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We have reduced
violence in Algeria
— Ambassador

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MTN begins operations in Abuja today

MTN, one of the three GSM operators in the country will today launch its operations in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory.

The South African company which commenced commercial operation in the country on August 8, 2001 has already set up seven base stations in the FCT with a service centre at its corporate headquarters in Maitama.

With this development, the company will today launch the *Business Time*, a product designed for the business community.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with *Daily Trust* yesterday, MTN Chief Marketing and Strategy Officer, Mr. Afam Edozie said today's launch marks the beginning of the company's planned extension of network operation to the Northern part of the country.

Specifically, he said the company was moving into Kano, Kaduna Maiduguri, Zaria and Katsina.

In a bid to reach the broad Nigerian market, he said MTN will next week introduce its pay-as-you-go package, which will require subscribers to pay only the connection fee and buy call credit and access time at their own convenience.

Already, the company was charging N20,000 connection fee, N4,000 monthly access and N40,000 refundable deposit and initial airtime for *Business Timed*.

Edozie said his company was the largest wholly private sector investment in Nigeria with an investment portfolio of over N125 billion.

Earlier at a GSM seminar, Edozie told newsmen that after the launch, Nigerians in Abuja would "start making and receiving calls" on their handsets. "You can now call who you want to call," he added.

Gani Adams arrested

The Lagos State police command has announced the arrest of the factional leader of the Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC), Mr. Gani Adams who was declared wanted in March last year.

He was paraded before newsmen yesterday by the Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Mike Okiro at the General Investigation Department (GID), Ikeja, Lagos.

The police said Gani Adams was captured yesterday morning in a white Honda car with registration number CF727 LSR while on his way to an OPC convention at Ibeju-Lekki, a suburb of Lagos.

Items found in his car include a study Bible, wrist watch, three rings, a belt, a

By Adelanwa Bamigboye in Lagos, Olumide Bajulaiye in Abeokuta, Ikenna Okpani and Mustapha Isah Kwaru in Abuja

dead chameleon and the sum of N2,000. He was said to be in the company of two girls and a boy when the car he was driving was stopped for routine checks.

The police claimed that he attempted to offer the police N100, and after having failed, took to his heels.

The police commissioner told newsmen that Gani Adams was arrested through the intelligence network of the Lagos State police command after being on the run for 17 months.

Dr. Frederick Fasheun, founder of the OPC has reacted to the arrest of his rival faction leader and advised

that he should not be detained for too long.

"There should be no question of detaining him for any long period. There should be no witchhunting. There should not be any

physical punishment in any way. We are now in a democracy, as such his rights should not be abused," Fasheun said in a telephone chat with *Daily Trust*.

Dr. Fasheun also advised members of the OPC not to take the laws into their hands and enjoined them to give peace a chance.

Gani Adams was declared wanted in March last year in connection with the murder of the Bariga DPO, Superintendent of Police, Afolabi Amao. Okiro said Gani led the hoodlums who attacked the Bariga Police Station, murdered the DPO and freed armed robbery suspects in

contd. on pg 2

Why Aikhomu was stopped — FG

The Federal Government has given reasons why former Vice-President, Admiral Augustus Aikhomu (rtd) was prevented from travelling abroad Monday night, accusing the former number two man to General Ibrahim Babangida (rtd) of making inflammatory statements capable of undermining national security including the return of the military into power.

Special adviser to the vice-president on political affairs, Dr. Usman Bugaje defended the federal government's action while speaking on a Voice of America (VOA) Hausa programme monitored in Abuja yesterday.

Dr. Bugaje explained that Admiral Aikhomu (rtd) was prevented at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Ikeja, from travelling to London, because of comments he had made concerning the registration of new

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru, Henry Omunu

political parties by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

The former military vice-president, the special adviser said, had threatened that his political association, the United Nigeria Democratic Party (UNDP) would make

contd. on pg 2

FG appoints Bank of Industry MD

By Osborne Adi Jnr.

Arrangements toward the official take-off of the Bank for Industry have reached the last lap with the appointment of Dr. Larry Osafiana as the pioneer managing director, and the establishment of six zonal offices across the country.

The Bank of Industry was created by the Federal Government early this year following the merger of Nigerian Industrial Development Bank (NIDB), Nigerian Bank for Commerce and Industry (NBCI), and National Economic Reconstruction Fund (NERFUND).

With the appointment of Dr. Osafiana, the fate of chief executives of the three defunct financial institutions is yet to be known while their staffers are to report to the NBCI building in Lagos which is the new bank's corporate headquarters

contd. on pg 2



The chairperson of WOTCLEF, Chief (Mrs.) Amina Titi Atiku Abubakar (l) being congratulated by the Minister of State for Justice, Mr. Musa Elayo (r) during the parade of the victims of Human Trafficking before President Olusegun Obasanjo at the State House, Abuja... yesterday

Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje

12 shot dead in renewed Nasarawa crisis

The Nasarawa crises involving Tiv and Alago people, which subsided in July following mediations from the Nasarawa and Benue State governments, has erupted

From Mike Elaigwu, in Makurdi

again. This follows the killing at the weekend of 12 Tiv youngmen from Daudu refugee camp in Guma local government of Benue State by unknown assailants. The diseased had allegedly gone to their farms in Nasarawa to pick some food items.

The Public Relations Officer (PRO) of Tiv Development Association (TDA), Mr. Jonathan Mase disclosed this while speaking to newsmen in Makurdi, the Benue State capital, yesterday. He regretted the attack on Tiv people despite the peace process being brokered by the Benue and Nasarawa State governments.

Mase traced the origin of the crisis to April 4, 2001, when there were killings at Agyaragu in Obi Local Government Area and extended to Azara both in Nasarawa State on March 27, 2001.

According to him, there is massive looting of Tiv farm crops in the affected areas

contd. on pg 2



Gov Abdullahi Adamu of Nasarawa

NEWS

Gani *Contd. from pg 1*

January last year.

The police announced a reward of N100,000 to anybody with information that would lead to his arrest.

Okiro also revealed yesterday that, already Gani Adams has confessed that he led the gang of hoodlums who attacked and murdered late DPO Amao.

"He also confessed to have led a group of hoodlums to carry out the recent attack

on Owutu Police Station last Sunday during which six armed robbery suspects were released," Okiro said, adding that Gani Adams was in the process of planning another attack on the Owutu police station when the intelligence network narrowed on him.

Okiro said Gani Adams would soon be arraigned with others on appropriate charges.

Aikhomu *Contd. from pg 1*

the nation ungovernable as well as take proper measures to bring the military back to power if the UNDP was not registered by government.

Admiral Aikhomu had been stopped Monday night by State Security Service (SSS) and immigration officials from boarding a British Airways flight to London, where he was to attend the wedding of the son of Otunba Kunle Ojora holding today.

Disappointed at the treatment meted to him, the former vice-president expressed disgust and surprise over his humiliation, saying "it is embarrassing that this kind of thing can happen at this time when we are trying to put to rest the misuse of power in the past. It means there is no end to this type of victimisation.

"I have been stopped tonight from travelling abroad and when I asked why from the immigration and security officials, I was told that it was a directive from the Presidency. No further reasons were given. This is a free country and citizens are supposed to enjoy the fundamental human rights of free movement and association. I am a free citizen of Nigeria. I have committed no offence and do not deserve this treatment," Aikhomu added.

The SSS in its official reaction yesterday in Abuja defended its action saying that it did not set out deliberately to impinge on the fundamental rights of Aikhomu and that the conduct of its operatives in preventing the former vice-president from going abroad followed due process in accordance with the law.

In a statement signed Mrs. G. N. Kentebe, an assistant director and made available to *Daily Trust*, the SSS said Aikhomu was aware that he was the subject of an outstanding security investigation which he had stalled deliberately. "Without any regard for due



Admiral Aikhomu (rtd)

process, the respected retired Admiral considered that it was more important to travel abroad for a social event than to respond to a security enquiry," the statement pointed out.

Explaining that stopping the retired admiral had nothing to do with any presidential order, the SSS stated further that it was only discharging its constitutional responsibilities and accepts "full responsibility for the action.

"As an institution which derives its legitimacy from the constitution, the State Security Service, remains impartial, objective and insulated from partisan political influence," the statement added.

Justifying government's action, the special adviser, Dr. Bugaje said the statement allegedly made by Aikhomu poses a threat to the security of the country, adding that he had repeatedly refused to honour the invitations of the SSS.

Said the special adviser: "security officials are not politicians, so it is necessary for them to take any action that would protect the peace of our country.

"These people (Aikhomu and his group) don't know anything about democracy, they are against it. It is against the law for anybody to refuse to honour the invitation of security agents to give explanations on anything concerning the nation's security," the presidency aide said.

Seven virgins, to be sacrificed to appease the gods, are among a series of demands made to NEPA by the Okoloma community in Rivers State as precondition for peace to enable the authority carry out rehabilitation work on Afam IV GT 17 and 18, and Afam CTPP 2 x 138 project.

A powerful team, comprising officials from NEPA, the state government and the contractors, has, however, convinced the communities to take cash instead of the virgins.

A source from the handlers of the project, ABB/ALSTON and Siemens, who made the revelation to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja yesterday, said that the "usually violent demands" had continued to disrupt work on the projects, adding that the host commu-

Community demands seven virgins from NEPA

nities were also insisting on goats and rams.

A chronology of the demands and their effects on the projects, NEPA authorities in Afam recently submitted to the authority's headquarters in Abuja, showed that many of ABB's expatriate staff had been taken hostage by youths to arm-twist contractors to meet their needs.

The records showed that the company's site manager, Mr. C. Knoblock, spent one week, last November, in captivity.

According to the source, youths of Oyi Local Government insisting on being employed by the companies in April, disrupted repairs of a gas pipeline that would have enabled ABB commission GT

17, a development that would have hastened work the project.

The source also indicted Oyi Local Government, because records show that its chairman, in April, obtained a court injunction to stop the employment of tradesmen to press home his demand that all employments be channelled through his office.

Work also came to an abrupt halt last month when youths from Oyi Local Government chased away the workers on site to press for more job placements, while NEPA, Siemens and other contractors, were later summoned and forced to make several concessions "just to make work continue."

According to the reports, youths seeking the removal of Oyi Local Government chairman last month disrupted road repairs in Oyi, while their gun-toting counterparts from Ndoki took their turn a week later to insist that their council chairman be removed while specialist jobs be sold to them.

In a telephone interview

with NAN, the NEPA assistant general manager for Afam, Mr. Ozurike, said that NEPA and the contractors had been meeting with their host communities to make peace, noting that the people's co-operation was being courted to ensure a speedy execution of the project.

He, however, expressed satisfaction with recent developments that ensured the maintenance of peace, saying that the inspector-general of police had ordered the commissioner to bring an end to the violence.

"As I am speaking to you now, mobile police are all over the place to maintain law and order and we are still talking with the people to be calm while we examine their demands," he said.

NEPA spokesman Muhammad Mousa-Booth confirmed that "things have not been very stable in that area," but disclosed that a team, involving NEPA, the state government and contractors, had been putting heads together to look into ways of making peace.

Bank *Contd. from pg 1*

for redeployment.

There had been widespread speculations that the federal government was contemplating dropping the idea of the merger, but President Olusegun Obasanjo at the launching of the Small and Medium Industries Equity Investment Scheme (SMIEIS), Tuesday in Abuja said the bank which will soon commence operations will be dedicated to providing soft loans for industrial research and development.

Sources at the Ministry of Industry, Abuja said the new helmsman who was the managing director of Citizens International Bank, will lead a team of other tested and experienced professionals being put together by the ministry with the assistance of the central bank.

Although details of the new structure of the bank was still being worked out, the six zonal arrangement

was tailed along the country's geo-political zones, while branches will be cited in all the state capitals.

Obasanjo had assured that a combination of the facilities of the SMIEIS with the new bank will go along way in addressing the perennial problems of funds mismatch, high cost of funds, lack of collateral security among others.

The N50 billion capitalised bank came on stream following the Federal Government acceptance of the report of the Ahmed Joda committee on the rationalisation of government owned development finance institution, which recommended the merger of the affected finance houses.

Mr. Tony Ede, CBN spokesman told *Daily Trust* in a telephone interview that the apex bank was only awaiting the ministry of industry to complete its ground work for it to issue an operational licence to the new bank.

Crisis *Contd. from pg 1*

and the looting is being masterminded by prominent Nasarawa State indigenes. He said the aim is to reduce Tiv population in Nasarawa South Senatorial district.

Mr. Mase, who accused some prominent politicians in Nasarawa State of hiring mercenaries from outside the state said the silent attacks on Tiv indigenes were a sustained campaign which first started in Lafia, the state capital on 13th June 2001 with the killing of Barrister E.I. Backis in the vicinity of a police station. The attacks, according to him, later spread to Awe and Obi local government areas.

The PRO fingered some elected officials in the senatorial district for inciting the

killings against Tiv people even though, they got into their present political positions through Tiv votes.

He described the sponsors of the lingering Nasarawa crisis as "enemies of democracy and those determined that Governor Abdullahi Adamus administration does not bring democratic dividend to all ethnic groups that constitute Nasarawa State."

Mr. Mase warned that security agents to desist from aiding the killing of Tiv indigenes in Nasarawa State as "Tiv people cannot be made second class citizens in their state in order to advance the minority interests."

Reps to give electoral bill accelerated hearing

Debate on the electoral bill submitted to the National Assembly by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) will top the agenda of the House of Representatives when it reconvenes on August 28, 2001.

Similarly, other bills slated for accelerated hearing by the House include the constitution amendment bill, NDDC amendment bill, UBE amendment bill, Small and Medium Scale business bill and the 2002 appropriation bill when presented by the presidency.

The Deputy Chairman of the House Business and Rules Committee, Rep. Ita Enang who stated this in Abuja, said that it was necessary for the House to facilitate work on the INEC bill to finally put to rest controversial issues, such as the registration of more political parties.

The House was scheduled to resume today after a six-week recess, but, however, was deferred to August 28 to coincide with that of the senate.

He said that the House would also concentrate on the on-going review of the constitution so that the question of the tenure of local government councils in the country and other national issues would be resolved.

Flood renders 100 families homeless

About 100 families have been rendered homeless by flooding in Auyo town, headquarters of the Auyo Local Government Area of Jigawa, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports.

A correspondent of NAN, who visited the town, reports that the flood, said to have been caused by some blockages in the Hadejia River channel, submerged most of the town, including its market.

NAN reports that many houses collapsed and property worth millions of naira were destroyed by the flood. Following the incident, many families whose houses were lost to the flood now put up with their relations and friends who were not affected by the disaster.

Meanwhile, the deputy governor, Alhaji Shehu Kwatalo, on a visit to the scene to sympathise with victims of the disaster, assured them of assistance from the state government.

The FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL Yesterday



L-R: The Minister of Internal Affairs, Chief Sunday Afolabi, the Minister of State for Internal Affairs, Alhaji Mohammed Shatta and the Minister of Labour and Productivity, Alhaji Musa Gwadabe at the FEC meeting, in Abuja ... yesterday. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje

2002 BUDGET FG directs ministries to submit proposals

Stories by Suleiman Mohammed

The Federal Government yesterday directed all federal ministries, agencies and parastatals to prepare proposals for capital projects slated for execution in 2002 in line with the principles of accountability and prudence. Government gave the directive at the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting following reports that some parastatals and

agencies failed to comply with the guideline mandating them to appropriate capital projects with a financial year.

Briefing State House correspondents after the meeting, Minister of Transport, Chief Ojo

... gets \$114m World Bank loan

The World Bank is to grant Nigeria \$114.29 million soft loan for the implementation of the privatization programme and fight against the dreaded HIV/AIDS in the country.

The loan, to be sourced from the International Development Association (IDA), an agency of the World Bank, would be interest-free and viable for 35 years.

Announcing government's approval of the loan, Minister of Transport, Chief Ojo Maduekwe, told State House correspondents after the Federal Executive Council meeting that the

Maduekwe, said President Olusegun Obasanjo had already sent a memo to that effect, aimed at promoting transparency and accountability in the execution of 2002 budget.

According to him, all federal ministries have been directed to restrict their capital projects, and complete them within every

loan would be paid within a moratorium period of 10 years.

According to him, government felt it necessary to obtain the loan because of its desire to fight against HIV/AIDS as well as carry on with the privatization programme.

Chief Ojo Maduekwe noted that the scourge of AIDS has reached an alarming proportion that many Nigerians have lost their lives, adding that over 1.7 million people have been killed by the disease in the country.

He also said that the meeting has endorsed a proposal forwarded by the Ministry of Women Affairs and Youth Development for the implementation of the child-care social services in the country, to complement the fight against women and child trafficking.

financial year. "We want to make sure that the era of white elephant projects is gone for good," he declared.

Chief Ojo Maduekwe said all old and new capital projects as well as all ongoings must fall within the spending limit, adding that government was highly disturbed by the inability of some parastatals to accurately cost their projects.

"Government want to put an end to the syndrome of unfinished project, and Mr. President has directed that in case of old project, it must be in line with the set procedures and guideline," he said.

He also said the meeting approved the channelization of the Ogunpa River in Oyo State at a cost of N3.8 billion, expected to be executed in four phases, and completed within 18 months. The project, he said, became necessary due to the annual flooding of the city of Ibadan, as a result of the inflow of water into the river.

According to him, the money for the project would be drawn from the ecological fund, set aside by government for natural disaster.

No threat to GSM operation - FG

The Federal Government yesterday declared that the various rates and charges announced by two of the three approved operators of the Global System for Telecommunication (GSM) does not reflect any threat to the success of the new system.

Reacting to reports alleging threat to the GSM operations, the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Media and Publicity, Mr. Tunji Oseni, told State House correspondents at the end of

the Federal Executive Council meeting that the recent remarks made by President Obasanjo on the issue were his personal opinion.

The president was reported as saying that the new charges announced by MTN and ECONET were capable of denying Nigerians access to communication.

But Mr. Oseni said that the Federal Government, through the Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC) has taken note of the various observations made by Nigerians, and would act

accordingly in the interest of all.

"The NCC, as an autonomous body devoid of interference is capable of handling the matter. So there is no threat at all," he declared.

"There are things that are still been put in place, particularly in respect of the cost. So, the NCC has the ability to act on any observation."

It will be recalled that the MTN announced N20,000 connection fee, N4,000 monthly access and N40,000 deposit, while ECONET fixed N15,000 for connection, N4,000 monthly and N10,000 deposit among other charges.

NEWS

Christian pilgrims committee uncovers syndicate

The National Christian Pilgrims Committee Chairman, Mr. Bamidele Olumilua, on Tuesday in Abuja said the committee has uncovered 10 members of a syndicate that specialized in assisting pilgrims abscond after performing the holy pilgrimage.

Olumilua, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that they were exposed during the screening currently being carried by the committee in the 36 states of the federation.

"These people are so organised that when they tell lies they will almost convince you. Most of them fall between the ranges of 30 years and 35 years age bracket, but would claim to be over 65 years. They have become a social menace," he said.

The chairman said: "The genuine pilgrims, who are identified by their appearance, hunger for spirituality and faith in Jesus are morally between the ages of 45 years and 65 years."

Olumilua further said three members of the

syndicate are from Enugu while seven are from Ebonyi, adding: "they have already made confessional statements."

He said based on the discovery, pilgrimages should not be left for the private sector as they would not be patient and equipped enough to screen the fake pilgrims from the genuine ones.

He commended the

country's security operatives for their support to the committee, adding that they were currently working with them to further expose the people who were giving Nigerians bad names abroad.

Speaking on when airlift of pilgrims to Jerusalem for this year would commence, Olumilua said, "by the first week of October, the first set of the pilgrims would depart the country for Israel."

Second LNG takes off 2005 - Obasanjo

By Suleiman Mohammed

Ernest Shonekan, at the State House, Abuja.

He said in keeping with his administration's objectives of



President Olusegun Obasanjo

President Olusegun Obasanjo Tuesday announced that the second Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project would commence production in 2005.

The project, which is being handled by the United States of America's largest energy company, CONOCO, would further boost the economy when fully operational.

President Obasanjo announced this during a meeting with the CONOCO's representatives led by former Head of Interim National Government (ING), Chief

The Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Mike Okiro, has ordered the transfer of the Owutu Divisional Police Officer (DPO), SP O. Fasanya whose police station was, on Sunday, over-ran by 60 armed men suspected to be members of the Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC) who stormed the station releasing all the prison inmates including six armed robbery suspects.

Okiro, while on

Lagos police transfers Owutu DPO

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, in Lagos

inspection of the havoc done by the militia OPC, said that he would not fold his arms and allow a repeat of what happened at the Bariga police station in January 2000 when the DPO, late Afolabi Amao, was slaughtered by the ethnic warlords. According to Okiro, there would be no breathing space for OPC ethnic militia in Lagos State.

Okiro, Daily Trust gathered, was disappointed that the four policemen on duty at the Owutu Police Station took to their heels when they sighted the 60 armed men and every single one of them including the D.P.O. abandoned the police station.

The men suspected to be OPC members then broke in, opened the two cells and released all the suspects

including the six suspected armed robbers. To ensure that no member of the OPC was still being held, the members came back on Monday. Daily Trust gathered that the six suspected armed robbers



Mr. Musiliu Smith, IGP that were released by the OPC had earlier, on Saturday night, robbed some innocent citizens at Marwa Estate at Agric Bus-stop in Ikorodu.

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DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

Zimbabwe's politics of land reform

For more than a year now, the Zimbabwean government has come under severe criticism from the West over its controversial land reform programme introduced by President Robert Mugabe which sought to seize white-owned farms for the redistribution to impoverished, landless Africans.

Germany recently joined the United States in condemning the policy and Britain has threatened economic sanctions, while some African leaders including President Olusegun Obasanjo have expressed concern over the situation and offered to mediate in the crisis and a meeting of all the stakeholders has been scheduled for later this year to find an acceptable solution to the situation.

Already, the Zimbabwean economy, which has been isolated from the rest of the world, is teetering on the brink of collapse as a result of sanctions imposed by Western donor agencies, mainly at the instigation of Britain, the former colonial power which created the crisis in the first place.

Zimbabwe's white farmers own much of the country's best greenfields. According to recent figures, some 6,000 white farmers (about one percent of the population) own 70 percent of the arable land forcefully expropriated from blacks in the colonial period, while about one million African peasant families farmed 38 percent of the agricultural land.

Worse still, much of the white-owned land is in more fertile areas with better rainfall, while the black farmlands are often in drought-prone regions. Where they do exist side by side, huge, modern, mechanised estates are divided by mere fences from subsistence farmers living in mud huts.

The land question was a major cause of the guerrilla war which led to Zimbabwe's independence in 1980. In 1979 Britain promised, during the Lancaster House negotiations that led to independence, to mobilise funds to enable the Zimbabwean government buy land from white settlers to resettle blacks. More than 20 years later, little has changed.

Daily Trust believes that Britain's refusal to honour its commitment has necessitated the "fast track" land acquisition policy of President Mugabe. This policy has led to the organisation of Zimbabwean war veterans to forcefully occupy white farms and inevitably resulted in loss of lives on both sides.

Zimbabwe's land redistribution policy may have a dose of Mugabe's own political ambitions, but it is no doubt a drastic measure to redress the malaise of the country's colonial past. A dispassionate look at the problem reveals that the category of land targeted for acquisition are under-utilised, which belongs to absentee landlords.

Indeed, as recently observed by the African Union, the introduction of extraneous political issues into the land question is aimed at shifting focus away from Britain's responsibilities. Britain and Zimbabwe should find ways of resolving this problem without further hurting their bilateral relations.

We commend the efforts by the Nigerian government to mediate in this crisis. We also hope that all the parties involved in the forthcoming Abuja summit will come with a desire to find a lasting solution to the problem which is threatening to become Africa's last racial battle after apartheid.



THURSDAY COLUMN

On the new revenue allocation formula

By Nick Dazang

A lot of governors and local government chairmen strewn across the country must have heaved a sigh of relief last week when Engr. Hamman Tukur, chairman of the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission, submitted his report to President Olusegun Obasanjo. The submission of the report, which articulated a new revenue allocation formula, coincided with a time when most of the states and local governments were in dire financial straits.

Burrowed in debt peonage, some of the states found recourse in borrowing from commercial banks and at exorbitant interest rates to finance development projects. This recourse was becoming so rampant that an alarmed Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) had moved in to put fetters on the commercial banks. In respect of the local governments, some of them had become afflicted with the malaise of the "zero allocation" syndrome. This is a syndrome whereby the salaries of teachers – deducted at source at the behest of the Nigeria Union of Teachers – leaves the local governments with at best paltry sums to manage their affairs or at worse a monthly deficit. This affliction was so severe that as Engr. Tukur handed over the report of his commission to the president, a local government chairman in Plateau State who could not pay his staff salaries for four months, reportedly went into hiding to avoid the wrath of his chafed staff.

