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# DAILY TRUST

Trust Is A Burden

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## THURSDAY COLUMN

Mohammed A. Galadi on:

### Politics of 'Downstairs' and 'Upstairs'

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## STAR INTERVIEW

### Globalisation is an extension to imperialism

-Prof. Akpan Ekpo

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## GRAND UMRA PACKAGES

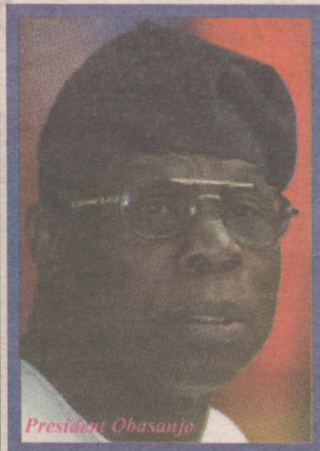
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## N/Assembly agrees on new presidential jet

After weeks of uncertainty and negotiations the Senate and the House of Representatives separately approved President Olusegun Obasanjo's request for a new N5.4 billion aircraft, just as the two Houses yesterday passed the N146.8 billion supplementary appropriation bill into law.

By Henry Omu and Reuben Yunana

The approval for the purchase of the new presidential aircraft and the passage of the supplementary budget was the outcome of the agreement reached by the joint finance committee of the National Assembly, constituted to harmonise discrepancies in the 2001

supplementary budget, which was unanimously passed by both Houses yesterday.

Controversy had trailed the supplementary budget for almost three weeks now, as a result of differences in the budget passed by both chambers of the National Assembly.

While the Senate acceded to Obasanjo's request to purchase the N5.4 billion presidential jet, the House of Representatives turned down the request. Similarly, while the Senate approved N145 billion as recurrent and capital expenditures in the 2001 supplementary budget, the House jerked the figure up

to N146.8 billion for the same purpose.

The refusal of the House to grant approval for the new presidential jet, and the discrepancies in the figures approved by both chambers, necessitated the setting up of a joint finance committee to iron out the grey areas in the supplementary budget.

These areas include presidential jet, the N2.4 bil

contd. on pg 2

## RESOURCE CONTROL

# Supreme court reserves jurisdiction

By Uwem Umo

The Supreme Court sitting in Abuja yesterday in a unanimous decision of six to one, ruled that it has the jurisdiction to entertain the suit instituted by the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Chief Bola Ige (SAN), to determine the seaward boundary of a littoral state.

In his lead ruling, the Chief Justice of the Federation, Justice Mohammed Lawal Uwais, supported by Justice Salihu Modibbo, Alfa Belgore, Abubakar Bashir Wali, Idris Legbo Kutigi, Michael Ekundayo Ogundare and Emmanuel Obioma Ogwuegbu, cited section 232 (1) of the con-

stitution which rests the Supreme Court with the jurisdiction to determine any dispute between the federation and the states. He added that section 6 (1) of the constitution also rests the Supreme Court with the judicial powers.

According to the lead ruling, the Supreme Court has the jurisdiction to interpret, not only the provisions of section 162 (2) of the constitution, but also all the other provisions of the constitution.

However, Justice Adolphus Godwin Karibwhyte ruled on the contrary that the Supreme Court lacked the jurisdiction to entertain the case because there

was no dispute between the Federal Government and the states.

The lead ruling, however, stated that there was a dispute between the Federal Government and the states based on the statement of claim which concerns the sharing of the Federation Account on the basis of the principles of derivation as provided under section 162 (2) of the constitution.

contd. on pg 2



Two of the Governors from the oil producing states, Governor James Ibori of Delta State (l) and Governor D.S.P. Aliamieyeseigha of Bayelsa State surrounded by pro-resource control protesters during the hearing of the FG suit against the 36 states of the federation on resource control at the Supreme Court, Abuja... yesterday.  
Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje.

## Ogun drags FG to court over Federation Account

The Ogun State government has instituted an action at the Supreme Court of Nigeria against the Federal Government alleging wrongful de-

ductions from the Federation Account.

In a 15-point claim against the Federal Government, the Ogun State gov-

ernment is seeking a declaration that the deduction of 1 per cent from the Federation Account for the use of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, before sharing the balance in the Federation Account is illegal and unconstitutional.

The suit filed on behalf of the Ogun state government by the state's Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Chief Oluseyi Oyebolu, is also seeking a declaration that the creation of first line charge over monies in the Federation Account towards the servicing of the external debt of the Federal

Government is illegal and unconstitutional.

The suit, dated May 21, 2001, is also seeking a declaration that the deduction by the Federal Government of money due for payment of salaries of primary school teachers from source and payment of same to the State Primary Education Board (SPEB), is illegal and unconstitutional and a declaration that it is illegal and unconstitutional for the Federal Government to deduct funds due to the local government councils in Ogun State from the Federation Account and

contd. on pg 2

## Corps members now for villages

By Simon Imobo-Tswam

National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members are now to serve in the rural areas during their mandatory one year national service, the Minister for Women Affairs and Youth Development, Hajiji Aisha Ismail, has said.

In a major overhaul of

the scheme, corps members would be barred from serving in ministries and other government agencies in cities.

The minister made the disclosure while briefing State House correspondents at the end of the weekly Fed-

eral Executive Council (FEC) meeting yesterday in Abuja.

According to Mrs Ismail, the decision was informed by the desire to make maximum use of manpower resource in the areas of immediate need such as the rural

contd. on pg 2



## NEWS

# FG moves to curb population explosion

**W**orried by the growth in population in the country, the Federal Government has put some measures in place to check the development and has also called on Nigerians to pay more attention to their health and environment.

In a message at the

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

World Population Day celebration in Abuja yesterday, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, who was represented by Dr. M.S. Amaechi, a director in the ministry, said government was fine-tuning the Na-

tional Population Policy adopted in 1988.

This, he said was to accommodate emerging trends and contain areas of inadequacies.

According to the secretary, the policy aims at reducing the population of women who get married

before the age of 15 and discouraging women from getting pregnant before 15 years and after 35 years.

To achieved this, the government is pursuing appropriate provision of family planning service. He regretted that after 10 years of the policy on

population, the much needed impact has not been felt.

"Government is very concerned about the welfare of the citizens. This has led to our effective participation in all world population conferences held so far," Dr. Amaechi

said.

The population conferences include 1974 Bureaus conference; 1984 Mexico conference; 1986 Arusha declaration, 1994 Cairo conference on International Population and Development and the 1995 Beijing conference.



L-R: The Minister of State for Defence, Alhaji Bello Usman, Minister of Solid Minerals, Mr. Kanu Agabi, Minister of Power and Steel, Dr. Segun Agagu and Minister of State for Power and Steel, Alhaji Murtala M. Aliyu, during the Federal Executive Council meeting at the State House, Abuja... yesterday.

