, in terms of training and equipment for effective policing and increasing sophistication of crime and criminals. Two, corruption is deeply rooted and prevalent in the system. Last, but by no means the least, is the abysmally low morale of the rank-and-file engendered by poor and frustrating working conditions.

It is against this background therefore, that many people have lost faith in the Nigerian police for protection of lives and property. As a solution, heavily armed militia have emerged in some states to deal with the scourge of criminals.

These militant groups are obviously encouraged by their respective governments wherever they exist, consequently creating friction between them and the police. Examples are frequent violent clashes between OPC and the police in Lagos, Bakassi Boys and the police in Anambra and Imo states.

Prominent among these militant groups are the Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC) in the south-west, Bakassi Boys in the south-east and other little known and less militant (vigilante) groups in the northern part of the country.

It is pertinent to point out that some of

them can be linked to the resurgence of ethnic/regional politics in the Fourth Republic. Thus, the OPC is widely perceived to be the armed wing of the Alliance for Democracy (AD), one of the three registered political parties with overwhelming influence and control in the south-west.

The resounding success of these groups in checking crime wherever they operate have earned them approbation as people find succour in them, especially in protecting their lives and property.

While it is axiomatic that no responsible and responsive government will condone crime of any nature, it is nonetheless imperative for the government at state and federal levels to immediately check the excesses of these militia. The sordid methods employed by them in dealing with suspected criminals belong to the Dark Age, where the due process of law, as it exists today, was absent.

An example will do to support my argument. In the front page of *The Punch* of May 31, 2001 it was reported that "Bakassi Boys kill 30 in Onitsha." *The Comet* provided a graphic description of the bizarre methods used by the Boys in its editorial a few days after the incident. It reported that "On Democracy Day, 30 robbery suspects were killed in major city centres of Onitsha - by the dreaded Bakassi Boys, dressed in all-red outfits, drove in a long convoy of pick-up vans and buses, loaded with suspected armed robbers. They wielded cutlasses and rifles which they fired intermittently as they paraded the city - At each execution point, which was usually at the crossroads, the vigilantes would drag out their victims, slice their throat and inflict cuts on other parts of the suspects' bodies before setting them on fire - 20 other suspected thieves were summarily axed to death and set ablaze at the Uga, Bridget and Obosi junctions of the ancient city". What a barbarism?

In this century of monumental technological advancement, which has made the world a global village, the newspaper reports excerpted above can only but portray us in the eyes of the rest of the world as animals lacking or disregarding the due process of law in dealing with those who breach the law.

One can be tempted into dismissing my position, especially if the notoriety and ruthlessness of robbers is to be considered. It is accepted that robbers are heartless and brutal when dealing with their victims. In fact, anybody that has been a victim of robbers or witnessed a robbery will quickly and utterly disregard any legal niceties when it comes to punishing armed robbers.

However, it is pertinent to guard against throwing away the baby with the bath water. We should not treat the law with contempt as

if it does not exist. Our handling of criminals is a reflection of our maturity, civility and development.

A court in the United States recently condemned Timothy McVeigh to death for killing 168 people through a bomb attack on a public building. Since the judgement, there has been a wide cry against his execution in particular and death penalty in general. What is of relevance to us about this case is that at the forefront of those campaigning against the execution of McVeigh was a father of one of the victims of the terrorist attack. How many of us can exhibit such fortitude and courage in the face of such gargantuan adversity.

To tame the rising cases of crime generally, government should as a matter of utmost priority re-equip the police with modern and sophisticated weapons as a counterpoise to similar state-of-the-art weapons in the hands of robbers and hoodlums. It would now be suicidal for the police, with their antediluvian and obsolete weapons, to challenge armed robbers.

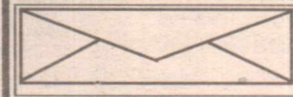
The police need to be re-trained for modern policing. The force is presently populated by illiterates, dropouts, and in some cases, ex-convicts. This explains why some policemen have been involved in cases of robberies, extortion, and other crimes. To put it bluntly, some of our policemen are no better than robbers.

Most importantly, government should provide employment opportunity for citizens, especially able-bodied youths, that have been stifled by the nation's decadent socio-political and economic system. Our youths are daily assaulted by the display of ill-gotten wealth by our elected and traditional rulers while the larger society wallows in abject poverty.

With the dawn of civil rule, expectations were high for improvement in the well being of citizens. The euphoria was fuelled by the freedom from the locust years of misrule of the military. However, the present administration of Chief Obasanjo, so far, has not made any significant impact on the lives of ordinary citizens. Prices of basic items are astronomically high, scarcity of fuel still persists, electricity supply is epileptic, while security of lives and property is virtually absent.

In the midst of poverty, our lawmakers and their cohorts keep feeding fat on the nation's treasury which is manifesting in the many exquisite jeeps on our roads, frequent trips abroad in the name of inviting investors, sending their children abroad for studies while our universities remain closed due to incessant strikes etc.

Abdulyekeen is with the Federal Government Girls' College, Bakori, Funtua, Katsina State.



YOUR LETTERS

What is sauce for the goose . . .

I write to call on the federal government to amend our constitution to allow local government councils four-year terms. This is very important because local governments are closer to the people and have various commitments to them. Many local governments have started crucial projects and they cannot finish them within

three years, so they need more time. If governors, members of the House of Representatives, Senators and the president will spend four years, why not local government councils who are closer to the people. Yusufu Sani, Yassanta, P. O. Box 249, Funtua, Katsina State.

Daily Trust should go online

Of recent, we have been reading the latest from *Weekly Trust* through the internet every Thursday or Friday morning. May I use this opportunity to call on the management of *Daily Trust* newspaper to put or connect the *Daily Trust* online so that at least we can read it via the internet every morning before settling down in the office for the business of the day.

The write-ups from the team of the excellent writers are very exciting as well as educating. May I suggest also that despite his busy schedule, Dr. Aliyu Tilde should also take part in this contribution to national issues. We sincerely appreciate his invaluable contributions in *Weekly Trust*. Abdullahi S. Abubakar, Anguwar Hausawa, Box 5331, Garki Abuja.

Where are we going?

It was last month when Nigerians faced another improper and impromptu situation by "Anti-corruption government" whereby NITEL announced the skyrocketed price for intra and interstate telephone calls and the cut down price for international calls. Since then I was expecting the influential class "A" citizens to oppose the increment when to my dismay Mallam Nasir El-Rufa'i, the chairman BPE, boldly supported the increment with some dubious reasons. Thank God that though

important, the telephone is not a necessity to the masses. So why bother myself? One thing certain is life after death. Had it not been for death and the judgment in the hereafter, the looters would have neatly defeated the masses. 2-0! Bashir Muhammad (Bash) Zoo Road, Kano Kano State.

Kura LG chairman, remember your promises

Please permit me to use your popular medium to draw the attention of Kura local government chairman to remember his promises to the people. These include the provision of potable water, provision of fertiliser to farmers as well as other social amenities, especially in places like Karfi,

Imawa, Kura and their environs. He, as a Muslim should equally remember that by promising he has made a covenant with Allah (SWT) and will therefore one day be made to stand and account for it. Nasidi A. Yahaya, No. 4B, Dirimin Alewa Quarters, Kura.

# TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA &amp; THE MIDDLE EAST

## Iranian court jails journalist for six years

An appeal court in Iran has extended the prison sentence imposed on a prominent Iranian journalist, Akbar Ganji, from six months to six years.

Ganji, a supporter of the reform movement in Iran, was convicted of damaging state security by attending a conference in Berlin on the future of Iran.

BBC reports that the sentence is a blow to President Mohammed Khatami, who has promised more openness and

the rule of law.

In May, the 10-year sentence, followed by five years' internal exile, was reduced on appeal to six months in jail.

But despite the appeal Ganji remained in prison, facing other charges.

Prosecutors then took the case to a higher court, which imposed a harsher penalty.

A court statement said that the ruling was definitive and therefore not subject to further appeal.

Ganji reportedly made enemies by naming members of the conservative

establishment as being responsible for the killing of dissidents and intellectuals.

Since the election in 1997 of reformist President Khatami, around 40 mostly pro-reform newspapers have been shut down.

Dozens of Mr Khatami's supporters have been jailed or remanded in custody on subversion charges.

A large number of them were convicted as a result of their attending the Berlin conference last year, which was branded as anti-Iranian after being disrupted by émigré groups.

And despite the president's landslide re-election last month, a French-based press defence group said that the plight of journalists was worsening in Iran.

A statement by *Reporters sans Frontieres* described Iran as "the largest prison for journalists in the world," adding that of 27 journalists known to be in jail, 21 were being held in unknown locations.

Ganji has been in prison for the last 15 months and he has accused prison authorities of torturing him.

He has been on hunger strike several times to protest at his detention in solitary confinement in a Tehran prison.



Palestinian Anas Dameeri looks at his father's burnt out car in the village of Byren near the West Bank city of Nablus, on Monday. Witnesses from the village said that tens of Jewish settlers from the neighbouring settlement of Yitzhar attacked many houses in the village and set fire to the car early Monday morning.

## Fighting continues in Mogadishu

Heavy fighting has continued in Mogadishu as militia loyal to faction leaders Hussein Aidid and Usman Atto clashed with a militia loyal to the Transitional National Government (TNG), local sources told *Integrated Regional Information Network*, IRIN.

The fighting started when militia loyal to Atto on July 15 tried to loot a convoy of trucks carrying relief food donated by Saudi Arabia, at a checkpoint in the south of the city.

Atto's militia, according to Mogadishu resident Hasan Ahmad, controls the checkpoint at KM-7 on the Afgoi road.

The fighting which started on the morning of July 15 died down as darkness fell, but resumed in

earnest on Monday morning, humanitarian sources in Mogadishu told IRIN.

The fighting, which was concentrated in southwest Mogadishu, reportedly died down later in the afternoon, but the two sides were still facing each other at KM-7 and fighting could resume at any time, a local doctor told IRIN.

He said death toll estimates so far ranged between 50 and 100. Monday's fighting is the latest in a series of confrontations in Mogadishu since July 12.

## Egyptian faces trial for multiple marriages

An Egyptian man has gone on trial for breaking the Muslim legal limit of having four wives at the same time - he had five.

Sayed Ragab al-Sawarky, 51, whose trial opened on Sunday but was adjourned until August, is also charged with

entering into brief marriages with 29 underage girls.

Lawyers for Mr al-Sawarky, a wealthy businessman, say the charges are part of an attempt to close down his chain of clothing shops.

But the prosecution alleges

## Mine blast kills one, injures 12 in Swaziland

More than 250 workers have refused to resume duty at a coal mine in south western Swaziland after an underground explosion killed one person and left twelve seriously injured last week.

Maloma Colliery shift boss, Duma Vilakati, blamed the blast on a malfunctioning ventilator that led to a build-up of methane

gas that was ignited by a spark.

The ventilator was being repaired at the time of the explosion.

"The catastrophe could have been averted had it not been for the repair of the fan, which circulates fresh air into the mine to dilute the highly inflammable methane gas," said Vilakati.

One miner was killed and 12 others rushed to Mbabane government hospital where they were admitted to the intensive care ward for burn wound treatment.

The next shift refused to go underground and demanded an investigation that has forced management to suspend operations for at least four days.

Mine management, government's department of geological survey and mines, along with Swazi police and workers' representatives at the mine have set up a committee to probe the blast.

General Manager of the

mine, Christo Snyman, declined to comment until the investigation had been finalised.

Workers at the mine said working conditions were not safe and related incidents from previous years, including the case of a worker whose spinal cord was damaged when a blasting session went awry. His penis later had to be amputated.

In September last year, a welder died when a beam he was repairing collapsed.

The mine, which began operations in September 1993, produces high quality anthracite coal, which is exported mainly to European Union markets and the United States of America.

It is the second biggest coal mine in the kingdom after the Mpaka Coal Mine that closed down in 1994 after management cited the rise of operational expenses.

Both mines have vast coal reserves, according to geologists.

## White S/African couple accuse police of racism

A white South African couple has accused police of racism because their statements were not taken after three black petrol attendants allegedly attacked them last week.

The couple, Jan and Cornelia Vercueil, had to be treated at hospital after three petrol attendants at a TOTAL service station in Tweefontein, 10km from Pietersburg in Northern Province, allegedly punched them, hit them with a broomstick and floor mop and dragged Mrs Vercueil, 40, by the hair.

The couple was on their way to Vercueil's parents farm and stopped for fuel at about 1.30 a.m. on Wednesday last week.

Mr Vercueil, 37, said he complained when one attendant spilt petrol on the ground while filling the tank of his bakkie with R30 worth of fuel.

"I asked him why he was

careless as he was costing me money since petrol was expensive," said Vercueil.

The attendant allegedly spilt more petrol.

"I asked him again not to spill my petrol, before I got back in the bakkie."

The attendant allegedly swore at him in Sotho, which Vercueil understands, prompting Vercueil to challenge him.

"I confronted him, but my answer was a straight punch to the head," he said.

Two other attendants allegedly joined in, and assaulted him with a sponge floor-mop and broomstick.

"One of them also went around to the driver's seat, dragged my wife out by her hair and assaulted her," he said.

When he asked them why they attacked them, the attendants allegedly said they thought he had a gun.

Staff in the shop at the garage alerted police and called for an ambulance.

Mr Vercueil said police first asked that he take a breathalyser test to ensure he wasn't drunk, before allowing the ambulance to take the couple to Pietersburg Hospital.

That was the last the Vercueils heard from the police.

"No police came to take our statements at the hospital nor after we were discharged," said Mr Vercueil.

He is consulting his lawyer in connection with the matter.

Provincial police spokeswoman, Captain Ronel Otto, said the matter would be investigated to find out why no statements were taken from the couple.

TOTAL South Africa spokesman, Khulu Ntshingila, said the garage dealer had been told to provide a detailed report on the incident.

He said TOTAL was also waiting for the outcome of the police investigation.

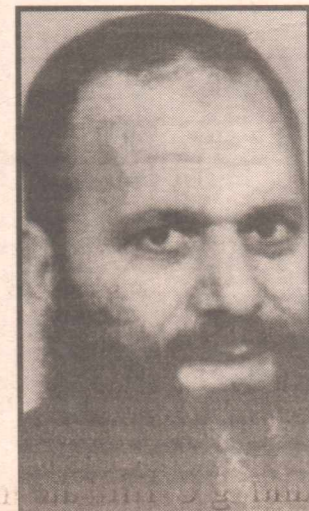
he lied about his marital status to live a life of sin. He is also charged with forging documents.

Mr al-Sawarky claims to be a devout Muslim. He was arrested on his return to Cairo from a pilgrimage to Mecca.

Opening the trial, Prosecutor Muhammad Abdullah read out the charges: withholding information about his marital status, tricking a woman into having illicit sex, a complaint that is tantamount to rape, and on three occasions having one wife more than the four wives sanctioned by Islamic law.

Mr Abdullah also accused Mr al-Sawarky of falsifying marriage documents to show he was married to fewer than four women.

"Thus he lived as a husband with these women and they thought they were surrendering themselves to a legitimate husband," he said.



Ragab el-Suweirky.

## More Rwandan criminal tribunal staff suspected of genocide

In an embarrassing blow to the UN's International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, four of its defence investigators have been found to be suspects in the 1994 genocide.

The employment contracts of three of the four, which expired in June, will not be renewed, said Adama Dieng, a registrar at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

Augustin Basebaya, Aloys Ngendahimana and Augustin Karera are listed as "category one" suspects, for allegedly participating in massacre of minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

Thaddee Kwitonda, whose contract has been suspended, is under investigation by the tribunal for crimes allegedly committed during the genocide, the registrar said in a statement.

The four investigators, who were hired to help the defence teams prepare their cases, were approved for employment by the tribunal, which paid their wages.

It was not clear whether any further action would be taken against them.

"The tribunal makes no presumption of the guilt of these individuals for the crimes of which they are suspected or accused," the statement said.

"The tribunal stands ready to reconsider them for clearance for employment by any defence counsel in the tribunal should they be cleared of the charges and suspicions against them in the Rwandan judicial system or in the international tribunal," the statement added.