The new formula, warts and all, must be commended for its refreshing sense of imagination, fairness and pathos. Predicated on a philosophy of "distributive justice", it sought to redress our undue dependence on oil by insisting on our deliberately and consistently investing in solid minerals and agriculture. The commission should be praised for its insistence because oil itself is a wasting asset and it is estimated that in the next 30 years we should have exhausted our reserves. Besides, oil reserves are being discovered all over the world. The import is that there will come a time when the world will be so glutted with oil that the glut will force down the price of oil. Also, even when OPEC was at the apogee of its power, the price of oil was subject to several vagaries.

Additionally, the commission took into cognisance the needs of such stakeholders in the system especially within the ambit of available resources. Consequently, no tier of government is short changed in the new formula. It is also against this backdrop that the malaise of "zero allocation" may have been nipped in the bud and probably for some time to come.

If the new formula is suffused with compassion and is informed by an abiding sense of fairness, it may well be a recipe for indolence and an ineluctable chaos. And whereas at first blush it may cushion the straitened predicaments of most states and local governments, on closer examination, it unwittingly precludes them from challenging themselves in a rigorous manner to generate revenue for themselves. The upshot is that were the price of oil to plummet extraordinarily in the international market, these states and local governments will not only come to grief, they will rue at and curse the days of plenty.

The point – poignant and truthful – is that since the

advent of oil and several of its windfalls, most states have given up on the old ways of generating revenue. Taxes, tenement rates, water rates, etc. were abandoned. Agriculture which at one point was the pivot on which the economy rested was ignored. The outcome is the latest contemplation of importing beans by a luxuriant Nigeria from a miserable Burkina Faso. And less the monthly allocation from the federation account, few states can pay their way – pay salaries and embark on development projects.

If the states have been complacent, the local governments comport themselves like some devil-may-care pirates. If some of them are not inflating the number of teachers with a view to creaming off the difference – which gave rise to the phenomenon of zero allocation in most cases – the managements of most local governments wait with bated breath for their monthly allocations: As soon as they arrive, they are, presto, shared amongst the principal officers and the most powerful traditional ruler. The workers are left to their own abject devices to fend for themselves.

Apart from being fair and compassionate, therefore, the commission must orient the states and local governments towards generating revenue internally to support those accruing to them from the federation account. Seminars should be held occasionally for principal officers at the state level such as the governors, their commissioners for finance, their directors of internal revenue and accountants-general. During such seminars, to be addressed by pundits, avenues for generating internal revenue should be looked into. Similarly, these principal officers should be schooled in the proper husbanding of their resources. They should also be informed to focus on or invest in areas in which they have comparative advantages: it is not enough to say states should focus on agriculture blandly. They should focus on those crops that grow well in their areas and which can be either sold locally or exported.

Similarly, it is not enough to merely provide a special fund for the Basic Education and Skill Acquisition programme and to take this yoke (which has accounted for the "zero allocation" syndrome) off the local governments. The commission, or whichever authority that is concerned, should audit the staff of primary schools in each local government and arrive at authentic figures. I will wager that by the time this audit is carried out – provided it is carried out by firms that have integrity – even the commission will be staggered by the monumental fraud that is taking place. The local governments should equally be tutored on ways of generating revenue internally and using same to ameliorate the sufferings of their people. Most of these local governments boast of big markets; some have investments in property which are either rented or leased out. How come some of these local governments cannot pay their staffers? Like corporate organisations, the accounts of all tiers of government should be audited and published annually for the scrutiny of all Nigerians. In short, the commission should lay more premium on the uphill task of mobilising funds rather than the easy one of allocating them. I am certain that Engr. Tukur, a seasoned administrator, and his team of experienced commissioners are equal to the task.

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On the occasion of the Official Commissioning of the
New Nigeria Police Headquarters, Abuja



•Alhaji Muhammadu Dan-Madami Sa'in Katagum

•Chief Steven Akiga, Hon. Minister of Police Affairs

The Chairman of the Board of Inland Bank (Nig) Plc

DIG Muhammadu Dan-Madami (Rtd) mni, (Sa'in Katagum)

&

DIG Archibong Nkana (Rtd) - Director

on behalf of themselves, other members of the Board,
Management and Staff of Inland Bank (Nig) Plc wish to congratulate

The Honourable Minister of Police Affairs

Chief S. Akiga

and

The Inspector-General of Police,

Mr Musiliu Smith

on the occasion of the official commissioning of the
New Ultra Modern Headquarters Building, Abuja.

(LOUIS EDET HOUSE)

May This New Edifice Be a Symbol of a New Nigeria Police of Our Dreams

Opinion

Cleanliness, next to godliness

By Emmanuel Gabari

A healthy man is a wealthy man. The air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink and even the place we live in; all have an important role to play in our general health and well being. Nigerians (a large number of them), still believe that *dirty no dey kill African man*.

In those days, children were taught in school, the importance of personal hygiene. They were also tutored on the need to keep one's environment clean. Pupils were cautioned on the effects of germs to the body and how unhealthy it is for man and dirt to live together. But it is a pity what we have now. People are not bothered on the dangers of living in a dirty environment. People are not bothered on the kind of food they eat and water they drink. Worst still, people are not perturbed on the clean state of their surroundings or environment. With all the dirt and smelly refuse dumped wantonly and carelessly, I often wonder what the town planners, Ministry of Health and Environment, NAFDAC etc. are doing.

Come to think of it, NAFDAC has given instruction on the need for all pure water producers to register and get proper clearance before operating such a business. But what do we see? The influx of all sorts of "pure water". The kind of names they even bear is quite disturbing, amusing and makes one doubt the purity of such water. Check these out: **Unending Desire Pure Water, God is able Pure Water, Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star, Pure Water, Kill the Thirst Pure Water, Drink and Thirst no more Pure Water.** Haha! What is happening? When has pure water become a forum for recitation of nursery rhymes?

Don't be fooled by the addresses printed on the "poor water", sorry "pure water". Because of NAFDAC's exorbitant prices and bottleneck procedures for registration, producers have learnt to print fake or non-existing addresses on their products. This way, they cannot be tracked down or traced easily.

The conditions under which the pure water is produced are, to say the least, quite unhygienic and so, not fit for human consumption. Some producers do not even treat the water. They just get from their *mai ruwa* (water vendors), and turn it straight into the polythene bag and seal it, *finito*. NAFDAC should know they are fighting a fierce battle. It is one big battle, between them and the pure water producers. Only the strongest and more determined will win the fight. And really, it seems the producers are somehow winning.

I know NAFDAC has been trying, but there is a need to do more, because it is an everyday realisation. More machineries should be put in place to track down people who are endangering people's life.

Another unclean situation is the deplorable and unhygienic state of some of our canteens, restaurants and *Mama put* joints. If you get to see the way food is prepared in that favourite canteen/restaurant of yours, you will never want to eat there again. Food is not well-covered or protected from flies, they are not even prepared in a clean environment. Some eating joints serve old food that has almost lost its taste. Others serve rotten meat.

The most annoying is when they give you an unwashed bowl to wash your hand in before eating. It is quite irritating and could make one want to throw up. A friend once went to a restaurant to eat and saw a big cockroach in the soup. He had eaten one, thinking it was crayfish until he decided to check the plate very well, because it was night.

One last unhealthy and unhygienic situation is the bad refuse dumping system. It is quite pathetic that a city as big as Kano could still be curled up in a habit that does not fit the new millennium we are in.

I wonder if KASSEPA is still living up to expectation. Look at several locations in Kano and you will find refuse dumped indiscriminately. Dirt breeds mosquitoes, and leaves an unpleasant feeling in people. Now that the federal government is bent on eradicating malaria, we should learn to live in a clean environment to enhance our state of well being.

The question is, can't KASSEPA create a place or location where these refuse bins could be dumped? Can't they find a lasting way of, maybe, having a network system of clearing these dirt and ridding the streets of dirt? Cleanliness, according to a popular saying, is next to godliness.

Mr. Gabari is of the Armed Forces Specialist Hospital, No. 2, Ashton Road, Kano.

'Education for committed citizenry'

By Ahmed Danfulani

The entire nation and most particularly Nigerian parents and family sighed a joy of relief when the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) and the representatives of the Academic Staff Union of Nigeria (ASU) come to an agreement which eventually led to the reopening of our Universities across the nation. The face-off between the two parties, which according to available information, was necessitated by the insistence of the Academics on the need for the FGN to seriously address the deteriorating conditions within our educational institutions, particularly the Universities, and by extension, within all the tertiary institutions of higher learning. To say that the concern of our Academics is unfounded or to dismiss their claims will to utterly be ignorant of the sad realities of our educational institutions country wide. To also refuse to accept the proposals, as well as the explanations of the Government, is equally tantamount to disregard of the mechanisms of government and the fundamental principles of public policy. Similarly, to pretend that the education of our youth as well as the pains inflicted on our families due to incessant strikes by our institutions of higher learning will not be an object of collective concern will be a demonstration of the height of insensitivity, inadmissible in civilized societies.

Quite fundamentally, when properly weighed against the background of our prevailing socio-economic situation and the unfortunate educational predicament in the country, it could be safely deduced that both parties: Government & ASU, were unfortunately playing a script completely detrimental to the future of Nigerian Nation. On this principle it will be a tragedy of an incalculable dimension for anybody, group of persons, private or public to proclaim that Nigerian Nation, and by implication, the education of the youth, as the future of the nation, is not greater a concern and commitment than any or all of us combined.

Evidently both parties were adamantly trying to prove a point, but unfortunately our youth, our parents and our educational architecture were the primary victims of a fight between two elephants. On even a much higher plane is the clear fact of the disregard of the principle of the dictum of 'Education for Committed Citizenry'. When the FGN, and its employees in the Education or even the Health industry could not place Nigerian above official and/or professional interests, then it stands to reason to assume that we all are but a bunch of blind men cutting the tree branch upon which we are sitting! Is there anybody in Nigeria that is oblivious of the importance of good education? Is there any person within this extremely blessed country of ours that is not aware that the youth - whose precious time and energy are being wasted, are the leaders of tomorrow? Why are the rich and the powerful sending their offspring abroad to receive better education?

The simple fact is that, we need to reappraise the structure and functions of the entire education system. In this regard, we

must make positive use of our emerging democratic system through effective laws and support for the nascent democracy. We hasten to suggest that, like the practice in other older democracies, especially in Europe or the USA, the rights of the citizens to expression, associations, dissent, and opinion, should not be confused with the responsibility to uphold the sanctity of the nation, and its survival as our collective interest. The way forward will be for government to open up a debate about the utility, effectiveness and respect for our labour laws in a democratic setting. We suggest, as it is the practice abroad, in Europe especially, that the National Assembly, as a branch of Government should promulgate a law, that will not only strengthen the respect for the rights of the citizenry, as regards labour and productivity, but that will stipulate a minimum acceptable percentage of the labour force that will legally be allowed to down tools during a specific period of disagreement between the workers and the Government.

When the Nation, its citizenry, particularly the youth, the sick, the aged and even the poor, could exercise their rights: freedom of expression, association, movement, etc, and enjoy their privileges: education, health, security, stability and protection, there is a greater tendency to strive for the survival of that nation. The commitment of the citizenry will be total, since in principle, each person will be satisfied that he or she is but an indispensable part of the bigger nation. The trust of our democratic stability is the essence of our survival as a strong, indivisible and virile nation. The essence of our security, stability, peace, and development as an important member of the comity of nations is solidly positioned on our commitment towards the future of our nation, which in turn hinges on serious education for committed citizenry.

Nobody will take Nigeria serious when the government could not provide good health, food and security for the citizens. Nobody will take our government serious when the crop of its most articulate group - the academia -, deliberately will be seen to be thwarting the efforts of that government, when academic or labour leadership demonstrate destructive insensitivity to the corporate existence of the nation. It must be reiterated here that the little or seeming respect that we enjoy as a powerful African nation is evidently co-terminus with the immensity of our human and material resources, and of course, our commitment to the course of Africa in global politics.

In sum and henceforth, it must be highlighted that no class or group of professions must be seen to be walking on a destructive path *acontrario* to our identified national orientation, national development, political stability and national security. Government and the civil society must solidly work together to form a formidable partnership. By implication, the trust of the future of our nation becomes a collective responsibility, incumbent on all of us. We must not fail.

Danfulani is of Centre for International & Strategic Studies, Abuja.



YOUR LETTERS

Open letter to Akoko-Edo LG chairman

Just recently I picked up interest in the tour being carried out by the Minister of Information, Professor Jerry Gana and some top media executives ascertaining the projects executed by the three tiers of government all over the country. Edo State happened to be one of the states visited and Akoko-Edo and Etsako received much attention because of the Ikpeshe solid

mineral processing plant and the fertilizer blending plant in Auchi. But to my utmost dismay no project let alone tangible one was reported done by your administration. I was tempted to ask whether you did not prepare the highlight of the jobs done by your administration but as an indigene of Igarra town and with all I have seen in Igarra and its environs, I am convinced that you have

nothing tangible to show for your stewardship.

Take a look at the roads in Igarra and its environs with special reference to the major roads in the town, a pedestrian has to meander before he can pass through these roads not to talk of cyclist and motorist. Even if your council's revenue is not enough for a sustained development, you could have solicited the assistance of the

state chief executive and the representatives of Akoko-Edo North constituency in both the state and National Assemblies.

As the secretary to the local government council during the tenure of the immediate past chairman, Chief Frank Bokesemi you should be very familiar with the problems of Akoko-Edo and Igarra in particular. But it seems you have deliberately refused to work.

I am appealing to you to use your age and wisdom to liberate the Igarra in particular and the Akoko-Edo in general from the claws of poverty and the under-development we are currently facing.

Remember also, that seat is not meant for the Igarra alone and that other tribes in the locality are hoping to take their turn. If you do not act positively now, the Igarra will never have the guts to criticise either constructively or otherwise, any other tribe from the locality that will ascend the helm of affairs tomorrow.

Mr. Paul Adams Oseh, P. O. Box 62, Funtua, Katsina State.

Has Buhari lost merit?

By virtue of rational assessment on which a leader is credited, General Muhammadu Buhari had long been worthy of merit for standing on the toes of social justice.

Political analysts classified the criticisms against his administration as subjective efforts that must have emerged from the bands of capitalists, felons, the bandwagon of ethnic sentiments and their domains.

Nature designed PTF not only to yield the attained developments but to compensate the general on his lost credibility, through that which could have been appointed to any other, following strict conditions he laid, but yet made no impact against. He played a role that exposed his formerly misperceived ideology against which his associates

breached him, of his junta; that which could have laid unforgettable developments, ever in the global history on Nigerian economy. That's that.

As the next mandate paves, what merit has the general lost that disqualified him against: being that only the former dictators qualifies for the race, by virtue of misjust.

Even on such ground, it should however be realised that Malam Bahausha says: "*sai idan babu uwa, akan yi uwar daki*". On no account could Buhari be dropped from 'uwar daki' to every Nigerian, not only the northerners, rather than irrationality.

Jamilu Tanimu Bakori, No. 6, Hospital Road, Dutsin-ma, Katsina State.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Sharon proposes end to violence

Israeli Government sources say that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has proposed a way of ending the 11-month cycle of violence in a message to Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat.

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer who held separate meetings with both men on Tuesday apparently gave the message to Mr Arafat.

Mr Sharon suggested that Palestinian violence be stopped in return for ending the movement restrictions on Palestinians on a zone-by-zone basis, rather than throughout the Palestinian territories at the same time.

Earlier, Mr Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres responded positively to a German offer to host Israeli-

Palestinian ceasefire talks.

Mr Arafat said he welcomed the idea of talks with Mr Peres, which could take place at Mr Fischer's office in Berlin as early as next week, according to some Israeli sources.

Mr Peres, speaking in Budapest, said no date had been set, but has suggested before that he and Mr Arafat could meet soon as part of his efforts to revive a truce between the two sides.

Mr Sharon's message was delivered at a second, unscheduled round of talks between Mr Fischer and the Palestinian leader after the German envoy had spoken to the Israeli prime minister.

The Israeli press has previously reported that Mr Peres is proposing the idea of negotiating a cease-fire area by area.

This forms the basis of Mr Sharon's latest proposals.

Mr Sharon's spokesman Zalman Shoval also implied that this was the latest Israeli offer.

"If there are areas where the Palestinian people are not involved in terror, we don't think they should be closed," he said.

After his second meeting with Mr Fischer, the Palestinian leader said the key to peace was implementing the recommendations made by former US Senator, George Mitchell.

The Mitchell Plan calls for a halt to Jewish settlements in Palestinian areas and an end to attacks on Israel.

An explosion ripped through a popular central area of Jerusalem known as the Russian compound some two hours after the first round of Arafat-Fischer talks. No one was injured.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the explosion, which was apparently the result of a car bomb.

BBC correspondent in Jerusalem said that even the talk of talks is highly controversial on both sides, and that Mr Arafat and Mr Peres would arrive with very different agendas.

Some senior Palestinians have called Mr Peres' diplomatic overtures a smokescreen; many in Israel want their government to act more forcefully rather than hold a dialogue.



Iranian legislator, Fatemeh Haqiqatjou, who was sentenced to a 22-month jail term for attacking Iran's Islamic establishment, walks in the parliament in Tehran, Iran.

Iran jails MP for subversion

A prominent Iranian reformist MP has reacted defiantly after being sentenced to nearly two years in jail for statements she made in parliament, criticising the arrest of a journalist.

Fellow MPs expressed disbelief that Fatima Haqiqatjou could be charged for comments made to the chamber, but a group of women deputies dropped plans for a protest at her own request.

It was unclear when she would begin her sentence and the MP, who was in parliament herself on Tuesday, said she would sue the judge who sentenced her and seek a "fair" retrial.

The sentencing came as parliament continued to debate nominations for new cabinet ministers put forward by President Mohammad Khatami.

In comments carried by the Iranian state news agency IRNA, Ms Haqiqatjou said she would sue Judge Mortazavi, who

sentenced her to 22 months imprisonment.

She had been convicted of "misinterpreting" the words of the late Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini and insulting the influential Council of Guardians.

Denying the charges, she said that parliamentary immunity was interlinked with "national sovereignty" and expressed the hope that an appeal court would "do justice". Ms Haqiqatjou had described the arrest of woman journalist Fariba Davudi-Mohajer in February as repressive, and was briefly detained in March.

She was released at that time after fellow MPs expressed indignation.

She is the latest of a number of deputies to appear in court for criticising institutions under conservative control.

Ten of 11 female legislators prepared to walk out of parliament on Tuesday, briefly disrupting a third day of parliamentary debate on a Cabinet list proposed by President Mohammad Khatami, which has drawn criticism from reformists and hard-liners alike.

Fatima Haqiqatjou asked her colleagues to stay and participate in the "more important" Cabinet debate.

She was arrested and briefly held in March after fiercely condemning what she believed was the excessive force used in detaining the journalist.

The incident was part of a wider power struggle between reformists and conservatives in the run-up to the presidential elections subsequently won by Mr Khatami.

The conservative-dominated judiciary disciplined numerous deputies, senior allies of Mr Khatami were jailed and newspapers closed down.

Fatima Haqiqatjou was accused, among other things, of spreading propaganda against Islam and insulting members of the Council of Guardians, who oversees legis-

Fresh fighting in Liberia

Fresh fighting has erupted between rebels and government troops in northern Liberia, the Liberian defence ministry said.

A ministry statement said rebels had burned down the town of Kpatazu in Lofa County on the border with Guinea.

Officials said the two sides were fighting for control of the town and that clashes had also broken out in the town of Kolahun.

The reports of renewed violence came as ministers from Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone prepared to meet to discuss ways of curbing armed groups active in the region.

"Our troops are presently engaged in a series of running battles with dissident forces and are thwarting any further advance into other parts of Lofa County," the statement said.

The ministry did not say when the clashes broke out and there has been no independent confirmation of the fighting.

Liberian troops have been fighting rebels in the north of the country for more than two years.

The Liberian Government of President Charles Taylor said in June it had repelled rebels

from the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) movement from the north but fighting has continued.

The government recently said it had recaptured strategically important Kolahun from LURD fighters.

Last week, LURD said its members had taken over the whole of Lofa County and advanced further northwest into Grand Cape Mount and Bomi counties.

Pre-poll fever hits Gambia

Some of the opposition parties in the Gambia whose ban on participating in politics was lifted in July have launched a coalition at a big rally in Brikama, 300km from the capital, Banjul.

The launch came amid a charged political atmosphere as politicians criss-cross the country canvassing for the October 18 presidential election.

The new coalition aims to unseat President Yahya Jammeh who came to power in a military coup in 1994, but has since tried to legitimise his rule by holding elections.

One of the parties in the coalition is the Peoples Progressive Party of the man he overthrew, Sir Dawda Jawara. His party had ruled Gambia since independence from Britain in 1965.

The former president, who has been living in exile in Britain, has said he would be returning home to fight the elections.

The atmosphere at the weekend's coalition rally was euphoric, with dancing, singing and drumming.

One enthusiastic female supporter of the ex-president struggled through to the centre of the huge crowd and raised up a large portrait of Sir Dawda.

To most people's surprise a number of supporters chased after her bowing in front of the portrait.

Observers said this shows that Sir Dawda has a big cult following in the country with his ardent supporters calling for him to return home. It is likely he would come back after the dust has settled.

Still, there are cracks in the political opposition. Four other parties who were expected to join in a united front against Mr Jammeh stayed away claiming they are unhappy with the coalition's choice of leader.

The new opposition flag bearer is lawyer Mr Ousainou Darboe who is a strident critic of Mr Jammeh. His party was not banned and he was able to run for the presidency in the last election.

Already he has come under fire from the country's snow-generals who on Tuesday said Mr Darboe should pay back an estimated \$2,000 owed to the Social Security and Housing Finance Corporation.

At a press conference Mr Darboe hit back, saying the government is making a deliberate attempt to mislead Gambians.

"The government is looking for ways of disqualifying me from the forthcoming election," he said.

KADPOLY holds seminar on globalisation

By Tashikalmah Hallah

The Liberal Studies Department and the Kaduna Polytechnic is organising a one-day symposium on "Globalisation, Africa and Nigerian Foreign Policy."

The Symposium is slated for Saturday, August 25, 2001.

According to a statement signed by Mr. El-Haroun Muhammad, coordinator of the programme, Ambassador Jibrin Chinade, a member of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Foreign Affairs, would chair the occasion.

Ambassador Mahmud Yahaya, Yusuf Mamman, the permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Dr. Saddique Abubakar of the Political Science and International Relations Department, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, are also expected to deliver papers during the symposium.

Said Mr. Mohammed: "The various issues to be discussed include Nigerian International Relations: The challenges of a diplomat; An overview of Nigerian foreign policy from Abacha to the Obasanjo administration: Comparative Analytical Exposition.

"The Transformation of OAU to AU: Problems and Prospects; Globalisation and National Development: Threat or Opportunity."

The event would hold at the Banquet Hall of the Catering and Hotel Management Department, Kaduna Polytechnic, with former head of state, General Muhammadu Buhari as the special guest and Alhaji Ahmed Makarfi, the governor of Kaduna State as chief host and the Rector of Kaduna Polytechnic as host.

Morocco tackles growing poverty

Morocco's King Mohammed VI has ordered his government to tackle worsening poverty in an attempt to curb the growing shantytowns around the country's main cities.

In a speech televised live to the nation, the king called for a supreme jihad or holy war aimed at eradicating the social conditions that had created the shantytowns - and laws to stop the slums spreading.

The social fabric of the country was under threat, he said, and action was a national priority.

The king said some two million impoverished citizens are now concentrated in the coastal belt that takes in Casablanca and Rabat. Another two million are on the Mediterranean coastline near Tangiers and at Oujda near the border with Algeria.

Despite the existence of an elected parliament and government in Morocco, it is the monarch and his advisers who hold the main decision-making powers.

The fact that King Mohammed has personally highlighted this issue indicates the seriousness with which it is being taken.



Thousands of people participating in an anti-Israel march in Cape Town, South Africa, on Tuesday.

BUSINESS DAY

Consumer council kicks against GSM tariffs

The Consumer Protection Council (CPC) has described the tariff structure recently released by the GSM operators as "totally unacceptable" and called on the "Nigerian public to ignore any entreaties by the operators to hook up to the services until it was reasonably reduced."

The Acting Director-General of the council, Mr. Emmanuel Ogbe, in a statement Tuesday, in Abuja, said: "unless the GSM operators advance evidence that the same charges apply to South Africa, the U.S., U.K. and EU countries, the

CPC and indeed the Federal Ministry of Commerce would not clear them for consumers."