Pix: Kennedy Eghonodje.

## Corps members contd. from pg 1

development initiatives springing up in the rural areas.

"Corps members would be more useful in the rural areas for re-orientation of Nigerians on democratic ethos or in the implementation of other national projects such as the Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme," the minister stated.

Speaking further, she said the ministry is already

working on a memorandum containing the reforms which would be forwarded to the executive council soon for approval.

She also stated that the plan had been presented at the meeting of the National Youth Council and the same would also be discussed at the National Council of States meeting.

On the outcome of the FEC meeting, which was presided over by Vice-Presi-

dent Atiku Abubakar, the minister said the council has approved a shipping agreement between Nigeria and the Republic of Congo.

The minister also announced the approval of N190 million for the design of a road network linking Bonny to the mainland of Port Harcourt. The Road is billed for execution next year.

## Supreme court contd. from pg 1

The majority ruling explained that the suit involves the determination of who benefits from or shares in the allocation of revenue accruing from the natural resources located offshore in the coastal area of Nigeria. It stated further that the dispute involves the question of law, which is the interpretation of section 162 (2) of the constitution, especially the provision which directly affects the littoral states and indirectly, the non-littoral states.

The court ruled further that section 232 (1) of the constitution provides that the Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in any dispute between the federation and a state or between states in

so far as that dispute involves any question whether of law or fact on which the existence or extent of a legal right depends.

However, concerning the 16 grounds of preliminary objection raised by 11 out of the 36 defendants, the Supreme Court dismissed them all on lack of merit.

The court also ruled that apart from eight states that constitute the littoral states, 28 others which constitute the non-littoral states can also be joined in the suit because any determination of the case will also affect them one way or the other.

It will be recalled that the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, has in April this year, instituted a suit

against the 36 states of the federation praying the court to determine the seaward boundaries of littoral states for the purpose of calculating the amount of revenue accruing to the Federation Account directly from any natural resources derived from any state or territory pursuant to section 162 of the constitution.

The littoral states are; Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo and Rivers.

Meanwhile, the case has been adjourned to October 29, 30, 31 and November 1 and 2, 2001 for hearing to enable the parties to file their briefs of arguments, statements of defence, claims and counter claims.

## N/Assembly contd. from pg 1

lion recurrent expenditure approved for the National Assembly by the House, as against N500 million approved by the Senate for the same purpose and the execution of the constituency projects (N500 million each) throughout the country by the presidency.

In presenting the joint committee report, signed by Senator Udo Udoma and Rep. Mao Oluabunwa, to the Senate, Senator Udoma said that, "with regard to the supplementary appropriation bill (II), the Senate should accept the House of Representatives version of N2.4 billion under recurrent expenditure for the National Assembly in place of the N500 million provided for in the bill passed by the Senate."

Similarly, Rep. Oluabunwa informed his colleagues that, "the House should accept and pass the supplementary appropriation bill (I) for the sum of N5.49 billion for the purchase of a

Gulf Stream V aircraft for the presidential fleet, already passed by the Senate."

In addition, the two Houses resolved to accept the reconciled figures of N6.7 million and N493.9 million as recurrent and capital expenditure respectively for the justice ministry.

The joint committee, however, tied the consideration by the National Assembly of the 2002 Appropriation Bill, to the implementation of the 2001 Appropriation Act, especially the N500 million allocated for constituency projects throughout the country in that budget.

Furthermore, the joint committee recommended the creation of a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the 2001 budget, because of the slow implementation of the entire budget by the executive and most importantly, the constituency projects.

Works and Housing Minister, Chief Tony Anenih,

## Ogun contd. from pg 1

of Nigeria (CBN) priority projects as a charge on the Federation Account is illegal and unconstitutional.

Also sought for is a declaration that the deduction of money from the Federation Account to maintain and manage the Stabilisation Account without the consent and/or concurrence of the plaintiff is illegal and unconstitutional.

The suit also seeks a declaration that to withhold proceeds from privatisation of Federal Government agencies, stamp duties, capital gains tax and all other income accruing to or derived by the federal government from any other source is illegal and unconstitutional and that it is also illegal and unconstitutional for the federal government to maintain and keep any other account for the purpose of receiving revenue collected by the federation other than as prescribed by section 162 (1) of the constitution.

Meanwhile, the suit is

Power and Steel Minister, Chief Olusegun Agagu and their Water Resources counterpart, Alhaji Mukhtar Shagari, the report added, appeared before it "and gave unequivocal commitments to faithfully implement the 2001 Appropriation Act, including in particular, the constituency projects."

The report stated further that, the ministers, however, complained about the timely release of funds from projects and as a result, the joint committee resolved to seek audience with Obasanjo.

The meeting with the president, the report added, "is to secure assurance of commitment to execution of the constituency projects, particularly with respect to the timely release of funds."

After the passage of the 2001 supplementary Appropriation Act by both Houses yesterday, they went on recess with the Senate billed to resume sitting on August 27, 2001, while the House will resume from recess on August 22, 2001.

seeking a perpetual injunction restraining the federal government, its agents, officers and privies from repeating or further committing such or similar unconstitutional acts in violation of any provisions of section 162 of the constitution.

The Ogun State government in its suit is also seeking an order directing the federal government to render an account of all the monies received into and disbursed from the Federation Account from May 29, 1999 till the date of judgement of the suit and a further order compelling the federal government to pay the state its legitimate and correct share of the Federation Account less all monies already paid to them from the said account within the period of May 29, 1999.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has fixed November 7, 2001 for hearing even as the federal Attorney-General has served notice of appearance.

**NEWS**

**FG spends N188.9bn on roads**

The Federal Government is to spend N188.9 billion on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of roads across the country, the Minister of State for Works and Housing, Mr. Garba Madaki Ali, has said.

By Tashikalmah Hallah

travelling to the northern part of the country.

On the Benin-Asaba dual carriage way sections one, two and three awarded to RCC at the cost of N10.8

billion, the minister explained that it would bring succour to the road users and increase business activities within the zone when completed.

Sections one and two, he said have been completed while work is in progress on

section three which falls within Delta State.

On Benin-Warri road initially was awarded to Deawoo, an auto-firm in 1999 by the General Abdulsalami Administration, Mr. Ali said the 95 km road contract was terminated and reawarded by the administration to RCC when the contractor could not perform.

**23.7m students enrol for UBE**

About 23.7 million students enrolled for the UBE nine-year basic education programme throughout Nigeria in 1999, representing 80 percent of the six-14-year-old age group.

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

the Minister of Health, Prof. Alphonsus Nwosu, while addressing newsmen on year 2001 World Population Day.