In a related case, Italy's Roman Catholic Church is reportedly hiding a Rwandan priest wanted by the tribunal on charges of genocide.

Father Athanase Seromba has been accused of murdering more than 2,000 people during the three-month massacre of Tutsis and moderate Hutus in Rwanda in 1994.

He was scheduled to give a sermon explaining why the UN's International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda wanted him, but he vanished hours earlier.



# HUSSAINI ADAMU POLYTECHNIC

## (FORMERLY JIGAWA STATE POLYTECHNIC) OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR (ACADEMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION)

### P. M. B. 5004 KAZAURE

#### Application for admission for the 2001/2002 Academic Session

This is to inform interested and suitably qualified candidates that the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) has given approval to the Polytechnic to mount the following National Diploma Programs in the **COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY, KAZAURE:**

ND Computer Science

ND Science Laboratory Technology Pre-ND Science:

Other programs offered by the college are:

Remedial Studies .

IJMB .

Certificate in Carpentry and Joinery

Certificate in Motor Vehicle Technology

Certificate in Electrical Installation and Maintenance

Certificate in Block Laying and Concreting

Certificate in Science Laboratory Technology.

Certificate in Computer Science (full-time/Part-time)

Advance Certificate in Computer Science (full-Time/Part-time) Certificate in Fashion Design and Clothing Technology

#### COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HADEJIA

Diploma in Agricultural Home Economics Advance Certificate in General Agriculture Certificate in General Agriculture

Certificate in Animal Health and Production

Certificate in Forestry Technology

Certificate in Irrigation Engineering

Certificate in Fishery

#### COLLEGE OF ISLAMIC AND LEGAL STUDIES, RINGIM

Diploma in Law

Diploma in Shari'a (full-time/Part-time)

Diploma in English, Hausa and Islamic Studies (full-time/Part-time)

Diploma in Arabic, Hausa and Islamic Studies (full-time/Part-time)

#### COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES, DUTSE.

Pre-ND Business Studies

National Diploma in Accountancy

Diploma in Public Auditing and Accounting (full-time/Part-time)

Advance Diploma in Auditing and Accounting (full-time/Part-time)

Certificate in Public Auditing and Accounting Certificate in

Clerical Officer Accounts

National Diploma Business Administration.

Certificate in Stores Keeping

Assistant Stores Officers' Certificate

Advance Diploma in Public Administration (full-time/Part-time)

Diploma in public Administration (full-time/Part-time)

Diploma in Social Administration (full-time/Part-time)

Diploma in Local Government Administration (full-time/Part-time)

Certificate in Public Administration (full-time/Part-time)

Certificate in Clerical Officer

National Diploma Secretarial Studies

Certificate in Computer Studies Confidential Secretary III

Confidential secretary IV

#### ENTRY REQUIREMENT:

1. **National Diploma Programs:** As per the JAMB admission requirements.

2. **Ordinary Diploma Programs:** A minimum of 4 credits at GCE/SSCE level, one of which must be in English or Mathematics at not more than 2 sittings OR Grade II pass with at least 4 credits or merits OR certificate course in the relevant field.

3. **Certificate Programs:** A minimum of 4 passes at GCE/SSCE at not more than two sittings or a Grade II pass with at least 4 passes.

#### METHOD OF APPLICATION

Application forms are available at the rate of N500.00 each (non-refundable) at the following banks: Assurance Bank, Kazaure; TCB, Hadejia; Bank of the North, Dutse; Savannah Bank, Ringim; Afri-Bank, Gumel and Assurance Bank, Kano. Duly completed application forms, together with copy of relevant certificates and 3 stamped self-addressed envelopes MUST be returned to: The Registrar, (Academic Affairs Division), Hussaini Adamu Polytechnic, P. M. B. 5004, Kazaure OR any of the Colleges at Dutse, Ringim, Hadejia and Kazaure on or before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2001. No application will be entertained after the closing date.

*Signed:*

**Suleiman Dauda**

**REGISTRAR.**

# BUSINESS DAY

## Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE)

Price List as at 17/07/2001

COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE
7UP	6.00	5.60	0.20	17	51,800	302,165.00
ACCESSBANK	1.30	1.26	0.04	27	10,465,100	12,998,471.60
ADC	2.69	2.59	0.10	1	200	518.000
ADSWITCH	1.03	1.03	0.00	1	2,500	2,575.00
AFPRINT	1.08	1.06	0.03	11	66,925	70,761.50
AFRIBANK	6.90	9.00	0.10	32	254,955	2,347,671.64
AFROIL	0.23	0.23	0.00	1	3,000	690.00
AFRPAINTS	0.63	0.63	0.00	1	5,000	3,150.00
AGIP	30.20	30.50	0.60	40	63,108	1,932,946.20
AGLEVENT	1.18	1.18	0.00	2	465	553.42
AIICO	3.45	3.28	0.17	4	18,900	62,145.00
AP	19.34	19.34	0.00	10	529,171	10,234,167.14
ASHAKACEM	14.00	14.70	0.70	17	52,250	757,109.50
BAICO	0.71	0.71	0.00	1	125	88.75
BATA	0.33	0.33	0.00	5	105,000	34,480.00
BCC	4.79	4.79	0.00	1	6,562	31,431.98
BERGER	2.65	2.75	0.10	5	10,277	28,042.90
C&ILEASING	1.30	1.24	0.06	4	31,220	39,936.00
CADBURY	24.50	24.10	8.40	54	86,423	2,080,942.05
CAP	2.65	2.75	0.10	2	20,000	55,000.00
CAPALBETO	1.60	7.60	0.00	1	1,625	12,350.00
CCNN	3.07	3.07	0.00	3	1,625	4,968.75
CFAO	2.30	2.31	0.01	3	6,114	14,123.34
CHARTERED	7.00	7.20	0.20	18	96,114	691,275.0
CHRISTLIB	0.50	0.50	0.00	1	570	285.00
CMB	0.58	0.68	0.00	4	149,825	101,881.00
COOPBANK	2.14	2.14	0.00	4	11,080	23,711.20
CORNERST	1.57	1.55	0.02	6	92,400	126,121.00
COSTAIN	1.13	1.13	0.00	10	133,517	147,688.36
CRUSADER	2.08	2.15	0.07	3	65,000	135,550.00
DELTGLAS	6.36	6.35	0.00	1	3,000	19,050.00
DNMEYER	15.00	15.75	0.75	15	36,209	565,953.13
DUNLOP	3.40	3.57	0.17	27	143,391	509,515.65
EKOBANK	1.55	1.55	0.00	11	73,354	113,898.70
ETERNAOIL	1.28	1.34	0.06	3	54,189	72,613.26
FIRSTALUM	1.80	1.80	0.00	4	55,845	99,322.80
FIRSTBANK	24.52	25.74	1.22	54	271,030	6,978,518.12
FLOURMILL	17.35	17.40	0.05	62	250,932	4,369,577.36
FSB	5.99	6.00	0.01	21	169,464	1,021,317.35
GOLDBREW	0.72	0.69	0.03	2	10,243	7,067.67
GUARANTY	5.70	5.70	0.00	40	611,333	3,484,598.10
GUINNESS	38.40	38.50	0.10	49	74,357	2,842,246.11
HALLBANK	4.99	4.90	0.09	1	500	2,450.00
IGL	5.82	6.00	0.18	17	77,815	473,585.65
IMB	1.90	1.91	0.09	7	36,549	67,413.59
INLANDBANK	1.56	1.56	0.00	3	70,000	108,200.00
JOSBREW	1.26	1.26	0.00	1	337	487.62
JBERGER	46.80	44.60	2.20	9	816,501	27,607,144.60
JOHNHOLT	1.90	1.99	0.09	5	10,432	20,575.03
JOSBREW	0.68	0.68	0.00	1	1,000	680.00
JULI	0.52	0.52	0.00	1	400	208.00
LASACO	1.15	1.15	0.00	1	283,330	325,829.50
LENNARDS	0.27	0.27	0.00	2	224,317	50,565.59
LEVBROS	24.99	25.00	0.01	95	435,538	10,811,401.03
LIBERTY	2.11	2.24	0.10	1	10,000	22,100.00
LIONBANK	1.44	1.51	0.07	9	13,324	64,940.62
LONGMAN	4.75	4.75	0.00	4	1,900	9,925.00
MANNYBANK	1.91	1.99	0.01	5	15,335	29,186.75
MAY&BAKER	2.80	2.60	0.00	1	200	560.00
MOBIL	55.50	65.50	0.00	15	11,832	774,337.00
MORISON	3.30	3.26	0.02	4	18,000	59,040.00
NAL	5.12	5.11	0.01	114	3,412,715	17,822,557.37
NB	27.00	28.30	1.30	83	304,597	8,381,72.30
NBC	20.49	20.40	0.09	31	157,524	3,217,740.61
NCR	2.02	2.02	0.00	1	1,000	2,020.00
NEM	0.79	3.82	0.03	1	12,582	10,300.84
NESTLE	63.00	61.05	1.95	15	383,347	23,557,080.00
NIG-GERMAN	2.50	2.60	0.10	2	550	1,385.00
NIGERCEN	0.54	0.54	0.00	1	100	54.00
NIGERINS	5.00	5.00	0.00	7	2,014,350	10,071,750.00
NOLCHEM	34.20	32.50	1.70	4	14,562	473,265.00
OKOMUOIL	9.45	9.45	0.00	4	2,114	19,977.30
OWENABANK	2.94	2.95	0.01	14	97,056	286,144.36
POLYPROD	0.50	0.50	0.00	3	1,560	780.00
PRESTIGE	2.10	2.20	0.10	6	78,250	165,625.00
PZ	13.60	3.95	0.25	36	163,440	2,237,100.22
ROYALEX	5.10	5.10	0.00	7	46,500	237,150.00
RTBRISCOE	1.29	1.29	0.00	2	500	645.00
SAVANNA	1.13	1.15	0.02	23	228,580	268,397.50
SCOA	1.80	1.83	0.03	6	186,352	334,820.20
SKBEECHAM	2.21	2.21	0.00	20	43,514	95,055.94
TEXACO	61.00	81.79	0.79	10	5,759	352,949.21
TIB	2.64	2.70	0.06	56	483,850	1,249,885.74
TOTAL	67.08	67.10	0.02	24	32,559	2,174,477.00
TRIPPLEG	1.77	1.27	0.00	2	3,800	4,826.00
UAC-PROP	2.90	2.91	0.01	31	288,850	840,413.50
UACN	3.45	3.82	0.17	29	735,386	2,655,745.32
UBA	13.99	14.00	0.01	95	525,613	7,277,367.47
UBN	40.80	42.00	1.20	350	4,831,175	200,391,176.21
UNIC	2.25	2.25	0.00	2	700	1,575.00
UNIONDICON	18.15	15.40	0.75	2	2,500	39,500.00
UNIONVENT	0.60	0.50	0.00	1	500	250.00
UNIPETROL	43.57	45.70	2.13	68	209,729	9,399,820.04
UNTL	3.09	3.09	0.00	6	18,556	7,600.00
UPL	3.90	3.30	0.00	1	2,000	1,473,072.40
UTB	4.60	4.60	0.00	16	332,394	80,000.00
UTC	1.36	1.30	0.06	3	62,000	487,650.05
VITAFOAM	4.29	4.45	0.10	33	115,113	487,650.15
WAPCO	19.00	19.95	0.95	17	166,407	3,319,791.15
WEMABANK	2.65	2.78	0.13	36	243,947	612,161.44
TOTAL				1,898	31,164,275	390,429,348.64

## Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE)

Gainers/Losers as at 17/07/2001

Gainers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
UNIPETROL	43.57	45.70	2.13
NB	27.00	28.30	1.30
FIRSTBANK	24.52	25.74	1.22
UBN	40.90	42.00	1.20
WAFCO	19.00	19.95	0.95
DNMEYER	15.00	15.75	0.75
ASHAKACEM	14.00	14.70	0.70
AGIP	30.20	30.80	0.60
PZ	13.60	13.85	0.25
CHARTERED	2.00	7.20	0.20
IGL	5.32	8.00	0.18
UACN	3.45	3.82	0.17
DUNLOP	3.40	3.57	0.17
VITAFOAM	4.29	4.45	0.16
WEMABANK	2.85	2.70	0.13
BERGER	2.85	2.75	0.10
NIG-GERMAN	2.50	2.60	0.10
PRESTIGE	2.10	2.20	0.10
LIBERTY	2.11	2.21	0.10
JOHNHOLT	1.90	1.99	0.09
LIONBANK	1.44	1.51	0.07
CRUSADER	2.09	2.15	0.07
TIB	2.84	2.70	0.06
ETERNAOIL	1.28	1.34	0.06
NEM	0.79	0.52	0.03

Losers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
JBERGER	46.90	44.80	2.20
NESTLE	63.00	61.05	1.95
NOLCHEM	34.20	32.50	1.70
UNIONDICON	18.15	15.40	0.75
CADBURY	24.50	24.10	0.40
7UP	8.00	5.80	0.20
AIICO	3.46	3.28	0.17
ADC	2.89	2.59	0.10
CAP	2.85	2.75	0.10
HALLBANK	4.99	4.90	0.09
NBC	20.49	20.40	0.09
IMB	1.80	1.31	0.08
UTC	1.36	1.30	0.08
C&ILEASING	1.30	1.24	0.06
ACCESSBANK	1.30	1.28	0.04
GOLDBREW	0.72	0.69	0.03
AFPRINT	1.03	1.05	0.03
CORNERST	1.57	1.55	0.02
MORISON	3.30	3.26	0.02
NAL	5.12	5.11	0.01
MANNYBANK	1.91	1.90	0.01

### Summary of Transactions

	OPENING	CLOSING	% AGE CHANGE
MKT.	625,921,434,422.02	833,521,037,242.02	1.23
INDEX	10,586.99	10,717.22	1.23

DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE	No. OF COMPANIES
1,898	31,184,275	390,492,348.84	100

Source: NSE, Abuja Area Office

## Stock market report for Tuesday July 17 2001

Trading reports collected from Abuja Area office of the Nigerian Stock Exchange indicated that a total of 31.16 million shares valued at N390.49 million in 1,898 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 Nigerian Stock Exchange All-Share Index closed at 10,717.20, an increase of 1.23 percent. The index opened at 10,596.99. While the market capitalization closed at N633.62 billion, an increase of 1.23 percent, it opened at N625.92 billion.

The bears lost to the bulls on the floor, with a total of 25 companies gaining and 21 losing in their share prices.

Gains were recorded in the Petroleum Marketing, Breweries, Banking, Building Materials, Chemicals and Paints, Conglomerates, Industrial & Domestic Products, Automobile and Tyre and the Insurance sub sector today.

Unipetrol Plc led the price gainers, as it appreciated by 213 kobo to close the day at N47.70 per share, followed by Nigerian Breweries Plc, which appreciated by 130 kobo to close at N28.30 per share.

Other price gainers include Firstbank (122 kobo); UBN (120 kobo); WAPCO (95 kobo); DN Meyer (75 kobo); Ashakacem (70 kobo); Agip (60 kobo); PZ (25 kobo); Chartered (20 kobo); IGL (18 kobo); UACN and Dunlop (17 kobo apiece).

Losses were recorded in the Construction, Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Petroleum Marketing, Insurance, Chemicals and Paints, Banking Conglomerates, Managed Fund, Breweries, Textile and the healthcare sub sectors.

JBerger Plc led the price losers, dropping by 220 kobo to close at and N44.60 per share, followed by Nestle Foods Plc, which lost 195 kobo, to close at N61.05 per share.

Other price losers include NOCHEM (170 kobo); Uniondicon (75 kobo); Cadbury (40 kobo); Seven-Up (20 kobo); AIICO (17 kobo); ADC and CAP (10 kobo apiece) and Hallbank, NBC and IMB (9 kobo apiece).

# BUSINESS DAY

## Funding, prioritising, bane of public utilities -ICAN

The poor performance of most public utilities in the country has been attributed to lack of funds and poor prioritising of social services rendered to the public.