"It is inconceivable that subscribers would pay a minimum of N30 per minute for local calls, peak period or not, pay as much as N20,000 for connection and 4,000 as monthly access fee," he said.

According to him, the argument by the operators that the licence fee paid to government necessitated the high tariff, does not arise since it was not predetermined, but arrived at through an auction bid process.

Besides, the Director-General said, the size of the

Nigerian market was in their favour as they would recoup their investment within a short time.

He pointed out that the federal government, by waiving duties, charges and taxes on equipment being imported by GSM operators and other incentives, intended that the services would be obtainable at reduced costs, thereby availing the opportunity of mass acquisition of the service by Nigerians.

Ogbe said that government also intended "to enhance its desire for access of basic telephony for Nigerians and improve on our poor teledensity ration."

He therefore expressed "dismay and strong disapproval" over the tariff structure, stating that the council, the government body statutorily responsible for protecting the interests of the consuming public in all areas where goods and services were exchanged, would not clear them for consumers.



Emmanuel Ogbe, D-G CPC

Customs collects N46b at Apapa port

The Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) area command at the Apapa port has collected more than N46.1 billion as revenue from January to July this year, the Customs Area Comptroller (CAC), Alhaji Hamidu Ardo, said.

Ardo told a news conference at the Apapa port Tuesday, in Lagos, that the revenue performance was an indication that the area would exceed the N50 billion annual revenue target for this year.

According to the CAC, more than N30.7 billion was collected as import duties alone, while fees and charges made up the balance.

He said that the total revenue in the period under review showed a 60 percent increase over the N26 billion collected at the end of June last year.

Ardo added that the area had also recovered N2.281

billion as underpayment between January to July, noting that the recovery was done by the "patriotic and loyal officers" of the Apapa Area Command.

The CAC explained that the command was able to make five seizures in the last six months, with N14.446 million paid as duty, adding that the seizures include containers of candles, new automatic lamps, rubber horses and spare parts, containers of tomatoes paste, as well as 300 pieces of used tyres.

The customs boss also told newsmen that the command was able to process various goods valued at more than N587.5 million from January to July as exports.

The items exported include agricultural products, goats and hides and skin, food, drinks, confectionaries, cashew and sesame oil, aluminium coil, chemicals and other items.

During the period under review, a total of N2.905 billion was lost to various exemptions from import duties granted by the federal government, the said.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the entire customs service collected more than N101 billion set for them by the federal government.

NASME addresses SMEs' challenges

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

The Nigerian Association of Small and Medium Enterprises' (NASME's) upcoming international conference and exhibition is expected to address the challenges posed for the development of SMEs in a deregulated economy.

This conference which holds between September 4th and 6th at the Federal Palace Hotels, Victoria Island, Lagos will also provide SMEs the opportunity to showcase their products.

According to the Secretary-General of NASME, Mr. Fred M. Udechukwu this opportunity would be available as the conference would be tagged along with an exhibition.

Speaking in an interview with *Business Day*, Mr. Udechukwu disclosed that the president is expected to be the special guest of honour at the opening ceremony of the international conference which would be graced by eminent Nigerians and foreigners.

He said eminent resource persons have been contacted by NASME to do justice to various topics mapped out by the association to improve the performance of SMEs in the country.

According to him topics that would be addressed during the conference tagged "Financial Deregulation and the Challenge of NASME financing" would revolve around deregulation and its implication for SMEs, digital revolution and investment opportunities available to SMEs, financial access for SMEs and what have you.

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NITEL:
more private telephone operators resulting in cost effective telephone services.

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BUSINESS DAY

World Bank not dictating to Nigeria —Ogbulafor

The Minister of Economic Matters and Special Projects, Prince Vincent Ogbulafor has said that the need to ensure transparency and fairness in the award of contracts led the government to abolish the Department of Federal Tenders Board.

The minister, who was speaking in Abuja, Tuesday, at a national conference on Public Tendering and Procurement System, holding between Monday and Tuesday, next week, said that the decision was based on a study, led by the World Bank, on the matter.

He said that the bank was not dictating to the government, but pointed out that the administration was prepared to receive relevant

information from the organisation or any other body to perfect contracting system in the country.

Ogbulafor said that the government was determined to eliminate the inflation of contracts and would accept advice that would enable it to achieve the goal.

He further explained that the abrogation of the department and strengthening of the Ministerial Tenders Board, based on the study, was aimed at making public office holders to concentrate on policy formulation and avoid contract awards.

He stressed that in 1999 when the administration came into being, the system of contracting in government was "corruption ridden", resulting in "a situation where access to contracts was based on who you knew and ability to buy your way through."

"Competence was neglected, while fairness became a distant consideration. Extant rules were breached with impunity," the minister said, adding that the development led to the abandonment of projects.

"A preliminary economic audit of abandoned projects undertaken by my office showed that no less than 150 projects are abandoned or

uncompleted by federal ministries and parastatals," he said.

Ogbulafor said that while policy failure contributed to the abandonment of projects, "dubious contracts and incompetent contractors accounted for a large proportion."

He said that in its

determination to achieve "fiscal prudence, reviewing and suspending contracts, whose award lacked merit," that the workshop was being organised as a follow-up to the one held last year to appraise all levels of government and the private sector of developments in the nation's tendering and contracting system.

200 ship passengers stranded at Brass

The 200 passengers on board a Coutonou-bound ship which sailed from Gabon are now stranded on the high sea on the coast of Brass river in Bayelsa.

The ship was said to have been grounded in the area since August 18.

Navy Capt. Gabriel Onah, commander of Okemini Naval Base, Port Harcourt, who made the disclosure to newsmen in Port Harcourt on Monday, said the ship was distressed.

He said 200 passengers, including men, women and children, were on board the grounded ship which belonged to Warri based J. M. Dredging and Maritime Limited.

Onah said the passengers were made of nationals of Ghana, Senegal and Nigeria, adding that Nigerians on board were 17 in number.

"We found out that the ship was drifting in the wee hours of August 18, off the coastal area and we have been offering assistance to the stranded occupants," he said.

He said that when he and his men went on board the ship, the passengers were hungry having neither water nor food, adding that the ship itself had no anchor.

The commander of the NNS, Okemini said that a woman on board the ship had since given birth to a baby. He said that his men suspected that the ship's trouble might have started from the Agip terminal.

The Navy Captain said the Navy had sent three medical doctors with a nurse to cater for the medical needs of the passengers, most of who had fallen sick.

Onah, who said the navy had contacted the owner of the ship whom he said, had been making efforts to evacuate the stranded passengers.

Explaining the likely cause of the incident, the Navy Captain said the ship lost her engine "because it had no machinery failure as our patrol team discovered; the ship could have sunk if they had not met it on time."

One of the pensioners of the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) has urged the federal government to save the corporation from what he described as an unceremonious death, owing to the backlog of problems facing the corporation.

Alhaji S. A. Saaka, a pensioner and a former mechanical engineer with the NRC in an interview disclosed that the present NRC is bedevilled with avalanche of problems which require the timely intervention of nobody than the federal government to salvage.

Enumerating the problems, the former engineer disclosed that the NRC management has been owing them (pensioners) 13 months' pensioners arrears, adding that the NRC management could not comply with President Obasanjo's directives that ministries and parastatals should pay their pensioners regularly.

He also hinted that trains derailed three times at Agege last week, a situation he attributed to the weakness of 'sleepers' which are mostly woods and these woods are not properly seasoned.

Presently, according to Alhaji Saaka, the Chinese firm currently handling restructuring of NRC rail links is not doing perfectly well, because, their operation is yet to be felt since they started work over three years ago.

He suggested that government should allow either Canadian or India people to handle the corporation's rail restructuring. For instance, he said even Chinese government contracted their rail system out to foreigners when they have similar problem.

Alhaji Saaka equally

Reactivate railways, FG urged

From Tokunbo Oloke, in Lagos

asked that the present management of the NRC be restructured or else, the government's plans for the corporation will not be realised.

On the incessant breakdown of locomotives, the engineer stressed that the problems will persist unless the management of NRC embrace maintenance culture on all their machines and wagons.

To this end, he advised that more workers should be employed to beef up operation in the NRC because most of the well trained officers that supposed to put more lives into their operation have been sacked while the corporation is only parading very few workers who are mostly casual workers.

"If you look at the payroll of the staff now, you will mope for the corporation," he added.



Ojo Maduekwe, Transport Minister



Vincent Ogbulafor, Minister of Economic Matters



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM STUDIES (NIHOTOURS) BAGAUDA KANO
In collaboration with
**OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT,
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

PRESENT A 3-DAY NATIONAL WORKSHOP

THEME:— LOCAL GOVERNMENT TOURISM COMMITTEES AS A TOOL FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AT THE GRASSROOT

OBJECTIVES:— To enable participants appreciate the need for Local Government Tourism Committees as contained in the Federal Government Decree 81 of 1992 and be able to exploit the tourism potentials of their areas to improve Employment and Revenue Generation base of the Local Governments.

FOR WHOM:— Executive Chairman of Local Governments and Council Secretaries.

VENUE:— International Conference Centre, Abuja.

DATE:— August 29-31, 2001 from 9:00am Daily

FEE:— N25,000 Only.

The Workshop will be declared open by His Excellency, the Vice President, **ATIKU ABUBAKAR** and assisted by the Honourable Minister for Culture and Tourism **MRS BOMA JACK**.

For further details, please contact: (064-632560 09-5238/43)

Workshop on tourism development holds Monday

The Israeli government is sponsoring a 10-day international workshop on "Tourism Development for National Self-sustenance and Growth" in the country.

The workshop, which begins on August 27 in Lagos, is organised by the Israeli embassy in conjunction with the Federation of Tourism Associations of Nigeria (FTAN).

FTAN's Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Charles Ukomadu, told News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that MASHAV, an Israeli Centre for International Co-operation, "is the foreign technical sponsor" and facilitator of the tourism workshop.

Ukomadu said that the 10-day workshop would feature lectures, discussions, study visits and preparation of projects and would also analyse the factors and basic elements essential for the development of tourism in Nigeria.

He said that the participants, study visits and preparation of projects and

factors and basic elements essential for the development of tourism for projects using local resources.

According to Ukomadu, the Minister of Culture and Tourism, Ms. Boma Jack,

will be the Special Guest of Honour at the workshop, while the Israeli Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Ariel Avidor, is expected to deliver a keynote address during the opening ceremony.

NHIS gets new public enlightenment officer

By Ahmed Shekarau

A new head has been appointed for the Public Enlightenment and Mobilisation (PE&M) unit of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). He is Alhaji Bola Ojuolape.

According to a statement by Abubakar Sule, a Senior Manager in the PE&M unit, Ojuolape replaces Ms. Aisha J. Zakari who was elevated to the position of zonal co-ordinator in the scheme.

The new head of the PE&M unit, who until his appointment was the Abuja Bureau Chief of *Triumph* newspapers, is a 1986 graduate of Political Science and Economics from Bayero University Kano (BUK). Born on May 7, 1954 in

journalism career as a proof-reader with the Kwara State Printing and Publishing Corporation, Ilorin in 1973. He later joined the Triumph Publishing Company, publishers of *Triumph* newspapers in 1987 as a reporter and worked for the tabloid in Lagos, Ilorin and Kaduna. He rose to the position of Group News Editor of the same paper 1998.

Between 1997-1998, he was Special Assistant to the then Military administrator of Kwara State, Col. Pam Ogar (rtd).

He hails from Offa, Kwara State; he is married and has children. He has since resumed duties at the



EDUCATION TAX FUND INTERVENTION IN EDUCATION SECTOR

LIST OF YEAR 2000 RECONCILED PROJECTS IN THE BENEFICIARY INSTITUTIONS NATIONWIDE AS AT 30TH JULY, 2001

South West/North West Zones

S/N	STATE	INSTITUTIONS	YEAR 2000 ALLOCATION	RECONCILED PROJECTS	APPROVED COST LIMIT		
1	OGUN	University of Agriculture, Abeokuta	20,000,000.00	i) Furnishing of 9 Laboratories of College of Animal Sciences ii) Furnishing of 12 Laboratories of College of Environmental Resources Management (COLERM) iii) Rehabilitation of 40 nos lighting system along main access road	7,000,000.00 9,000,000.00 <u>4,000,000.00</u> 20,000,000.00		
		Ogun State University, Ago Iwoye	20,000,000.00	i) Construction/completion of 1500 seater Lecture theatre ii) Purchase/Installation of 40 nos of large lecture theatre at N25,000 iii) Consultancy services	18,499,242.30 1,000,000.00 <u>500,757.70</u> 20,000,000.00		
		Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro	10,000,000.00	i) Construction of staff office block ii) Construction of examination centre block	6,000,000.00 <u>4,000,000.00</u> 10,000,000.00		
		Moshood Abiola Polytechnic, Abeokuta.	10,000,000.00	Construction of an Academic block (comprising staff offices and lecture rooms)	10,000,000.00		
		Fed. College of Education, Osiele, Abeokuta	8,000,000.00	i) Completion of ETF sponsored re-roofed main hall ii) Construction of Ino. New Agric Laboratory iii) Supply of 22nos classroom furniture	3,649,401.00 3,795,502.00 <u>555,097.00</u> 8,000,000.00		
		Tai Solarin College of Education, Ijebu-Ode	8,000,000.00	Completion of the construction of the College Auditorium	8,000,000.00		
		Ministry of Education (for Equipment for the handicapped)	1,000,000.00	i) 5 nos perkin Braille machine at 65,000 each ii) 6 nos portable olympia typewriter at 20,000 iii) 3 nos Braille mathematical kits at 5,000 each iv) 4 nos Tape Recorder at 5,000 each v) 14 Reams mamilla Braille paper at 1,500 vi) 9 nos standard wheel chairs at 25,000 each vii) 19 nos guide comes for the blind at 2,000 viii) 1 no audio meter ix) 7 nos joy of singing books for the deaf 2,000 x) assorte phansishapes, puzzle and joys xi) 5 nos sewing machines at 8,000 each xii) 3 nos shoe making kits at 8,320 each	325,000.00 120,000.00 15,000.00 20,000.00 21,000.00 225,000.00 38,000.00 150,000.00 14,000.00 7,040.00 40,000.00 <u>24,960.00</u> 1,000,000.00		
		Ministry of Education (for Senior Secondary Education)	20,405,479.45	NOT YET RECONCILED			
		State Primary Education Board	28,868,217.00	Construction of a block of 3 cirms in the foll. School; i) Anglican Primary School, Isaga Orile ii) O.L.A. Ibara, Abeokuta iii) Methodist Primary School, Ota iv) St. John's Primary School, Ayedere v) St. Peter A/C School, Oke-Aro vi) Ajabo United Primary School, Ilara vii) St. Charle's R.C.M Primary School, Mamu viii) Baptist School, Ogbogbo ix) Our Saviour Primary School, Odotewu x) St. Saviour Primary School, Ikeme xi) Community Primary School, Asejire xii) Ipokia L.G School, Whekan xiii) St. Theresa's Pry School, Igbo-Ilogbo-Gbure xiv) Akintoye Community Pry School, Akintoye xv) Moslem Primary School, Imodi xvi) St. Mathew's Primary School, Lomiro xvii) United Primary School, Ilara xviii) St. John's School, Araromi Ibese xix) U.A.M.C, Pahayi	1,443,410.85 1,443,410.85 1,443,410.85 1,443,410.85 1,443,410.85 1,443,410.85 1,443,410.85 1,443,410.85 1,443,410.85 1,443,410.85 1,443,410.85 1,443,410.85 1,443,410.85 1,443,410.85 1,443,410.85 1,443,410.85 1,443,410.85 <u>28,868,217.00</u>		
		TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR OGUN STATE					126,273,696.45
		2	OSUN	Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife	20,000,000.00	NOT YET RECONCILED	
Federal Polytechnic, Ede	10,000,000.00			Construction of Engineering block Phase II	10,000,000.00		
Osun State Polytechnic, Ire	10,000,000.00			Construction of 2nos. Lecture halls @ #5,000,000.00 each.	10,000,000.00		
Osun State College of Technology, Esa-Oke	8,000,000.00			Construction of a lecture hall with toilet facilities and 4 offices for staff	10,000,000.00		
Osun State College of Education, Ila-Orangun	8,000,000.00			(i) Purchase of Ino. Toyota Coaster Bus (33 seater) for students (ii) Procurement / Installation of 7nos. Computers	6,500,000.00 <u>1,500,000.00</u> 8,000,000.00		
Osun State College of Education, Ileha	8,000,000.00			(i) Refurbishing of the language Laboratory (ii) Equipping of the Language Laboratory (iii) Construction of a block of 3 lecture rooms	120,000.00 2,573,750.00 <u>5,306,250.00</u> 8,000,000.00		
Ministry of Education (for Equipment for the Handicapped)	1,000,000.00			A. The Blind i) 2 no Brailing machine at 185,200 each ii) 10 Bundles of Braille paper at 2,000 " iii) 10 nos Football with ringing at 2,000 " iv) 10 nos Handwriting guide at 300,000 v) 10 nos Abacus at 800 each vi) 5 nos Table clock for the blind at 1,600 each vii) 2 nos Calculators for the Blind at 5,000 each viii) 10 nos Rulers at 250 each B. The Deaf i) 9 nos Textbook on sign language 6,000 each	370,000.00 20,000.00 20,000.00 3,000.00 8,000.00 1,000.00 10,000.00 2,500.00 54,000.00		

S/N	STATE	INSTITUTIONS	YEAR 2000 ALLOCATION	RECONCILED PROJECTS	APPROVED COST LIMIT
				C. The Crippled i) 8 nos Wheel Chairs 33,650 each D. The Mentally Retarded i) 10 bundles of fish robe 4,950 each ii) 24 roles of wine 250 each Total Grand (A+B+C+D)	150,000.00 49,500.00 <u>6,000.00</u> 1,000,000.00
		Ministry of Education (for Senior Secondary Education)	20,405,479.45	NOT YET RECONCILED	
		Osun State Primary Education Board	43,302,325.50	NOT YET RECONCILED	
				TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR OSUN STATE	128,707,804.95
3	OYO	University of Ibadan, Ibadan	20,000,000.00	NOT YET RECONCILED	
		Lagoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho	20,000,000.00	NOT YET RECONCILED	
		The Polytechnic, Ibadan	10,000,000.00	i) Purchase of 60nos. computer @#75,000 each ii) Purchase of 31 no matrix @ N80,000 each iii) Purchase of 29nos. laser jet 1100 printer @#55,000 each iv) Purchase of 60nos. UPS 650 @#20,000 each v) Installation & Contingencies	4,500,000.00 2,480,000.00 1,595,000.00 1,200,000.00 <u>225,000.00</u> 10,000,000.00
		St. Andrew College of Education, Oyo	8,000,000.00	(i) Construction of a single storey Mini Lecture hall with office accommodation at Isokun Campus (ii) Construction of a blk. Of 2 clrms with toilet facilities at the main campus (iii) Construction of a blk. Of 2 clrm. with toilet facilities at Isokun Campus (iv) Consultancy / Contingencies	3,145,721.00 2,161,700.00 2,161,700.00 <u>530,879.00</u> 8,000,000.00
		Federal College of Education (Special) for the Handicapped, Oyo.	10,000,000.00	i) Furnishing of new 15 seater A/C toyota Hiace Bus for Disabled Students with insurance cover ii) Purchase of Braille printer (2nos) translator & paper for the use of the blind iii) Computers and accessories iv) Furniture items for computer centre v) Furnishing of school of languages vi) Provision/repair of equipment for the blind vii) Purchase of 10 nos typewriter	3,410,000.00 2,266,000.00 1,342,920.00 650,599.00 1,109,000.00 541,481.00 <u>680,000.00</u> 10,000,000.00
		Federal College of Education (Special) Oyo	8,000,000.00	Construction of 750m road network including line drainages, culverts, asphaltic pavement etc.	8,000,000.00
		Fed. Coll. Of Agriculture, Ibadan	5,000,000.00	(i) Purchase of 70HP Tractor with Baldan Disc Ridgers (ii) Procurement of 1no. Pentium II Computer with Accessories (iii) Contingency	4,662,900.00 329,450.00 <u>2,750.00</u> 5,000,000.00
		Fed. College of Animal Health & Production Technology, Ibadan	5,000,000.00	Construction of a Lecture Theatre Complex	5,000,000.00
		Federal College of Forestry, Ibadan	5,000,000.00	Construction of a block of 4-classrooms	5,000,000.00
		Federal School of Survey, Oyo	10,000,000.00	(i) Provision of water borehole, Geophysical Survey, water reticulation and consultancy services. (ii) Library services software (iii) 60 breeding chairs @#3,750.00 each. (iv) Supply of books and journals (v) 2 nos. Pentium III Computers with accessories for computer laboratory	8,221,759.58 1,099,900.00 225,000.00 65,144.00 <u>388,197.00</u> 10,000,000.00
		Ministry of Education (for Equipment for the Handicapped)	1,020,050.00	A The Blind i) 1 no perkins Braille ii) 5 nos typewriters at 10,000 each iii) 5 nos mobility canes at 3,000 each iv) 100 pack mamilla paper spacks at 2,000 each B. The Deaf i) 1 no Audio meter ii) 3 nos sewing machines at 22,275 each iii) 5 nos sewing machines at 10,000 each iv) 5 nos shoemaking kit 5,000 each C. The Crippled i) 5 nos wheel chair at 30,000 each ii) 2 nos Adjustable crutches at 5,000 each iii) 8 nos Armpit crutches at 7,500 each iv) 10 nos Elbow crutches at 5,000 each v) 5 nos sewing machines at 10,000 each vi) 5 nos shoemaking kits at 5,000 each vii) 2 nos ½ Educable Toys at 6,087 each	150,000.00 50,000.00 15,000.00 40,000.00 <u>303,000.00</u> 218,000.00 66,875.00 50,000.00 25,000.00 <u>359,875.00</u> 150,000.00 10,000.00 60,000.00 50,000.00 50,000.00 25,000.00 12,175.00 <u>357,325.00</u>
				Total (A+B+C)	1,020,050.00
		Ministry of Education (for Senior Secondary Education)	20,405,479.45	Renovation & Rehabilitation of: i) Completion of a block of 3 classroom block at Oluyole Estate Grammar School ii) Repair/Renovation of 6 clrm blk. @ Adekile Goodwill Grammar School perin, Ibadan. iii) Repair/Renovation of 6 clrm Block at Oke-Amu Community College iv) Repair/Renovation of 12 Clrm Blk & JSS Workshop at Comm High School, Ogunbade v) Renovation of 12 classroomm Blk at Estate H/S, Akobo vi) Completion of a block of 6 classroom blok at C.H.S Alegongo Ibadan. vii) Conversion of uncompleted 6 classroom block to Laboratory at Olubadan High School, Aperin viii) Renovation of a block of 5 classroom block at Anwar-ul-Islam Grammar School, Eleyele B. Supply of 5 nos Technical Equipment to Technical College	1,310,791.02 1,145,226.39 1,077,742.05 4,851,329.17 1,330,289.73 1,389,730.65 2,688,731.81 1,615,466.47 <u>4,996,172.16</u> 20,405,479.45