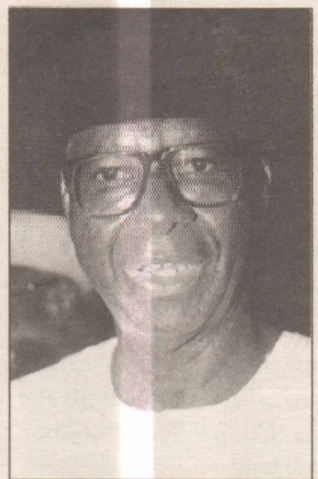
He said it was in order to address the problem of high level of illiteracy in the

This was announced by

In a press statement signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Edwin Opara, and made available to *Daily Trust*, the minister said the road projects will involve about 78 roads across the six geopolitical zones in the country.

According to the minister, the projects if completed, would enhance the revenue profile of the country, as movement of goods and services would be at ease.

Citing the Benin by-pass dual carriage way awarded to Messrs Strabag Nigeria Limited at the cost of N10 billion and the Kaduna refinery road awarded to Messrs P.W. Nigeria Limited at the cost of N1.4 billion, the minister explained that "it will provide solace to travellers who spend days in Benin during festival periods before getting to their destinations as well as serve as a by-pass for petroleum tankers



Chief Tony Anenih

**Obasanjo discusses port reforms in Belgium**

President Olusegun Obasanjo arrived Belgium yesterday for a two-day state visit, with high hopes of reaching an agreement with the authorities over the planned restructuring and development of the Nigerian maritime and ports sub-sector.

President Obasanjo who was in Brussels, the Belgium capital last May for the meeting

From Sulciman Mohammed, in Brussels, Belgium

of less-developed countries, would this time explore areas of economic potentials, particularly in the maritime sector and ports development.

Belgium, expected to assume the leadership of the European Union, next year, is considered as the mainstream

of maritime activities in Europe, with most imported cars into Nigeria coming from that country.

President Obasanjo would among other things have audience with the President of the European Commission, Mr. Guy Verhofstadt and His Majesty, King Albert II, the King of the Belgians as well as the Belgian foreign trade board. He will also visit the historic Antwerp Port, where the city Mayor, Mrs. Leons de Diego, would brief President Obasanjo in company of the port officials.

Specifically, an agreement is expected to be reached between Nigeria and the Belgian government on possible ways of assisting the country on areas of maritime



Prof. Borisade

country, that the government replaced the policy of universal primary education with the universal basic education policy which, according to him, compels children to spend nine years instead of six in school.

"Because of the current high birth rate and the momentum of population growth, both the number of children in the population and primary school enrolment would increase phenomenally," he said.

Prof. Nwosu pointed out that as more pupils enrol, much larger expenditures would be required to pay for the increased number of teachers, school administrators, classrooms, school buildings and equipment.

Referring to a Nigerian demographic and health survey among children conducted in 1999, the health minister said 46 percent of children under three years of age were found to be stunted; 12 percent were wasted while 27 percent were under-weight.

This, he said would become worse if rapid population growth is allowed to make it difficult to produce and distribute adequate food to meet the nutritional needs of families.

**Makarfi rules out judicial action against suspended LG bosses**

Alhaji Ahmed Makarfi, Kaduna State Governor, has ruled out judicial action against the chairmen of 10 local government councils, suspended by the government five weeks ago following allegations of financial impropriety levelled against them by the state

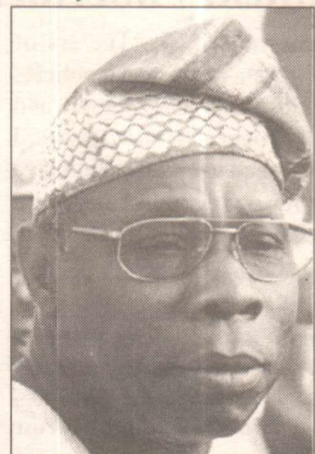
House of Assembly.

Makarfi said while receiving a report of the committee set up to investigate the chairmen on Tuesday at Government House, Kaduna, that issues raised in the allegations against them were technical and involved quantities and pricing of items which

required professional evaluation. Instead of judicial action, Makarfi said administrative procedure would be adopted to ensure corrective measures since "it is clear from the report that, if there are faults, it is the system that is responsible and individuals will not be held responsible."

He said government was determined to take corrective measures and even go beyond that, adding that government would soon release a white paper on the report to safeguard public fund and the interest of democracy.

"I will be glad to see local governments totally independent, but there must be a mechanism that provides for checks and balances," he said. Makarfi explained that the report would enable government to standardize the procedure in the award of contracts by the councils, adding that government might consider setting up local government tender board to regularize the situation.



President Olusegun Obasanjo and port reforms.

Transport Minister, Chief Ojo Maduekwe, who is on the president's entourage, disclosed to journalists in a chat that the visit would not only showcase Nigeria as the hub of maritime in sub-Saharan Africa but also "provide opportunity for a link with South America, Asia and Australia," adding that aside from oil, the maritime sector provides the highest foreign earnings for Nigeria.

**Cartoon Contest!**

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

**Rules of the contest**

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

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

**Prizes**

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

**Corps member, 11 others die in Ilorin road accident**

No fewer than 12 people, including a lady corps member were killed on the spot along Omu-Aran-Ilorin highway on Tuesday when a marble loaded trailer ran over a Toyota Hiace bus.

The accident occurred at about 9.30 a.m. when the driver of the marble-loaded trailer swerved on the highway and ran over the

From Abdul Laro, in Ilorin

bus killing all the occupants after it dragged the bus for over 300 metres before it stopped.

According to the Sector Commander, FRSC Ilorin Command, Umar Bello Ajingi, the Toyota Hiace bus with registration XA 710 MUN was heading to Omu-Aran from Ilorin while the trailer was Ilorin bound from

Onu Aran when the incident occurred.

He said the lady corps member was identified as Miss Egbefor and was in uniform at the time of the incident.

The commander attributed brake failure or fatigue as possible causes of the accident which also claimed the lives of the bus driver and his conductor.

NEWS

**Nurses' strike causes congestion in Kano hospitals**

The strike action embarked upon by the National Association of Nurses and Midwives nationwide last Friday, has caused congestion and long queues at government hospitals in Kano, *Daily Trust* investigation has revealed.

Our investigation at Murtala Muhammed Specialist Hospital, Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital and Nassarawa Hospital, revealed that patients were stranded as there were few doctors to attend to them.

However, some patients had to go away after waiting for several hours because of the crowd and the few doctors available could not attend to them.

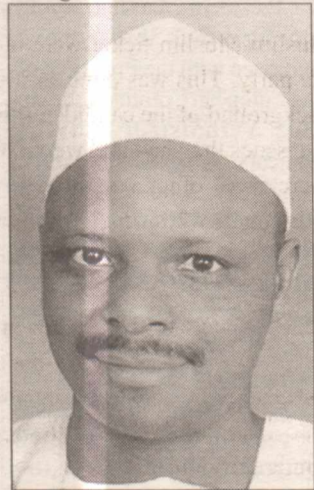
The patients interviewed expressed dismay over the strike action embarked on by the nurses and called on the government to respond to their demands in order to save the lives of patients.