The Deputy Chairman of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), Alhaji Ibrahim Yusuf, made this observation in Kaduna while fielding questions from newsmen at the end of a three-day workshop on Re-engineering of Public Utilities and Social Services

From Ibrahim Dan Halilu, in Kaduna

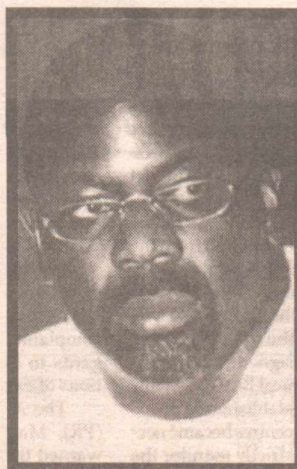
for Revenue Generation and Accountability, organised for local government personnel by ICAN, Kaduna District in collaboration with the office of the Auditor-General and the State Board of Internal Revenue.

Alhaji Ibrahim Yusuf said that experience had shown that many public and private organisations failed to meet the expectations of the populace due to poor utilisation of the scarce resources and poor

prioritising of programmes.

He said that the institute organised the workshop to find out from those at the helm of affairs what was really wrong and why they were not able to render the services they were mandated to carry out with a view to finding solutions to the problems.

Alhaji Ibrahim, who is the workshop director, noted that the standard of living of Nigerians is not rising despite the huge allocation of resources made to all tiers of government, pointing out



Liyel Imoke, Presidential Adviser on Utilities

that Nigerians are becoming poorer because the social services that were supposed to be rendered to them are not being rendered.

"They don't render social service to the people. Water Board, you go to some areas they are not performing. Electricity is dwindling. People are not given electricity. You realise that roads are not being catered for," he noted.

He emphasised the need to accord priority attention to some social agencies in view of their strategic position in the society, and called on the workshop participants not to see accountability as just an act of collection and keeping of money in the bank but also stewardship reporting to the people in terms of what is generated and what has been done.

He dismissed the claim that the poor performance of some local government councils was attributable to the financial regulations of the system, which gives room for misappropriation. He argued that since all rules and regulations are established from the societal norms, what Nigeria require is to inculcate these norms in its citizenry so that the right environment could be created for any system to work efficiently.

### Equatorial Bank joins universal banking

The Equatorial Trust Bank Limited (ETB), has jump-started universal banking with its insurance-like deposit scheme, Equiserve.

According to the bank's Head of Consumer Banking, Taiwo Toyin Rotimi, the product which debuted recently was designed with an eye on depositors safety and security.

The product which is underwritten by Industrial and General Insurance Company Limited (IGI), could be said to be the product that opened the door on universal banking in Nigeria even though back in 1995. When the old Equiserve was introduced into the market, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) had not open the flood gates of universal banking.

Rotimi disclosed,

The Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM), has trained about 50,000 Nigerians at managerial level since its establishment in 1961.

The National President of the Institute, Chief Marshal Akerele, disclosed when he paid a courtesy call on Alhaji Ahmadu Adamu Mu'azu, the Governor of Bauchi State.

He stated that the officials of NIM visited the state to solicit for the support of the government for the state chapter of the institute and to regularise the register of its members.

Dr. Akerele listed the achievements of the institute since inception to date to include; the extension of Value Added Tax (VAT), services to the members irrespective of their locations, on-line services which enable the members to access information on computer, membership continuing education and the successful organising of annual, seminars, workshops and conferences through which members update their knowledge.

The president implored the governor to assist the state chapter with office accommodation, which he believes will enhance the performances of the chapter.

He presented to the governor the NIM code of conduct, emblem, a copy of the institute's brochure and schedule of its activities for the rest of the year 2001.

Similarly, Dr. Akerele

## NIM trains 50,000 managers

From Leke Adelere, in Bauchi

urged the governor to influence his executive council members to join the membership of NIM for an effective management of the state's affairs.

Governor Adamu Mu'azu in his response, remarked that NIM needs to inculcate discipline into its members and emphasise at all items that principle of effective management is strictly adhered to, "if this can be done, Nigeria shall be great," he added.

Mu'azu observed that lack of absolute commitment at all levels by those entrusted with power, including the members of NIM has hindered the progress and growth of the nation.

"Should everybody concerned acquaint and adhere to the code of conduct of NIM, Nigeria shall be great and better than what it is today."

He therefore, promised to assist the state branch of NIM with the office accommodation and the required facilities. The governor also pledged the sum of N250,000 on behalf of the state government, N100,000 for himself while he will appeal to each member of his cabinet to give N10,000.

### David-West doubts zero gas flaring deadline

Professor Tam David-West has expressed doubt at the federal government's determination to obtain a zero gas flaring status by the year 2004.

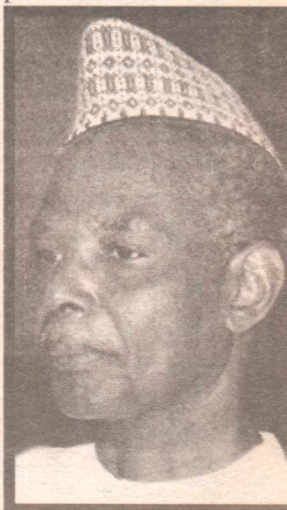
Speaking to the *Business Day* in an exclusive interview in Port Harcourt, the former petroleum minister stated that he does not know of any country with so much associated gas that has achieved absolute zero flaring, especially in so short span of time. "Government should however, have policy incentives or fiscal measures to further encourage gas utilisation," he advised.

From Wisdom-Uduak Patrick, in Port Harcourt

The Professor of Virology, who disclosed that Nigeria flares about 95 percent of associated gas, maintained that this was the highest in the world. According to him, "this impacts negatively on the environment, through localised air and thermal pollution."

According to David-West, the Associated Gas Re-Injection Act 99 of 1979 was enacted to stem the waste in gas flaring. It imposed a duty on every company producing oil in Nigeria to submit detailed plan for utilisation.

He stated further that no company engaged in the production of oil shall after January 01, 1984 flare gas produced in association with oil without the written permission of the minister of petroleum.



Rihvanu Lukman, Presidential Adviser on Energy

## Senate Committee moves to improve maritime sector

A six-member Senate ad-hoc Committee on Transport and Maritime left the country to some European and South-Asian countries to examine their maritime and transport systems in order to upgrade Nigeria's systems.

In a chat with newsmen at the presidential wing of Murtala Mohammed Airport, Lagos, shortly before their departure, a member of the ad-hoc committee, Senator Mojisoluwa Akinfenwa, disclosed that their mission was to understudy the

From Shakirat Abdulmajeed, in Lagos

maritime sector in Asian countries to be able to improve Nigeria's transportation system.

According to him, countries slated for visitation included Singapore, South-Korea and Untied Kingdom.

Senator Akinfenwa hinted further that another group led by Senator Davou Zang, Vice-chairman of the Senate Committee on Maritime/Transport is billed to visit South Africa and the United States of America to understudy their maritime

and transport systems.

He explained that the two groups, expected back in the country by July 20, will compare notes and use their knowledge to advance the development of our maritime and transport systems.

Other members of the South Asian visitation team headed by Senator Martins Yellowe included Senator Chuba Okadigbo, Senator Ngele, Senator Lawal Shuaib and Senator Patrick Aga.

Senator Akinfenwa decried the appalling situation of Nigerian Ports, saying drastic measures must be taken to save the situation.



### TENDER NOTICE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA NIGERIAN TREASURY BILLS

Notice is hereby given by the Central Bank of Nigeria that 91-day Federal Government of Nigeria Treasury Bills amounting to N17,646,227 million will be issued by an auction-based system on Thursday, 26/07/2001.

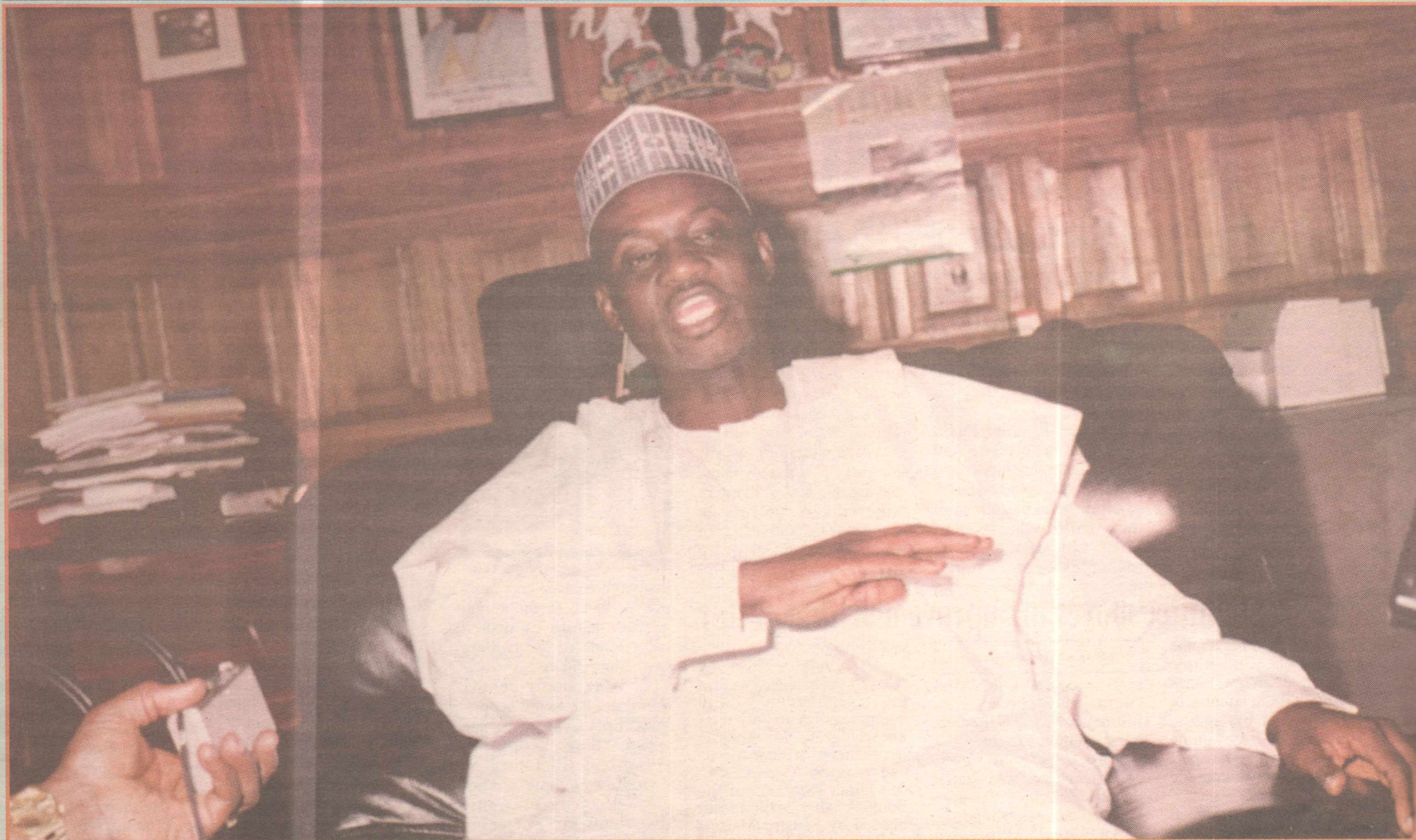
Interested Authorized Dealers (Commercial/Merchant Banks, Designated Discount Houses and Brokers) are invited to submit tenders to reach the Public Debt Office, Central Bank of Nigeria, Lagos, not later than 1.30 p.m on Tuesday, 24/07/2001.

Each tender must be in multiple of N1,000, subject to a minimum of N10,000 per tender. Authorized Dealers are allowed to submit multiple bids and quote multiple rates. A tender may be for own account of Authorized Dealers or made on behalf of interested members of the public, who are advised to apply to their banks or Brokers for the Bills.

Tenders for the Bills should be submitted on the prescribed printed forms in duplicate and in sealed envelopes clearly marked "TENDER FOR BILLS". The result of the tender will be announced before the close of business on Tuesday, 24/07/2001. The Bank reserves the right to reject any tender in part or in full.

Allotment letters will be issued to successful tenderers on Wednesday, 25/07/2001. Payment in full for the amounts of the accepted tenders must be made to the Central Bank of Nigeria not later than 1.30p. m on the issue date 26/07/2001. This will normally be effected by direct debit to the accounts of the affected Authorized Dealers which should ensure that their accounts with the Bank are adequately funded for this purpose.

PUBLIC DEBT OFFICE  
CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA  
TINUBU SQUARE  
LAGOS.



Engineer Mustapha Bello, Minister of Commerce

## We will check dumping

The import dependence of the Nigerian economy has dominated discourse in the country. Since the O assumed power over two years ago, the issue has gained currency, and this has involved economist, policy makers and the consumer himself in the dialogue. In this interview with **Business Editor, Osborne** Commerce Minister, **Engineer Mustapha Bello**, expanded on government's feeling about the economy, especially foreign goods, plans to reactivate the ailing production sector of the economy and much more. Excerpt

**T**he country's economy is enmeshed in all kinds of crises. The country is already becoming a dumping ground for all sorts of foreign goods resulting in the fall of the nation's currency. This is without prejudice to the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Do you think this is right and what can be done to reverse this trend?

Well, first I should correct the impression that the economy is not performing. When you look back at the time of late General Abacha you find a situation where only a particular clique were benefiting from the government. Contracts continued to rotate within a particular circle and such contracts were only or mostly dollars denominated. So, they end up moving the dollar into the black market and by extension they were injecting the dollar into the black market. Therefore they make more naira and they plough it back through

the dual exchange rate system that existed and that didn't affect the exchange rate. But today a situation where local governments are awarding contracts, state governments are awarding, the federal government is also awarding contracts, and a lot of money is moving around the populace. And each one either wanting to go out and buy things and come back and trade or wanting to buy a car, you know. So, certainly that is going to put pressure on the foreign exchange market and that is why the naira has to be yielding to these pressures. But government is doing something and that is taking an inventory of all the imports that keep coming into this country. In fact this ministry is going to do that. We intend to conduct a thorough study of imports between January 2000 and January 2001 and even go beyond to see if we can try to capture up to March this year. The whole aim is to look at the elemen-

tal sort of relationship of imports to our GDP. Take for example, fruit juice that we import. Now, if fruit juice is consuming say \$200 million yearly and government does not realise that but for that study, I think there is need for government to think of how it can assist our local entrepreneurs to invest in that sector, so that we can minimise the volume of this import. We can do the same thing for biscuit; we can do the same for all these goods that are being hawked in the streets. I hope by the time we finish that and we are to advise government, we'll pick a special group or list of items that we feel are injurious to our economy. Take the textile sector for example, we should be able to come out with a range of items that we feel government may not necessarily have to ban. We can use what we call tariff peaks, we can use a quota-that is to put a cap or ceiling. Say for example,

instead of allowing juice worth \$200million to come into Nigeria, let us allow a maximum of \$20 million worth of juice. Now, for the difference, let's look at how the government can assist the private sector either through the NEXIM Bank to invest in this sector. Maybe within a year we may be able to set up a plant that can compete with any other standard plant that can produce juice of the same quality in Nigeria. At least we have provided an alternative and saved ourselves having to look for this scarce foreign exchange that has to be used for such importation. So, that is what we intend to do.

For the ban which you mentioned, if you have reasons to convince the WTO that we must ban, after a thorough analyses have been done, of course, you can make your case. But I am not sure whether that will help you because when you ban and the country whose orders you are banning may decide to retaliate by ban-

ning some of your own products too. So, it is always good you opt for the softer approach. You know, by using the quota, using tariff and other things.

**What is your ministry doing to provide adequate publicity for the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which has always been discussed in relation to trade between African countries and the United States?**

I think we have done enough. We have even gone beyond publicity now because almost every body is aware that there is AGOA or the opportunity is there. But what we are doing now is to pick specific sectors of the economy. Like agriculture, textile and apparels, foot wear and leather and other products like solid minerals.