S/N	STATE	INSTITUTIONS	YEAR 2000 ALLOCATION	RECONCILED PROJECTS	APPROVED COST LIMIT
		Oyo State Primary Education Board	47,632,558.05	Construction of 1no. 3 classroom block in (i) St. Mathians Pry Sch II Orogun in Akuyole LGEA (ii) St. Peter's Pry Sch Guolape in Egbeda LGEA (iii) St. Mary's Sch I Oke-Are-Ibadan in Ibadan North (iv) I.M.G Pry Sch Sharp Corner in Ibadan South LGEA (v) St. John's Sch Eleshu Erun Ona Ara LGEA Renovation/Rehabilitation of the block of classroom at the following Schools: i) St. Patrick RCM and Baptist Pry School in Afijio LGEA ii) L.A(SP) Sch II and ADS Sch Ayetoro Atisba LGEA iii) AUD Pry Sch & L.A Sch Ago Are in Atisbo LGEA iv) I.M.G Sch I & II Bayerunka Ibadan North East LGEA v) Anwar-Ul-Islam Sch Eleyele in Ibadan North West vi) I.M.G Pry Sch Oloro, Eleta in Ibadan South East LGEA vii) Baptist Sch & Anwar-ul-Islam Ibarappa LGEA viii) A.U.D Pry Sch & African Church in Ibarapa North ix) St. Annes Cath Sch Ibarapa North LGEA x) Islamic School I in Ido LGEA xi) Baptist Sch & Nybrosis Sch in Irepo LGEA xii) A.U.D Sch & L.A Sch in Iseyin LGEA xiii) Comm Sch Okaka in Itesiwaju LGEA xiv) Baptist Sch in Iwajowa LGEA xv) ADS I Eleyele & ADS Pry Sch in Kajola LGEA xvi) I.D.C Pry Sch in Lagely LGEA xvii) Baptist Sch & Nurudeen Pry Sch Ogbomosho North xviii) Ayegan Pry Sch Illa Ogbomosho South LGEA xix) Comm. Pry Sch Ogomoluwa LGEA xx) U.M.S Pry Sch & N.U.D Pry Sch II Igbeti in Olomsoyo xxi) Comm. Pry Sch in Oluyole LGEA xxii) Oke-Igbowo Baptist Pry Sch & Mushlum Pry School Orelope xxiii) Baptist Pry Sch in Orilre LGEA xxiv) L.A Pry Sch & St. Michael Ang. Sch in Oyo East xxv) Baptist Pry Sch & L.A Pry Sch in Oyo West LGEA xxvi) A.U.D Pry Sch & Baptist Pry Sch Saki East LGEA xxvii) L.A Pry Sch II & Baptist Pry Sch in Saki West LGEA xxviii) St. Paul's Pry Sch, A.U.D Pry Sch & D.C Pry Sch in Surulere LGEA	1,338,638.38 1,338,638.38 1,338,638.38 1,338,638.38 1,338,638.38 1,367,136.63 1,582,145.23 1,275,079.00 1,651,527.88 1,376,811.63 1,714,485.26 1,191,196.75 1,449,325.75 1,137,274.75 1,487,574.25 1,533,503.63 1,303,463.00 1,587,952.38 1,223,849.88 1,371,729.60 1,114,315.98 1,281,727.88 1,465,053.00 1,175,130.88 1,420,924.26 1,567,348.93 1,350,216.13 1,396,344.38 1,574,925.25 1,539,418.00 1,561,706.26 1,540,805.73 1,645,368.18 46,779,532.38
4	ONDO	Ondo State University, Akungba- Akoko	20,000,000.00	(i) Provision of Telecommunication & Internet connectivity: Owo exchange to Akungba intercom network (ii) Purchase of 26 seater air-conditioned Toyota Coaster and purchase of 18 seater air-conditioned Toyota Hiace	10,000,000.00 10,000,000.00 20,000,000.00
		Federal University of Technology, Akure	20,000,000.00	(i) Rehab. & Reactivation of the damaged 630 & 250KVA generator (ii) Overhauling & upgrading of PABX from 250 to 350 capacity (iii) Construction of 1 blk. Of students' Hostel	1,816,740.00 2,266,000.00 15,917,260.00 20,000,000.00
		Ondo State Polytechnic, Owo	10,000,000.00	Construction of classrooms, lecture hall & office with office complex	10,000,000.00
		Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo.	8,000,000.00	PURCHASE OF: i) 25 nos. Computers & Accessories ii) 2 nos. HP deskjet Colour printer iii) 2 nos. Line printers Epson LQ 2180 iv) 1 no. HP Laserjet 2100 v) 25 nos. APC UPS vi) 25 nos. Binatone Stabilizer vii) 5 nos. 2HP A/C	5,842,500.00 210,000.00 300,000.00 150,000.00 755,000.00 312,500.00 430,000.00 8,000,000.00
		Federal College of Agriculture, Akure	5,000,000.00	Purchase of NH 22 lathe machine Purchase of 1No. Vacuum pump	4,800,000.00 200,000.00 5,000,000.00
		Ministry of Education (for Equipment for the Handicapped)	1,000,000.00	i) 6 nos Tape Recorder at 5,500 each ii) 2 nos paraplegic wheel chair at 120,000 iii) 10 nos mobility canes at 8,700 each iv) 5 packets Braille on paper 18,000 each v) 10 nos Braille on wrist watch at 6,500 vi) 4 nos perkin Brailier 65,000 vii) 6 nos olympia typewriter 35,000 each viii) 15 nos cubarith Boards 1,000 each	33,000.00 240,000.00 87,000.00 90,000.00 65,000.00 260,000.00 210,000.00 15,000.00 1,000,000.00
		Ministry of Education (for Senior Secondary Education)	20,405,479.45	1) Construction of 1no. blk. Of 3 clrms at GTC Okitipupa 2) Constuction of 1 blk. Of 3 clrms at GTC, Oka 3) Extension of students Assembly hall at GTC, Owo to increase the capacity from 300-1,000 4) Renovation/Rehabilitation of structures in the following Primary Schools: i) A block of 4 classrooms in Ejioba High School, Akure North LGA ii) Girls Hostel in Schl for the Deaf, Akure South iii) A block of 3 classrooms/library in Itane Grammar School, Akoko North West iv) A block of 4 classroom in Iyamoye Camp High School Akoko North East v) A block of 3 classroom in Isua High School, Akoko South East vi) A block of 2 classrooms in Oludone Grammar School, Akoko South West vii) A block of 4 classrooms in Comm. Comp High School Igbekebo, Ese-Odo viii) Staff room/classroom in Oyenusi Memorial Grammar School, Irele ix) A block of 4 classroom in Comm. Grammar School, Idiogba, Ilafe x) Classroom block for JSS class (4 classroom) in Oke-Igbo Grammar School, Ite-Oluji/Okeigbo xi) Dept of Technology Education block in Eban Ogunyimika College Afosin, Idox xii) A block of 3 classroom Vice-Principal's office in C.A.C Grammar School, Iladore xiii) A block of 3 classroom in Oloto Community Grammar School, Olatipupa xiv) A block of 4 classroom in Ore Community Grammar School in Odigho xv) All Saint Grammar School Technical Laboratory block xvi) A block of 4 classroom in Ogoluwa Comm. School, Obolo, Ondo East xvii) A block of 3 classroom in Irekari Grammar School, Use LGA xviii) A block of 4 classroom admin block in Uso High School, Uso, Owo LGA	2,026,107.43 2,026,107.43 1,049,155.00 930,352.92 1,289,052.24 668,073.42 950,848.82 604,611.00 27,255.62 1,223,352.24 987,878.22 1,290,006.99 1,123,352.88 678,220.62 674,104.62 837,663.12 897,052.22 571,851.00 879,949.77 490,984.20 569,520.00 15,304,109.78 20,405,479.44
Grand Total (1+2+3+4)					20,405,479.44

S/N	STATE	INSTITUTIONS	YEAR 2000 ALLOCATION	RECONCILED PROJECTS	APPROVED COST LIMIT
		Federal College of Fisheries & Marine Tech. V.I. Lagos.	5,000,000.00	Sinking of bore-hole / reticulation Supply of classroom furniture	4,000,000.00 1,000,000.00 <u>5,000,000.00</u>
		Lagos State College of Primary Education Naforija, Epe	5,000,000.00	Construction of Library Building (Phase I)	<u>8,000,000.00</u>
		Nigerian Army School of Finance & Administration, Lagos	5,000,000.00	NOT YET RECONCILED	
		Ministry of Education (for Equipment for the Handicapped)	1,000,000.00	Bind Unit i) 2 nos perkin machine at 65,000 each ii) 3 nos portable typewriters at 30,000 each iii) 16 nos writing at 30,000 each iv) 11 nos Abacus at 1,200 each v) 10 packets of Braille papers at 300 vi) 4 nos Radio Cassette players at 4,000 each Deaf Unit vii) 4 nos hearing aids at 2,500 each viii) 1 no Auditory Trainer at 120,000 ix) 10 nos sewing machine at 8,000 each Physically Handicapped Unit x) 10 nos Wheel chair at 22,000 each xi) 11 nos Armpit crutches at 5,000 each xii) 11 nos Callipers at 6,000 each xiii) 2 nos Sewing machine at 8,000 each Mental Retardation Unit xiv) 20 nos Assorted Educational Toys at 500 xv) 2 nos Wheel Chairs at 22,000 each xvi) 2 nos Sewing machine 8,000 each xvii) 3 nos Radio cassette player at 4,000 each	130,000.00 90,000.00 8,800.00 13,200.00 3,000.00 16,000.00 100,000.00 120,000.00 80,000.00 220,000.00 55,000.00 66,000.00 16,000.00 10,000.00 44,000.00 16,000.00 <u>12,000.00</u> <u>1,000,000.00</u>
		Ministry of Education (for Senior Secondary Education)	20,405,479.45	Construction of bungalow classrooms at: i) Ishasi Grammar School ii) Iba Hou. Est S/S, Ojo iii) Olorunfunmi Gramm Sch, Alimosho iv) Ijegan Gramm Sch. Alimosho v) Angus memorial G/S, Somolu Installation of Tech. Equip. at (i) GTC, Epe	3,100,000.00 3,100,000.00 2,800,000.00 2,800,000.00 5,805,479.45 <u>20,405,479.45</u>
		Lagos State Primary Education Board	28,868,217.00	Establishment of Teachers Resource Centre Conversion of a block of 6 clrms each in the following: i) Orile Primary School, Sari Iganumu ii) L.A. Primary School, Asido iii) Abomiti Primary School, Epe iv) A.U.D Primary School Imota Ikorodu v) Ijero Baptist Pry School, Capos Mainland vi) Okun Ajah Primary School, Ojo vii) Trene Primary School, Kosofe viii) Comm. Primary School, Kosofe, Agboyi ix) Construction of 1 block of 6 classrooms in Alimosho LGEA x) Provision of 1756 pairs of pupil's furniture @ #3,000.0 each. xi) Establishment of Computer centre for Ibeju/Lekki LGEA	5,100,000.00 1,800,000.00 1,800,000.00 1,800,000.00 1,800,000.00 1,800,000.00 1,800,000.00 1,800,000.00 1,800,000.00 2,500,000.00 5,268,000.00 <u>1,600,000.00</u> <u>28,868,217.00</u>
				TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR LAGOS STATE	141,273,696.45
7	KADUNA	Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria	20,000,000.00	NOT YET RECONCILED	
		Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna	20,000,000.00	(i) Construction & furnishing of 30 rms office blocks (ii) Construction of Civil Engng. Lab.	11,571,859.00 1,929,141.00 6,500,000.00 <u>20,000,000.00</u>
		Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna	10,000,000.00	Conversion of cafeteria to lecture theatre at the College of Environmental Studies	<u>10,000,000.00</u>
		Kaduna State Polytechnic, Zaria	10,000,000.00	(i) Purchase of library books & journals (ii) Purchase of 2nos. Pentium 233 computer with accessories (iii) Purchase of Electrical appliances (TV, Refrigerator, Video & split A/Cr1.5HP (iv) Purch. Of 70nos. carvel for 4 people at 20,0 (v) Purchase of sundry items	5,265,000.00 465,000.00 254,000.00 1,400,000.00 <u>2,616,000.00</u> <u>10,000,000.00</u>
		Federal College Of Education, Zaria	8,000,000.00	(i) Construction of Maths / Computer Dept. Building (ii) Procurement of Pentium Computers	6,000,000.00 <u>2,000,000.00</u> <u>8,000,000.00</u>
		Kaduna State College Of Education, Gidan-Waya	8,000,000.00	(i) Construction of the sports complex comprising the Badminton, Basket ball & Volley ball (ii) Procurement of Computers / accessories for the Computer Dept	7,517,000.00 <u>483,000.00</u> <u>8,000,000.00</u>
		Kaduna State College Of Agriculture & Animal Science, Mando	5,000,000.00	(i) Rehab. Of students' hostel (ii) Construction of borehole (iii) 118 chair for auditorium (iv) Construction of pens (v) Re-roofing parent stock house (vi) Computers / accessories (vii) Rehab. Of Animal Clinic (viii) Hatchery fencing (ix) Purchase of Lab. Chairs (x) Instruments for Large Animal Clinic (xi) Piggery Extension (xii) Procurement of baler needles	449,907.34 1,222,200.00 295,000.00 694,998.00 400,316.40 560,700.00 176,527.76 455,250.50 324,000.00 246,100.00 75,000.00 <u>100,000.00</u> <u>5,000,000.00</u>
		Federal College Of Forestry & Mechanization, Afaka, Kaduna	5,000,000.00	Development of Sports Complex comprising 1no. Lawn Tennis court, Basket ball court and Badminton Court	<u>5,000,000.00</u>
		National Water Resources Institute, Kaduna	5,000,000.00	Purchase of Equipment for: (i) Micro-Biological unit (ii) Hydrogeology Dept. (iii) Hydrology Dept. (iv) Engineering Dept. (v) Classroom Facilities (vi) Contingencies	990,000.00 970,000.00 970,000.00 950,000.00 1,100,000.00 20,000.00 <u>5,000,000.00</u>
		Samaru College of Agriculture, Zaria	5,000,000.00	(i) Construction of 2 blocks of 2 classrooms (ii) Procurement of 5 sets of Computers	4,650,000.00 <u>350,000.00</u> <u>5,000,000.00</u>

S/N	STATE	INSTITUTIONS	YEAR 2000 ALLOCATION	RECONCILED PROJECTS	APPROVED COST LIMIT
		Kaduna State School of Agriculture, Zonkwa	5,000,000.00	Construction of multi-purpose Laboratory Construction of a Poultry House Purchase of Agriculture Engineering/ tools for Agric. Engineering workshop.	3,769,128.00 907,944.50 <u>322,927.50</u> 5,000,000.00
		Federal College of Chemical & Leather Technology, Zaria	5,000,000.00	Purchase of 1 No. HPLC for Training Purchase of 4 Nos. Pentium Computers Purchase of 4 Nos. HP Deskjet Printers Purchase of 1 No. Scanjet 3200 Purchase of Spectrophotometer 6505 Purchase of Scan jet 3200 Purchase of Library books & journals	2,300,000.00 404,000.00 206,000.00 70,000.00 1,500,000.00 20,000.00 <u>50,000.00</u> 5,000,000.00
		Ministry of Education (for Equipment for Handicapped.)	1,000,000.00	(i) 4nos. Braille machines (ii) 10nos. mobility canes (iii) 2nos. wheel chairs (iv) 12nos. writing frame (v) 14nos. stylus (vi) 40 packets of Braille paper (vii) 4nos. portable typewriter (viii) 10nos. radio cassette (ix) 250nos. empty cassette (x) 15nos. 3 - Pry colours (xi) 15nos. Costic Soda (xii) 16nos. Hydrosulphate (xiii) 20nos. calabashed (xiv) 10 bundle of white cotton fibre (xv) 40 rolls o nylon rope (xvi) 20 bundle of Rama	280,000.00 50,000.00 50,000.00 60,000.00 12,000.00 200,000.00 100,000.00 20,000.00 50,000.00 30,000.00 15,000.00 16,000.00 10,000.00 3,000.00 4,000.00 100,000.00
		Ministry of education (for Senior secondary Education)	20,405,479.45	(i) Construction of fence/gate with 2 blks of 5 compartment VIP toilets & renovation of classrooms / labs at Government Grirls Secondary .School.Kofan Gaya, Zaria (ii) Renovation / Rehabilitation of toilet block, classrooms etc at Government Girls Secondary School at T. Balewa way, Kaduna (iii) Renovation / Rehabilitation of classrooms, toilets, Admin block etc at Government Secondary School, Fadan Kagoma (iv) Procurement of Technical tools & Equipment into Technical School in the State	5,101,369.86 5,101,369.86 5,101,380.73 <u>5,101,359.00</u> 20,405,479.45
		Kaduna State Primary Education Board	33,198,449.55	Rehabilitation/Renovation of the following Schools: LGA 1) Sarkin Yaki Primary School, Birnin Gwari 2) Nasarawa Primary School, Chuku 3) Maraban Yakawada Primary School Giwa 4) Kangimi Primary School, Igabi 5) Ikara Central Primary School, Ikara 6) Karmin Bawo Primary School, Jaba 7) Practicing Primary School, Jema'a 8) Gumel Primary School, Kachia 9) Girls Primary School, Kaduna North 10) Sarmaru Road Primary School, Kaduna Santu 11) Chinka Primary School, Kagarko 12) Afogo Primary School, Kajuru 13) Mahuta Primary School, Kaura 14) Kajuru Station Primary School, Kajuru 15) Ung Galadima Primary School, Kagarko 16) Kauru Central Primary School, Kauru 17) Pambegua Central Primary School, Kubau 18) Domoso Primary School, Kudan 19) Garu Primary School, Kudan 20) Saminaka Central Primary School, Lere 21) Gubuchi Central Primary School, Makaifi 22) Godai (Makarfi II Primary School, Makarfi 23) Anglican Fulani Primary School, Sabon Gari 24) Anglican Nungu Primary School, Sanga 25) Turuwa Primary School, Soba 26) Kamuru Ikulu Primary School, Zangonkatarf 27) Sakwaza Primary School, Zangonkatarf 28) Tsoho Abdullahi Primary School, Zaria	1,549,995.25 1,594,701.75 1,410,000.00 1,342,980.25 1,598,876.68 901,695.50 1,133,885.00 1,475,386.25 1,377,393.75 1,599,826.25 279,382.75 621,801.00 1,321,859.00 985,234.24 1,159,654.25 1,568,261.43 1,422,980.00 518,903.75 641,694.50 1,369,462.45 896,367.50 524,000.00 1,449,688.00 1,442,506.00 1,311,651.75 767,761.25 760,694.50 <u>1,507,864.75</u> 33,198,449.55
				TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR KADUNA STATE	160,603,929.00
8	KANO	Bayero University, Kano	20,000,000.00	Purchase & Installation of a 1000KVA Generating set	20,000,000.00
		Kano State University of Technology, Wudil	20,000,000.00	Purchase & Installation of a 500KVA Generating set	20,000,000.00
		Kano State Polytechnic, Kano	10,000,000.00	i) Procurement of Ino. Computer / accessories ii) Procurement of Office Equipment for ASILS iii) Construction of 1 blk. of 2 nos. toilets for ASILS iv) Procurement of Office equipment for Printing Department v) Procurement of Equipment for Arts & Design department vi) Construction of 5nos. students' Kick- Wheel @8,000 each vii) Equipment for the Mechanical Department viii) Purchase of books for the Library ix) Rehab of 6nos. classroom blks. At SSRD x) Contingency / Consultancy	3,002,500.00 1,169,500.00 350,000.00 1,172,000.00 570,000.00 40,000.00 868,000.00 1,000,000.00 1,146,201.55 <u>687,798.45</u> 10,000,000.00
		Kano State College Of Education , Kumbotso	8,000,000.00	(i) Provision of sports pavilion. (ii) Rehab. Of staff quarters (iii) Purchase of Basic Teaching Equipment (iv) Provision of Basic Lib. Books (v) Upgrading of Computer Centre (vi) Fabrication of Students benches	700,000.00 1,500,000.00 1,200,000.00 2,000,000.00 2,200,000.00 <u>400,000.00</u> 8,000,000.00
		Federal College Of Education, (Technical) Bichi	8,000,000.00	Purchase of MBL 1418 water tanker	8,000,000.00
		Kano State College Of Education, Kano	8,000,000.00	Rehabilitation of: (i) Academic block 500 (ii) Academic block 700 (iii) Fabrication of classroom furniture (iv) Renovation of Staff house (v) Provision & Installation of campus intercom system	1,287,736.70 1,215,507.52 1,399,600.96 1,797,906.92 <u>2,299,247.90</u> 8,000,000.00
		Audu Bako School of Agric. Danbatta	5,000,000.00	(i) Construction of Agric. Mech. Tech. Workshop (ii) Purchase of books for the Library (iii) Procurement of Surgical / Post Mortem Kits (iv) Contingencies	4,062,237.08 800,000.00 80,000.00 <u>57,612.92</u> 5,000,000.00

S/N	STATE	INSTITUTIONS	YEAR 2000 ALLOCATION	RECONCILED PROJECTS	APPROVED COST LIMIT
		Ministry of Education (for Equipment for Handicapped.)	1,000,000.00	A. The Blind (i) 3nos. Perkins Braille (ii) 3nos. Typewriters (Carina II) (iii) 7nos. Talking Calculator (iv) 19nos. Stylus (v) 10nos. Abacus (vi) 4nos. Drawing Set (vii) 2nos. Drawing Sheets (viii) 6nos. wrting frame (ix) 9nos. Cubarithm board (x) 9nos. Ancematic cubs (xi) 2nos. collapsible canes B The Deaf (i) 3nos. hearing aids (ii) 5nos. speech trainer (iii) 10nos. joy of signing (iv) 10nos. Anatomical model for te ear (v) 2nos. television set (vi) 2nos. video machines	450,000.00 99,000.00 11,550.00 3,800.00 6,000.00 4,800.00 2,000.00 3,600.00 12,000.00 2,250.00 5,000.00 165,000.00 90,000.00 50,000.00 12,000.00 47,000.00 36,000.00
		Ministry of Education (for Senior Secondary Education)	20,405,479.45	(i) Furnishing of Library blocks in 7 Secondary Schools in the State (ii) Purchase of reference books for the aforelisted Libraries (iii) Distribution of Science Equipment in 14 Secondary Schools in the State (iv) Procurement of Technical / Vocational Education tools in 7 Secondary Schools in the State	2,000,000.00 5,004,082.59 8,300,000.00 <u>5,101,396.86</u> <u>20,405,479.45</u>
		Kano State Primary Education Board	63,510,077.40	PROVISION OF CLASSROOM FURNITURE	N
		Ajingi LGA	1,440,000.00	(i) S/Dosa P/S (ii) Biyamiso P/S (iii) Taranka P/S (iv) Chula P/S	360,000.00 360,000.00 360,000.00 360,000.00
		Albasu LGA	1,440,000.00	(i) G/Rami P/S (ii) Mangari P/S (iii) Faragai P/S (iv) Panda P/S	360,000.00 360,000.00 360,000.00 360,000.00
		Bagwai LGA	1,440,000.00	(i) Galawa P/S (ii) Bagwai P/S (iii) Kiyawa P/S	720,000.00 360,000.00 360,000.00
		Bebeji LGA	1,440,000.00	(i) Dumawa P/S (ii) Kofa P/S (iii) Bebeji Proj (iv) Tiga Proj.	540,000.00 360,000.00 360,000.00 180,000.00
		Bichi LGA	1,440,000.00	(i) Y/Lami P/S (ii) Abukur P/S (iii) B/Waje P/S (iv) D/Margo P/S	540,000.00 180,000.00 360,000.00 360,000.00
		Bunkure	1,440,000.00	(i) Jalabi P/S (ii) Gwamma P/s (iii) Kumurya	1,080,000.00 180,000.00 180,000.00
		Dala	1,440,000.00	(i) Gwammaja (ii) I. Y. Y. P/s (iii) Dala SPS	720,000.00 360,000.00 360,000.00
		Danbatta	1,440,000.00	(i) F/Fayam P/S (ii) Saidawa P/S (iii) Batta P/S (iv) Kare P/S	540,000.00 180,000.00 360,000.00 360,000.00
		D Kudu	1,440,000.00	(i) Jida P/S (ii) B/Dawa P/S (iii) Tamburawa (iv) Tsakuwa	540,000.00 180,000.00 360,000.00 360,000.00
		D Tofa	1,440,000.00	(i) Bagadawa P/S (ii) Dawanau P/S (iii) D/Tofa LIP (iv) Dawanau P/S	540,000.00 540,000.00 180,000.00 180,000.00
		Doguwa	1,440,000.00	(i) Murai P/S (ii) Falgore P/S (iii) Ririwa P/S	360,000.00 900,000.00 180,000.00
		Faggae	1,440,000.00	(i) Kuka P/S (ii) Gabirawa	1,080,000.00 360,000.00
		Gabasawa	1,440,000.00	(i) Yada P/S (ii) Katamai P/S (iii) Zakirai P/S (iv) Gabasawa P/S	180,000.00 180,000.00 540,000.00 540,000.00
		G Mallam	1,440,000.00	(i) G/M BK P/S (ii) G/M P/S (iii) Chromawa (iv) G/Babba	180,000.00 540,000.00 360,000.00 360,000.00
		Garka	1,440,000.00	(i) Garwaji P/S (ii) G/Alli P/S (iii) Garwaji P/S (iv) Garko Zango	180,000.00 540,000.00 360,000.00 360,000.00
		Gava	1,440,000.00	(i) Gyanawa P/S (ii) Bangashi P/S (iii) Dagara P/S (iv) Kademi Kudu	540,000.00 180,000.00 360,000.00 360,000.00
		Gezawa	1,440,000.00	(i) U/Jama'a P/S (ii) Danja P/S (iii) Jogana (iv) Gezawa	540,000.00 360,000.00 180,000.00 360,000.00
		Gwale	1,440,000.00	(i) Warure	1,440,000.00
		Gwarzo	1,440,000.00	(i) D/Fada (ii) T/Garu	720,000.00