At Nassarawa Hospital,

From Aliyu M. Suleiman, in Kano

some patients told *Daily Trust* that they waited for 4-5 hours without seeing any doctor around, Sani Abdullahi said, "I have waited for about three hours now, but no doctor to see."

The Chief Medical Doctor of Murtala Mohammed Specialist Hospital, Dr. Y.A. Dangwani said the private health care staff were drafted to areas where nurses were in charge to ease the



Gov Kwankwaso

congestion. He said that it was wrong for health workers to embark on total strike.

Dr. Dangwani advised the government and the Association of Nurses and Midwives to always embrace dialogue rather than confrontation. "Government and nurses should sit down and negotiate," he advised.

**Bauchi govt set up judicial probe into religious crisis**

The Bauchi State government is to set up a judicial commission of enquiry to investigate the recent religious crisis in the Tafawa Balewa Local Government Area of the state, Governor Ahmed Mu'azu has said.

Mu'azu said while receiving members of the Supreme Council of Sharia in Nigeria (SCSN) on Tuesday in his office, that the commission would unravel the causes of the crisis and

The authority of the State Security Service (SSS) have reacted to Lagos lawyer and human rights activist, Mr. Femi Falana's statement at the Justice Oputa Panel sitting in Abuja.

In the statement which was published by some national dailies on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2001, Falana alleged that the names of President Olusegun Obasanjo; the Attorney-General of the

**SSS denies Falana's allegation**

By Simon Imobo-Tswam

Federation and the Minister of Justice, Chief Bola Ige and his (Falana's) were still on the SSS list of 10 most wanted Nigerians.

The release signed by Mr. Ola Williams and made available to *Daily Trust*, states in part: "The service wishes to state categorically clear that there is no iota of truth in the statement by Falana. The

allegation is a calculated attempt by Falana to tarnish the good image of the service, which is committed to serving the nation in accordance with democratic principles."

The statement stated that the SSS, like other security organizations world over usually keep records of movement of persons at the entry and exit points for various reasons.

"Since the coming into office of the present SSS leadership, this list has been undergoing constant review as the situation warrants in order to ensure that the names of these people who are no longer of interest are expunged. It is likely that, therefore, that Falana may be referring to an old list," the statement added.

**Air force releases entrance examination results**

By Abubakar Ibrahim

The Nigerian Air Force (NAF) has released the results of entrance examination into air force military/secondary schools conducted on May 26, 2001 across the country.

According to a press release signed by Squadron Leader DJ Longe, interviews would take place at the Air Force Military School, Jos from July 29 - August 5, 2001; Air Force Girls Military School, Jos August 1-7, 2001; Air Force Secondary School, Kaduna, August 13-17, 2001; Air Force Secondary School, Makurdi, August 13-17, 2001 and Air Force Secondary School, Port Harcourt, August 13-17, 2001.

Successful candidates for Air Force Comprehensive School, Ibadan from Edo, Imo, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun and Oyo States are to attend the interview from August 14-17 while candidates from others states would be interviewed from August 12-15, 2001 at the same venue.

The statement stated that interview for Air Force Comprehensive Secondary School, Uyo would take place from August 14-15, 2001 but Akwa Ibom State candidates are to attend the interview from August 14-17, 2001 while candidates from other states are to attend from August 12-15, 2001.

The statement advised parents and guardians of successful candidates to check the names of their wards at the various Nigerian Air Force schools.

**Turaki says oil industry liberalisation will jump-start economy**

A campaign for the proposed liberalization of the downstream sector of the oil industry gathers momentum, Governor Saminu Turaki of Jigawa State has said the move would serve to jump-start the nation's economy.

Speaking on Tuesday in Dutse, at a forum involving the Presidential Technical Campaign Committee (PTCC) on liberalization and some opinion leaders in the state, Turaki added that the programme would remove both monopoly and scarcity of petroleum products and thereby propel economic activities.

He said the policy was borne out of the need to improve the lot of Nigerians, through poverty alleviation at

the rural level. "The era of viewing government policies with pessimism is gone, and for Nigeria to move forward we need to embrace and give the government's sound economic policies a chance to thrive," he said.

The governor said the policy would allow as many players as possible in the areas of refining, supply and distribution of petroleum products.

Turaki, who was represented by his deputy, Alhaji Ibrahim Shehu, said the time to liberalise and privatize was now, "so that Nigerians can fully participate in the activities of the oil sector, and for the economy to witness the desired buoyancy."

But he advised the Federal Government to put measures in place that would ensure that all the gains derived from the policy reached the people.

Earlier, the leader of the team, Mr. Funsho Kupolokun, had told the gathering that the aim of the liberalization policy was to create a fair, efficient and competitive oil sector. It was the desire of the Federal Government to open up the sector to competition, aimed at attracting local and foreign investment to spur growth in the energy sector, he added.

**Jigawa inaugurates NAPEP committee**

The Jigawa State Coordination Committee of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) has been inaugurated in Dutse, the state capital.

Inaugurating the committee, the state Chairman of NAPEP, Alhaji Ahmed Safio Maigatari, described poverty as "a condition in which people are unable to satisfy their basic needs in terms of good nutrition, clothing, shelter, energy, transport, health, education and recreation."

Alhaji Safio said Nigerians have been grappling with poverty as a result of many factors most of which he described as human. He

From Bala Mohammed Nasir, in Dutse



President Obasanjo

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I formerly known as MOHAMMED NAKAKA HARUNA now wish to be addressed as MOHAMMED HARUNA ADAMU. Former documents remain valid. High Court of Justice, Abuja and General public to take note.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I formerly called MUSA K. ADAMU now to be called NUHU ADAMU. Former documents remain valid. Federal Radio Corporation and public to note.

added "it is a result of the deplorable poverty level in the country that the present administration found it pertinent to not just alleviate poverty but eradicate it. This is the rationale behind the inauguration of NAPEP by President Olusegun Obasanjo. He plans to eradicate poverty in our

society within the shortest possible time."

According to Alhaji Safio Maigatari, a lot of programmes directed at poverty eradication have been designed to achieve intended goals. For this purpose, he said 14 ministries have been selected as the core poverty eradication ministries in addition to other nine agencies.