And these are the ones we are promoting seriously. So far, we have taken our textile sector to South Africa and Malaysia and the response we have received

from those countries is really encouraging. In fact, it is frightening. Because of the \$500 million target given to by Mr. President, it appears that that region can provide that target. We also intend to take the textile and foot wears to the US, link them up with the large scale buyers and give a chance for them so that if there is any area they want government to come in, we'll be willing to do that. The same thing with granite. That too, we are in the process of finalising the specification of the types of granite that we have in Nigeria so that buyers who desire to know the load bear-

**‘But government taking an investment coming into the going to do the enough study of January 2001 can try to capture whole aim is to relationship of im**

## Interview

capacity of the granite, should be able to see that through the off shore of the company. So, far, that is what we have been doing and I think we are on the right path.

*Sir, the local industries are in a state of quagmire. As the situation is today we don't produce enough to even serve the local market, not to talk of exporting. So, what is the federal government doing to boost local products to the point of exportation in order to match the large-scale exports we record in the country?*

Well, what government is doing is to try to make sure that the local industries are turned around to be competitive. Competitive in the sense that there are machines that are obsolete in these industries. What is now in vogue are more efficient machines, therefore, they will require less human management, thus reducing the cost of production and at the same time improving on what we call some of the incentives that are made available to local manufacturers who target export, particularly, the export expansion grant which has been made 20 percent from the five percent we met at the inception of this administration. So, these areas are most likely going to help these plants to become competitive. Once you are competitive, the tendency is there for your product to sell and once you can sell the demand increases, therefore, the need for you to increase the level of your produc-

*multilateral agreement?*

Under the ECOWAS trade liberalisation scheme and the free trade arrangement which we have within the ECOWAS, you can only capture the data of trade movement from factory to factory that have become recognised by the export promotion council, or the investment promotion commission under one scheme or the other. This is because they are allowed to move their goods freely from one country to the other. But for those who suffer from ignorance and are mostly likely to fall victims of road blocks, illegal customs

materials that are imported are free of customs duties.

At the end of the day, the border there would operate in such a way that excludes this excise and customs duties and goods will become cheaper.

So, people who come from say Chad into Nigeria through Borno to Kano to buy items and take back would be saved the cost of transportation. Now, the additional cost which they would have paid if they bought from the open market, would now be bought at the border area, which has a discount of over 40 percent of the normal cost.

**When you create border free trade areas, all the goods that are consigned to that place are free of excise and the raw materials that are imported are free of customs duties. At the end of the day, the border there would operate in such a way that excludes this excise and customs duties and goods will become cheaper.**

## -- Commerce Minister

*Sanjo administration captains of industry, Adi JNR the Commercially the dumping of*

on becomes very clear. If that happens, banks will be so willing to extend credit facilities to you, because they now see that you have a ready market and at the end of the day, you would be able to sell and pay back whatever you may have borrowed to invest in that turn around programme.

*Well, there is a development in the Nigerian export market. Most Nigerian products find their way to other countries, especially in the West and Central African sub-region via the channel. So, what is the government doing to formalise this trade, may be through a bilateral or*

check points and so on and so forth we have come up with an idea of border free trade areas. The whole aim is to try to capture the trading that takes place between Nigeria and other neighbouring countries at key routes that we know are very busy. A simple example, I can give you is Banki in Borno State or unofficial Maigatiari in Jigawa State or in Niger you have the Babana area. All these routes are very busy. I think there is one also in Kebbi State, government is trying to see if it can have border free trade areas. When you create border free trade areas, all the goods that are consigned to that place are free of excise and the raw

You can now see that they will be encouraged to patronise the free border trade areas. That is how we intend to capture the movement of trade between Nigeria and say Chad or Niger or Benin Republic and even beyond.

*Now, this takes us to the Calabar Free Trade Zone. That zone is supposed to have taken off a long time ago, but it has not so far. What is the status of the area as at now? In fact, some companies that were granted approval to operate are being threatened with revocation.*

Your last comment is entirely the business of the authorities. The difficulty Calabar had was that of marketing. You know, it failed to perform because there was no strategy in terms of how to market Calabar. As a government official, I can assure you that you cannot market Calabar. That is why we went for the private sector. Now that the private sector is in place, they are just in the process of studying the place and knowing how to design a strategy that will now be able to market Calabar world wide, attract investors to invest in the

free zone and before long it will just perform like one. Fortunately the oil and gas zone is a government free zone area but it is managed by the private sector.

As at the time I came into office there were about five operators, but now they are close to 70, all because they have given it to the private sector to manage. The reason is simply that a private sector investor is more comfortable with a private sector manager than the government, where you go through all sorts of processes. Of course you know what happened in the past, when every approval you needed has to pass through somebody, everything you need you have to see somebody. It became like, we were the ones doing a favour to investors and not them doing a favour to this country.

But now, we have changed the whole thing. The private sector is going to manage Calabar. I can assure you that by this time next year, I should be able to tell you the status of Calabar.

*Since you assumed office, you engaged in market-*

*ing Nigerian products abroad. What has been the response of the international community to this effort?*

Well, the first people who can invest in Nigeria are Nigerians. Because if you rely on a foreigner, to come and invest, it becomes difficult. Today we have a situation where we have started to see some of them. I am sure you saw one of them that just walked out of my office here. You may not measure him worth over N200,000 but he is worth over \$600 million. He is here to invest in the Information Technology (IT) sector. He is going to set up a plant to manufacture computers and not to assemble, to set up a research centre that will be able to roll out certain components of computers, which we had not even hoped to produce here in the next 10 years. So that is one of the dividends of the contracts, we have been making. We hope that by his coming and such others who may have passed through NIPC,

some through power and steel ministry, solid mineral and agriculture, they who would open the corridor for other Nigerians to follow suit. Of course, Mr. President has approved a proposal, which I submitted to him on what we called Wealthy Nigerians Initiative. That one aims at bringing together all wealthy Nigerians who are doing very well outside this country to come and see how Mr. President can dialogue with them towards investing or making commitment to invest in one sector of the economy or the other. I think that will play the biggest role in terms of the shuttle diplomacy we have been doing for people to invest in our economy.

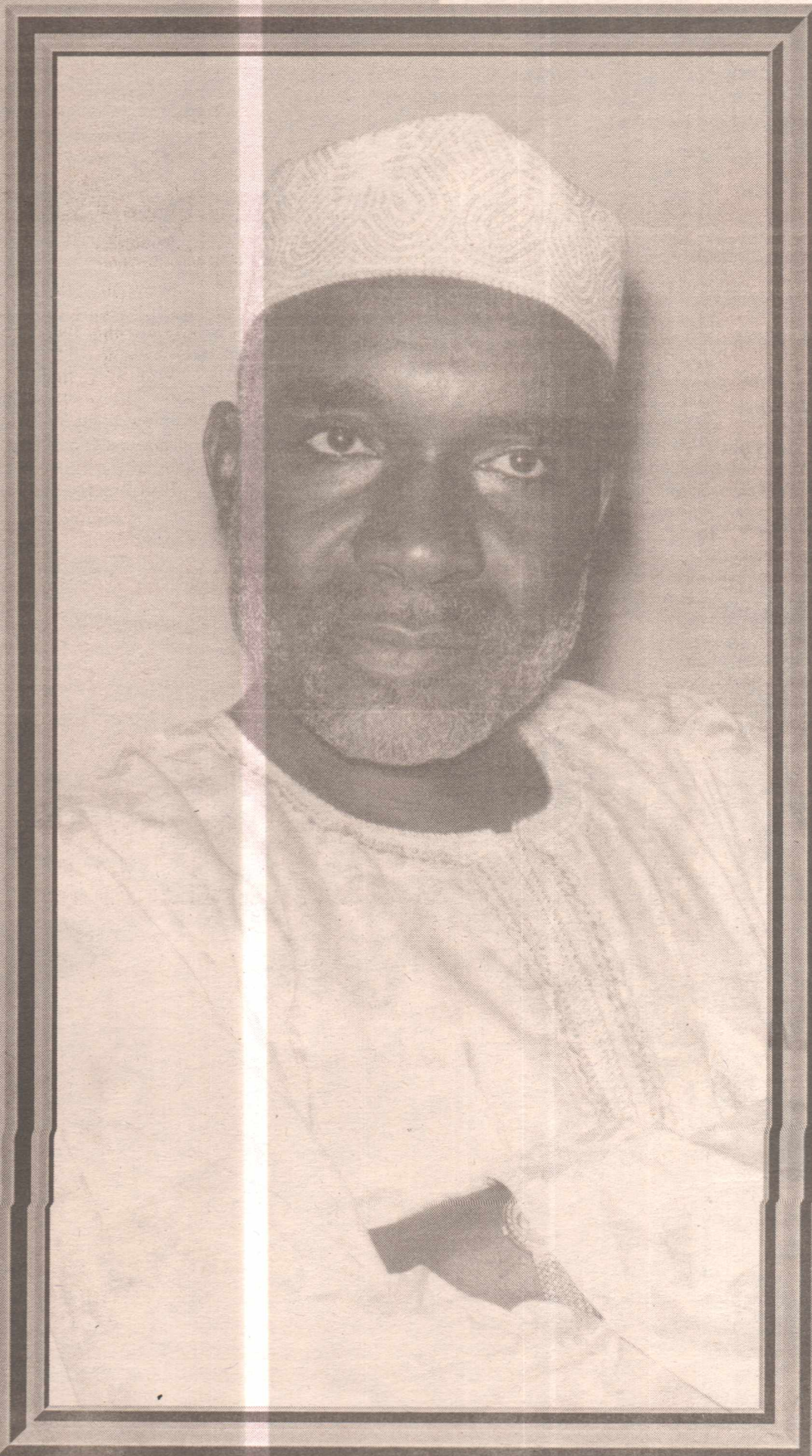
*What would you say are the greatest challenges since you assumed office?*

My greatest challenge is the slow pace at which things work. I think that is what the Head of Service is trying to address because the civil service is very slow.



*is doing something and that is why of all the imports that keep country. In fact this ministry is We intend to conduct a thorough study between January 2000 and even go beyond to see if we are up to March this year. The work at the elemental sort of relations to our GDP.*

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CHAIRMAN, V/ADM. MURTALA NYAKO (rtd) GCON.



The University of Agriculture Abeokuta is conferring the Degree of Doctor of Agriculture (D.Agric.) (Honoris Causa) on the illustrious Founder of Sebore Farms, Mayo Belwa, retired Vice Admiral Murtala Alh. Hamman Yero Nyako, GCON, DSO, rcds, at its Convocation Ceremony on July 20 & 21, 2001.

We congratulate our Chairman and rejoice with him and all toiling practising farmers of our great country including all those members of All Farmers Apex Association of Nigeria (ALFAAN) for whom this honour is meant.

Come one, come all, to witness this great event at the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, and to express our deep appreciation to the University authority for the *honour done to Sebore Farms, its Founding father*, and all practising Nigerian farmers and agro-stakeholders.

Management & Staff of Sebore Farms Ltd.

**NEWS**

# Korean company wins N1b contract

The Benue State government has awarded a N1.07 billion contract to a Korean Company for the completion of the abandoned Makurdi Sheraton Hotel.

Briefing newsmen at Government House at the end of the 16th State EXCO meeting for the year, recently, the State Commissioner for Information and Culture, Hon. Terhemba Shija, disclosed that the contractor has twelve months within which to complete the job.

He noted that the project, which started in 1982 when completed would go a long way in boosting the state's tourism potential, especially with the actualisation of the 132 KVA electricity project in sight to boost industrial development in the state.

The state executive council also approved a N70 million contract to HENANT Ventures Ltd. for the construction of access roads, landscaping, culverts and external electrification

From Mike Elaigwu, in Makurdi

of the premises of Government Day Secondary School, Makurdi.

It also approved a N56 million contract for the renovation and furnishing of four guest houses in Makurdi



Gov. Akume

in readiness for the visit of President Obasanjo to the state.

According to the Commissioner, work on the guest houses has already commenced and is

proceeding satisfactorily.

Mr. Shija also stated that the EXCO directed contractors handling projects to be commissioned by President Obasanjo when he finally visits the state to ensure their completion by the first week of August.

The Katsina State Government has approved over N850 million for the provision of electricity to about 17 villages and road networks to some villages in the state.

The State Commissioner for Information, Alhaji Suleiman Jibia, disclosed this to newsmen immediately after the state executive meeting.

He said the award of the contracts for the electrification was as a result of gov-

# Katsina approves N850m for projects

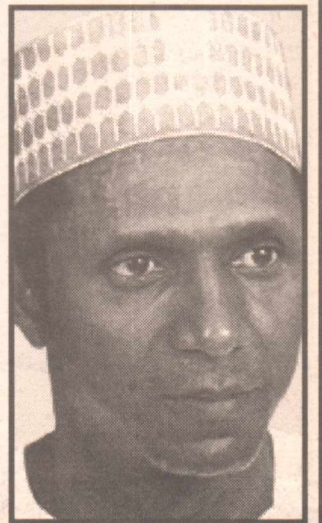
From Hassan A. Karofi, in Katsina

ernment's resolve to provide electricity to all the nooks and crannies of the state.

He further stressed that the multiplying effect of the electrification would be the enhancement on a mass level, of the socio-economic well-being of the people of

the state.

The Commissioner informed newsmen that the projects would be extended



Gov. Yar'Adua

to all the areas that do not presently enjoy electricity supply within the shortest possible time.

Some of the towns to be electrified are Dandume, Sabuwa, Tsauro, Zobe, Makara, Yantumaki and 11 others.

He assured people of the state that the state government has taken all necessary measures to ensure that credible contractors were chosen for the jobs

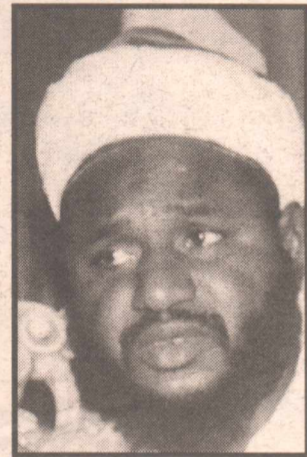
# Zamfara awards N300m hospital equipment contract

Zamfara State government has awarded a N300 million contract for the supply of medical equipment to nine hospitals, the state Commissioner for Health, Alhaji Bature Sambo, has said.

The commissioner told newsmen on Monday in Gusau that the nine hospitals were recently upgraded from primary healthcare centres.

He explained that the state government had established one hospital in each of the 14 local government areas of the state "to provide medical services to the people."

According to him, the newly-upgraded hospitals



Gov. Ahmed Sani would be equipped with necessary medical and surgical

equipment to enable them provide comprehensive health services to the people.

Bature said the former Vesico-Virginal Fistula (VVF) Centre in Gusau had been converted to a Women and Children's Hospital where free medical services would be provided to patients.

He said the former office buildings of the state's ministry of health in Gusau had been converted to a male hospital which was undergoing renovation.

The male hospital is expected to commence operation in September.



# NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES INSTITUTE

MANDO ROAD, P.M.B. 2309, KADUNA

## 2001 / 2002 ADMISSION

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for admission into Certificate, National Diploma, Higher National Diploma, advanced Diploma and Professional Post-Graduate Diploma Programmes.

### 1.0 ONE-YEAR CERTIFICATE IN WATER RESOURCES ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

#### 1.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Candidates for the one year Certificate in Water Resources Engineering should have attempted "O" Level or SSCE in the Sciences. Preference are given to staff in the Water Resources Agencies having years of experience and operators or holders of Assistant Works Superintendent (AWS).

### 2.0 TWO YEARS NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

#### 2.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Candidates for the two year National Diploma in Civil Engineering Technology should have GCE Ordinary Level or its equivalent (Teachers Grade II, NtC, WASC, SSCE with credit passes in Mathematics, Physics, a Science subject lie, Chemistry, Biology or Agricultural Science) and one other subject and at least a pass in English Language at not more than two sittings. In addition credit pass in any of the following subjects will be an advantage. Woodwork, Metalwork, automechanics, Basic Electronics, Basic Electricity and Technical Drawing.

2.2 Four credit pass in relevant subjects as stated in 2.1 above obtained at the final examination of NBTE recognised preliminary ND Programme offered in a Polytechnic or similar post-secondary technical institution.

### 3.0 TWO YEAR HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN WATER RESOURCES ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY.