S/N	STATE	INSTITUTIONS	YEAR 2000 ALLOCATION	RECONCILED PROJECTS	APPROVED COST LIMIT
		Kabo	1,440,000.00	(iii) Y/Getso	360,000.00 360,000.00
		Karaye	1,440,000.00	(i) Durum P/S (ii) H/ Bango P/S (iii) M/Gajere (iv) Gaza P/S	360,000.00 540,000.00 180,000.00 360,000.00
		Kibiya	1,440,000.00	(i) U/Tofa (ii) YZ Gari (iii) K/Buguwa (iv) Tarankawa	720,000.00 180,000.00 180,000.00 360,000.00
		Kiru	1,440,000.00	(i) Kalambu (ii) Dadun (iii) Kibiya Cent. (iv) Tarai	360,000.00 360,000.00 360,000.00 360,000.00
		Kumbotso	1,440,000.00	(i) Y/Paki (ii) K/Maiyaki (iii) Kiru Central	900,000 180,000.00 360,000.00
		Kunchi LGA	1,440,000.00	(i) Mariri P/S (ii) (N3,410.05) (iii) Maikalwa P/S	540,000.00 540,000.00 540,000.00
		Kura LGA	1,440,000.00	(i) K/Central (ii) U/Gaita (iii) Hugungumai	720,000.00 360,000.00 360,000.00
		Madobi LGA	1,440,000.00	(i) Dalili (ii) G/Dutse (iii) Dan Hassan (iv) Dalili (G)	360,000.00 360,000.00 360,000.00 360,000.00
		Makoda LGA	1,440,000.00	(i) K/Hausawa (ii) M/Dogruwa (iii) Madobi Iya (iv) Kwankwaso M	360,000.00 360,000.00 360,000.00 360,000.00
		Minjibir LGA	1,440,000.00	(i) Maitsidau (ii) Makoda SPS (iii) Koguna P/S	900,000.00 180,000.00 360,000.00
		Municipal LGA	1,440,000.00	(i) Gasgainu P/S (ii) Abudakaya (iii) Minjibir SPS (iv) Kunya	360,000.00 180,000.00 540,000.00 360,000.00
		Nassarawa LGA	1,440,000.00	(i) D/Agundi PS	1,440,000.00
		Rano LGA	1,440,000.00	(i) Gwagwarwa (ii) Kawo C/Gari	1,260,000.00 180,000.00
		R/Gado LGA	1,440,000.00	(i) Madachi (ii) Rano LIP (iii) Rurum Sci.	900,000.00 180,000.00 360,000.00
		Rogo LGA	1,440,000.00	(i) Zango II P/S (ii) K/Dawa P/S (iii) R/Gado Cent	360,000.00 360,000.00 360,000.00
		Shanono LGA	1,440,000.00	(iv) Y/Danziyai (i) Rogo Ruma (ii) R/Ruma (iii) Zarewa	360,000.00 900,000.00 180,000.00 360,000.00
		Sumaila LGA	1,440,000.00	(i) Danbashi (ii) Kokiya (iii) Shanono Cent	1,080,000.00 180,000.00 180,000.00
		Takai LGA	1,440,000.00	(i) Rimi (ii) G/Gabas (iii) Sumaila SPS (iv) Sumaila G.	360,000.00 180,000.00 540,000.00 360,000.00
		Tarauni LGA	1,440,000.00	(i) Durbundai P/S (ii) Kachako (iii) Takai SPS	720,000.00 360,000.00 360,000.00
		Tofa LGA	1,440,000.00	(i) Hausawa PS (ii) Babban Giji (iii) Daurawa (i) Yonoko (ii) Tofa Cent. (iii) Lamba P/S	900,000.00 360,000.00 180,000.00 720,000.00 360,000.00 360,000.00
		Tsanyawa LGA	1,440,000.00	(i) Nassarawa (ii) Tsanyawa Cent. (iii) Yargwanda	720,000.00 360,000.00 360,000.00
		T/Wada LGA	1,440,000.00	(i) Yamma (ii) B/Burum (iii) T/W Kudu	720,000.00 540,000.00 180,000.00
		Ungogo LGA	1,440,000.00	(i) Dausawa P/S (ii) Rangaza (iii) Z/Gabas	540,000.00 180,000.00 360,000.00
		Warawa LGA	1,440,000.00	(iv) R/Zaki (i) Yangizo (ii) Gogel (iii) Giwaran P/S	360,000.00 540,000.00 540,000.00 360,000.00
		Wudil LGA	1,440,000.00	(i) Indabo (ii) Dagumawa	1,260,000.00 180,000.00
				TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR KANO STATE	163,915,556.85
9	KATSINA	Hassan Usman Kastina Polytechnic, Katsina	10,000,000.00	(i) Supply of computers for ND programmes (ii) Supply of Typewriters for Sec. Admin. Typing pool for ND/HND students (iii) Supply of Library books for Accreditation (iv) Establishment of Mass Comm. Studio (v) Supply of Additional classroom furniture	4,625,950.00 1,955,000.00 500,000.00 2,353,680.00 503,320.00

S/N	STATE	INSTITUTIONS	YEAR 2000 ALLOCATION	RECONCILED PROJECTS	APPROVED COST LIMIT
				(vi) Contingencies	62,050.00 <u>10,000,000.00</u>
		Isa-Kaita College of Education Dutsin-ma	8,000,000.00	(i) Purchase of 1no. 22-seater bus for Teaching practice (ii) Rehabilitation of 20nos. Academic staff offices (iii) Rehabilitation of 1no. conference hall (iv) Rehabilitation of 5nos. block of 4 classrooms (v) Construction of water reservoir and surface tanks	3,100,000.00 2,200,000.00 1,000,000.00 1,200,000.00 <u>500,000.00</u> <u>8,000,000.00</u>
		Federal College Of Education, Katsina	8,000,000.00	(i) Construction of 750 meters of road R2. (ii) Construction of 400 meters of part of road R1 on the College Campus	5,000,000.00 <u>3,000,000.00</u> <u>8,000,000.00</u>
		Ministry of Education (for Equipment for Handicapped.)	1,000,000.00	(i) 4nos. Braille Perkin (ii) 60nos. writing frames (iii) 38nos. collapsible mobility canes (iv) 20nos. talking calculator (v) 10nos. tape recorder (variable speed) (vi) 60nos. stylus (vii) 3nos. overhead projectors (viii) 4nos. transparencies (ix) 8nos. typewriters (Carina II) (x) 24nos. Hearing Aids	260,000.00 33,000.00 76,000.00 30,000.00 50,000.00 9,000.00 180,000.00 12,000.00 240,000.00 60,000.00
		Ministry of Education (for Senior Secondary Education)	20,405,479.45	(i) Construction of I shape dormitory at Govt. Girls Secon. Ajiwa, Doudawa, Kaikai, Shargalle, Rogogo (ii) Construction of clrm blk. at Govt. Girls Secon., Kaikai, Daudawa, Shargalle, K/Yadanka & Funtua (iii) Bore hole @GGSS Kaikai (iv) Sci. equip. for STEB (v) Olympia Typewriters (vi) Tech equip for STEB (vii) 423 2-deck beds @#2,600 each.	7,645,000.00 7,000,000.00 660,379.00 1,500,000.00 1,500,000.00 1,000,100.00 <u>1,100,000.00</u> <u>20,405,479.45</u>
		Kastina State Primary Education Board	49,075,968.90	Renovation / Rehabilitation of 50 Pry. Schools in the 34 LGEAS in the State as follow; (i) Kanawa P/S in Bakori LGA (ii) Kayauki P/S in Batagarawa LGA (iii) Madogara P/S in Batsari (iv) Babban - Mutum in Baure LGA (v) Yan - Gora P/S in Bindawa (vi) Rugar - Bade in Bindawa LGA (vii) Radda Model P/S in Charachi LGA (viii) Dan - Musa MPS in Dan - Musa LGA (ix) Dan - Mayaki P/S in Dandume LGA (x) Unguwar - Bawa, in Danja (xi) Yelwa P/S in Danja LGA (xii) Dan - Nakola in Daura LGA (xiii) Yamel P/S in Dutsi (xiv) Kuki and (xv) Dan - Tanke P/S in Dutsin - Ma (xvi) Kadisan and (xvii) Kwanki P/S in Faskari LGA (xviii) Idris Girls P/S in Funtua LGA (xix) Yar - Lawal and (xx) Adamaw P/S in Ingawa LGA (xxi) Farfarun Malamai and Gakurdi P/S in Jibiya (xxii) Bari and (xxiii) Dogo P/S in Kafur (xxiv) Duma and (xxv) Unguwa - Jibo P/S in Kaita (xxvi) M/Kuka P/S in Kankara (xxvii) Gyaza P/S in Kankia (xxviii) Farin - Yaro in Katsina (xxix) Tamo and (xxx) Chediya P/S in Kurfi LGA (xxxi) Sabon - runa P/S and (xxxii) Kafarda P/S in Kusada (xxxiii) Jassai and (xxxiv) Yankara P/S in Mai'adua (xxxv) Aliyu Model in Malumfashi (xxxvi) Hamcheta P/S in Mani LGA (xxxvii) Doka P/S in Mashi LGA (xxxviii) Tar - Tsamiya P/S and (xxxix) Katun P/S in Matazu (xl) Karachi and (xli) Faras - Kira P/S in Musawa (xlii) Siyya and (xliiii) Yar - Tsamiya in Rimi LGA (xliv) Rafin - fa in Sabuwa (xlv) Kwayawa and Guzurawa P/S in Safana LGA (xlvi) Fago (i) in Sandamu (xlvii) Kawarin - Kudi and Madaka P/S in Zango	1,842,936.00 1,309,264.00 1,286,758.00 1,282,050.00 561,748.00 835,164.00 1,499,070.00 1,387,331.00 832,557.00 707,883.00 511,434.00 1,501,412.00 1,009,349.00 773,878.00 594,176.00 779,850.00 628,595.00 960,740.00 628,595.00 633,770.00 627,088.00 725,307.00 648,820.00 879,021.00 690,118.00 867,108.00 1,398,452.00 1,393,590.00 1,375,803.00 839,245.00 656,458.00 518,562.00 575,322.00 723,294.00 863,203.00 931,271.00 1,578,544.00 1,476,387.00 649,528.00 687,533.00 717,860.00 679,822.00 651,783.00 692,483.00 892,430.00 741,499.00 594,352.00 240,404.00 675,015.00 851,402.00
				TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR KASTINA STATE	96,481,448.35
10	KEBBI	Federal Polytechnic, Birnin-Kebbi	10,000,000.00	(i) Conversion of Science staff room to offices (ii) Conversion of Gen. Studies staff room to Offices (iii) Rehab. Of 1 blk. Of 6 classroom (iv) Conversion of common room to Board room (v) Rehab. Of School Bookshop (vi) Construction of 1 blk. Of 3 classrooms (vii) Street lighting (viii) Supply of 60nos. 3-seater furniture (ix) 6nos. Pentium II Computers	624,146.25 955,993.50 918,784.65 497,763.00 1,975,726.15 1,960,970.55 1,724,615.00 342,000.00 <u>1,000,000.00</u> <u>10,000,000.00</u>
		Kebbi State College of Education, Argungu	8,000,000.00	(i) Supply & installation of 1no. Perkins Generator set (300KVA) (ii) Partitioning of Tech. Lab., office, store & supply of equipment to the Educ. Tech. Centre (iii) Supply of Furniture for simple Labs. & 4 laboratories (iv) Supply of Library reference books (v) Contingencies	5,761,600.00 793,212.00 982,000.00 200,000.00 <u>263,188.00</u> <u>8,000,000.00</u>

S/N	STATE	INSTITUTIONS	YEAR 2000 ALLOCATION	RECONCILED PROJECTS	APPROVED COST LIMIT
		Kebbi State College Of Agriculture, Zuru	5,000,000.00	Purchase of Science Equipment Completion of Classroom block. Purchase of Engineering Equipment Agric. Tech. Dept. Equipment Animal Health/Vet. Clinic	1,000,000.00 2,018,113.00 500,000.00 486,500.00 519,700.00 4,524,313.00
		Ministry of Education (for Equipment for handicapped)	1,000,000.00	(i) 3nos. Olympia typewriters (ii) 20 reams Braille papers (iii) 10nos. tricycle (iv) 100nos. sign language bks (v) 10nos. tape recorder (Trident) (vi) 4nos. Perkins Brailers (vii) 20nos. Abacus Plastic (viii) 20nos. writing frames (ix) 21nos. collapsible mobility canes (x) 5nos. talking calculators (xi) 6nos. Adjustable crutches (xii) 100nos. Stylus (xiii) 4nos. steel cabinets (xiv) 10nos. sewing machines (Butterfly) (xv) 10nos. Braille Kits (xvi) 6nos. Speech Trainer	90,000.00 40,000.00 150,000.00 50,000.00 30,000.00 260,000.00 2,000.00 6,000.00 42,000.00 15,000.00 30,000.00 5,000.00 40,000.00 80,000.00 70,000.00 90,000.00
		Ministry of Education (for Senior secondary Education)	20,405,479.45	Completion of duplex house, mechanical workshop, hostel blocks & into tech equipment workshop in: (i) Govt. Girls Sec Yeldu (ii) G.D.S.S. Dabai (iii) Completion of 1no. duplex house at J.S.S. Kardi (iv) Completion of 1no. block of classroom at J.S.S. Alwasa (v) Completion of hostel block at G.S.S. Gebbe (vi) Renovation of 1no. block at J.S.S. Malisa Renovation of computer labs. in 5 secondary schools	2,763,049.65 3,289,343.00 1,566,594.80 2,089,269.00 4,320,273.00 2,684,450.80 3,692,500.00 20,405,479.45
		Kebbi State Primary Education Board Aliero LGA Arewa LGA Augie LGA Argungu LGA Bagudo LGA B/Kebbi LGA Bunza LGA Dandi LGA Danko/W LGA Fakai LGA Gwandu LGA Jega LGA Kalgo LGA K/Besse Maiyama Ngaski LGA Sakaba LGA Shanga LGA Suru LGA Yauri LGA Zuru LGA	30,311,627.85	Rehabilitation of 36 Primary Schools in the 21 LGEAS of the State are as follows: Attahiru M. P. S and Jiga MPS Gwambrar MPS and Chibeke Pri. Sch (i) T/Rafi P/S (i) T/Zazzagawa MPS Marake MPS and Kende MPS GRA Model P/S and Umaru Illalo P/S (i) Marafa MPS Tungar Tahiru P/STungar Nome P/S (i) Bena MPS & Zuttu P/S (i) Kangi P/S (i) Maruda P/S & Danjema P/S (i) Kuitane P/S (i) Ketar - Hausawa P/S (i) Kirini P/S (i) Zara - Bimi P/S (i) Lopa P/S & Rikufe P/S (i) Doka Hausawa P/S Wadata MPS & Nassarawa MPS (i) Kwakware P/S (i) Koma Prim. Sch (i) Shantali Ilango P/S & Dongo P/S	1,406,219.25 1,361,944.50 1,331,944.50 1,343,569.50 1,401,781.00 1,431,662.40 1,372,042.50 1,592,429.00 1,575,210.00 1,447,561.00 1,510,825.00 1,543,731.00 1,497,762.00 1,494,732.00 1,353,867.00 1,341,857.50 1,550,785.00 1,360,012.50 1,355,592.00 1,478,599.50 1,390,962.00 30,311,627.85
				TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR KEBBI STATE	74,717,107.30
11	JIGAWA	Huseni Adamu Polytechnic, Kazaure	10,000,000.00	(i) Purchase of equipment for the Electronic measurement & Instrumentation laboratory (ii) Installation & renovation of the laboratory	9,360,050.00 <u>639,950.00</u> 10,000,000.00
		Jigawa State College Of Education, Gumel	8,000,000.00	(i) Renovation of integrated science Laboratories (ii) Purchase of classroom furniture (iii) Purchase of library books (iv) Renovation of Lecture Theatre (v) Purchase of Peugeot 504 station wagon for T.P. supervision & other academic related matters (vi) Construction of Hand Operated Water Bore hole 1no.(Indian Mark II, 60 metres depth) (vii) Renovation of H60 block for staff accommodation (viii) Contingencies	1,336,137.00 800,000.00 100,000.00 701,867.00 3,307,862.00 400,000.00 1,237,968.15 <u>116,165.85</u> 8,000,000.00
		Jigawa State College Of Agriculture, Hadeija	5,000,000.00	(i) Procurement of Chemistry lab. Equipment (ii) Procurement of Soil Lab. Equipment (iii) Contingency	3,564,735.90 1,370,070.90 <u>65,193.20</u> 5,000,000.00
		Ministry of education (for Equipment for handicapped)	1,000,000.00		
		Ministry of education (for Senior secondary Education)	20,405,479.45	RENOVATION: (i) Renovation of Students hostel @ GGSS Danzomo (ii) Renovation of Classroom block @ JSS Yawan Damai (iii) Staff House @ Special School, Kazaure (iv) Chrms. hostel & staff houses @ SSS Kafin Hausa (v) Structures @ GGSS, Kazaure (vi) Duplex classroom. @ JSS Kanya PURCHASES OF: (i) Science Equipment for the State (ii) 35KVA Gen. Set for Special School (iii) 3nos. Computers with accessories (iv) 300 double bunk beds (v) 600 sets of double seater desks (vi) 2nos. hand pumps @ SAIS, Hadeija (vii) Textbooks to all S/S in the State (viii) PA System, Video camera, & 2nos. photocopiers (ix) Construction of workshops at Vocational Technical, Ringim & Vocational Technical, Birnin Kudu	487,619.55 168,480.00 576,635.80 2,947,000.00 805,297.85 300,930.77 1,679,910.40 1,607,000.00 870,000.00 1,950,000.00 2,400,000.00 771,530.00 1,140,611.00 831,000.00 3,846,463.38 20,405,479.45
		Jigawa State Primary Education Board	38,972,092.95	Renovation of 43 duplex classroom blocks and Purchase of 3,500 sets of 3-seater classroom furniture @ #4,443.00 each. (i) Gujunga P/s (ii) Nahuc P/S	23,418,978.00 <u>15,550,500.00</u> 38,969,478.00 492,808.00 1,332,172.00 447,650.00

S/N	STATE	INSTITUTIONS	YEAR 2000 ALLOCATION	RECONCILED PROJECTS	APPROVED COST LIMIT
				(iii) T/Islamiyya in Taura LGA (iv) K/Falgeri in Buji LGA (v) Basirka in Gwaram LGA (vi) Sagu in Buji LGA (vii) Katsinawa/Kazaure A in Kazaure LGA (viii) Takwardawa in Roni LGA (ix) Karkanna in Yankwashi LGA (x) Jamnaje P/S (xi) Kwarare P/S in Gwiwa LGA (xii) Gabarin P/S (xiii) Chai - Chai (xiv) Kwartawa in Ringim LGA (xv) Musku in Babura LGA (xvi) Galadimawa P/S in Garki LGA (xvii) U/Dogo in Babura LGA (xviii) Muku in Garki LGA (xix) Katuka P/S in Kiyawa LGA (xx) Zakirai P/S (xxi) Zango in Kiyawa LGA (xxii) Zareku P/S in Miga LGA (xxiii) Sarawuya P/S in (xxiv) Makera P/S in Miga LGA (xxv) Diginin P/S (xxvi) Yarki in Gwaram LGA (xxvii) Yabaza P/S (xxviii) Zanga P/S in B/Kudu LGA (xxix) Likori P/S (xxx) Gayin (xxxi) Maikanyu in K/Kasamma LGA (xxxii) Busugu Aban P/S in Birniwa (xxxiii) H/tsohuwa P/S (xxxiv) Birabiri in Jahun LGA (xxxv) Chamo in Dutse LGA (xxxvi) Tsiiibut (xxxvii) U/Ashe in Roni LGA (xxxviii) Sada P/S in Yankwashi (xxxix) Dan. Fusa P/S in Babura LGA (xl) Filata (xli) Maikilili in Maigatari LGA (xlii) Yankwashi SPS in Yanwashi LGA (xliii) Maikilili in Gagarawa LGA (xliv) Albasu and (xlv) Kabewa (xlvi) Amanga P/S in S/Tankarkar LGA (xlvii) Kore Bulatu in Gagarawa LGA (xlviii) Fagoji P/S in Dutse LGA (xlix) Limawa P/S in Dutse LGA (l) Kantamar P/S in Kaugama LGA (li) Ayama P/S (lii) Kigin P/S (liii) G/Kuka in Auyo LGA (liv) Baguwa (lv) G/Barma in M/Madori LGA (lvi) Timinjira P/S (lvii) Baraduwa (lviii) Kwatalo in K/Hausa LGA (lix) Dubantu in Hadejia LGA (lx) G/Gam./D/Atta P/S (lxi) D/Ana P/S in Gumel LGA (lxii) Balabara P/S in Birniwa LGA (lxiii) Madamuwa P/S (lxiv) Gabargal in Guri LGA (lxv) Haruna in Hadejia (lxvi) Jahun P/S in Jahun LGA (lxvii) B/Kwari in Kaugama LGA (lxviii) Yan. Dutse P/S in Ringim	1,073,272.00 1,685,655.00 1,782,950.00 2,060,454.00 879,306.00 1,080,049.00 1,930,432.00 783,329.00 1,056,249.00 1,996,013.56 722,255.00 1,503,934.00 639,700.00 380,841.00 2,246,515.00 1,580,363.00 510,855.96 398,728.00 680,870.00 652,158.00 1,403,582.00 699,057.00 1,412,248.00 1,600,746.00 619,182.00 772,439.00 843,074.00 1,600,608.00 1,543,017.00 989,963.00 920,887.00 1,597,002.00 1,083,111.10 909,618.00 909,005.00 569,420.00 1,037,939.00 2,028,973.00 559,397.00 1,555,571.28 711,450.00 1,243,557.00 1,267,884.65 699,478.00 891,415.00 1,456,249.00 1,445,744.00 830,308.00 572,949.00 944,484.00 1,494,674.00 793,148.00 1,494,674.00 1,093,619.00 1,543,856.00 2,085,526.00 930,311.00 1,524,275.00 982,459.00 1,418,634.00 633,445.00 945,909.00 965,321.00 569,420.00
				TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR JIGAWA STATE	83,377,572.40
12	SOKOTO	Usman Dan Fodio University, Sokoto	20,000,000.00	(i) Construction of large lecture hall at the main campus (ii) Construction of 10-room office block for the faculty of Science at the main campus. (iii) Construction of office block for the College of Health Science at the Teaching Hospital Premises	6,329,272.00 6,439,413.00 <u>7,241,315.00</u> 20,000,000.00
		Shchu Shagari College Of Education, Sokoto	8,000,000.00	(i) Rehabilitation of PHE block I (ii) Rehabilitation of PHE block II (iii) Rehabilitation of 2nos. Football fields (iv) Rehabilitation of Hausa block II (v) Rehabilitation of Tech. Educ. Machine & Equipment (vi) Purchase of Mathematics Laboratory Equipment	850,435.55 717,282.00 2,100,892.00 2,937,386.35 1,150,604.10 <u>243,400.00</u> 8,000,000.00
		Ministry of Education (for equipment for handicapped)	1,000,000.00	(i) 13nos. Speech trainers (ii) 50nos. Joy of sign text (iii) 2nos. of stabilizers (iv) 5nos. tailoring The Mentally Retarded (v) 1no. Video tape recorder (vi) 1no. colour TV set (vii) 4 sets of microphone (viii) 4nos. standing mirror The Blind (ix) 2nos. Braille sheet (x) 3nos. tape recorders (xi) 10nos. English Braille primer (xii) 10nos. Maths Braille primer (xiii) 2nos./ Braille revisitmatches (xiv) 100 reams of Braille paper The Cripple (xv) 10nos. wheel chairs (xvi) 5nos. adjustable chalkboard (xvii) 15nos. adjustable crutches	200,000.00 100,000.00 6,000.00 40,000.00 16,000.00 20,500 7,000.00 16,000.00 15,000.00 13,500.00 25,000.00 25,000.00 7,000.00 200,000.00 180,000.00 46,500.00 82,500.00
		Ministry of Education (for Senior Secondary Education)	20,405,479.45	CONSTRUCTION OF: (i) Students Hostel at Hafsat Ahmadu Bello Arabic S/S, GSS Isa. (ii) 3 classrooms / office at GSS Isa 7 JSS Jabo (iii) Rehab. Of GTS Binji & GTS, Farfaru (iv) Purchase of 28nos. Olympia Typewriters for Ahmadu Bello Academy (v) VAT & Contingencies	6,905,292.00 5,601,140.00 3,967,128.00 <u>1,820,000.00</u> 2,111,919.45