**Sokoto disburses N22.4m scholarship grant**

From Abdulfatai Abdulsalami, in Sokoto

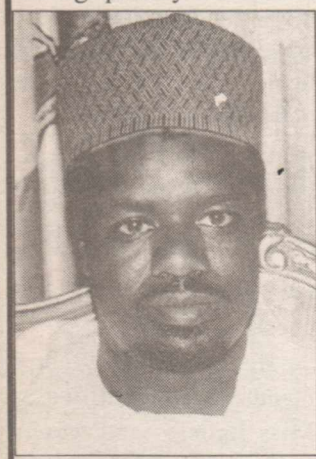
The Secretary, Sokoto State Scholarship Board (SOSOB), Alhaji Buhari Bello Kware said students of Sokoto State studying in various higher institutions of learning have benefitted from a N322.4 million scholarship award for 1999/1002 academic year.

Speaking with newsmen in Sokoto yesterday, he said another N4.6 million has been remitted into the state's foreign account to

take care of the students studying overseas.

The secretary explained that the gesture would assist students to be more committed in their academic pursuit, payment of registration fees, tuition fees and proper welfare.

He revealed that five students who are from the state have successfully graduated in medicine in Bulgaria and that an additional four would complete their course in September this year.



Gov Saminu Turaki

**CORRIGENDUM**

In an advert placement by Federal Ministry of Transport in our Monday edition (9/7/2001), the name of the Ministry's Permanent Secretary was printed as Mr. John O. Hirse instead of Mr. John P. Hirse. The error is regretted.

# DAILY TRUST

## EDITORIAL

### End of a vision?

It is possible for one to get on in this world without planning; to stumble, slip and sometimes fall or succeed. A nation without planning is that much worse off than the individual because there are many more lives to ruin or leave in uncertainty.

Nigeria is a nation which apparently does not believe in plans, and Nigerians are known to revel in their governments' 'fire brigade' approach to issues. The meaning of this is that government or its institutions do not react to problems until they become crises. That is why task forces are so much in vogue. It would have, for instance, been possible to estimate the number of vehicles in use in Nigeria and therefore the quantity of fuel they would need and then prepare to supply that quantity. But that would be planning. Nigeria's way is to guess how many Nigerians there are, how many vehicles they run, how much fuel they would require and then supply less than half of that requirement. If nothing else, it would ensure that more vehicles queue up in the direction of a dormant fuel station and more press conferences to be addressed by the NNPC.

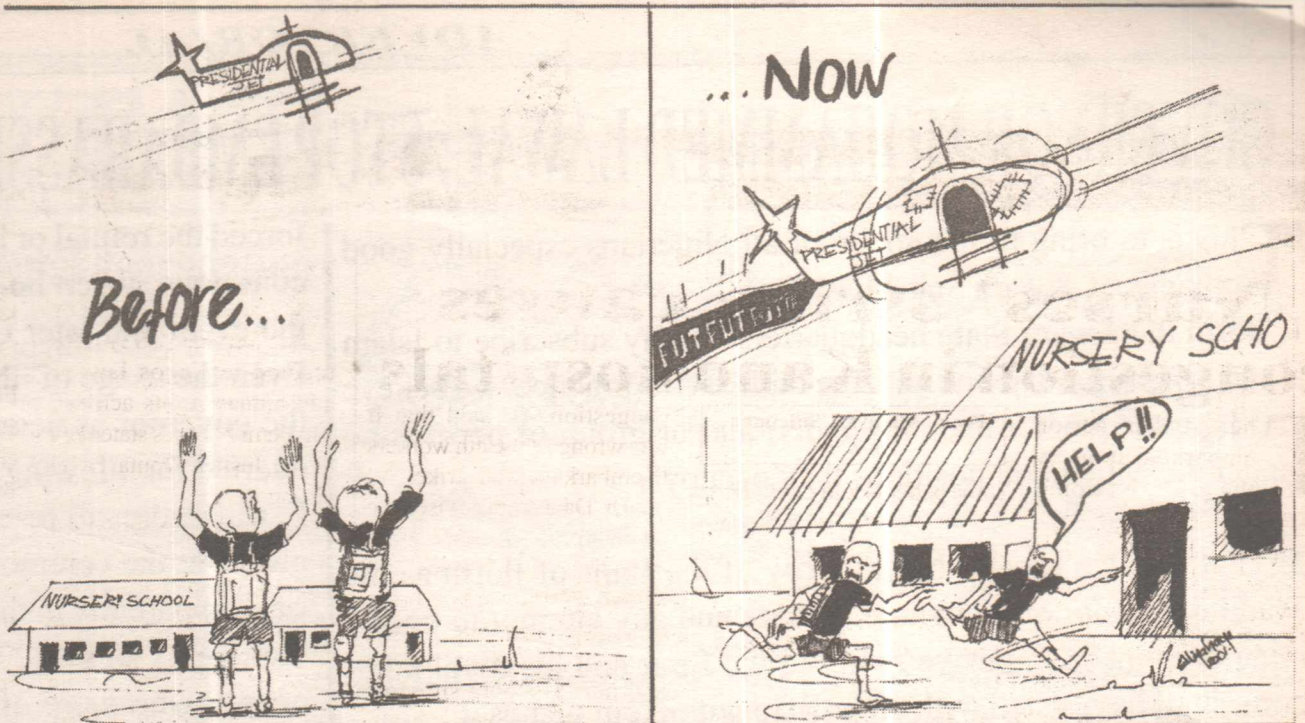
There was a time when someone in authority attempted to plan for moving the country forward. This involved a gathering of all sorts of Nigerians and expatriate experts. They were given all that was needed to think, came up with what was called Vision 2010, and if former head of state Ernest Shonekan is to be believed, it was a beautiful plan.

Chief Shonekan said recently of Vision 2010: "It was a thorough searchlight which looked at all problems confronting Nigeria and proffered solutions to them". More importantly, he was of the opinion that Nigeria would need to implement such a plan to get into the league of developed nations. *Daily Trust* heartily agrees with him.

Apart from the fact that Nigerian governments are wary of plans, Vision 2010 is besmirched by the fact that the wrong government commissioned it. Since it was sponsored by the Abacha regime, not even the fact that the Ernest Shonekan who was thrown out by that government believed enough in the enterprise to head it would, it seems, recommend it to succeeding authorities.

The present government must however remember that its first loyalty is to Nigerians, to improving their lives and giving them direction. It could do worse than dusting up the Vision 2010 document and after getting various departments to study its provisions with a view to removing whatever bugs might have been implanted, bringing it to bear on the lives of Nigerians.

That would be much better than the present groping which Nigerians have proclaimed has not made their lives better.



## THURSDAY COLUMN

### Politics of 'Downstairs' and 'Upstairs'

By Mohammed A. Galadi

Until his tragic assassination in 1995, the late Israeli Prime Minister of the Labour political party, Yitzhak Rabin, had as his campaign slogan, "land for peace". His archrival on the other hand who was also the incumbent Prime Minister from the Likud Conservative Party, Yitzhak Shamir had "peace for peace" as his own slogan. In between these two polar extreme views, were the Israeli voters who had to make a choice between left and right. They voted for the left. And with that, Rabin emerged as the winner of that election. Reason? The answer is simple: With the spate of suicide bombings across the major cities of Israel on one hand and the pressure from the international community especially Israel's main allies, on the other, the mood of an average Israeli voter at the time was for peace at all cost even if it was by sacrificing the booties that were acquired during the Arab-Israeli wars.