#### 3.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Candidates for the two year Higher National Diploma Water Resources Engineering Technology should have the following:

- (i) The entry requirement for the National Diploma in No.2 above.
- (ii) At least a lower credit pass in the Diploma in Water Resources, Irrigation or Agricultural Engineering from an accredited Polytechnic.
- (iii) A minimum of one year Post-National Diploma cognate work experience in the field of Engineering.

### 4.0 ONE YEAR ADVANCE DIPLOMA IN HYDROGEOLOGY.

#### 4.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Candidates for the one year Advance Diploma in Hydrogeology should have HND/B.Sc. In Water Resources Engineering Technology, Civil Engineering Technology, Irrigation Engineering Technology, Mechanical engineering Technology, geology and Geography.

### 5.0 18 MONTHS PROFESSIONAL POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN WATER RESOURCES ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

#### 5.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Candidates should possess Higher National Diploma or equivalent qualification in Civil, Water, Irrigation or Agricultural Engineering. Holders of HND in other Fields of Engineering who are working in the industry may also be considered. Candidates should have a Distinctions or Upper Credit with not less than 3 years post-qualification experience.

#### 6.0 METHOD OF APPLICATION

Application forms are obtainable from the Institute directly or by post on receipt of the following: i) A non-refundable application fee of Four Hundred Naira (N400.00) for the Certificate, ND, and HND Programmes and Five Hundred Naira (N500.00) for the Advance Diploma in Hydrogeology and PPGD, payable in Bank Draft or cash to National Water resources Institute, Mando road, P.M.B. 2309, Kaduna. (The name and address of the applicant must be written at the back of the Bank Draft).

ii) A self addressed and stamped envelope measuring 25cm x 20cm (10" x 8").

#### 7.0 SUBMISSION OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS

All completed application forms must be addressed to the Director, National Water Resources Institute, Mando Road, P.M.B. 2309, Kaduna. To reach him NOT later than August 31st, 2001.

All completed application forms MUST be signed by the candidate's Local Government Chairman and accompanied by:

- i) Two (2) self addressed and stamped envelopes measuring 9" x 4".
- (ii) Certified photocopies of academic qualifications.
- (iii) A certificate of Local government Indigenisation.
- (iv) Two (2) recent passport size photographs.

DIRECTOR.

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326b, Olu Obasanjo Road, Port-Harcourt  
Tel: 084-239109, 237240-1  
on Tuesday, June 17, 2001.

for the Official commissioning of our  
Regional Office and 2nd branch by  
His Excellency, Executive Governor  
of Rivers State

**DR. PETER OTUNIYA ODILI**

### KANKIA

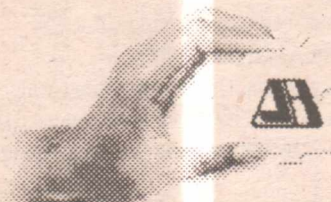
12, Dutsima Road, Kankia, Katsina State.  
Tel: 065- 70055, 70056, 70057  
on Wednesday, July 18, 2001.

for the Official commissioning of our new  
branch by His Excellency,  
Executive Governor of Katsina State  
**ALHAJI UMAR MUSA YAR'ADUA**



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# INSIDE POLITICS

## Women politicians seek equitable power-sharing formula

By Habiba Adamu

Nigerian women under the aegis of the National Committee on Women in Politics (NACWIP) are canvassing for the equitable distribution of all elective and other posts in the country by the three political parties.

The lobby group which visited the national secretariat of the PDP, APP and AD, to hold negotiations with the national leadership of the parties, said it was canvassing for the actualisation of 40 per cent of elective and other posts in the country be allocated to women.

They explained that, Nigerian women would want the new power-sharing formula to come into force during next year's local council election and the 2003 general polls.

Minister of Women Affairs and Youth Development, Hajija Aisha Isma'il, who led the women group complained that for too long, Nigerian women have been relegated to the background before elections and during appointments into public offices.

"We do not want to be clapping and singing for you men during campaigns or cook for you. We do not want you to

forget us when you get elected, because that is what has been happening. In theory and practice, we want the country to belong to all of us. We are tired of pleading with you, this time around I came with this delegation for negotiation," she said.

Similarly, president of the National Council for Women Societies (NCWS), Hajija Zainab Maina, stressed the need for the three parties to carry one another along, as it is through such



Hajija Isma'il

collaborative interaction that positive ideals of national development could be achieved.

Her words "we want the committee and the three parties to sit together and draw up a strategy, where we would know how many positions each party is going to reserve for women in both executive and decision making positions in the country."

Receiving the committee, the chairman of PDP, Chief Barnabas Gemade, assured the women that the party would sponsor more women in elective positions in the forthcoming general elections in 2003, beginning with the local government elections next year.

Furthermore, the APP chairman, Alhaji Yusuf Ali also assured the delegation that his party is ready to wave seats for women and advised them to seek exclusively reserved seats for women from the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

"These is no discrimination in APP. Nobody is doubting the capability of women, all we can do is to give you the encouragement. But it is up to you to fight for women participation," he added.

On his part, the AD national chairman, Alhaji Ahmed Abdulkadir, while receiving the women, pledged the party's co-operation in assisting them to achieve their objectives.

## AD advises Chadian leader on tolerance

By Reuben Yunana

Chadian president, Idris Derby has been advised to be more tolerant of opposition so as to attract goodwill and foreign investment to his country.

National Chairman, Alliance for Democracy, (AD) Alhaji Ahmed Abdulkadir, gave the advice while receiving Chadian Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Ousman Ndjidda, in his office during the weekend.

Describing Idris Derby's government as "credible", the AD chairman said the international community would not recognise the democratic changes taking

place in Chad if there is no meaningful opposition in that country.

"Let me seize this opportunity to call on President Derby to be more tolerant and patient with the opposition as a means of achieving a democratically vibrant and peaceful Chad Republic. There is need for him to embrace dialogue and reconciliation as a means of fostering unity and progress in his country," Alhaji Abdulkadir stated.

Stressing that the Chadian leadership could benefit a lot from the experiences of AD as an opposition party Abdulkadir said his party's doors are always open with a view to opening more areas of mutually beneficial discussions with the ruling party in Chad.

Noting that Nigeria and Chad had a lot in common, the party chairman called for stronger commercial and industrial ties between the two countries, adding that this would improve the lives of citizens.

Speaking earlier, the Chadian envoy solicited more understanding from the Nigerian leadership and the political class for Chadian democracy to thrive.

He revealed that the delegation of Chadian political leaders is soon to visit the country for discussions with government officials and party leaders.

## Obasanjo urges youths to safeguard democracy

President Olusegun Obasanjo, at the weekend in Warri, Delta State, reminded Nigerian youths that they had a great role to play in safeguarding the country's nascent democracy.

Represented by the Minister of Works and Housing, Chief Tony Anenih, at a peace summit organised by the Niger-Delta Youths, Obasanjo said that for democracy to succeed in Nigeria, the youths should see themselves

as one entity, in spite of their ethnic inclinations.

"A situation where most of the youths see themselves as Yorubas, Igbos, Hausas/Fulanis, Urhobos, Ijaws, Itsekiris, and so on, will not take us anywhere," he noted.

The president urged the youths to see themselves as "motivators, mobilisers, and vanguards of social change." He said that in changing the society, they should form genuine organisations capable of pressuring the government of the day, in a democratic manner to redress any anomaly.

Obasanjo said that no nation aspiring to achieve greatness could afford to ignore the youths, adding that the present administration believed in empowering the youths and other segments of the populace to move the country to a greater height.

He told the Niger-Delta Youths that government was sensitive to their peculiar problems, noting that this was why the NDDC was set-up to address the long neglect of the region by past administrations.

He commended them for organising the summit as well as for denouncing violence, and

urged them to keep to their pledge, while government would expedite actions to better their lot.

In his address, the national leader of the Niger-Delta Youth Movement (NDYM), Chief Fred Obe, said that in line with the democratic culture prevalent in Nigeria at the moment, the movement decided to hold a peace summit to openly declare their preference for a peaceful resolution of the Niger-Delta question.

"The NDYM resolved to adopt a peaceful approach now in appreciation of the present administration's pro-Niger-Delta disposition," he said.

Obe, however, said that the Niger-Delta youths should not be seen as a bunch of irresponsible armed group, because according to him, they are merely fighting for justice.

In another resolution, the more than 3,000 youths, drawn from all the nine oil-bearing states, called for an upward review of the derivation fund from 13 percent to 50 percent.

They also urged the governments of oil-bearing states to adequately recognise and compensate oil-bearing communities when utilising the fund.

## Abia legislator awards loans to traders

Thirty persons, mainly petty traders, are to benefit from an interest-free loan scheme, instituted by Mrs. Blessing Azuru, the legislator representing Aba North constituency in the Abia State

ranged from N5,000 to N20,000 would be enjoyed by the first set of beneficiaries for six months, to enable other applicants to benefit from the scheme.

She explained that the scheme was designed to ease the "burden of survival on the poor in the society," stressing that she was "deeply touched by the hardship which many of our sisters, mothers, and brothers go through to earn a living."

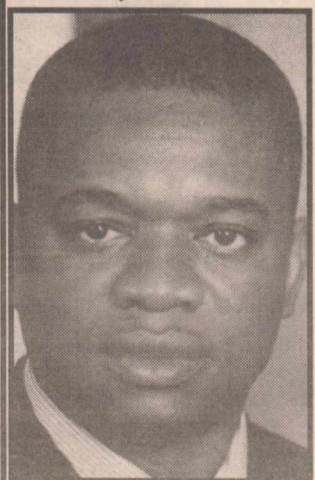
The legislator, who also launched a female football club, "bee-bee football team," donated a trophy for an annual football tournament in her constituency, to be redeemed with N20,000, N15,000 and N10,000 for the first, second, and third place winners.

She gave an account of her stewardship in the past two years which, according to her, included influencing the construction of some road projects, rehabilitation of various dilapidated schools, and the

provision of transformers to communities in the area.

In his remarks, the House Speaker, Chief Stanley Ohajuruka, extolled the virtues of Azuru, who, he said, had contributed substantially to the proceedings of the House "for the enactment of laws for the good governance and well-being of the people of the state."

The highlight of the ceremony included the presentation of wrappers to 25 widows from the constituency.



Gov Kalu

House of Assembly.

Launching the scheme last Week, to commemorate her second year anniversary in the House, Azuru, the only female member, said the loans, which

## Forum appeals for more policemen in Nasarawa

The Nasarawa South Senatorial forum has called on the Federal Government to draft more security men to Nasarawa State with a view to bringing to an end ethnic clashes in the area.

In a communiqué issued at the end of a meeting at the Women Multipurpose Centre Lafia, the forum said this is necessary because "the invasion of various towns and villages in the Senatorial District have

continued unabated."

The communiqué signed by the forum chairman, Alhaji Mohammed Ari Gwaska, Secretary, Abdullahi Ladan and the convenor of the meeting, Senator E.O. Elayo, said in increase in the number of security men in the area would put an end into the sporadic and co-ordinated attacks on villages in the area.

While welcoming the constitution of a commission of inquiry to look into the causes

of the crisis, the forum appealed to members to be fair and just in their investigations.

The communiqué also called on government to implement the recommendations of the commission without fear or favour so as to prevent future occurrence.

It also called on government and philanthropic organisations to

assist persons displaced by the communal strife, thousands of whom are now taking refuge in schools and other government buildings in the state.

Calling on indigenes of the area to embrace peace, the forum also stressed the need for government to identify genuine leaders among the warring parties with a view to establishing a forum for dialogue.



Alh Abdulkadir

## Gov Odili adopts welfarism as ideology

At a time when Nigeria's political watchers are deeply worried about the lack of ideological content in the nation's current political dispensation, the Rivers Governor, Dr. Peter Odili, at the weekend, declared welfarism as his political ideology.

Speaking during an interview with journalists from a London media outfit, *Daily Telegraph*, at government house, in Port Harcourt, Odili said his administration found attraction in those achievements in state craft that had social welfare

content.

Professing welfarist ideology, Odili said that his mission in politics was to restore hope and raise the living standard of the people.

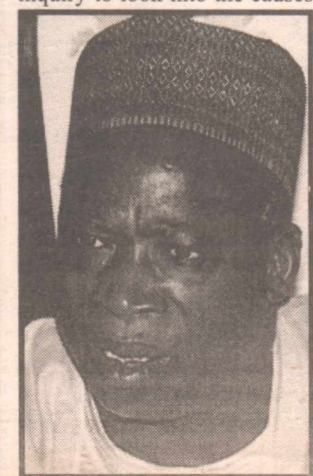
He said he was motivated to vie for political office when he discovered, while practising as a medical doctor that many of those who came for medical attention would not have come if basic amenities were provided.

"Basic amenities are meant to raise the social status, development inertia, and competitive instinct of an

individual, and except these basic needs are provided, they would not realise the place they occupy in national development," he said.

"This is why those things that have social welfare content are the ones that have given us the greatest joy," the governor added.

He explained that it was the same determination that made the state government's focus and called on public officers to ensure that their communities benefited from their societal elevations.



Gov Adamu

## PDP sweeps by-election in Enugu

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) won 10 of the 11 wards contested for in the by-election that took place in Enugu at the weekend.

According to Mr. Willy Nnamani, chairman of the state Independent Electoral Commission (SIEC), the Alliance for Democracy (AD) won one ward while the All people's party (APP) boycotted the by-election.

The APP had attempted to get an injunction stopping the by-election but did not succeed.

The 10 wards won by the PDP include Ogbaku and Mgbidi/Maku wards in Awgu Local Government Area, Ogui New

Layout ward 18 in Enugu North Local Government Area, Mgbagbu-Owa II in Ezeagu and Ekwegbe ward II in Igbo-Etiti Local Government Area, Akpugo ward III in Nkanu West, Ebe and Udi/Agbuda wards in Udi and Idi-Ogbozalla in Nsukka Local Government Area, while the APP won the Eha-Ndiagu ward in Nsukka.

The state electoral commission chairman expressed satisfaction at the peaceful conduct of the election and commended the electoral officers and the affected wards for their co-operation.



# Lifeline

## GAZA

**P**alestinian merchants hawking their wares to an increasingly cash-strapped population are turning to the imagery of war fare to rope in purchasers.

"Bombardment of discounts!" blares a banner drawn by shopowner Rami Abu Kweik to attract customers in the Gaza Strip, where the economy has been battered by nearly 10 months of violence and an Israeli military blockade.

The banner's graphics depict a missile smashing into a wall labelled "prices." Nearly a dozen shops and businesses in Gaza city have adopted similar tactics, advertising as "urgent news!" price reductions and special offers.

The language of fighting has seeped into the everyday vocabulary of Palestinians and Israelis through more than 50 years of conflict and three decades of Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza.

But the trend has taken-off with a Palestinian revolt which erupted in late September after peace talks stalled.

"The banner reflects the bad economic situation which has forced us to slash prices by half," clothing store owner Abu Kweik told Reuters.

One woman customer said the fierce advertising slogan "is a real bombardment, but a lovely one," as she opted to take the two-for-one deal.

Palestinian friends quarrelling are now likely to mend ties by calling for a "ceasefire," a broad reference to a U.S.-brokered truce between the sides which has failed to take hold since it was agreed in mid-June.

If a comrade is asked about his health, he will likely respond "Boom!" to say all is fine. But if his hair is unruly, he may be told that his head "went out to demonstrate," in reference to Palestinian stone-throwing protests against Israeli troops.

## TORONTO

**T**wo Greenpeace activists scaled the world's tallest building on Monday and unfurled a banner to protest the lack of action by Canada and the United States on the environment.

The activists, after a five-hour climb using cables on the outside of the CN Tower, dropped a banner that read "Canada and Bush - climate killers."

The activists were to remain at the top for sometime, some 1,100 feet (346 meters) from the base of Toronto's landmark structure.

Greenpeace blames the United States and Canada for blocking the agreement on the Kyoto protocol on climate change that Canada signed in 1997. "Canada is obstructing an international agreement on the Kyoto agreement," Greenpeace Canada spokesman Jo Dufey told Reuters. "Canada has also failed to reduce its own greenhouse emissions."