S/N	STATE	INSTITUTIONS	YEAR 2000 ALLOCATION	RECONCILED PROJECTS	APPROVED COST LIMIT
					<u>20,405,479.45</u>
		Sokoto State Primary Education Board	33,198,449.55	(i) Rehabilitation/Renovation of Structures in 34 Primary Schools in 20 LGEAS (ii) construction of new classroom blocks in Gudu, Isa & Tureta LGEAS	28,450,450.62 <u>4,747,998.93</u> <u>33,198,449.55</u>
				TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR SOKOTO STATE	82,603,929.00
13	ZAMFARA	Federal Polytechnic, Kaura-Namoda	10,000,000.00	NOT YET RECONCILED	
		Abdu Gusau Polytechnic, Talata-Mafara	10,000,000.00	Construction of Theatre Complex Purchase of 2 Nos. computers (Multi-media)	9,660,000.00 340,000.00 <u>10,000,000.00</u>
		Federal College of Education, (Technical), Gusau	8,000,000.00	(i) Completion of 3 hostel blocks & furnishing (ii) Completion of Laundrettes & toilet block	6,784,760.00 <u>1,215,240.00</u> <u>8,000,000.00</u>
		Ministry of Education (for Equipment for Handicapped.)	1,000,000.00	1. <u>Items For The Blind</u> (i) 3nos. Braille Perkin (ii) 70nos. Braille books (Assorted) (iii) 100nos. Arithmetic cubes (iv) 15nos. cubarithm boards (v) 6nos. collapsible mobility canes (vi) 5nos. tape recorder (Variable speed) (vii) 8nos. talking calculators (viii) 5nos. typewriters (Carina II) 2. <u>The Deaf</u> (i) 2nos. Overhead projectors (ii) 55 sets of hearing aids (iii) 29 sets of Anatomical model for the ear 3. <u>The Crippled</u> (i) 5nos. of wheel chairs (ii) 5nos. tricycles (iii) 6 sets of Adjustable crutches	195,000.00 35,000.00 20,000.00 37,500.00 12,000.00 37,500.00 24,000.00 180,000.00 110,000.00 110,000.00 29,000.00 100,000.00 75,000.00 36,000.00
		Ministry of Education (for Senior Secondary Education)	20,405,479.45	REPAIRS & RENOVATION @: (i) GTC, Kaura Namoda (ii) GGC, Talata Mafara (iii) GSSS Zurmi V (iv) GSS, Anka	9,037,069.86 1,958,822.50 5,195,240.00 <u>4,214,347.09</u> <u>20,405,479.45</u>
		Zamfara State Primary Education Board	20,207,751.90	Renovation/Rehabilitation of structures in: (i) Garian Pry School (ii) Dauri Pry School (iii) D/Kurai Pry School (iv) B/Zoma Pry School (v) Furfuri Pry School (vi) Farfaru Pry School (vii) Shamushade Pry School (viii) Kanmu Pry School (ix) Sakkere Pry School (x) Iyaka Pry School (xi) Leshi Pry School (xii) Wonaka Pry School (xiii) Moh'd Asha Pry School (xiv) Abani Yawa Pry School (xv) Dosara Pry School (xvi) Danua Pry School (xvii) Maiyanchi Pry School (xviii) Kurya Pry School (xix) Maikwanga Pry School (xx) Yanweren Pry School (xxi) Sulaiman Pry School	1,461,728.00 1,067,219.90 469,554.75 1,396,878.00 898,662.16 546,938.70 331,322.25 544,142.00 546,452.50 1,174,919.55 358,395.45 1,416,908.75 1,041,399.45 539,473.20 1,308,827.60 539,926.00 1,312,827.60 1,361,601.00 451,228.00 1,593,591.00 <u>1,434,483.00</u> <u>20,207,751.90</u>
				TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR ZAMFARA STATE	69,613,231.35

Signed:

ETF Management13/15 Azores Street, Off Aminu Kano Crescent,
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NEWS

Police deny knowledge of OPC rally

The Ogun State Police Command has denied knowledge of the alleged rally purported to have been held by the wanted factional leader of the banned Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC).

In a statement which was made available to *Daily Trust*,

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, in Abeokuta

the police stated: "Be informed that the rally was not to the knowledge of the police authority and we have directed the surveillance policemen on the ground to unveil any plan by the banned OPC groups to hold

any rally."

The statement further said that on August 9, this year, at about 4 p.m., they received information from the management of African Independent Television Authority (AIT), Alagbado, Lagos that on August 7, 2001, the factional leader of the banned OPC, Ganiyu Adams, who had been declared wanted, addressed a public rally at Jaffa, a small area near Olajumo market in Akute under the Agbado police division, very close to Lagos, in Ifo Local Government Area of Ogun State.

The rally was confirmed to have been covered by the AIT roving correspondent in the letter which was signed by the Managing Director of AIT claiming that the reporter asked Gani Adams about his records with the police to which Gani replied that he had no criminal records with them.

Gani kicks against travel ban on Aikhomu

Human rights activist, and constitutional lawyer, Chief Gani Fawhinmi, has kicked against the recent restriction of former military Vice-President, Admiral Augustus Aikhomu (rt), from travelling abroad.

He said in a statement that every Nigerian, including Admiral Aikhomu has the right to come into the country and leave at will by virtue of section 41 of the 1999 constitution.

"This right can only be breached if a person is arrested in connection with any crime which must be investigated and brought to court and the court gives an order preventing him from leaving the country, or if he has committed any crime and is, in the process of evading justice by running away," he declared.

According to him, since there was no warrant of arrest on Aikhomu, he has the right to travel out of the country, adding that General Ibrahim Babangida recently left the country without molestation

By Suleiman Mohammed

by the presidency. "The same question one should ask the president is, what has Aikhomu done to warrant the violation of his fundamental right of movement?" and reminded President Olusegun Obasanjo that unlike before when he served as military head of state, the country is now under democracy, bound by the constitution.

Promote Sharia through your conducts - Maitama tells muslims

Proponents of the Sharia legal system, particularly from the Northern part of the country, have been admonished to exhibit personal quality that would promote the system instead of waiting for government to do everything for them.

Former Nigeria's representative to the United Nations, Alhaji Maitama Sule, gave the advise at the launching a book titled: "The favourite wife," written by Hajiya Hajara Sadiq B/

From Salisu Zakari Maradun, in Gusau

Magaji.

He explained that state governments implementing the system had done their best though in a hasty way, individuals, especially parents and guardians had a greater role to play in extending the message.

Sule who is also the *Danmasamin* Kano also said, "it is true that government had declared *Sharia*, but it can't stand in front of your house and force you to stop your daughter from discussing with their boy-friends," because you cannot force somebody to reform only God can do that, he added.

Though *Sharia* is a complete way of life for every muslim, he said muslims should be encouraged to embrace the modern western education so as not to be left behind in the rapid technological advancement on the globe.

He further expressed the opinion that the legal system was being misunderstood by many people in the country, because they failed to realize that for a muslim what you wear and how you wear it and even the food you eat and sleeping must all be in line with the *Sharia*."

Alhaji Maitama Sule therefore charged Nigerian leaders "to abide by the truth no matter the consequences because everybody must give account of his stewardship in the hereafter," he concluded.

Ministry organizes conference for clerical officers

In line with the directive given to all federal ministries and parastatals by the Head of Service, Alhaji Mahmoud Yayale Ahmed, to focus on the training of clerical officers, the Ministry of Water Resources have organised a week-long conference to prepare the participants for the exercise.

The conference which

By Hammeed M. Bello

was declared open on Tuesday in Abuja by the Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Chief A.A. Okafor, is specifically geared towards improving the performance of the clerical staff in the combined confirmation promotion examination slated for August 27 to 31.

Participants at the conference, drawn from among clerical officers, clerical assistants, messengers and sub-technicians who are between grade levels 02 to 06 are to receive coaching course beginning from Tuesday to Friday this week.

According to the permanent secretary, the objectives of the course are to acquaint candidates with the public service rules and the organizational structure of the civil service in addition to introducing participants to the rudiments of elementary



Alhaji Yayale Ahmed



FIRST NATIONAL SEMINAR ON ECONOMIC CRIMES

The Federal Government, and major regulators and operators, of the economy, is organizing the First National Seminar on Economic Crimes. The major stakeholders, including regulators and operators of the economy, include:-

- i) Central Bank of Nigeria
- ii) Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation
- iii) Securities and Exchange Commission
- iv) Office of the Senior Special Assistant on Drugs and Financial Crimes
- v) National Assembly
- vi) Judiciary
- vii) National Drug Law Enforcement Agency
- viii) National Insurance Commission
- ix) Nigerian Police
- x) Nigeria Labour Congress
- xi) Federal Ministry of Finance
- xii) Federal Ministry of Justice

SEMINAR OBJECTIVES

- i) Identifying and exchanging ideas on the nature, pattern, and manifestation of economic crimes in Nigeria.
- ii) Sensitising participants of the adverse implications of these crimes on sustainable development
- iii) Generating ideas and developing strategies for the effective prevention and control of these crimes.

THEME

Economic Crimes: A threat to sustainable National Development

SUB-THEMES

- Economic Crimes and the Financial Sector
- Legal and Regulatory Framework in Combating Crimes
- Vandalization of Public Utilities and its Consequences
- Government and Society in the Fight Against Economic Crimes
- Need for Corporation in Economic Crime Management

TOPIC

- 1. An Overview of Economic Crimes in Nigeria
- 2. Corruption and Looting of Public Funds: Nigeria's Perspective
- 3. Financial Malpractices in the Banking and other financial institutions
- 4. Vandalization and Abuse of Infrastructure
- 5. Advance Fee Fraud and Nigeria's Image
- 6. Money Laundering and Transnational Crimes National Drug Control Program
- 7. Adequacy of Legislation, Enforcement, and Sanctions in combating Economic crimes
- 8. International Cooperation in combating Economic Crimes
- 9. Ethics, Culture, and Professionalism as Catalyst to a corrupt-free society
- 10. The Need for Political Will: The Action of Government as a Necessary Reflection on its Intention to Combat Economic Crimes

SPEAKER

- Dr. Ibrahim Y. Lame**
Former Senior Special Assistant to the President on Drugs and Financial Crimes
- Hon. Justice Mustapha M. Akanbi**
Chairman, Independent Corrupt Practices Commission
- Dr. Shamsuddeen Usman,**
Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria
- Mr. Jackson Gaius - Obaseki,**
Group Managing Director, Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation
- Mrs. A.J. Ojomo,**
Assistance Inspector - General of Police
- Mr. Paul Saley,**
Country Representatives, United National Drug Control Program
- Mr. Tochukwu Onwugbutor, SAN**
- Ambassador F. Jetter,**
US Ambassador to Nigeria
- Prof. Jerry Gana,**
Hon. Minister of Information and National Orientation
- Prof. U. Birai**
University of Abuja, Abuja

FACILITATORS

Resource persons and coordinators are drawn from both within and outside the country, including top government officials, chief executives of government organizations and parastatals, security and intelligence services, academia, e.t.c.

PARTICIPANTS

The target audience include government ministries, parastatals, states, local government, FCT; regulators, operators banking and other financial Institutions; academia, the organized private sector, e.t.c.

Participation Fee: N20,000.00 per participant

Venue: Conference Hall, ECOWAS Secretariat, Asokoro, Abuja
Date: Sunday 26th - Wednesday, 29th August, 2001
Time: 9.am Daily

For further enquiries please contact the following:-

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Member, Planning Committee

PLANNING COMMITTEE

NEWS

Commissioner of Police escapes robbery attack

Kano State Commissioner of Police, Alhaji Yakubu Bello Uba, narrowly escaped armed robbers' attack last week when he was coming back from Maiduguri.

Narrating his ordeal to *Daily Trust* in his office, Alhaji Yakubu Bello Uba said he met a convoy of about 30 vehicles just about 20km to Benishek on his way from Maiduguri to Kano.

He said he was earlier warned to retreat and get police reinforcement or terminate his journey as armed robbers were operating few kilometres away, but he decided to proceed with his escort.

The commissioner said that when they got to the scene of the operation, he and his escort disembarked from their vehicles and entered into the bush from where they exchanged fire for about 30 minutes with the men of the underworld.

"Later, the robbers ran away leaving traces of blood," he said.

From Jamilah Nuhu Musa, in Kano

Two vehicles, a pick-up van and a red Toyota starlet which were also abandoned at the scene of the incident are now in the custody of the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of the Benishek police command while investigations would be carried out to determine their owners.

Expressing concern over the high rate of armed robbery in the country, the police commissioner said there should be regular police patrol with more

policemen involved and proper monitoring of Nigerian borders.

This, he said, would stem the rate at which foreigners besiege the country. "If you go to other countries you will see checkpoints with army and police patrols even in the bush apart from the foot and vehicle patrols," he stated.

He described the situation where the police arrest men of the underworld according to the dictates of law as unfortunate. In his words:

"when a policeman encounters a robber, the best thing is to shoot. Policemen are well-trained than the armed robbers who just spray bullets anyhow, they don't even know how to take cover."

Concerning the superiority of the robbers' weapons, he said it was the general belief that their weapons were sophisticated "but one armed robber once caught by my formation confessed that sometimes they use knock-outs to scare people," he said.

On the issue of police conspiracy with and sale of arms to men of the underworld, the police chief strongly defended the police, saying that every police and military unit account for arms given to them. "No policeman would sell a gun to anybody," he stated.

Baale lambasts muslims over disunity

A traditional title holder in Ibadan, the Baale of Bodija, Omo Oba Rasheed Adesokan, has lambasted Muslims for using tribal and ethnic differences, consciously, to cause enmity, disaffection and disunity among the muslims ummah in the country.

The Baale, who spoke to our Zaria correspondent in a telephone interview regretted that Muslims, not only in Nigeria, but the world over have abandoned the teachings of the Holy Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (S.A.W.) which forbid a fellow muslim from

From Waziri Isa Gwantu, in Zaria

seeing himself as better and more honourable than his fellow muslim brother just because he belongs to a particular tribe.

He said the most honourable of all men in the sight of Allah is the one that has the fear of God. "These type of muslims love their fellow muslims more than they love themselves and they do not prefer their tribal or ethnic brother above their religious brother," he added.

Unfortunately, today Muslims who are supposed to be the most united set of people anywhere in the world by virtue of their followership of the religion whose cardinal message revolves around unity, have allowed tribal and ethnic affiliations to tear them apart, while men of other religions are daily becoming united irrespective of their tribal or ethnic leanings.

The Baale therefore called on muslims all over the country to shun their differences in the interest of Islam and Allah who created them in different forms, tribes and races so as to exhibit His greatness and so that mankind would know and understand one another.

He also called on them to steer clear of all tribal and ethnic organisations such as *Afenifere*, *Ndigbo*, ACF and OPC, because according to him, they are organisations or forces capable, of militating against muslim unity in the country. He said the arguments some people advance that the Hausa muslims denied their fellow Yoruba muslim brother, late Abiola, the mandate Nigerians gave him to rule the country, was not enough reason to set the Yoruba muslims on permanent path of enmity against their Hausa muslim brothers.

The Baale, who is also the Balogun (commander of believers) of Ibadan, however, noted that the annulment of the June 12, 1993 election was an act that deserved condemnation by all objective Nigerians and every human being because it was a clear injustice as far as democracy is concerned.



Sultan Maccido

Cross River reiterates plan to uplift judiciary

The Cross River State government has reiterated its commitment to ensure that the judicial arm of government is given all the necessary support to enable it function according to laid down procedures.

The state governor, Mr. Donald Duke, who made this known while receiving

From Bassey Ita, in Calabar

the newly inaugurated executive members of the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) in the state, however, urged the lawyers to live above board in their professional calling.

Duke also announced the reduction of judgement debt from N100 million to N63

million, adding that he has also been holding meetings with judges on how best to ameliorate their plight.

The governor, who used the occasion to laud the state NBA for being honoured to host the forthcoming NBA conference in Calabar, noted that the judiciary is faced with myriads problems including welfare, court congestion and lack of co-operation from the police in conveying criminals to court.

He stressed further that the state government was presently making efforts at tackling some of the problems encountered in the judicial system as to allow for quick dispensation of justice and announced the donation of three Black Maria vehicles to each of the three senatorial districts in the state.

Although the judiciary is self-accounting, the state governor said he was willing to augment its requirements to enable it function maximally.

Mr. Duke directed the State Commissioner for Justice to look into their accommodation problems and make recommendations to the state government for consideration.

Earlier, the chairman of the Calabar branch of the NBA, Mr. Joe Agi, commended the governor for "displaying the lawyer spirit in him," by "ever being restrained from abusing his power in the face of provocation."

Mr. Agi also solicited the state government's assistance to enable the association host its National Bar Conference in Calabar later this month and also for the settlement of judgement debts and extension of the high court complex in Calabar, including the block housing the Science and Technical Education Board.



Musiliu Smith, IGP

Final year varsity student drowns in Okrika river

A final year student of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology (RUSTE), Port Harcourt, was among five persons who drowned last weekend in Okrika river on their way to Port Harcourt.

Daily Trust gathered from the Rivers State police command spokesperson, Dr. Uche Mike Chukwuma, in a telephone chat, that though the identity of the undergraduate could not be confirmed, his friend who narrowly missed the boat mishap confirmed that the student was on board the ill-fated boat.

From Wisdom-Uduak Patrick, in Port Harcourt

Chukwuma, who confirmed the accident said it could have been avoided if the bigger ferry belonging to Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) had exercised a little caution upon

exercise the passengers' speed boat.

When our correspondent visited the scene of the accident, sympathisers, mostly students, gathered in anticipation of the recovery of the victims' corpses

which expectedly would float ashore.

Efforts to get the reaction of LNG management on the accident proved abortive as none of the officials in the corporate affairs department of the company volunteered any comment.

Group warns against anti-progress activities

A non-governmental organisation known as Young Northern Professionals (YNP) has warned Nigerians to be wary of the activities of some unpatriotic elements bent on subverting the progress made in the country through the enabling environment provided by democratic

By Emmanuel Ande

governance, saying that their activities are all geared towards the bastardisation of the security apparatus of the nation.

In a statement in Abuja, signed by the protem chairman of the association, Mallam Muhammad Rufa'i, the group said that already about N20 billion have been budgeted for the dastardly action, adding that forcing some former Heads of State to appear before Oputa panel is aimed at making the retired generals to expose some of the leaders who enjoyed government patronage.

"Specifically, we want to alert the security agencies that some Nigerian collaborators are desperate to set the country ablaze or create a state of anarchy by making unguided utterances capable of instigating a section of the country against government and some respected Northerners whom they claimed did not act by pleading on their behalf with government to drop charges against them in law courts," the statement said.

"Of course, all contracts

Scholar enjoins muslims to show good example

Muslims have been challenged to demonstrate their true commitment and devotion to the cause of Islam by living life worthy of emulation by others and commendation by all.

An Ibadan-based Islamic scholar, Sheikh Abubakar Umar Erubu, made the call at an Islamic reception for the new Grand Khadi of Kwara State, Honourable Justice Abdulmutallib Ahmad Hanbali, in Ilorin last weekend.

Sheikh Umar recounted lots of problems confronting Muslims in Nigeria today and blamed them for lacking true commitment and devotion.

The cleric lamented that

From Abdul Laro, in Ilorin

the reaction of Muslims to non-implementation of full *Sharia* in Muslim-dominated states has been poor, attributing it to ignorance, lack of true dedication to Islam, and the inability of muslims to live true Islamic life devoid of vices.

Sheikh Umar Erubu therefore called on true muslims to repent and chart a new course leading to Allah's blessings if they desired to be counted among the righteous.

He charged the new Grand Khadi to be in the vanguard of Islamic virtues and ensure that the rights of the umamah of having full *Sharia* implemented was not denied them.

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HABITAT (Housing and Environment)



By Warsaw Imoh Udosen

The other side of FHA estates

A fortnight ago, men of the underworld struck at a section of the Federal Housing Authority (FHA) Estate, Airport Road, Lugbe in Abuja. As usual, they had a field day. After the incident while some residents gathered in groups discussing the event, others parked their valuables to safer places, a gentleman that was hard hit packed completely out of the estate.

In one of the discussion groups, a gentleman attacked the federal housing authority and the federal government for always biting more than what it could chew with regards to housing construction and delivery. The FHA estate in question, like all other FHA houses are substandard and poorly finished. Most lack basic infrastructures and services, this include the primary infrastructures such as roads and drainages, water and electricity.

In the Federal Capital Territory, FHA estates in Maitama, Asokoro, Kado, Gwarimpa, Lugbe to mention a few, all share the same characteristics, mainly cracks on the walls, pilling paints, leaking roofs and pipes, blocked drainages and poor roads and to crown it all, insecurity. The most notorious of these estates is that of the Airport Road, chiefly due to its remote location. The incident described in the first paragraph is a recurring event. One can't really blame the police because there are over 10,000 people to be policed by a few men.

This columnist learnt that this estate was the brain work of Chief Lateef Jakande when he was Minister of Works and Housing. It was originally meant to accommodate 10,000 families in 1, 2 and 3 bedroom units. As usual, the project went haywire after hundreds of millions of naira had been deposited by prospective owners. Contractors cried foul that what actually go to their hands for each house was grossly inadequate but they had to deliver, so the outcome is what we have today.

The estate exhibits very poor finishing and the houses are mostly abandoned. A staff of FHA, residing in the estate explained that "Baba Kereke" actually meant well but his "dream" was thwarted by the regime of Abdulkarim Adisa. There was then a complete U-turn on the project, funds even when budgeted for the project, were either diverted to other priority area of the ministry or to other peoples pockets.

Smiles came to the faces of owners, some months ago when it was announced that contractors should return to sites, bring their jobs to the next approved stage, and claim their money. The estate was busy for a couple of weeks after the announcement. Gravels, sand and blocks were off-loaded everywhere. Then suddenly work stopped, contractors and labourers hired out. Rain came and washed away, the sand and gravels.

Contractors complained that what was paid to them was less than what they expected. In fact, some contracts were revoked outrightly by FHA. Some "buoyant" property owners saw the writing on the wall and went to claim possession of their houses "as is" (in whatever condition) and complete what is left at their own expenses.

The question now is what was FHA set out to achieve? The obvious answer is affordable houses to the people is the obvious answer. To some people, this mission statement is a joke. To some, FHA is achieving its aim, "providing abandoned houses to accommodate those who cannot afford to pay the high rents in Abuja." A beneficiary who is married with children confessed that, but for the FHA estate, Lugbe where he is residing, he would have gone back to the village. He stays in an uncompleted 2 bedroom flat where interestingly he had to use planks to cover the windows. All he paid for the "flat" is N5,000 which he gave to the security men before he moved in.

He has been living there for over a year now. In the estate, a finished 2 bedroom flat in the open market commands an annual rent of N120,000 and above. In Phase I, one would be talking of a minimum of N400,000 for an equivalent property.

Of the 10,000 units of houses originally planned for the Lugbe estate, less than a thousand are gainfully occupied. Others are at roofing or lintel level. Most are either at the foundation level or bare land. A good number of the completed ones have serious defects, most have collapsed. One feels that it is either FHA has no building standards or does not adhere to such standards. Or is FHA standard sub-standard? Whichever one looks at it, some are crying, some are launching and thanking the Almighty for the FHA.

Moette Warsaw Udosen is a Senior Estate Surveyor with Country Home, Abuja

Berger commissions head office

By Tashikalmah Hallah

In a colourful ceremony, construction giant, Julius Berger of Nigeria Plc., has blazed the trail by being the first multi-national construction company to complete its head office in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Located on top of the Utako hill, near Berger Junction, the edifice is an exhibition of architectural skill and financial might.

Elated with the architectural design, President of the Senate, Chief Anyim Pius Anyim called on the construction company to participate in the federal government's private sector initiative in providing urban teeming population.

The construction of the head office was started in 1991 at the behest of the federal government following the relocation of the nation's capital to Abuja, that same year.

Consequently, an international architectural competition was launched and the winning architects, Dipl.-Ing. Architekten BDA Von Lamatsch Kaempfe Und Partner GBR, Frankfurt/Mairo, Germany was commissioned to carry out the detailed design of the building.

The design of the building features three main elements: The central building, the L shaped office block and the shadow roof, creating a building with internal streets, courts and offices having a very urban character.

Special care was taken to provide an environmentally friendly, saving building suitable for the tropical climate by designing an architecturally remarkable shadow roof as well as the south and west facades without major openings, protecting the building from impact of direct sunshine.

The building, a four storey central building and an L-shape five storey with a basement has a gross floor area of 10,150 square metres, accommodating 135 offices, three meeting rooms, one reception area, four lifts also has 120 car park lots.