The quick knockout victory he scored in the last Gulf War brought about respect and admiration from among his supporters and adversaries alike. However, President George W. Bush (Snr.) was to be embroiled in another battle back home - the American election. Soon he discovered that he was pitted against a younger and a more dynamic opponent, Bill Clinton. During the campaign preceding the election, the central issue of course was the economy. And by promising the Americans a booming economy, even without resorting to tax increase, Bush thought that he was doing them the greatest good. Clinton however, was fully aware that increase in tax rate among other most contending issues, was essential in reviving the ailing economy and therefore made no pretence on the issue. The result was that Americans in their own wisdom, found Clinton's policies more sensible and voted him in.

Margaret Thatcher, the iron lady of British politics, as she was fondly called, was one top Tory politician who was forced to quit the scene over her foreign policy. She was particularly known for her rigid opposition to the Maastrich Treaty. This was a treaty that seeks to promote European economic and political unity.

The above are just a few instances that show how decisive issues could be in deciding who actually wins and who loses out in an election especially in those countries where democracy is deeply rooted. And history is replete with such instances. In a developing country like Nigeria that has not had democracy for too long, issues even when they exist do not always make an impact in an election. There are instances where some candidates may have one or two genuine issues to address if elected into office but these are often ridiculed and trivialised by their opponents. One way of doing this is through ethnic or religious sentiments. A good example that readily comes to mind is what happened in the days of the aborted Third Republic in which the flag bearer of the Social Democratic Party, the late Chief M.K.O. Abiola picked a Northern Muslim, Babagana Kingibe as his running mate. As a result of this, there was a serious uproar. Voters, especially non-Muslims who felt uncomfortable with the

Muslim-Muslim ticket were almost misled from voting for the party. This was done as if it was the ethnic or religious background of the candidates that were more important than the issues they had and were out to address. Apart from that, there were other instances in which some highly placed individuals who were in a better position to preach "unity in diversity" but turned around through their utterances or deeds to cause division. When in power, it is alright; and it's all wrong when out of it. However, there is no denying the fact that people who have not done proper home work for their campaigns or who have nothing at all to offer were those who manipulate voters through religious sentiments and ethnic chauvinism

"Politics of Money" or better still the use of money as is the case today in buying votes is another problem militating against the politics of genuine issues in Nigeria. One reason for this is the widespread poverty afflicting most Nigerians. Come to think of it: in a situation where many families could not afford the basic three square meals a day, medical care or even send their children to school, for a token gratification, they may be willing to vote anyone. Yes, just anyone. The result invariably is that they end up voting for the wrong candidate(s) who may not have their interest at heart.

Apart from the fact that people are poverty-ridden, illiteracy is another reason that makes them vulnerable to manipulation. This is especially so as the rate of illiteracy in the country is still very high. As a result, our kind of politics is often described as politics of "downstairs" - politics of pocket, stomach, shelter, clothing and indeed survival!

Experience has also proved time and again that even when some of our politicians are voted into office based on the issues they promised to address, when they get there, they wave aside these issues and bring in other issues they have not been voted for and possibly could not have been voted for had these issues been part of their campaign promises. Thus, many are of the view that "volcanic issues" that attract controversy and public debate should feature as part of the campaign promises of their initiators. This, they argued could have decided whether these initiators could have been elected in the first place.

The advanced democracies of the world, like the ones mentioned from the onset, are being dominated by issues; genuine issues not just trivialities. Theirs are a kind of politics where religion, ethnicity or money power does not count much. What really matters is the quality of the candidate and what he could deliver. And that is why their politics is being described as politics of "upstairs". By that, it is meant politics of intelligence, sound judgement, wise choice and objectivity. But they started from somewhere before they got to where they are today. Although, when compared to these advanced democracies, ours is just an infant; however that is not to say that we cannot grow. With a strong commitment, we too could move away from the politics of downstairs to that of upstairs. After all, "the biggest man you ever did see was once just a baby", as the late reggae star, Bob Marley would put it.

Galadi is of the department of economics, University of Abuja

## ADVERTORIAL

## GOVERNOR MOHAMMED LAWAL: STOP EMBARRASSING THE EMIR OF ILORIN

This is to bring to the notice of all Nigerians especially good citizens of Kwara State that:

1. Ilorin the Kwara State headquarters totally subscribe to Islam as our religion and in line with the faith and its practice, we believe that Islam is greater than any individual or group of persons no matter the ephemeral positions they occupy.

2. That we also accept the authority of the Emir of Ilorin as the Traditional ruler of the whole emirate and any attempt to undermine or point any abusive finger to the Emir and his royal kingdom, shall be resisted with all powers within our disposal.

3. That we shall continue to hold and protect the royal kingdom put in place by Shiek Alimi with high esteem and would defend its existence from generation to generation.

4. That the rumour spread by some unscrupulous elements who are trying to pull down the traditional structure of the emirate by instigating the Baloguns against the Emir is an attempt to destroy the existing good relationship between the Emir and his Baloguns in order to bastardise the Royal Kingdom to a secular system.

5. That the Emir of Ilorin, His Royal Highness, Alhaji Ibrahim Sulu Gambari is not an ordinary Emir who can be ridiculed or embarrassed by any person or authority because he is the custodian of traditional and Islamic institutions of Ilorin Emirate as Amirul Islam.

6. That our Emir is not a politician. He is a distinguished Royal Father who rose to the rank of Justice of Federal Court of Appeal before he was enthroned on his ancestors throne. We are surprised that the learned Emir should be rumoured to be the brain behind the stoning episode at the Juma'at Central Mosque sometimes last year. The truth about the matter was that the people believe that the Governor of Kwara State, Alhaji Mohammed Lawal who should lead in respect of Islam was the person who committed the greatest sacrilege against it when he interrupted the Juma'at prayer shortly after the sermon (Khutbah) to make a purely political statement against his enemies.

This episode bottled up anger and caused the people to throw stones at him rather than accept his fate and treat the situation as unfortunate, he believed wrongly and accused the Emir that the instigated it.

7. We believe very strongly that the Governor's attitudes towards the Emir is not the Emir's problem alone but the problem of the whole Emirate collective actions therefore is necessary to call a halt to these unpatriotic attitudes. We therefore call on all sons and daughters of Ilorin at home and abroad, the I.D.P.U., joint Wards Associations, intellectuals, students and women groups to wake up and rise to call the Governor to order in the interest of peace, togetherness and progress of our peaceful emirate.