Canada says there is no chance of reaching a comprehensive deal at talks in Bonn this week on salvaging the Kyoto climate change protocol, which the United States abandoned in March.

The disagreements over how to implement the cuts called for by the 1997 Kyoto protocol wrecked the last round of talks in the Hague in November 2000 and there has been no significant progress since then.

The European Union wants to press ahead and ratify Kyoto without the United States but Canada says there is no point in doing so without the United States.

Police said the two climbers face charges of mischief and trespassing.

## IRAQ

**I**rqi archaeologists have discovered an ancient temple and two winged lions dating back nearly 3,000 years in the ancient Assyrian city of Nimrud in northern Iraq, archaeologists said.

Cuneiform writing on the two lions indicated they date back to the reign of the Assyrian King Ashurnasirpal II, who ruled the Assyrian Empire during the 9th century B.C. The writing also indicated that the building was the temple of Ishtar, ancient Iraqi goddess of love and war.

"Iraqi excavators have discovered in the site between the Ziggurat of Nimrud and Ashurnasirpal II's Palace a building with two winged bulls or lions at its entrance gate," Khalil Ibrahim, head of Iraq's Antiquities Department, told Reuters.

The upper parts of the two winged lions have been damaged, but still stand proudly at the building's entrance.

"The nearly 3,000-year-old huge sculptures stand at an entrance gate of a building that opens onto a big hall and an inner gate that leads to a big open courtyard," the head of the Nimrud excavation team Muzahim al-Zawba'i said.

He said the courtyard floor was covered by bricks, some of which had texts in cuneiform mentioning Ashurnasirpal II.

Nimrud, one of the four great cities of Assyria, is 37 km (23 miles) to the southeast of Mosul on the east bank of the Tigris. It was from here that Ashurnasirpal II (883-859 B.C.), and his son Shalmaneser III (858-824 B.C.), who constructed the ziggurat and a neighbouring temple, ruled a great empire.

## NORWAY

**A** drunken German who took a friend's boat in Denmark fell asleep at the helm and ended up in Norway, Norwegian police said on Monday.

They found the boat adrift off Norway's southern coast with a German in his 20s fast asleep at the rudder. The boat had crossed the Skagerrak Sea.

"He told us he had been intoxicated, really drunk in fact, and had taken his friend's boat and put to sea," Bjoern Hansen, chief of police in Kristiansand, told Reuters.

Hansen said police could not charge the man with being drunk in charge of a boat as he was sober by the time he was found.

His friend did not intend to press charges against him for stealing the boat.

The sleepy sailor took the ferry back to Denmark, while his friend will have to travel to Norway to pick up his boat.

# 'Julie', the entertaining monkey

By Tadaferua Ujorha

**N**umerous forms of entertainment exist all over the world, and entertaining animals belong to this category of activity. It is normal to find wandering artists who go about with animals whom they have taught some entertaining tricks and who perform for a fee or a gift.

Salisu Abba is a wandering performer who goes about with 'Julie,' his pet monkey. *Daily Trust* encountered Salisu and Julie at Madalla last weekend as they were retiring to Nyanya where Salisu has his residence. He mentioned that he has been involved in entertaining with monkeys for some 16 years now. Monkeys, he mentioned, could be taught to demonstrate many types of games and dances, and they could yield a lot of money to any good handler. He added that he has been going about with Julie for some three and a half years now, and he has had a great time making his rounds and generating the necessary resources to support his family which includes his monkey.

Mallam Salisu also said that during festivals such as the Sallah, he finds ample space and opportunity to demonstrate

she can do the 'gaisuwa' very well, she can dance like a Fulani and flip over quite well, he added. During a single performance he could make up N50.00, but in a single day, he makes a minimum of N500.00 but this increases significantly at

festival time, he added. The tradition of entertaining with monkeys seems to run in the Abba family. Salisu mentioned that he acquired the interest in training monkey for performance purposes from his father, who seems to be pre-eminent in the activity.



Salisu Abba and 'Julie', the performing monkey.

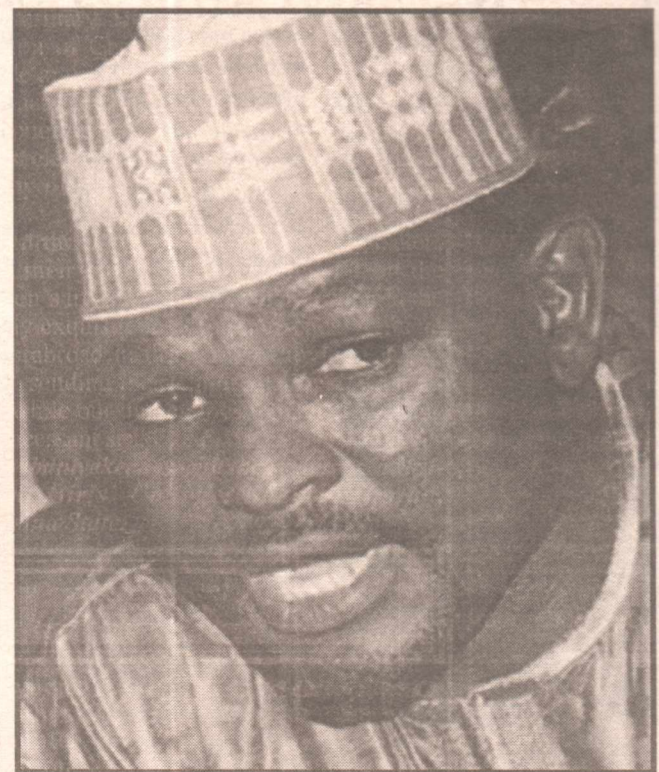
# How do I wriggle out?

**F**ormer Chief Security Officer (CSO) to late Head of State, General Sani Abacha, Major Al-Mustapha, could be very humane after all with high and low moments in life.

In those few halcyon days, this man held great powers within and without the precincts of the presidential villa and the mili-

tary circles where he belonged.

However, things seem to have changed now and all the power and privileges associated with it have been pushed past him to someone else and he is now thinking of when this miasma will end or how is he going to wriggle out of this at Oputa Panel.



Al-Mustapha.

# How time changes

By Uwem Umo

**S**ome few months ago, former Chief of Army Staff (COAS), retired Lieutenant-General Ishaya Rizi Bamaiyi, would never have dreamt being in this situation today-escorted by a mobile police corporal let alone inspectors of prisons.

However, the former COAS, facing charges and

accusations for various alleged human rights violations (both in court and at the Oputa Panel), has not lost his sartorial military gait as he can be seen marching briskly with eyes blazing to the Oputa Panel from Kuje Prisons.



Lt.-Gen. Ishaya Bamaiyi being escorted by armed escorts of police and prisons officials.

# The weirder, the better

**L**ast weekend, the Delta State Students' Union (DELSU) Kaduna State Polytechnic, Gaskiya-Zaria chapter, had a 'rag day' which was in support of the forthcoming cultural day of the union.

"Rag day" refers to a special and colourful moment when persons, who are usually students dress up rather strangely, as a means of generating resources. Therefore, they rub paint or powder upon their bodies, and wear scarves or place funny marks upon their faces, so that they

look slightly grotesque and strange.

Gladys, who is studying accounting at the institution, explained to *Daily Trust* the significance of dressing in rags, 'by the time people see you, they would have pity on you and would wish to contribute to what you are doing.' Richard Adahor and Dunkwu Linda also participated in the 'rag day' and added that the effort is in support of the forthcoming Delta cultural day, which will feature the launching of an almanac and numerous cultural dances of Delta State.



## Policemen abandon duty post as robbers take over their "toll point"

Armed anti-crime police men took to their heels today, as dare devil robbers took over the police "toll point" around the National Theatre in Iganmu, robbing motorists, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports.

The five policemen armed with assault rifles ran into their patrol Peugeot 603 patrol car and sped off as soon as the robbers alighted from the 18-seater commuter bus they came in.

A police outrider who was also within the vicinity sped off. Apart from policemen, other commuters and pedestrians also took to their heels, throwing the neighbourhood into confusion as panic-stricken passers-by thronged the nearby premises of the News Agency of Nigeria to watch the robbers ply their trade.

The robbers later snatched a Toyota Corolla car after shooting the driver of a Nissan car and robbing the three women occupants.

NAN learnt that the robbers also removed their trinkets, including gold necklaces and bangles.

Motorists and passengers who came out of hiding after the incident condemned the attitude

displayed by the police. A bus driver, Mr. Muraina Aberoje, told NAN "these police people are a disappointment."

"Why should they run away from young robbers who had pistols whereas they were carrying rifles?" he asked.

The Commissioner of Police, Mr. Mike Okiro, told NAN that he had not been briefed and promised to look into the case.

He said that he would beef up security at the National Theatre area.

## UNICAL staff commits suicide

A non-academic staff of the University of Calabar identified as Ukpe Umoh, 45, was on Thursday found hanging in one of the rehearsal rooms at the Department of Theatre Arts on the campus.

The deceased, who was a

drummer with the University Performing Company in the theatre Arts Department, did not leave any suicide note.

The remains of the deceased have since been removed by men of the Nigeria Police Force who are now investigating the matter.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) learnt that the deceased, who hailed from Ikot Ekpene in Akwa Ibom, had put in more than 15 years in the service of the university.

Some of his colleagues, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that he had earlier complained of suffering from hernia and did not have money to treat himself.

Others said that he had complained of non-promotion since he joined the services of the university as a drummer.

Confirming the incident, the university's information officer Joe Ekpang told NAN that the university was yet to receive any medical or security report on the incident.

Refuting allegations that members of NASU, who had earlier called off their two-month-old strike, were not paid their salaries, Ekpang said that the university was only owing June salary.

Ekpang, who claimed that he did not know when late Umoh joined the services of the university, said he had information that the deceased lived at Itu bridgehead, almost 50 kms away from Calabar.

According to the university spokesman, the deceased could have had financial problem occasioned by the long distance he covered everyday to and from his place of work.

The deceased left behind a wife and children.

## Woman jailed for life for killing Nigerian lover

A twenty-year old mother, Janine Steele was jailed for life on Thursday for stabbing her Nigerian lover, Kingsley Okezie, to death last August.

Victor Temple, prosecuting, told the Southwark Crown Court in South London that Janine, of Wood Green, repeatedly plunged a large kitchen knife into Okezie's chest after they had a row.

He said that as her victim staggered from his flat, she fled into the night, leaving her own trail of blood.

When Okezie, 34, was rushed to hospital, he said Janine returned to the premises in

Tottenham, smashed her way in with a brick, gathered some clothes and fled again, but later gave herself up to the police.

Temple told the court that Janine had been under the influence of a "cocktail of drugs" at the time of the incident.

In Her defence, Janine, who was several weeks pregnant by another lover, claimed that she acted in self-defence.

She said that she had grabbed the knife from Okezie and lashed out at his after he raped her at knife-point.

The prosecution, however, dismissed her claims, and the jury which looked into the case returned guilty verdict.

## Cost-cutting husband creates desert oasis for wife in England

A man got so fed up with his wife asking him to take her on a desert holiday that he built her an oasis in their garden in a rural town in England, reports said today.

Mark Garner said his wife Claire wants to visit her sister and brother-in-law's home in the Gulf state of Bahrain, but they cannot afford the trip.

Instead he recreated the desert for her at the back of their home in the Norfolk town of Saham Toney with 20 tons of sand and a large pool.

The 39-year-old, who runs a business that prepares ground for builders, surrounded the pool with palms and yuccas, and even made a parasol from reeds.

Garner was quoted as saying: "It might sound like a lot of effort - but it's all worthwhile if it stops Claire going on about Bahrain."

"It's much cheaper to build an oasis here instead of flying 5,000 miles to see one."

And now Claire's sister Julie and her husband Mike are visiting them in eastern England.

## Indian poll candidate urinates into ballot box in protest

A candidate for a local government election in the Southern Indian State of Andhra Pradesh urinated into a ballot box to protest his vote being cast by someone else, reports said Friday.

The candidate for area council polls belonging to

the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) was told on Thursday that his vote had already been cast when he reached the polling station in Kiligada village, the United News of India reported.

The infuriated candidate lifted the ballot box from the booth and urinated into it after taking it to a corner, po-

lice officials said.

A police spokesman said the candidate was not prevented by the polling staff as they were afraid of him and no policeman had been posted in the remote village.

Polling was suspended in the booth following the incident and a re-poll is likely to be held.

## Ladies' Line

By K.H. Abdul Bida.

## Plague on the streets

Ina kwana Hajiya, I turned and saw a woman with two babies, one on her back and the other she held close to her chest.

Sannun Ku, I answered and continued moving on, my mind already weighty with some pressing problems. Hajiya please give the twins something to eat, the woman followed speaking in Hausa. Startled! I didn't know she had followed up to that point since I was hurrying somewhere and I parked some distances away due to the congestion of cars at where I visited.

Please, give in the name of God, she continued in their usual pattern. Now I looked at this woman closely, she was a bit robust-looking and the kids looks the same. The only sign of hardship was on their appearances that is their clothings and the babies have tiredness written boldly on their sweet faces.

My first reaction was that of anger, then pain, the next reaction was to show her away. On looking at the little ones I mellowed down and talked to their mother.

Why are you doing this, why are you subjecting these beautiful kids to such hardships? She looked down and said nothing. Don't you have a house to live in? I asked. She said she has. Then I told her what the Quran says about begging and how awfully the prophet condemns it. There are thousand and one things she could do to survive. God that created never puts us to hardship and if he permits it, it is only a phase in our lives or a test to see how much one has and how we can make the best out of that hardship and get closer to him.

I told her about the danger she is capable of attracting to her little ones without mincing words. I visualized a serious scene so that it would have some impact on her. After which I had to give her something for the kids, though reluctantly but I felt the kids might need at least some water to drink.

This is one of the plagues in our society. An illness we must cure. Some liquid in our system that we should purge away so that our society can be a better place for us all.

Most of us contributes to this without knowing it. By giving to people who can help themselves, you are only encouraging them. I agree we can't change the world but we can make an impact on it.

The other day some boys came begging. This boys are strong and can do odd jobs to survive. I scolded them and told them how they blacken the image of Islam and left. Josephine, a friend, looked at me quizzically and asked why I was mad. I told her it's wrong and she was amazed. That she thought our religion says we must give out alms. I answered her honestly that there is no religion worth its salt that would encourage laziness. The religion says we should give out alms to only people that needs it like the handicaps, the old people or there are so many ways fashioned out to give alms. Even a smile is charity. The handicaps you can help them discover their talents in so many ways, because there are some handicaps who could still earn their own money.

What Josephine said is the general view about Islam, that it encourages laziness and many more negative views like violence. But this views are mere propaganda against the religion and are wrong.

There should be adequate awareness about what the religion says about these issues, especially begging. And we should try and tell them why its wrong. The religion says that if you see a wrong change it with your mind, if not with your mind or better still with your hands. That of the mind is the weakest point of faith.

Mostly these people are inflicted with laziness and some ignorance. It's left for us all as Muslims and Christians to fight this plague, to make them aware of why it's wrong to do that. If we all chip in one or two words to them each day. It would really go a long way. And some because of in-built pride would give up the act.

There was this elderly woman that begs around Abuja most times in Wuse market. She has a grown up daughter that is well-to-do who does all any responsible child would do for a parent. She even buys her the highest grade of wrapper (Super Wax, Hollandais) but the woman would still go out to beg. She has some childhood friends back from the village who were contracted to come to Abuja to beg.

These friends of hers tells her rosy tales of the begging business venture now they settle their sponsors each day etc. For the fun of it she refused to give up the venture of begging. The daughter called on all their relations to talk to her but it all fell on deaf ears. The daughter threatened and called her. That she would wash her hands off her all to no avail. She gave up finally and told her point blank that for causing her pains and embarrassment she has left the mother in the hands of God. And God in his infinite mercy sees all.

Elderly women who had been used to house chores feel bored and restless as they grow older and close relations take-over these chores from them. So they are left with little to do. In those days these women are sought for by their relations to take care of the house. Some devote their remaining life to fervent prayers and worship or go back to school. These days the women are being introduced by some selfish persons into this evil trade. These men and women go to villages to see them out and even give them accommodation in the big towns, and tell them the amount the men and women would settle them. I feel this is outrageous and very wrong.