Constructed by Julius Berger Nigeria Plc., the building materials, according to Brig.-Gen. Mobolaji Johnson (rtd), Chairman of the Board of Directors, were mainly

concrete and steel, the traditional materials used during the company's 35 years operation in the country. General Johnson further explained that the foundation of the building was laid in 1993, but, for the cash crunch inherent in the economy, the construction of the head office was interrupted for two years. His words: "Since Julius Berger Nigeria Plc went through a tough economic period after the building was started, the construction of the head office was interrupted during the following years. Only in late 1997, work resumed again by the company, finishing the building in early 2001."

"All materials used for the interior finishing and furnishing of the building such as granite, terrazzo tiles, aluminum doors and windows, partition and furniture have been locally manufactured in factories affiliated to Julius Berger Nigeria Plc located in Abuja," he added.

The edifice is surrounded by a spacious green area, decorated with flower beds and trees, the building seems to be a tourist landmark of architectural design in the FCT.

Commissioning the building, President of the Senate, Anyim Pius Anyim, declared that: "As you are aware, the right to shelter is now a human rights issue worldwide, hence the clarion call on the private sector to join hands with government in providing affordable houses for our populace."

"I urge you to also employ our citizens, particularly our young engineers at management and top technical levels with the wider objective of transferring relevant technology to them," he added.

Chief Anyim also stated that at the inception of the Obasanjo Administration, the Federal Government paid the debt owed the company by past military leaders, thereby saving the jobs of about 4,000 Nigerians workers, who were to be sacked.



An elegant edifice office, of the Julius Berger (Nigeria) Plc., commissioned by the Senate President, Anyim Pius Anyim in Abuja ... recently.

Rivers rehabilitates secretariat with N1.9b

From Wisdom-Uduak Patrick, in Port Harcourt

Contract for the renovation work at the dilapidated 30-year-old Rivers State secretariat has been awarded at the cost of N1.9 billion by the state government.

Secretary to the Rivers State Government (SSG), Dr.

Abiye Sekibo, told newsmen in Port Harcourt that this was in fulfillment of Governor Peter Odili's promise earlier this year.

The contract which is valued at N1.9 billion was

signed at a ceremony at the Government House and it is expected to be completed within 15 months.

The SSG signed on behalf of the government while the Chairman of Costain West Africa Plc, Chief Newton Jibunoh signed on behalf of the

contractors.

The secretariat complex was built more than 30 years ago by Costain West Africa Plc but was left unattended to by previous administrations and "that only the cost of renovating it was so enormous," said the SSG.

Dr. Sekibo said the decision to embark on the project was to check against further deterioration of the complex as a result of several years of neglect by past administrations as well as to create a good working environment for the state civil servants.

He urged Costain to strive to complete the project on schedule so as to change the look of the complex.

Speaking earlier, the Chairman of Costain West Africa Plc., Chief Newton Jibunoh, assured that his company would complete the project on schedule even as it has hope to redesign parts of the complex.

NHF contribution is mandatory

By Tashikalmah Hallah

In spite of the hardline posture of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) towards the National Housing Fund (NHF) contribution by the employers of labour, the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN), co-ordinators of the NHF have maintained that it is mandatory for all employers of labour to contribute towards the fund.

Mr. M.B. Achi, FCT Controller of the NHF, explained that the Decree 3 of 1993 which established the fund has made it mandatory

to all employers of labour to make contributions to the fund.

The resource base for the NHF is supposed to be widened to include mandatory contributions from all employers of labour.

This is against the current prescription whereby only commercial and merchant banks as well as the insurance companies are made to contribute, apart from individuals.

This is designed to enlarge the pool of fund that

would be available within the system.

Under the current decree, Mr. Achi explained individual contributions can only be withdrawn when the contributor becomes 60 years old or has retired and can no longer contribute to the fund.

The controller explained that experience in other schemes and indeed the providential purpose by the NHF suggests a more practical approach that would allow each contributor to have access to his savings at a periodical interval, especially in case the contributors would not borrow from the fund.



HABITAT (Housing and Environment)



Abuja Stadium: Govt allays fears of environmentalists

The controversy over the location of the Abuja National Stadium has resurfaced as the Nigeria Environmental Society (NES) declared that it is environmentally risky owing to its proximity to the National Hospital.

Stories by Tashikalmah Hallah
checking environmental abuse conducted a thorough study on the project. According to him, the Ministry of Environment in conjunction with the

Ministries of Sports, Finance Health, Transport, the Presidency and the construction company had taken into cognisance all the issues raised and had addressed them. Alhaji Kabir explained

that the design of the stadium is done to check whatever noise pollution that may emanate in the stadium during matches. He also stated that the government is constructing overhead bridges near the stadium to stem any traffic congestion.

But in a swift reaction, the Minister of Environment, Alhaji Muhammad Kabir, said government has taken care of all environmental procedure before the citing and subsequent construction of the stadium.

NES, while on a courtesy visit to the minister, led by its chairman, Mr. Uche Agbansi, expressed their reservation on the project, alleging that the location negates the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Decree of 1992.

Also, Mr. Agbansi explained that the location of the project along the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport Road, posed a serious problem, as both the traffic and people would be uncontrollable in an event of chaos at the stadium.

"Stadium is a place for sports and other major events which often bring uncontrollable noise making and behaviours while hospital is a place for the treatment of patients which required serene and quite environment," he said.

Mr. Agbansi, however, declared confidence in the person of the minister as he told him that "your coming to office is giving us a new way of hope."

"We call on you to set up an environmental team to conduct EIA study on the Abuja National Stadium so that significant adverse impact of the project is addressed whole construction operation last."

"This should not however stop development process currently going on at the site. NES with its abundant environmental professionals and engineers is ready to assist your ministry in this regard."

Responding, Alhaji Muhammad Kabir allayed the fear of the NES, saying that government had in line with its new policy of

EIA is compulsory -FG

The Federal Government has initiated a compulsory conduct of Environmental Impact Assessment as a pre-condition for the construction of projects in any part of the country, the Minister of Environment, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'id Kabir, has said. Alhaji Kabir in a chat with *Daily Trust* explained that the issue of environmental abuse by most companies operating in Nigeria has made it inevitable for the government to take the drastic measure. "The government has made it a policy that

whatever the project that you want to undertake, be it public or private, you must conduct an EIA, that is basic.

"It is the policy of this government, it is the policy of the ministry; and it is the policy of Nigeria now," the minister emphasised.

"You see, this administration is out to change what the previous military administration failed to. Yes, Babangida enacted the law, but it was not fully implemented."

Alhaji Kabir further explained that lack of proper waste disposal by most companies is one of the primary architects of the industry-community crisis across the nation.

The minister also said that EIA was little known in Nigeria and since 1992 when the Act was enacted, a lot has been achieved, adding that the calm recorded in most of the volatile areas, particularly in the Niger Delta was as a result of government's stance that companies should fine-tune their waste disposal and make their operation strategies comply with negotiations.

However, he said it is necessary to explain the importance and the objectives of the EIA in the country, which include:

- * To establish, before a decision is taken by any person, authority, corporate body or unincorporated body including the government of the federation, state or local government intending to undertake or authorise the undertaking of any activity that may likely or to a significant extent affect the environment or have environmental effects, the extent of the effects of these activities on the environment;

- * To promote the implementation of appropriate policy in all federal lands, states and local government areas, consistent with all laws and decision making processes; and

- * To encourage the development of procedures for information exchange, notification and consultation between organs and persons when proposed activities are likely to have significant environmental effects on boundary or on the environment of border towns or villages."



Time to conserve the ecosystem. Minister of State for Environment, Dr. Ime Timis Okopido, being assisted by Alhaji Umar Maiwada, co-ordinator Conservation, during the planting of Nypha Palm at Oron Akwa-Ibom State... recently.

FG inaugurates committee on Rio summit

As part of the effort to stem global warming, Nigeria has inaugurated a 36-man committee to prepare a policy for the implementation of the National Agenda 21 and also to prepare a report for the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) session one in Johannesburg, South Africa September 2, 2001.

Inaugurating the committee, the Minister of Environment, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'id Kabir, recalled that the United Nations conference on environment and development, also called Earth Summit, was held in Rio-De Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992 and Nigeria had

participated actively at both the formation and the submit proper.

According to him, Nigeria has remained "quite active in the follow-up activities to the Earth Summit," adding, "The development and launching of our National Agenda 21 and follow-up on CSD activities, are among the major milestones since UNCED."

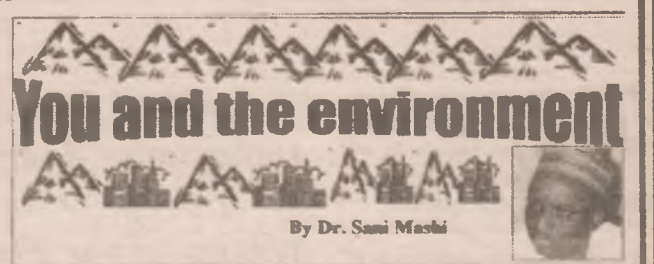
The minister noted that in its decision 55/199 of December 20, 2000, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) called world leaders to a summit to undertake a 10-year review of progress in the implementation of the Agenda 21, and to reinvigorate the global

commitment to sustainable development as agreed at the Earth Summit.

It is the realisation of this, he said, that Nigeria inaugurated a National Preparatory Committee that will plan and steer our national activities for the Rio+10 Review process as well as the national preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).

The committee technically known as NPCR+10 will essentially, undertake a national review process of progress achieved in the implementation of the Rio commitments in Nigeria, and also to identify constraints in the implementation of the Rio commitments and chart the way forward.

Also, the committee is



Overcoming misconceptions about desertification in Nigeria

In my previous article in this column, I reacted to a statement credited to the Honourable Minister of Environment. The statement reads as follows:

"It is estimated that the country is currently losing about 350,000 square meters of its land mass annually to the advancing deserts in 11 states in the north."

To us practitioners in environmental researches, we take objections to statements such as this because of the extent to which they can distort our good understanding of problems such as desertification. Moreover, coming from a honourable minister of the world's largest "black democracy" and the supposedly leader of the black world, one cannot but remain uncomfortable with the statement. In the first place, deserts never advance towards an area. Instead, people invite them. They do so by embarking upon some activities that create favourable conditions for desertification processes to occur. For instance, prolonged grazing without vegetation cover redevelopment, primitive cultivation practice which promotes nutrients mining and soil destruction without compensatory efforts towards rehabilitating it, and ruthless destruction of vegetation cover. Activities such as these are manifest on the absence of land use control, land rehabilitation efforts, conservation education and persistence of poverty and hopelessness on the side of land users. As such, people do create deserts. They can consequently prevent it, but can only do so if such manifestation are addressed. People cannot for instance control desertification by planting 150 million trees over an area of 1500km x 1km and yet ignore tackling the very sources of the desertification problem. Hundreds of textbooks and articles have been written on this. The Federal Ministry of Environment have some tested and trusted personnel that have access to those materials. They therefore need to properly educate and guide the honourable minister on this. In law, ignorance can never be considered as an excuse.

Secondly, areas are not conventionally measured in square meters. Rather, they are measured in hectares or square kilometres. As such the 350,000 square meters figure given in the first place looks doubtful. When translated into kilometres, it implies that the country is losing only 350 square kilometres to desertification annually. If this figure were true, we definitely have no cause to worry. This is because in Nigeria our resources are more than enough for us to prevent 350 square kilometres of land from being lost annually. Nigeria therefore has no basis to argue that desertification is a problem that is catastrophically affecting its land mass. But practical experience of working with desertification areas in the country revealed that desertification in Nigeria is a very serious problem affecting the land mass. Yet, our official position is misconceiving this.

It is thus apparent that the country needs to develop a mechanism by which misconceptions, official and otherwise, about the problem of desertification can be eliminated. These are several ways by which this can be done. I feel strongly, however, that a good solution to this lies in the establishment of a parastatal under the Federal Ministry of Environment, to be called the National Drought and Desertification Agency (NDDA). An agency such as this can be structured to have a working capacity to undertake frequent monitoring of desertification prone areas of the country. Such monitoring can form a basis for us to know the extent of the land area in the country that is being affected every year by the desertification problem.

This can conveniently be done, because as I said in my article of Thursday, 9th August 2001, the NDDA will have personnel that shall be equipped to handle researches in soil, geology, land use, climate, vegetation, water and settlement patterns of the areas that are prone to desertification problem in the country. As is well-known, these are presently several advanced and reliable techniques that could be employed in such researches. A number of such techniques are scattered in several institutions, some others are not. For example, one of the best laboratories in Africa where satellite technology is employed in studying land, water, vegetation and climatic conditions is in Nigeria, but under the Federal Ministry of Agriculture. Similarly, Nigeria has a good agency that specialises in space researches, but it is under the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology. NDDA when established can now be in a position to liaise with those centres or agencies and develop research networks based upon which relevant data that can help us to resolve misconceptions on desertification can be gathered. Those of us with potentials in assisting the agency, whether in government or in the private sector, can be invited to contribute our quota towards realising this objective. In short, we have abundant human and material resources to enable us develop good ideas that can eliminate the misconceptions we still do have on the fundamental problem of desertification.

Dr. Sani A. Mashi, Department of Geography, University of Abuja.

Star Interview

We have reduced violence in Algeria — Ambassador

The Algerian government played significant roles in the establishment of the African Union. What does the Union mean to Algeria?

First of all, let me remind you that the African Union was a dream for many generations who have fought to see their continent united. It is a collective aspiration of all African peoples to see their common destiny guided by one strong institution. The African Union marks a new qualitative step for Africa, and it will enable our continent to have an indispensable tool to face and to address many contemporary challenges that it might be confronted with in the light of radical changes that occur, at great speed, in the world on the political and socio-economic fields.

As you know, today, the world is governed by globalization. There will be no place for a weak country. Africa, which is currently marginalized, should unite its forces to be heard and to defend its interests.

Certainly, the phasing out of the OAU has yielded great achievements and guided the first steps of our countries. OAU will certainly be regretted even if you have heard that our organization didn't achieve all what was decided.

To better assess and understand the situation, things should be placed in their historical context otherwise blame will be addressed without reason. We shouldn't, first, forget the conditions that attended the creation of the organization. But as Algerians, our assessment is that OAU, in four decades, despite the absence of resources and sometimes absence of political will, did a lot particularly in the field of decolonisation. As a matter of fact, our continental organization has invested much in the management and settlement of multiple conflicts that have unfortunately affected the continent, for a long time, and consequently, almost destroyed the chances of its development. Many conflicts were settled, or at least, with the direct involvement of OAU through a mechanical device established for this purpose.

Socio-economic issues and terrible diseases, which are still seriously threatening the future of our people have been addressed by our organization (MAP, Summit on Malaria, AIDS, War against drug abuse, illicit traffic on small arms and light weapons). Because of the colossal work done by OAU, we should always pay tribute to our fathers who founded the organization, and who succeeded in elevating this institution, for their wise political and Unitarian vision.

Let me add that the Algiers Summit which held in July 1999 gave a new speed to the continental organization because for the first time, our Heads of State clearly indicated their will to install democracy, to build a state of law, and to put their countries on the path of development, and to reject the participation of leaders who come into power through unconstitutional means. The Summit at Syrte, in Libya, which discussed the establishment of the African Union came to confirm the state of spirit.

Nigeria and Algeria have long and ancient diplomatic ties. Ambassador Abdelkader Mesdoui is Algeria's Ambassador to Nigeria, and in this interview with Kevin Ebele Adinnu of our Foreign Desk, he unfolds on the African Union, the Middle East Peace Process, riots in Algeria, the significance of the French language in Algeria today, and more. Excerpts.



Ambassador Abdelkader Mesdoui, Algerian Ambassador

Since its independence, Algeria has made a lot of efforts aimed at helping the organization to achieve its objectives. Our involvement from the beginning shows the role that my country played and is still playing since the first step crossed by African leaders in their main efforts tending to the creation of an African Union. Its aim is to help the new organization to have the solid foundation, required for the combination of the efforts of all the leaders of the continent.

Algeria ratified the treaty establishing the African Union. We consider the transition from OAU to AU as an important and qualified stage in the history of the continent. Such undertaking should be encouraged more because the African union project remains a decisive factor for the development and the well being of African people. The objective of African leaders is to build a new organization on a modern basis and to the height of the aspirations of African people in matters of stability and development. As you know, most African states are involved in democratic processes despite difficult conditions. These efforts should then be carried and supported by the international community so that peace, security and stability should reign everywhere in Africa.

Indeed, the establishment will require time, resources and sacrifices. But it is important

to recall that our continent overflows with human and economic resources, which enable it to face the challenge. Algeria is willing to devote its efforts to enhance the new organization, and to make it a very efficient tool to defend the interests of the continent and its people.

If we look at the achievements of the European Union since the creation of EEC in Rome in 1958, I am convinced that the European leaders who founded it at that time, did not know that this could go as far as it has today with the version enlarged to what is known presently as the European Union and the institution of a unique currency to replace that of 11 member states from the European monetary space, to be counted from January 2002.

The United States, the principal mediator in the Middle East Peace Process, recently adopted the Mitchell report as the basis for the resumption of peace talks between Israel and Palestine. How does Algeria see the report and what are its prospects for peace in the Middle East?

The Mitchell report was put forward to the two parties, that is Israel and the Palestinian authorities, which accepted it estimating that the American step comprises, once again, a basis for the return to order and the possibility of resuming the negotiations that were interrupted since the coming into power of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel

Sharon. Now frankly speaking, could we continue speaking about the Mitchell Report when we are, everyday, witnessing massive killings and indiscriminate bombings, and the targeting of innocent people, including children, by the Israeli forces.

Really, I have some doubt because the developments occurring on the ground are dangerous and could lead to a more complex situation. There are two sides, one very well armed and powerful; and the second unprotected. Yes, the violence should be ended and the killings should be stopped. That means, the Palestinians should be protected and the International Community has the duty to protect them.

As you have seen, what happened in Nablus on the 31st of August can't be qualified because it was horrible. This opens doors for reprisals. Violence calls forth violence, and the circle of uninterrupted violence couldn't be stopped easily.

We should join our efforts to force Israel to halt its attacks and pursue our efforts to convince both parties to resume their negotiations. Civilian Palestinians are calling for protection from the international community, and they are still waiting for a strong signal to give them hope to live in peace. Despite the decision taken by the G8 for a deployment of international observers, nothing has been done yet to implement

such decision. Israel has to stop its provocative actions against the Palestinian People as the occupation of the Orient House and the violation of the Holy City of El Qods El Charif.

Algeria encourages all efforts to favour the resumption of negotiations, to bring peace and to help get to a lasting and equitable resolution of the Palestinian problem, a resolution

the General Assembly and the Security Council. Should I recall that my country defended the implementation of this basic and important right in Africa, Asia and Latin America? We defended it for Belize, Brunei, Dar-es-Salam and recently in East Timor. Indeed, recently, people of East Timor, whose situation is similar to those of Western Sahara, had the opportunity to decide on its future.

People of Western Sahara should have the same opportunity to decide on its future through a free, impartial and fair referendum without any constraints. They have been waiting for almost 26 years. Algeria is committed to the strict implementation of the Settlement Plan, the Houston Agreements endorsed by the two conflicting sides, supported by the International Community and endorsed by the General Assembly and Security Council of the United Nations.

This is why, Algeria, as an observer state which respects and supports the international legacy, cannot accept any decision that will jeopardize the process of settlement of the Western Sahara conflict. This position is very well known, and has been forwarded by our Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, to the President of the Security Council and to the Secretary General, immediately after he submitted to the Security Council his last report on the issue. The United Nations is more or less called to watch over the preservation of the Plan and its credibility and its authority depends on the way the UN is going to deal with this issue.

The death in police custody of a student in April sparked off a chain of riots in Kabylie region leading to the death of an increasing number of civilians. What is your government doing to control the situation?

As everybody knows, my country has been able to reduce the violence generated by terrorism through the resistance which the society was able to put in place, and we are working today to meet conditions that will enable us to put in place a sustainable civil peace, to strengthen strong, representative and elected institutions, and pursue the democratic experience by opening other spaces of freedom.

Unfortunately, three months ago, the death of a young student in custody of gendarme of the Beni Douala Local government (Kabylie region) was followed up by a wave of violence in some parts of that region that caused the loss of lives of about 40 people with some wounded, and loss of considerable goods most especially those of the public sector. Let me from the beginning say that this incident, that is not acceptable, was condemned.

The President intervened to assure protestors and demonstrators, that their economic and social requests, which are quite legitimate, will be taken care of. Concerning the linguistic requests raised by some of them during the events, the President

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Star Interview

Contd from pg 28

reaffirmed the possibility of introducing amendments in the Constitution to allow the consecration of Berber language known as Tamazigh as a national language.

At the same time, he ordered the establishment of a commission to investigate these painful events. The Commission, which was headed by a very well known and respected lawyer, M. Issad, has been created since May 26th, and it is composed of 26 members, almost of them from all sectors of the civil society.

On 29th July, a Preliminary Report was submitted by the Commission to the President and was published in all national newspapers in Algeria confirming the President's promise to reveal full details about the events.

In parallel with the above-said Commission, another commission at the parliamentary level has been established exclusively composed of parliamentarians with a duty, to collect testimonies and to enlighten on the real motives of these events so that such a thing will never occur again in Algeria.

The Berbers are campaigning for the elevation of Tamazigh their language, to the status of Arabic language, the country's official language. Does the government have any plan to accommodate their demands?

In my country, three pillars constitute the structure of our national identity: Arab, Amazighity and Islam and these are consecrated in the Constitution, which is our fundamental law. These pillars of our identity have solidified our union and any attempt to add more to the three elements mentioned should be done through constitutional means and ways.

Having said that, I want to point out that the Arab language is the national and official language. The use of Tamazigh by the people of the region of Kabylie (centre of the country) is a legitimate and normal act and this is not contested. Tamazigh is learnt officially in almost all the schools of this region. A High Commission of Tamazigh has been established for more than six years, and has submitted very useful proposals to improve the use of Tamazigh. The radio there is also a Berber radio and a bulletin of news in Tamazigh is programmed everyday at the national television.

To improve the place of Tamazigh in Algerian society and to give it more importance, the authorities, at the highest level, have indicated their willingness to amend the Constitution by consecrating Tamazigh as the national language. At the same time, it should be understood that nothing could be done under pressure, violence and disorder.

What role does the French language play in Algeria today?

Algeria is and will be a country open to foreign languages, French, English or any other universal language. All foreign languages will find their place in Algeria. However, looking at the long colonial period of French rule that marked the history of my country (1830 - 1962), and for the fact of the geographical proximity of our country to France, cultural bounds that tie

...violence in Algeria — Ambassador

us to that country and the presence on French soil of a community of more than two million Algerians, French is the most important foreign language used in Algeria besides Arabic.

French language continues to

of those that chose violence have benefited from the arrangements of the law, and have resumed normal life

Some terrorists that refused to gain from the Head of state's offer, through the law on the

reports from similar countries coming from the same world, and you will see the difference.

Whether anterior or posterior to the promulgation of the bill on defamation you mention in your question, these media



Ambassador Abdelkader Mesdoua, Algerian Ambassador

be used in many fields in the public or private sectors, and by many private newspapers. Almost all Algerians speak the two languages fluently without any complex. French has been gained during the revolution and we will remain open to it.

For quite some time since President Abdelaziz Bouteflika came to power, the struggle of the Islamic militants for the validation of the 1992 election results seemed to have subsided. But recently, there have been attacks credited to the Islamic militants. What is responsible for these renewed attacks?

I think that there is no need to ask who is responsible for the renewed attacks, when the terrorist groups claim their responsibility for all the attacks that occurred in my country since 1991. Killings, bombings, destruction and violence are perpetrated by very well known groups, which are rejected by the Algerian people.

Immediately after his election in April 1999, President Abdelaziz Bouteflika committed himself fully to the establishment of peace and security in the country, as an essential condition for the success of all efforts at development and to attract foreign investment. A step like this is among the objectives of a real gathering of all Algerians.

The politics of civil concord initiated by the President was strongly supported through the referendum proposed on September 16th 1999, a good portrayal of the unanimous will of Algerian people to forgive the wounds of the serious crisis that almost split the Algerian State. With a participation rate of 85%, a number which has never been reached since independence during popular consultations, and the choice of a society of peace and civil concord with 98%, Algerians showed their support to the courageous step of President Bouteflika and indicated their desire to build a society of progress and democracy far from violence and to unite their efforts for economic and social recovery.

Since then, a great number

politics of concord, are isolated in some high mountains, and still commit terrorist acts from time to time. These are terrorist acts against the citizens without defence who live on the outskirts of town and urban areas of the country, and they hope to cause fear to the population. But it is important to make it clear that it's a case of terrorist acts perpetrated by individuals that are in despair. The government is ready to fight the phenomenon until it disappears.