8. We can understand that the Emirate Council was forced to issue a statement in denial of true report carried by a newspaper that Kwara State Stadium gates were locked against the Emir who is the Chairman of Kwara State Traditional Council. On the query episode, certainly we have to know that the Emirate council's letter was in response to a letter directed to the Emir by the Secretary to the State Government with express consent of the Governor that

forced the refusal or how can we rationalize that the Emir was not conscious when he printed STADIUM as venue, weeks before the event and later Queen School has to be used as substitute. Even the usage of the Queen School did not go down well with the governor as news had it that the principal of the school was queried for allowing the school premises to be used by the Emir. Furthermore, all reservations made in Kwara Hotels for eminent guests at the ceremony were cancelled a day to the grand marriage apparently in the instruction of the Governor. This left many dignitaries stranded to the embarrassment of the Emirate. Such people who were affected include His Excellency, the former Governor of Kano State and Chairman of the Nigerian National Security Printing and Minting Company, Alhaji Mohammed Abubakar Rimi, The Hon. Speaker of the Kano House of Assembly and two other Commissioners earlier booked at Kwara hotels but had to move to lesser grade hotels and unprepared private guest houses thus bringing shame to the emirate. There had been many occasions that the Governor has inflicted severe embarrassment on the personality of our Emir. One of those occasions was left unattended to four hours and when the Governor became ready he and his colleagues were put in uncomfortable seats which were arranged in the same row along with the newly appointed commissioners opposite the Governor and other very important dignitaries.

10. Another instance was during the distribution of security vehicles to the Kwara State Police command, the Emir was received with utmost disregard.

11. As if these were not enough, Governor Muhammed Lawal did not only stay away from the main events of the Emir's children's wedding despite the very early invitation, but curiously enough senior government functionaries were also instructed not to attend.

12. In the history of the State, we have never witnessed deliberate elimination of the Emir's name in the hierarchy of protocol to the effect that his presence was often reduced to that of an ordinary citizen. It is unprecedented for any State Governor to keep His Royal Highness, the Emir of Ilorin sitting for hours waiting for a Governor at any State function. The Governor's erroneous believe that the Emir did not support his candidature and election made him to instigate the Baloguns to intensify their agitation for upgrading to obas status.

13. As a result of all these unimpressive attitude towards the Emir especially at public functions, all legitimate sons and daughters of the emirate are now saying NO to Lawal's brutal attitudes towards our beloved Emir because as the Father of all and moreso, the chairman of the State Traditional Council of Chiefs had to portray neutrality in all political affairs. Our Emir is not a politician and should not be dragged into the path of self destruction that the Governor has embarked upon.

He should bear his cross as government comes, government goes but the traditional institution remains

**Courtesy: ILORIN EMIRATE ALLIANCE**

*Signed:*  
**OBALOWU HASSAN**  
*Secretary*

Opinion

Ige should resign now

By Abbas Bello

When President Olusegun Obasanjo appointed his cabinet at the inception of this administration two years ago, many Nigerians were critical of the appointments. It was generally held that it composed largely of tired hands and brains who largely contributed in destabilising the country economically, politically, morally and socially. Nigerians rightly believed that such people cannot really work in the general interest of the nation but rather pursue their personal political and ethnic interests.

Events of the past two years have proved such sceptics including the writer right. Most of the ministers, particularly those that were appointed at the inception of this administration perform far below expectation. About 10 of them were sacked in January due to reasons bordering on corruption and inefficiency, according to no less a person than the president who appointed them in the first place.

Unfortunately what I find inexplicable is the continued retention of Uncle Bola Ige, the so-called Cicero of the Yoruba ethnic nationality and erstwhile Minister of Power and Steel who promised Nigerians uninterrupted power supply six months after he assumed office, but instead of redeeming his promise, he decided to plunge the country into darkness. In a civilised society, such

people like Bola Ige would have apologised to Nigerians and tendered his resignation honourably because he has failed in his duty.

Despite his obvious failure as the Minister of Power and Steel and now Justice, he continues to carry himself about as if he is a saint. You can't believe that this is the man who continued to criticise Abacha's government, calling the late general all sorts of names. It is a wise advice that says "those who live in glass houses should not throw stones at others".

In view of this therefore, I wish to call on the National Assembly to dig deep and come out with the facts and figures of this scandalous deal involving Bola Ige and also put their searchlight on other public servants to fish out those who engage in this kind of shameful act. Any person found to be guilty of such things must be made to face the anti-graft commission. Nigerians are very interested in this case.

I also call on President Obasanjo to take necessary action before it is too late in order to exonerate himself from rumour going round that he is aware of such things (as the alleged lodgement of N2.3 billion NEPA fund in a private account) happening under his nose. And the only way to do that is by sacking such ministers and handing them over to the anti-graft commission for prosecution. It is not

enough to only sack a minister or public office holder for corruption, he should be prosecuted so that it will serve as a lesson to others.

If you can do that I will assure you that the people of Nigeria over whom you preside will love and cherish you, but anything short of that will only put you to ridicule in the eyes of the Nigerian people in particular and the international community in general.

I find it difficult to fathom why Mr. President should continue to allow a person like Bola Ige to serve in his government despite Ige's glaring failure. His commitment to the success of this administration is definitely in doubt.

Just recently at Ijebu-Jesa, Osun State, Bola Ige was reported to have wanted PDP to steer clear of Yoruba land. How can somebody who is feeding fat on the magnanimity of a PDP government continue to speak and act in such a manner that is not consistent with PDP agenda and yet nobody is willing to raise a finger and warn him.

It is my humble conclusion that a tribalist like Bola Ige is not fit to be a federal minister because his vision and commitment is only limited to his tribal group. I think a federal minister is supposed to be nationalistic not only in his speech but also in his actions. He must look at the whole of Nigeria as his constituency.

In conclusion, I will like to call on Bola Ige not to wait for president Obasanjo to sack him but put pen on paper.

Bello is of Isa Kaita Road, Kano.

Litmus test for ICPC

By Joseph Aiyejoto

On Saturday, June 30, this year, the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) through its consultants -KPMG Consulting, carried out a pre-selection test meant to eventually lead to the recruitment of candidates to fill the vacant posts in the commission. Applications were called for in March and the response from the unemployed and the underemployed was great. Who would not want to join a federal agency or parastatal in this era when a few have much while the majority have nothing?

According to the chairman of the commission, Justice Mustapha Akanbi, over 25,000 candidates applied for the various posts. Most of the applications, Justice Akanbi revealed, were submitted with attached notes from highly placed Nigerians whose grip on the socio-political and economic strongholds of this country they will not want to lose. Hence, to be fair to all and not to step on too many toes, the commission thought it wise to contract out the recruitment. A Lagos-based consulting firm, KPMG, won the handsome but precarious contract. I assume that other firms or companies probably bid for it before KPMG emerged as the *numero uno* on whose shoulder the first challenging public assignment of the ICPC fell.