There are so many things one can do in retirement or in old age. E.g. taking care of pregnant mothers and their babies. Years back, elderly women sought for odd jobs in the nature of chores and the like. While the young mothers go to school or work or attend to other businesses. These days you don't seem to get these women anymore for obvious reasons.

Instead of seeking for housegirls, all these women can earn a living by keeping them at home or better still device a much better way for them. Their expertise in home-keeping can be well channelled into productivity. These are issues the first lady and her cohorts, the Minister for Women Affairs and similar bodies should address. Instead of celebrating their assumption of office. Ever since the beginning of this regime it has been one elaborate celebration or launching galore. The issues that affect us daily are being ignored.

We can live and lets live by helping ourselves in creating a better place for us, our children and descendants. We should not wait on the government to do things for us. Self-help is the only answer to our problems. A kind smile coupled with one word of advice and encouragement would. You never know what impact you would make in one life.

If you can change one life in your whole life time, you've done a great deal of a job. Don't give money, give words. Give only to people that really needs it. Lets hold hands and make Nigerian save place.



# **NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY**

## **INVITATION TO TENDER**

The Nigerian Ports Authority invites reputable firms to bid for the production and supply of the underlisted items.

1. 2002 CALENDARS
2. 2002 DIARIES

### **DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS**

#### **1. CALENDARS:**

- (a) Visualisation and design.
- (b) Printing 7 and 13 pages full colour calendars printed on 135 gsm art paper (snow white) spiral bound at top with 85 x 400mm stripboard to hold at the back and wrapped in packets of 25 for delivery.

**THEME:** Repositioning for operational efficiency.

**QUANTITY:** 5,000, 10,000, 15,000, 20,000, 25,000, 30,000.

**SIZE:** 60 cm & 40 cm.

**FILM:** Final films will be provided.

#### **2. DIARIES:**

Desk and pocket diaries produced in leather and containing extra pages of information on Nigerian Ports Authority. Some quantity will be personalised.

**QUANTITY:** 5,000, 10,000, 15,000, 20,000

#### **3. QUALIFICATION:**

Prospective bidders should present the following:

- (a) Certificate of Incorporation with minimum share capital of N1,000,000.00.
- (b) Evidence of Tax Clearance for the past three years.
- (c) Evidence of VAT payment for 3 years.
- (d) Certificate of Registration with Nigerian Ports Authority as a Contractor.
- (e) Evidence of previous performances.
- (f) Design and visuals of the proposed items.
- (g) A non-refundable deposit of N100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira only) made payable to Nigerian Ports Authority in Bank Draft.
- (h) Bidders would need to take Port officials to the press to be used, for inspection and assessment.

#### **4. HOW TO BID**

All bidders should enclose the following:

- (a) Samples of items mentioned in Paragraphs 1 and 2 above.
- (b) A letter from the bidders bank confirming bidders capability to handle the bid.
- (c) Bids could be in arts or for all the items listed.

#### **5. SUBMISSION OF BIDS**

Bids should be submitted in waxed-sealed envelopes marked 'Calendars & Diaries' on the top left hand corner, addressed and hand delivered or (despatched by post or courier) to:

**AGM Corporate Affairs  
Nigerian Ports Authority  
26/28 Marina, Lagos.**

To reach him not later than 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 31st July, 2001.

6. Any bid which does not fully comply with the provisions of this advertisement will be disqualified.
7. It should be noted that Nigerian Ports Authority is not bound to accept the lowest, or any tender.
8. The authority is not obliged to make any pre-payment.

**MANAGEMENT  
NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY**



# Crime & Punishment



## Man convicted of attempt to steal N1.2 m

A middle-age man, Jude Anyamelechi has been sentenced to five years imprisonment with an option of N10,000 fine by an Abuja Upper Area Court for attempting to steal N1.2 million belonging to one Mr. Daniel Dibal.

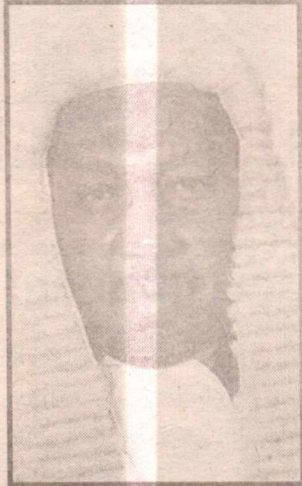
Prosecuting police officer, Mr. Sani Yakubu, told the court that Anyamelechi was arrested on June 1, this year for conspiring with two others, Victor Thomas and Emmanuel Okoli now at large to break into Dibal's office at Wuse Zone 6, where they stole his United Bank for Africa cheque book.

According to the prosecutor, Anyamelechi presented himself to the Bank as a Manager of Stanbic Construction Company, owned by Dibal,

in an attempt to cash one cheque for N1.2 million.

The prosecutor said that the convict forged the signature of Dibal to effect the withdrawal of the said amount before he was caught.

He said that Anyamelechi had the



CJN Uwais

intention of withdrawing the money and converting same for his own use without the consent of the owner.

Anyamelechi pleaded guilty to the four-count charge of conspiracy, house breaking, theft and forgery, contrary to the provisions of the penal code.

The presiding judge, Malam Aliyu Abdulrahman said in his ruling that he had no option but to convict him since he has pleaded guilty to the charges.

An Okada operator, Lateef Aluko-Olokun whom the police say has no fixed address was alleged to have broken into a shop, carting away property estimated at over N2 million, has been dragged before a Chief Magistrate Court in Lagos.

Also charged along with the 22 year-old Okada rider is 19 year-old Abdullahi Ahmed, a truck pusher.

The duo were alleged to have conspired with others now at large on June 11, 2001, to commit felony, to wit burglary and stealing.

Prosecuting Police Sergeant, Nicholas Atumonye told the court that the accused

## Okada rider accused of N2m theft

persons unlawfully broke into the shop of one Emmanuel Okpala at No. 51/54, Kingsway Building, Marina, Lagos with intent to commit felony.

Specifically, the accused were alleged to have carted away 73 shirts valued N306,300.00, 13 suites valued N505,000 and 92 ties valued N276,000.00

Other items stolen include 46 pairs of ladies shoes valued N207,000, 32 belts valued N51,200, 18 bottles of perfumes valued

N81,000 and 27 pairs of kiddies trousers valued N67,000.

The rest are 12 pens valued N82,506, two wrist watches valued N20,000, N100,000 cash and one safe valued N75,000. The police put the total value at N2,636,400.

The accused persons pleaded not guilty.

Trial magistrate, W.A.O. Meiyigbope while ruling on bail application for the accused persons, ordered that bail be granted in the sum of N50,000 each with two sureties.

According to him, one of the sureties must be a senior civil servant not below level 12 while the other surety must be a blood relation to the accused and must live around the place where the offence was committed.

Asked by a reporter what informed the decision to inaugurate the association, the spokesperson said; "I want to let you know that we have decided to come together to correct some wrong impressions about prostitutes and prostitution."

She said that prostitution has come a long way as a trade that has been given due recognition in some Western countries, and urged Nigerians to follow the example.

She argued that prostitution is a legitimate trade that has been providing livelihood for thousands of people in the country, saying that it was wrong for people to see those engaged in the trade as criminals.

"It is wrong for people to regard us as miscreants. This should not be the case because we have not broken any law" Onyedinma said, receiving applause from her colleagues.

She said that prostitution has come a long way as a

## Three face robbery trial in Lagos

Three suspected armed robbers who were arrested by members of the dreaded Odua People's Congress (OPC) have been taken to court in Lagos.

The suspects were nabbed by the OPC members while attempting to sell some loot.

According to the prosecuting police sergeant, Nicholas Atunmoye, the three accused persons and others now on the run, on April 21, 2001 at about 2200 hours along Adeniji Adele by Ibrahim Babangida (IBB) Bridge conspired to commit felony.

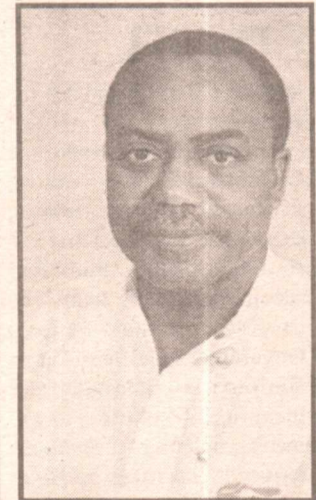
It was alleged that Oyedokun Oyelayo, 25, Femi Aworinde, 30, Basiru Sode, 21, and others now at large on the same date, time and place in the aforementioned magisterial district while armed with offensive weapons robbed one Zachaeus Taiwo of N200,000 cash and some golf equipment valued N800,000 altogether valued N1 million.

Daily Trust gathered that the suspects were caught as they were negotiating to sell the golf equipment.

The offences for which they are charged is punishable with life imprisonment under section one of the Robbery and Firearms (special provisions) Act 389 vol. 22 laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 1990.

When the charge was read to the accused persons in Yoruba language, no plea was taken from them.

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Gov. Odili

Onyedinma said that prostitutes like other citizens of Nigeria have been contributing to the growth of the country, and assured that ANP members will work relentlessly to engender development.

She said that members of the association will be compelled to undergo screening to determine their HIV/AIDS status, noting that the measure will assist in combating the dreaded disease.

The ANP member advised her colleagues not to engage in acts that will tarnish the image of the association, urging them to go about their business without fear of molestation.

The inauguration of the association, which attracted scores of pretty women, was conducted by the chairperson of the Abuja branch of the ANP, Madam Rebecca Olabokun.

In recent years, oil-rich Rivers State has become a haven for prostitutes who openly solicit patronage along the streets in strategic areas of Port Harcourt.

Other household appliances.

The robbers, the victim said, later moved to the residence of the Reverend and Cannon in charge of the Church and ordered him to open the door to his house.

When the Reverend gentleman refused, they siphoned fuel from the car parked in front of the house and sprinkled fuel round the building, threatening to set the house ablaze if he did not oblige them entry.

One of the robbers, in a bid to prevent the pastor from calling the police, attempted to cut the telephone line but only succeeded in cutting a NEPA cable.

The pastor eventually called the police who arrived the scene immediately but were greeted with a barrage of gun shots from the hoodlums who had moved into the church building.

After an exchange of gunfire, the robbers escaped but two of them with bullet wounds were later picked up by the police.

When contacted, a senior police officer at the Ogui Police Station said that they were on the trail of the six other suspects still at large.

Two of the eight armed robbers who raided the premises of St. Paul's Anglican Church, Asata, Enugu last weekend have been nabbed by the police, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports.

According to one of the victims, the robbers had attacked occupants of the church premises at midnight removing their electronic equipment and

other household appliances.

The robbers, the victim said, later moved to the residence of the Reverend and Cannon in charge of the Church and ordered him to open the door to his house.

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## Man, 34, charged with impersonation

A 34-year-old man, Christopher Okeh, has appeared before a Chief Magistrate court in Lagos where he was charged with impersonating a police officer.

Daily Trust gathered that the fake police officer was apprehended at the Alagbon Close, Ikoyi Police force C.I.D., while attempting to collect May salary.

According to charge No. A/134/2001 preferred against the accused person, it was alleged that on or about June 8, 2001 at the "D" Department, Force CID Annex, Alagbon Close, Ikoyi, Lagos, within the Lagos magisterial district, the accused impersonated a police officer.

It was also alleged that the accused made a false bio-data, which document he knew to be false with intent that it may in any way be used or acted upon as genuine.

The prosecution asked the court to remand the accused person, adding that

investigations was still going on and that the accused will be charged for other offences including forgery.

However, the trial magistrate, Ayo Odugbesan, turned down the application.

In her decision, the accused was granted bail in the sum of N150,000 with one surety, having pleaded not guilty to the charge.

In a chat with the accused person immediately after the proceedings, he said, "I have never seen a serving police officer who has been charged to court without being dismissed."

The accused claimed that he has served the Nigeria Police Force gallantly as he was a member of the team that arrested Anini, the notorious armed robber.

He claimed further that he was serving at his post in Owerri, Imo State before he was transferred to Alagbon Annex anti-robbery squad, Adeniji Adele and now back at Benin.

From Adelanwa Bangboye, in Lagos

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## Prostitutes unite in Port Harcourt

Prostitutes in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, have embarked on a new initiative to keep their trade in reckoning, with the inauguration of the Rivers State chapter of the Association of Nigerian Prostitutes (ANP).

"Gone are the days when sex workers are looked upon as infidels, layabouts and people of no consequence," a spokesperson for the sex workers, Miss. Elizabeth Onyedinma said at the

occasion.

She argued that prostitution is a legitimate trade that has been providing livelihood for thousands of people in the country, saying that it was wrong for people to see those engaged in the trade as criminals.

"It is wrong for people to regard us as miscreants. This should not be the case because we have not broken any law" Onyedinma said, receiving applause from her colleagues.

She said that prostitution has come a long way as a

## Two caught for raiding Church

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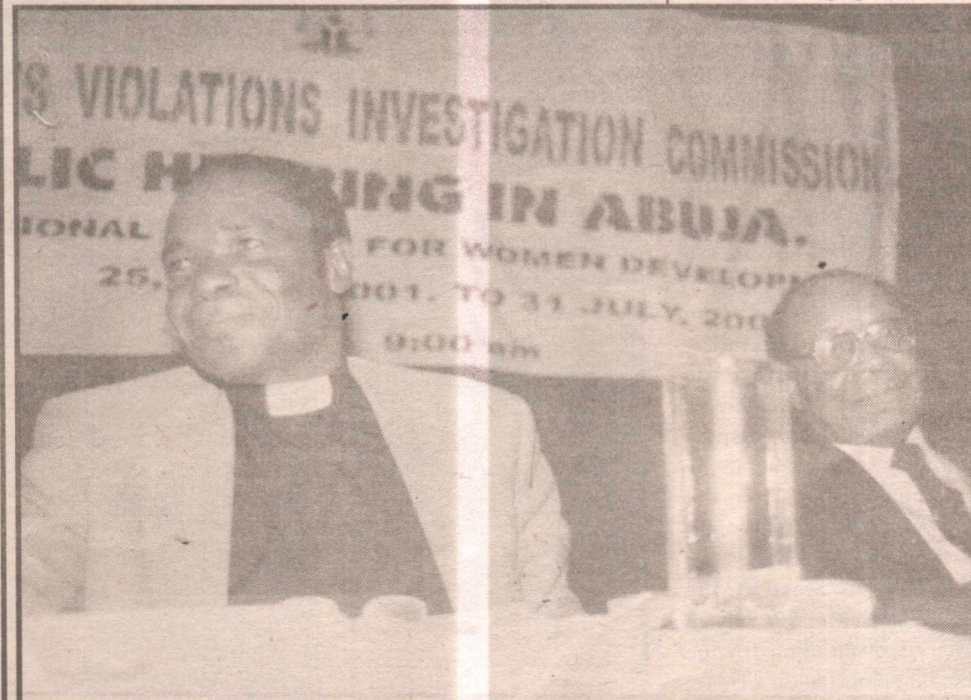
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Something Amusing? Chairman Human Rights Violations and Investigation Commission (HRVIC), Justice C. Oputa (Rid), right and Rev. Fr. Matthew H. Kukah find something amusing at the sitting of the commission.... July 10, 2001. Pix: Felix Onigbinde

# Abuja News

## Engineer recommends transport dept for FCT

A full-fledged department of transport has been recommended for the FCT as a measure to address the transportation problem in the Territory.

According to C.N. Chigboh, a transport engineer with the FCDA in his report on the appraisal of transportation within the FCT made available to *Daily Trust* yesterday, the establishment of a transport department is necessary, as it would address the enormous problem of traffic congestion in Abuja and the chaos experienced in the past.

"Our experience in the past has been that transport engineering is not accorded a prominent position in effective decision-making of

Stories by Austine Odo

what transportation is in Abuja. Therefore, the need to accord transport planning the importance it deserves cannot be over-emphasised," he said.

Engr. Chigboh pointed out that this could be done by restructuring the current institutional framework of all agencies for transport development in Abuja.