Observers have described the recent adoption of a reform bill on defamation in Algeria as a deliberate attempt to gag the press. How would you react to this?

It is very important to mention in terms of freedom of the press, that Algeria is characterized by space, which is given to the media for free expression. A reality of this nature finds its origin in the open politics and the democratization embarked upon by the government towards the end of the 80's with the promise to carry out profound changes.

Analyze and compare press accounts from Algeria and press



always work with great freedom.

But freedom of the press doesn't mean defamation of other people. Like all institutions, the press should also respect the rules of the democratic game and the journalistic ethics. If journalists have the right to claim and defend sacrosanct principle of the freedom of expression and the press, they shouldn't forget the principle of rules and regulations. Indeed, the press has a duty to inform, or to criticize the action of leaders or to denounce any behavior or scandalous occurrences. But, there is a need to respect the privacy of others, to prove that accusations are true, and not based on false elements.

The Press has a duty also to educate people, as part of the process of democracy.

If majority of the newspapers in my country are responsible, and respect the ethics, some of them, attracted may be by immediate profits, have oriented their organs in defamation, insulting all institutions including the President at a time where the government is leading a difficult battle to send away once and for all the ghost of danger that nearly took away the foundation of our nation. On many occasions, the press reported terrorist attacks which never occurred.

So in the present state of things, to make rules is not to sanction. Let me clarify the aim of this law which exists in many parts of the world, including some western and developed countries which couldn't be suspected that they are against democracy. When there is an abuse, insult or disrespect and there are accusations without proof, the institutions, as citizens, should defend themselves against any attempt to damage them. The logic behind the law is to assure all that the practices of constitutional liberties are protected.

Should I also tell you that the principle of the freedom of expression in my country is not affected in any way? The commitments of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika are clear as he is in support of expanding

it. This is to show you to what extent those that accused the Algerian parliament of tightening the press completely ignore the reality of our country.

The Algerian government recently denied visas to three French media organizations to cover the visit of the French Minister of External Commerce to Algeria. What prompted the denial of visas to them?

I don't want to speak about the three journalists. A few days ago, Algeria hosted the 15th Festival of Youth and Students from 8-16th August with the presence of hundreds of journalists from all over the world.

Now, when you have some journalists not defending the ethics, but standing by political positions; when some journalists are coming to your country to report from their hotel rooms things that have nothing to do with reality, or simply to take advantage of an event, by trying to disturb efforts that have been made to bring down tension and make way for peace, or by aligning themselves to the hostile positions adopted by some organizations, these attitudes show without ambiguity lack of respect for rules.

And at the same time, be sure that Algeria will always remain an open country to all foreign journalists and publications, despite some spiteful and hostile articles which are badly informed about the real situation in Algeria. If any Nigerian journalist wants to go to my country, you are most welcome to see and to assess by yourselves the exact situation. We do not have anything to hide.

We, like many developed or under developed countries, recognize that we are facing problems that government is working on. And major non-governmental organizations came to Algeria, on the invitation of the President. So, representatives from Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and of the International Federation of Human Rights and Reporters Without Boundaries well known as *Reporters Sans Frontieres* successively visited Algeria and their reports despite the criticisms that followed these, have been published in the national newspapers.

Algeria celebrated the anniversary of its independence, which it fought hard to win from France in 1962. Against the backdrop of the continued political instability in Algeria, what do you consider to be your country's achievement since its independence?

The celebration by my country of the 41st anniversary of her independence is not an ordinary event. Truly, it is more than a symbol, an historical date that the whole Algerian Nation celebrates every year, and which is eternally pasted in the collective conscience of Algerians.

There is need to say that Algeria has made a lot of progress on socio-economic institutions than politics and others. So many factories of production and national companies have been created and more than 20 universities and university centres have been established, and this is within the context of government's free policy on education that concerns everybody in Algeria essentially with the youth which the government initiated since independence. Today, you have more than

600,000 students going to the universities when less than 100 were registered in 1962. Today, in Algeria more than 6 million children go to school when less than 100,000 were registered in 1962. Algeria had less than 50 doctors (in the past). Today, there are thousands. The list is not short and these are great results achieved in less than 39 years since we are independent.

In the area of politics, a multiparty situation has existed since 1989 and has become an undeniable reality today, and these are represented legally. More so we have the independent media that increase in number on daily basis.

To improve the economic and social conditions, the President launched in April 2001, a new program of economic recovery worth nine billion US Dollars which will cover all fields. This is an economic rejuvenation plan and urgent measures are also planned for the South of the country with the aim to create better conditions and better life to all Algerian people.

What is your assessment of Nigeria-Algeria relations today?

Concerning the state of relations between my country and Nigeria, I want to tell you without hesitation that the relationship between the two countries has been a privileged one. Algeria and Nigeria have always had good relations and share many positions at the continental and international levels.

Since the assumption into office in 1999 of President Bouteflika and his brother Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, the chapter of bilateral relations has been improved and developed. The two Heads of state meet regularly to discuss various issues that concern our two peoples and the continent.

The establishment of a Binational Commission of cooperation is a perfect illustration. We believe that the Binational Commission will be a very important tool to improve our relations in all fields. There is a need to think together on ways and means to promote and to reinforce by increasing the volume of our exchanges. The realization of a pipeline between Algeria and Nigeria and the completion of the Trans-Saharan road are also important. This project when it will be achieved will play a great role in helping many sahelian countries in their exchanges especially those which don't have access to the sea. There are many sectors where co-operation can be established to the benefit of our peoples.

In the spheres of energy, trade, education, agriculture, communication, there are real possibilities of partnership and cooperation and we can set up common projects. It's up to the operators to concretize in actions orientations given by our Heads of State and to make an Algerian-Nigerian co-operation an example at the African level.

As the Ambassador of my country in a great Country such as Nigeria, I can assure you that I will devote all my efforts to develop, to strengthen and to improve the relations between our two countries for the benefit of our people and the integration of Africa.

Abuja News

Man attacks neighbours over goat pen

A goat owner in the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) quarters in Nyanya, Abuja (name withheld) Tuesday attacked his neighbours over suggestions that he should dismantle his goat pen.

Trouble started at about 10.p.m. Tuesday night when the neighbours approached the goat breeder and demanded that he dismantle the pen which blocked the main entrance to toilets of the block.

One of the victims who spoke to *Daily Trust* said to their surprise, instead of the man to request for more time to dismantle the goat pen, ordered his children to attack them.

He stated that it was at this point that his children started throwing stones at them. According to him, three members of the group that approached the goat breeder sustained injuries.

The victim who identified himself as Mr. Musa Lazarus, blamed the incident on the attitude of the Abuja environmental Protection Board (AEPB) for allowing the breeding of animals in residential quarters.

Lazarus who was groaning in pains as a result of an injury he sustained on his head, said if AEPB had enacted a law that banned idle civil servants from breeding animals in residential quarters, it would be easy to prosecute people that violated the law.

A witness told our reporter that the goat breeder threatened to manhandle anybody who attempted to dismantle the pen.

Stories by Austine Odo & Emmanuel Ande

The man was quoted saying that, "if anybody ventures close to my goat pen, his life is in trouble. I will use any dangerous weapon available on



Engr. Mohammed Abba-Gana, FCT Minister.

him." When *Daily Trust* visited the venue of the drama in Area B, block 2/70, some people who were seen outside the block accused the man of being devilish, saying he always attacks his neighbours over minor issues that could be resolved amicably.

Daily Trust further discovered that the goat breeder has a case in Nyanya police station for attacking an employee of the FCDA, Mr. Jeremiah Jakanyi, a student of the University of Jos.

When our reporter contacted the man for comments on the issue, he said, "My friend, which one be your own, you de look for wahala, go before I slap your yeye face."

The victims did not state whether they would take any legal action against him.

Government to implement Rotimi Panel's report

The Federal Government is determined to implement all the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry for the investigation of Federal Government Landed Property under the Chairmanship of Brig. General Oluwole Rotimi (rtd.).

To this end, a Committee has been set up by the Federal Government to implement the White Paper on the Report of the Commission.

Mr. Garba Ali Madaki, the Minister of State in the Federal

Ministry of Works and Housing, heads the Committee while Prof. Philip Ahire will serve as the Secretary.

Other members of the 14-member Committee are Mrs. A. O. Gbadegesin, Mr. J.U. Idachaba, Mr. Yusuf Tambuwal, Mr. A.A. Akinola, Dr. S.A. Albaso, Alk. Bello Maitama Sule, Engr. Kabir Abubakar Michika, and Mr. Gershom Henshaw.

Inaugurating the Committee in his office in Abuja Tuesday, Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Obong Ufot Ekaette, gave members of the Committee six months to complete their work.

He said the Federal Government viewed with serious concern, the mass alienation of Federal Government Landed Property across the Federation by State Governments, Private Organisations and Individuals.

Obong Ekaette gave an assurance that the Federal government is determined to ensure that the nation derived full benefits from various aspects of the White Paper in order to restore moral sanity in the Public Service in particular and the entire populace in general.

According to Obong Ekaette, the Terms of Reference of the Committee are:

To compile the inventory of the Federal Government Property in line with the 5 categories approved by government; to develop a Data Bank for the Federal Government Landed Property as a permanent record for posterity; to ensure and supervise the faithful implementation of the decisions of government in the White Paper on the Report of the Commission of Inquiry for the investigation of Federal Government Landed Property; and to implement all other measures, which in the judgement of the committee, will assist government to achieve the objective of deriving full benefits from its landed assets.

In his response, Mr. Madaki gave a pledge that his Committee would fulfil all obligations enumerated by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation.

Traffic worsens on Berger-Idu road

Traffic situation on the Berger junction in Wuse to Idu on the outskirts of the FCT is getting worse by the days.

Daily Trust can reveal that apart from the unusual long queues created by the terrible condition of the road and the disregard of traffic rules by commercial bus drivers, the situation has worsened with the absence of adequate number of policemen and road safety corps members, especially from Kado junction to old Karmo.

At Kado junction, only one or two traffic wardens are unusually seen, battling to control the traffic. The result is an accumulation of vehicles on all four roads linking the bus stop. It takes several hours for vehicles to scale that hurdle. Impatient drivers who never stay on the queue of moving

vehicles worsen the situation.

Commuters on the route believe that the situation is caused by complete neglect of the area by government.

"It is time something gets done about this route. Workers from here suffer greatly to go to work everyday. It is simply because people only respect uniform. No uniformed man, no order on this route," a driver told *Daily Trust* in a hold up on Wednesday.

It was gathered that government deliberately neglects the road because the settlements on the route are considered illegal. They are said to be in the next phase of the Abuja master plan on which work is billed to start soon. But residents feel that more uniformed traffic controllers should nonetheless, be deployed there, pending the demolition of the settlements.

NAN gets estate in Abuja

The Managing Director of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) Mallam Wada Maida, has expressed his determination to pay more attention to staff welfare.

He said while presenting the key to a 32 seater bus to the staff bus management committee of the agency in Abuja recently, that as a manifestation of that determination, more buses would be purchased for the Lagos and Abuja offices to ease transportation problems of the staff.

He also announced that the staff clinic in Abuja was being boosted with provision of

additional staff, drugs and equipment.

The chairman of the staff bus management committee, Mr. Ezekiel Samuel, who received the keys, expressed the appreciation of the staff to management for the gesture and its commitment to staff welfare. He however appealed to management for more funding of the committee.

In a related development, the NAN quarters built in Kubwa, Abuja to alleviate staff accommodation problem has been allocated to deserving staff of the Agency.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

A well-established international health organization based in Lagos with field offices in Kano, Lagos and Abia is recruiting four (4) Program Officers for the technical focus areas of immunization and nutrition. The posts are as follows:

1. IMMUNIZATION

* Program Officer for Immunization, Kano Field Office (duty station in Kano)

* Program Officer for Immunization, Abia Field Office (duty station in Abia)

Incumbents will provide technical assistance to private and public implementing partners on child health issues with emphasis on routine immunization. Successful candidates will have practical experience in the field of routine immunization and should be able to work closely with partners at community, LGA, and State levels. Competence in the major language of the duty-station area is a must.

QUALIFICATIONS:

MBBS plus MPH or Masters in Community Health or Community Health Officer with MPH or National Registered Nurse/Midwifery certificate plus MPH or Masters in Community Health or higher degree in community health with extensive practical experience in routine immunization. Five or more years of field based experience in community health, child health activities and/or routine immunization. Familiarity with Microsoft computer applications and good communication/writing skills are desirable.

2. NUTRITION

* Program Officer for Nutrition, Abia Field Office (duty station in Abia)

* Program Officer for Nutrition, Lagos Field Office (duty station in Lagos)

Incumbents will provide technical assistance to private and public implementing partners on child health issues with emphasis on nutrition. Successful candidates will have practical experience on public health nutrition and will be able to work closely with partners at community, LGA and State levels. Competence in the major language of the duty-station area is a must.

QUALIFICATIONS:

MBBS plus MPH or Masters in Community Health or Public Health Nutritionist or Masters in Human Nutrition with 5 years working experience in community oriented field programs. Good working relationships with senior MOH staff preferably with experience in Micronutrients (Vitamin A) and breastfeeding/complementary feeding activities. Familiarity with Microsoft computer applications and good communication/writing skills are desirable.

Persons interested in any of the four positions should forward their application to the address below not later than two weeks from the date of this publication. Applications should include a covering letter plus:

- * Detailed CV
- * Copies of credentials
- * Names/addresses of 3 referees

All Correspondence to:

The Advertiser
P. O. Box 53373
Falomo, Ikoyi, Lagos.

Applicants should write clearly the position sought at the lower left hand corner of the envelope.

Note: only short listed candidates will be invited for interview.

CHC



SPORTS



Eguavoen lauds Eagles technical crew

Former Super Eagles assistant coach, Austin Eguavoen, has thumbs up the coach Amodu Shuaibu led technical crew for rescuing Nigeria from World Cup qualification humiliation.

Eguavoen who assisted Jo Bonfrere who almost ensured

By Patrick Andrew

Nigeria's inglorious exit fiesta landed the trio of Amodu, Stephen Keshi and Joe Erico for the brilliant way they manipulated the qualification for Nigeria.

"They are a great bunch. A very competent squad that

have shown that they did not only play the game but have the technical depth to nurture any side to victory," he said.

The former Super Eagles ace defender regretted Johannes Bonfrere's second coming stressing the former technical adviser did not

show enough resolve nor was he hungry for victory, a situation that ummuted Nigeria football fortunes.

"I have a lot of respect for Bonfrere but in his second coming to Nigeria he was too independent minded. He accepted no suggestions nor was he aggressive enough for victory! It's like he suddenly lost the resolve to achieve," he said noting that this was reason for Eagles poor performance in spite of the quality of stars available.

"The present Eagles technical crew is a bunch that is cussed and determined to achieve. They have so far done better than we did especially snatching World Cup qualification when hopes were almost lost. And I think they deserved more than casual support from Nigerians," Eguavoen, who is the Insurance FC of Benin General-Manager, said.



David Toms reacts as his ball drops into the hole to win the PGA Championship, on Sunday, in Duluth, Ga, USA.

Weightlifting will have new lease of life -NWF

Yemi Usikaiye, Secretary of the Nigeria Weightlifting Federation (NWF), has pledged to make an impact in his new association.

Usikaiye, whose tenure at the Nigeria Amateur Boxing Association (NABA), was dogged by controversies, vowed to make an impact in his new posting.

"As far as I am concerned, work has started. I have been facing the new association with renewed vigour," said Usikaiye, who was redeployed from NABA last month.

He, however, said that success would not only depend on the secretary but on all stakeholders, adding that the Ministry of Sports; members of the association and the technical crew would be required to make their contributions too.

Usikaiye said he had put behind him all the problems of NABA.

Positive signs for new boys

Last year's top four Premiership finishers all won their opening games.

But what of the promoted clubs hoping to finish nowhere near the bottom three come the end of the season?

After all, statistics tell us that at least one of the promoted teams always goes straight back down.

In that regard all three clubs who won promotion to the Premiership last season want to get off the mark as soon as is possible.

There were no points for Fulham from their opening game, but there were no first day nerves either.

And how many other teams will take the lead twice at Old Trafford this season?

Not many people seem to think that Jean Tigana's side will struggle at the wrong end of the table.

It seems to be more a case of whether they will be able to emulate Ipswich and gatecrash the top five.

Certainly if money is needed to strengthen their squad there is little doubt it will be made available.

But it is the performance of a clutch of other clubs that might dictate the extent of Fulham's impact on the Premiership.

Sunderland are determined to break the top five two successive seventh finishes and it is whether Tigana's team can get the better of teams like the Black Cats that will have a big say on where they finish.

English Premiership

In this light, Wednesday's game with Sunderland is a fascinating test for the Cottagers.

No points either for Blackburn after their opening day defeat at Derby.

A point would have been a fantastic start given they have to face Manchester United on Wednesday night.

Blackburn have a good squad and it will be interesting to see how Rovers compare with the likes of Charlton, Southampton and West Ham, who all also lost on Saturday.

Prior to last Saturday's kick-off Fulham were definitely rated in a different category to Bolton in terms of their ability to stay up. Blackburn were also possibly viewed as better equipped.

But Bolton's 5-0 win at Leicester will have given their players and fans a huge lift.

Nothing concrete can be gained from the result, though maybe it says more about Leicester than Bolton.

After losing nine of their last 10 games last season the last thing Peter Taylor needed was to watch his team thrashed at home on the opening day of this season.

Overall if you look at the squad lists and financial clout of the teams outside the top bracket, this season could see the scramble of all scrambles amongst those trying to keep out of trouble.

Senate President Cup kicks off Oct 14

By Ismaila Umaru Lere

The Senate President Cup football competition for the 774 local government areas will commence with preliminary round of matches in the six geo-political zones.

Unveiling the competition in a press briefing at the weekend chairman of the organisation committee, Mr. Steve Ugochukwu Ahaneke, who also the Chief of Staff to the Senate President, said the competition was borne out Senator Anyim Pius Anyim's avowed appreciation of Nigerian youths and his eagerness to explore and exploit the charm of sport as positive avenue to channel their abundant energy.



Anyim

The competition will kick off on October 14 in six centres namely Kaduna, Bauchi, Adamawa, Borno and Taraba States.

While Plateau, Benue, Nasarawa, Kogi, Niger, Kwara and Federal Capital Territory will converge at the Rwang Pam Stadium Jos for the North Central slot.

The battle for the South-South ticket will be fought at

Bafewa Stadium in Bauchi will be the venue for the North East comprising Gombe, Yobe, Bauchi, Adamawa, Borno and Taraba States.

While Plateau, Benue, Nasarawa, Kogi, Niger, Kwara and Federal Capital Territory will converge at the Rwang Pam Stadium Jos for the North Central slot.

The battle for the South-South ticket will be fought at

the Liberation Stadium between Delta, Edo, Akwa Ibom, Cross Rivers, Bayelsa and Rivers States.

Whereas the South East states comprising Anambra, Enugu, Ebonyi, Enugu, Imo and Abia will trade tackles at the Nnamdi Azikiwe Stadium in Enugu.

The Liberty Stadium in Ibadan will play host to Lagos, Oyo, Ogun, Osun, Ondo, Ekiti for the South-West qualification berth.

Liberation Stadium gets face lift

From Wisdom-Patrick, in Port Harcourt

The Liberation Stadium in Port Harcourt, Rivers State which of late has come to be referred to as the Super Eagles slaughter ground to visiting teams is to have a face lift.

The Rivers State Commissioner for Sport and Youth Development told journalists yesterday that arrangement has been concluded for the expansion of the capacity of the all-seater complex to 45,000.

The commissioner, Mr. Oguchukwu Aguma, stressed that already on his ministry's laps are two prototype designs from consultant commissioned by the state gov-

ernment to do the job.

According to him, "the suggestion or designs is for us to expand it (Liberation Stadium) to 30,000 or 45,000 sitting capacity. But it is like the governor is disposed to the 45,000 because we want to make up it to international standard," he stated.

Asked how much has been budgeted for the project in terms of money, the sports commissioner stated that cost engineers whose duty it is to bring out how much the job would gulp were still at work.

The Rivers State football boss said that contrary to

media report that Dolphin football club players have not been paid their sign on fees and match bonuses, they have all been settle.

He said the team would not run close camp this season due to some logistic reasons. But added that players welfare was upper most in the mind of the state government just as they expect the players to reciprocate and justify the huge financial investment.

Mr. Aguma revealed that Rivers State made more than N50 million during the last World Cup qualifying match between Nigeria Super Eagles and the Black Stars of Ghana and reminded critics that the benefits inherent in sporting investments are unimaginable.

He declared that both the Shark football club and Dolphin camps were still open for the next season and added that managers of the two team have been given free hand to operate.



Ou

Nestle for Milo basketball gets new date

This year's edition of the Nestle Nigeria Plc. Milo Future Champions Basketball Clinic will take place in two centres - Lagos and Abuja, according to the organisers.

Addressing a new conference in Lagos today, Nestle's Commercial-Manager, Mr. Richard Midgley, said the clinic the eighth edition, will hold in Abuja between August 26 and September 1 at the Sani Abacha Barracks basketball court.

In Lagos, the clinic will take place at the Indoor Sports Hall, National Stadium, and the First Bank basketball court, Satellite Town, from September 15.

"The objectives of the sponsorship this year are to further accelerate the development of basketball in Nigeria, create a forum for parents to be educated on the gains of physical fitness as it relates to good nutritional habit and to build on the successes of the previous editions," Midgley said.

"The parents will be kept busy for two days with keep fit exercises and health talk by health professionals and physical exercise practitioners.

"In Abuja, this session will hold a day before the closing ceremony at the venue of the clinic, while that of Lagos at the National Sta-

dium, Surulere, from September 14 to September 15," he said.

Midgley said a "Free Throw Competition" for spectators and journalists would also be held as part of the closing ceremony, stressing that "it would offer journalists the opportunity to put what they had been writing about basketball into practice."

He said the company would provide participants in the clinic with kits, while those taking part in the tournament would have jerseys.

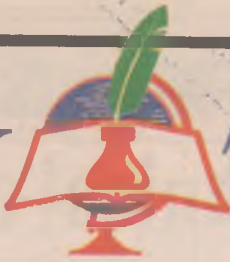
Previous editions of the clinic had been held in Kano, Owerri



Saha scored twice for Fulham at Manchester United.

UNITED NIGERIA DEVELOPMENT FORUM (UNDF)
 NATIONAL SEMINAR
**THE IMPERATIVES OF
 UNITY, PEACE & JUSTICE
 IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
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All Africa Games Rugby protests exclusion

The Nigeria Rugby Football Association (NRFA) is contesting the exclusion of rugby from the 8th All Africa Games - Abuja 2003.

President of the body, Major General John Madaki (rtd), said yesterday that efforts are being made to address the problem stressing that the Sports Ministry has been contacted on the matter.

By Patrick Andrew
 Madaki disclosed that the private sector would participate in the sponsorship of the tournament noting that Sheraton Hotels publics limited and Chellarams have already accepted to co-sponsor the tournament.

He said that the decision to involve corporate or-

gans outside the government was in line with the current call for private sector participation in sports sponsorship in response to government's gradual divestment of its funding of sports.

The international championship is slated to hold between October 25-28 in Abuja.

The president said it was unfortunate that one of the oldest games in the world was sidelined in the list of games to be competed for at the African Olympics, noting that the mistake should be corrected for the sake of the game.

Gen. Madaki said that consideration should be extended to rugby to feature in the Games in recognition of its status as one of the oldest and popular games in the world.

Though he acknowledged that the game was relatively unknown in the West African coast, Madaki, however, contested the exclusion of rugby on the ground that South Africa, Kenya, Ivory Coast were world rated rugby playing nations.

The president of the newly elected board of the NRFA said further that conscious efforts were being made to popularise the game in Nigeria noting that the Abuja Sheraton International Rugby Tournament scheduled for October would serve as the launching pad for the popularisation of the Game.

He explained that the tournament, which will feature strong rugby playing nations like Kenya, Uganda and Cameroun, would expose the Nigerian teams as well as formally initiate the Nigeria rugby league.

Madaki revealed that 12 local teams will compete for honours at the tournament stressing that with adequate conscientization of the populace, the game will before long be embraced by all.



Serena Williams of the United States serves to Jennifer Capriati of the United States during their final match at the Rogers AT&T Cup in Toronto.



Derby's Fabrizio Ravanelli, left, controls the ball against Barcelona's Patrik Andersson during their friendly game at Pride Park, Derby...recently.

Strands of Fate: written & illustrated by Bulama Mustapha