According to him, there is presently a number of ill-equipped and uncoordinated units like the Abuja Urban Mass Transit Company, the VIO and the transportation unit of the FCDA Engineering Department.

"As it is in other cities of the world and Lagos, there is need to have all these units under one formidable

department whose basic role will be primarily regulatory and or co-ordination with the highways, motor vehicle administration, urban transportation and mass transit administration," he said.

He observed that to date, decisions about land use and transportation in Abuja are taken by officials without guidance of comprehensive plans or community goals,

which results in a high social cost, including high costs of bad environment, accidents, and large outlays for transportation and other services.

He called for timely and effective transport planning, adding that relief from ills ascribed to ineffective transportation would not come overnight, and the time required to develop alternative schemes would seem distressingly long.



Engr. Abba-Gana, FCT Minister.

### Minister advises civil servants on strike

Minister of Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Engr. Muhammad Abba-Gana has advised Nigerian civil servants to shun frequent strike and embrace dialogue with the democratic administration in their agitation for better conditions of service.

The Minister gave the advice last Friday when the Executive Officers of Nigerian Civil Service Union (NCSU) led by their National President, Comrade Fidelis Chukwu Ede visited him in his office in Abuja.

Engr. Abba-Gana said civil servants have a vital role to play in nurturing and consolidating democracy through "patriotic understanding and support."

His words: "Anytime civil servants go on strike in a developing nation like ours, the whole country almost closes down".

The FCT Minister described civil service as a very important segment of the work force, which exists for public good and provides the essential continuity in governance.

Engr. Abba-Gana told the NCSU Executive Officers that the present administration of President Olusegun Obasanjo has the welfare of workers at heart.

He pointed out that it was such consideration, which informed the directive by the President that more houses would be built for workers in Abuja and elsewhere.

In Abuja alone, Engr. Abba-Gana reiterated that construction of over 6,000 houses for workers has been embarked upon.

Earlier in his speech, the President of NCSU, Comrade Fidelis Chukwu Ede, praised the Minister over the honest and mature manner in which he has been administering the FCT and his cordial relationship with workers since his appointment in February this year.

Comrade Ede described Engr. Abba-Gana as a great friend of Nigerian workers recalling how he joined workers in their May Day rally this year.

He also praised the FCT Minister for giving audience to the National President of Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Comrade Adams Oshiomhole and addressing the workers rally in March this year during their anti-deregulation protests.

Comrade Ede appealed to Engr. Abba-Gana to assist the Union towards securing a plot of land for the building of its National Secretariat in Abuja.

## Dutse praises Reynolds for development

The Dutse Alhaji community in Bwari Area Council in the Federal Capital Territory has expressed appreciation over efforts by Reynolds Construction Company for grading major roads in the area.

Speaking on behalf of the community in Dutse recently, the councillor representing Dutse Alhaji Ward, Hon. Clare Dajo, said the company had graded four major roads and brought relief to the community that suffered serious hardship as a result of the bad condition of the roads.

The Councillor, who estimated that the roads would have cost the Bwari Area Council about N1.5m, said the graded roads had given the area a new look. She expressed the gratitude of the entire people of Dutse Alhaji, including their community leaders, to the RCC for contributing positively to the development of the area and thereby improving the standard of living of the people.

The councillor implored other construction companies operating at Mpape (a quarry site within Dutse Alhaji ward) to

emulate the good gesture of the RCC. She expressed delight that the company acted promptly upon her request for assistance and had recorded tremendous respect for the community within just two months of coming into the area.

Hon. Clare embarked on

the visit to the company with some community leaders from the area, including the Chief of Dutse Pe, the Madaki of Koro, Madaki of Dutse Pe, Hon Abubakar Dutse, and Mr. Barau Adayilo.

## Borisade speaks on varsity autonomy report

The Minister of Education, Professor A.B. Borisade has described the report of the committee on university autonomy and related matters as historic and an attempt to discontinue with the present distortion, ambiguity and disorderliness in the administration of universities in the country. He has also said that with this development, the universities will be managed in strict compliance with clearly defined laws to ensure improvement in the standard of education.

Professor Borisade, who spoke recently in Abuja when he received the report of the committee on University Autonomy and Related Matters headed by Professor David Ijalaye, noted that the work of the committee is crucial to the successful conclusion of the reforms currently going on in the education sector. He promised to study the report closely, involve all stakeholders in its analysis and ensure that a bill on it is sent to the National Assembly and

later to the President for his accent.

Earlier in his address, the Chairman of the committee, Professor David Ijalaye, expressed the hope that the findings, observations and recommendations would be useful to the Federal Government and assist it in finding a lasting and meaningful solution to the many problems of the nation's universities as they relate to autonomy.

Professor Ijalaye also disclosed that all the members of the committee, except Dr. Dipo Fashina, Chairman of ASUU and Professor Attahiru M. Jega, worked tirelessly to ensure the successful completion of its assignment.

The committee's report is in three volumes. The Minister inaugurated it on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March, 2001.

## Abuja schools get literary competition

A literary competition among primary schools in the FCT has been introduced.

The competition, which was initiated by the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA), took-off at the St Aloysius Primary School, Area 3, Garki, Abuja, last week. The competition is in five categories of drama, poetry, music, fine arts and storytelling.

According to the chairman of the Abuja Branch of the Association of Nigerian Authors, Mrs. Gladys Russell, the

competition would challenge the pupils to dare to dream and make their future great.

She noted that the pupils had the right to hold a dream about tomorrow, adding that it was the only way life could be worthwhile, through careful planning and aspirations. She said the competition would be an annual event.

The Headmistress, St. Aloysius Primary School, Sister Charity Nwoko, praised the authors for seeing the need for literacy stimulation in pupils in the school.

## FCT to get civic, cultural centre

By Victor Akobundu

The Federal Government is to construct a civic cultural centre in Abuja, Culture and Tourism Minister, Ms. Bromillow-Jack, has said.

The minister indicated this during a familiarisation visit to the National Arts and Culture in Abuja last week. She said the proposed cultural research centre such as the Durbar Centre in Kaduna, Textile Gallery in Oshogbo and the Boat Regatta in Uyo will be used to attract international funding and tourism.

The minister reminded the management and staff of the centre not to relent in their efforts at promoting Nigeria's rich cultural heritage, saying the Federal Government is working out ways to protect the nation's cultural heritage. Ms. Bromillow-Jack solicited the Ministry's support for the council's programme scheduled for the Independence Day celebration.

In his remark, the Executive Director, National Arts and Culture, Mr. Emma Arinze, said the sectional gallery at Kaduna, Enugu, Oshogbo, and Uyo have been upgraded to the status of National Research Centres to attract international funding and tourism.

## Chancellor named for Abuja varsity

By Habiba Adamu

President Olusegun Obasanjo has approved the appointment of the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Mohamadu Maccido, as the Chancellor of the University of Abuja.

A letter from the office of the Education Minister, Professor A. B. Borisade conveyed the presidential approval to the university's management. It says the appointment is for a period of four years in the first instance.

Meanwhile, lectures are expected to start at the university on Monday, July 23 after its resumption for the second semester on Friday, July 13. *Daily Trust* learnt that the first semester examinations for distance learning and continuing

students will start July 30 through September 1, 2001, while semester contact sessions will start on September 14 and 15, 2001.



Alhaji Mohamadu Maccido, Sultan of Sokoto



Professor A.B. Borisade, Education Minister



# SPORTS



## Die-hard soccer fan offers Chukwu bride for free

A die-hard South African soccer lover, David Lomola, has offered Nigerian footballer, Raphael Chukwu, any one of his two daughters as his wife for free, in a desperate move to stop the Sundowns' top scorer from leaving for Europe.

The fanatical Sundowns supporter made the unusual offer after reports that the Nigerian striker was leaving his South African club side to join Italian club, Bari.

"He can have either of my daughters without paying 'lobola' (bride prize) as long as he stays with us (the club)," said an unperturbed Lamola, while referring to his daughters, 24-year-old Lerato and Raisibe (22).

The Southern Africa correspondent of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) quotes the 53-year-old retired police sergeant as saying that he was making the offer to Chukwu to induce him to stay with the Pretoria team.

Lerato, a police constable at a local police station, surprisingly, agreed with her father's overture.

"If my father is happy with that, so am I," said Lerato, adding that much against popular belief that girls were closer to their mothers, she got along well with her father.

"I am also a Sundowns fan," she added.

Her younger sister

Raisibe, who has just completed a Public Administration-diploma programme at Technikon Northern Gauteng, could only manage a wry smile at the overture.

A pleasantly surprised Chukwu said that he was prepared to catch a glimpse of the ladies before making his decision.

"I must first see the ladies before I can make a final decision as to who my future wife will be," Chukwu said, adding: "I'm also thrilled by the prospect of not having to pay a cent to marry her."

Chukwu, who has been a professional footballer in South Africa since 1997, said that the idea of taking a local girl back to Nigeria would not be a bad one after all.



Retief Goosen of South Africa shoots from the bunker in the 18th hole of the Scottish Open at Loch Lomond in Scotland on Sunday.

## Mini sports fiesta kicks off in Kano

From Jamilah Nuhu Musa, in Kano

The much awaited Kano State Sports Festival has kicked off in Kano.

Declaring the 16th Kano State Sports Festival open at the Sani Abacha Stadium, Governor Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, said the historic fiesta underscores the importance of sports development in the state.

He explained the commitment of this administration in the promotion of sporting activities as manifested in the elevation of Kano Pillars football club to the elite division and the participation of Kano Pyramids handball team at the continental championship in Benin Republic.

Governor Kwankwaso pledged his government's support in providing an enabling environment in terms of facilities and other logistics necessary for the success of the festival.

He urged the athletes to exhibit a high degree of discipline and compete under the atmosphere of good sportsmanship saying "be humble in victory and gallant in defeat."

Reminding the officials that Kano State is a land of peace and stability, he implored them to be free and fair in their officiating and judgement.

According to him it is only by so doing that the very best would emerge from the tournament. Athletes from 44 local governments are participating in the event.

The 5th Kano State Sports Festival was held 12 years ago in 1983.



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**ITF satellite circuit: Jegede, Gwinyai out**

From Babs Oyetoro, in Lagos

Nigeria's Sunday Jegede was among the first "casualties" in the ongoing International Tennis Federation men's satellite circuit taking place at the lawn tennis court of the National Stadium, Surulere, Lagos.

Jegede lost to the superior firepower of Syrov Ivan via two straight set 6-2, 6-4.

Schelorvakia's Branisa Igor also took Malian Samassa Tamba to the cleaners via a two straight sets 6-4, 6-2 to advance to the second round.

Number seven seed, Du Condray Jean-Marcel from Mauritius made mince meat of his opponent, Tongoons Gwinyai from Zimbabwe. Jean-Marcel beat Gwinyai 6-0, 6-4 to advance to the second round.

However, there are 32 players for the main draw for merit singles while 16 were drawn for men's singles while 16 were drawn for men's doubles as both events got underway on Monday.

Meanwhile, the first match, which was billed for 10.00a.m on Monday would not start due to slight rainfall that disrupted proceedings. The match eventually kicked off in the afternoon.

**Ocheaga, Nigerian footballer, dies in Indian league match**

Nigerian soccer player, Charles Ocheaga, collapsed and died during a league match in India.

Ocheaga was making his debut for Bombay-based Bengal Mumbai Football Club against Income Tax Club in the Harwood football league.

But the 25-year-old collapsed in the 42nd minute of the game in an off-the-ball incident.

The Press Trust of India news agency reports that his teammates tried to revive him but he collapsed again when he tried to stand up.

Ocheaga was carried away on a stretcher and rushed to a nearby hospital, where he was declared dead.

The chief medical officer on duty, Dr Rehan Kazi, said the Nigerian player died due to cardiac arrest.

"He was already dead when he was brought here," Dr Kazi said.

"He did not respond to any treatment."

**Olympiakos move in for Kanu**

Super Eagles and Arsenal of England striker, Nwankwo Kanu could be on his way to Greek champions, Olympiakos.

The Nigerian international looks like being marginalised at Highbury next season following the arrival of Francis Jeffers and Giovanni van Bronckhorst.

As a result, Arsenal manager, Arsene Wenger may be prepared to let him leave.

According to the BBC Online report, the Gunners need to balance the books after spending a combined £18m on Jeffers and Van Bronckhorst as well as bringing in Sol Campbell and goalkeeper Richard Wright.

On their part, Olympiakos, who once harboured Eagles top striker, Rashidi Yekini in the mid-90's, need a new forward to spearhead their Champions' League campaign.

The stumbling block could be Kanu's fee. Wenger is unlikely to let him leave for less than £10m which could scare off potential purchasers.

Kanu is a crowd favourite but had a troubled time with Arsenal last season, having made it clear he is not prepared to sit on the bench for much longer.

A bitter club versus country feud also erupted when Arsenal said the

By Ismaila Umaru Lere, with agency reports

player should give priority to his club, while the Nigerian FA insisted they should have first call on his services.

Kanu's situation will certainly not improve now that there is even fiercer

competition for places.

Arsenal also have Thierry Henry, Sylvain Wiltord and Dennis Bergkamp all pushing for first-team places when the season starts next month.



Spanish Sergio Garcia chips out of the bunker at the 14th hole on the second day of play at Loch Lomond Golf Championship in Scotland at the weekend.



Kanu...Olympiakos target.

**Onyali, Ajunwa, Udo Obong arrive for Mobil Championship**

Some of the foreign-based athletes are already in town sweating it out in preparations for the biggest athletics meet on the land-Mobil Track and Field slated for this weekend at the National Stadium, Surulere.

The former African Champions, Mary Onyali trained on Monday morning at the venue of the two-day championship.

The reigning African fastest female runner, Mercy Nku arrived last Sunday night.

Also, Atlanta gold medallist, Chioma Ajunwa arrived from her London base on Sunday night bubbling and rearing to go.

Sydney Olympic silver medallist, Enefiok Udo-Obong is also in town getting ready for the championship.

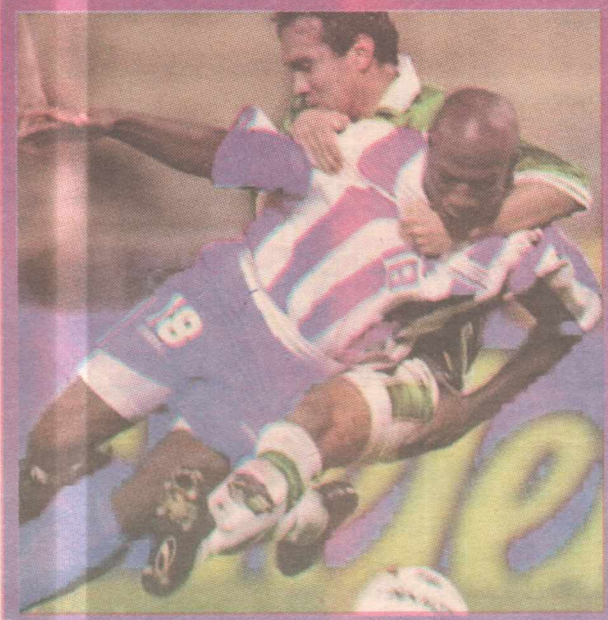
Trustsports also gathered that some of the foreign-based athletes are already in town training privately.

If it was learnt that some of these athletes reported officially and are still putting finishing touches to their strategies.

These is a strong indication from Athletes Federation of Nigeria secretariat that there may be a full house starting from Wednesday when most of the athletes would have arrived.

Gloria Alozie's closest pal, Uduak Ekah has also indicated he will arrive Nigeria on Monday night and quarter miler, Falilat Ogunkoya is due in Nigeria the same day with Ekah.

Other foreign-based athletes who are already in town but not invited are: Tunde Sulaiman from USA, Gabriel Okon from USA and Kudirat Aigbe from Spain.



Honduras Saul Martinas is tackled by Bolivia's Marcelo Carballlo during their Copa America match in Medellin on Monday.



Brazil's Guilherme (9) watches as his shot goes past Peru's Pedro Garcia (16) and goalie Oscar Ibanes to score a goal in their second match of the Copa America in Cali on Sunday.