Let me assume again that KPMG would have carried out some underground work before it decided the date the pre-selection test was to be written and the invitation letters sent to candidates who were to sit for the test nationwide. To posit that many people responded to the call would definitely not make any news. Though letters were sent out, applicants who might not have received their letters were required to check their names at the various centres and the KPMG offices in Lagos and Abuja.

Nevertheless, KPMG Consulting would have known better than to ask candidates to check their names instead of sending letters to all of them. Since they knew the number of people that applied, and the number of vacant posts to be filled in the ICPC, their inability to properly invite for the pre-selection test a few of them who are qualified and who would eventually be recruited after another round of interview left many things to be desired. Going by the list in Abuja alone, one would certainly be saying the truth if the conclusion is drawn that over half of the candidates that applied were short-listed and invited to sit for the pre-selection test. Then the question is: How many of the candidates would ICPC recruit to fill how many posts? Or do we conclude that the consultancy firm does not know the qualifications for positions through the assessment of people's credentials?

As a result of the wobbly arrangement of the exercise, it turned out to be a gross failure. It, however, brought to bare the sore reality of the high rate of unemployment in the country. Both old and young trooped out to the venues of the test. Many people did not see their letters of invitation but their names were on the list: the beginning of KPMG's failure. What does it take them to send letters to every individual or even publish the names in one or two national dailies? In fact, KPMG made a mess of itself, it has proved to the world that it does not know its mettle. KPMG made the first outing of ICPC to be devoid of success.

The test was scheduled for six cities in the Federation. This prompted many people to travel from their base to distant places. It may sound incredible that some people travelled from Lagos to Abuja, from Sokoto to Kaduna, from Yola to Bauchi, from Port Harcourt to Ibadan and so on, just to get there and be messed up by the ridiculous arrangement made by KPMG Consulting. Applicants who have nothing were made to beg for or borrow money to travel for nothing. I think they and the nation deserve an apology from KPMG and ICPC for the latter's shortsightedness in contracting an inexperienced consultancy firm to carry out an assignment of such magnitude.

Reports from various centres all over the federation revealed that the pre-selection test was marred by gross inadequacies. The test that was billed to commence by 10 a.m. did not start in some centres until 3.00p.m. Even then, there were reports of inadequate question papers. This brought to bare the destitution of the organisational and managerial ability and capability of KPMG Consulting.

In Abuja, not less than three centres out of five witnessed serious disruption and subsequent near-riot atmosphere, which suddenly put an end to the test at about 4 p.m. when some candidates who did not get the question papers on time went on rampage. Confusion ensued as those who had written the test had their question papers torn to pieces and people had to escape for their dear lives. Right from the time when candidates reported in the morning at test venues and especially at the KPMG office at the Central Business Area close to Chelsea Hotel, there were a lot of struggling before candidates could check their names on the walls at various locations. Most of them got frustrated and had to leave in despair. Majority of them expressed disappointment over the shoddy arrangement made by KPMG Consulting. Apart from insufficient question papers, invigilators were inadequate as at the time the test finally started at the various centres.

On the whole, one could make the summation that something definitely went wrong somewhere. If not, how could a consultancy firm which knows little or nothing about dry-cleaning be given the dirtiest of our linen to wash. Moreover, instead of washing it in the closet, it was carried close to the highway and the dirty water poured thereon for people to see. One begins to wonder who would save Nigeria from itself. A country endowed with both human and material resources, yet suffers because practical and empirical ideas have been sacrificed on the altar of theory. Watch Nigerians theorise and intellectualise the problems of the country and possible solutions on TV, listen to their postulations and criticisms on the radio, read their proposals on paper, read their criticisms in the print media as well and you will be more than impressed that this country is blessed. But it will surprise you that they become incapacitated when it comes to practicalising those theories. KPMG's performance is a vivid example.

If only ICPC would agree to publish the proposals and/or letter of introduction submitted to it by KPMG and two other consulting firms during he course of bidding for the contract.

The pre-selection test carried out by KPMG is indeed a litmus test for not only the firm but also ICPC that contracted it to carry out the assignment. The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission should realise that Nigerians have high expectations of what they have to offer, especially in the area of stemming corruption in the country. Hence, it must be watchful of every step it takes, as the searchlight would remain focussed on it. Nigerians look forward to the ICPC delivering the country not only from corruption, but also healing it of the wounds it has inflicted on the citizenry.

Aiyejoto is a staff of Daily Trust, Abuja

YOUR LETTERS

Beware Gov Kwankwaso

Perhaps it is not for me to alert the governor of Kano State, Dr. Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso on those who are intent on rocking his boat by 2003. But as a player in our fourth attempt in representative democracy and a genuine patriot of Kano State who, incidentally, share in the ideals of the governor, I am duty-bound to, at least draw his attention to those bend on "dealing" with him in the next election.

To state that Governor Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso has delivered is to state the obvious. Midway to his four years mandate, his countless achievements in the fields of healthcare, education, agriculture and provision of infrastructural facilities beckon to be counted.

The national leadership of our great party, the PDP has had cause to showcase

Governor Kwankwaso as the leading light of all the governors it threw up for election two years ago. No less than Chief Barnabas Gemade publicly eulogised Governor Kwankwaso when he visited the state late last year.

For the first time in the over thirty years history of Kano State, primary school pupils are being given free lunch four times a week by the government. The trail-blazing effort has since been borrowed by Lagos State governor, which is controlled by the critical Alliance for Democracy (AD).

But strangely though not unexpectedly, the few powerful political elite in the state are unhappy with Governor Kwankwaso. The question that readily comes to mind is why? What are Kwankwaso's sins as to

warrant a cryptic and stealthy gang-up? Has he not delivered? Has he not given them their political dues and respects?

As I stated earlier, some of these elements are unhappy because Kwankwaso has repeatedly demonstrated that he has a mind of his own and is not prepared to take the dictates of a few selfish interests.

Having realised the futility of condemning his achievements because they are visible and on the ground for everyone to see, these powerful elements have resorted to a vicious campaign of character assassination.

Since they are masters of propaganda and veterans of

political intrigues, they have decided to malign the person and integrity of Governor Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, all in the bid to stop him from running for a second term should he decide to contest by 2003.

These days, you hear the usual, sly allusion to Governor Kwankwaso's 'stupendous' wealth he 'stashed' away abroad or his vast estate in some foreign land!

It is largely because of these reasons that I am compelled to use this medium to alert Kwankwaso and advise him to beware.

Hamisu Sai'd, Deputy Majority Leader, Kano State House of Assembly, Kano.

IGP, where are benefits?

I refer to your story on page 27 of Daily Trust, Vol. 1. No. 90 dated Wednesday, June 20, 2001 on the death of DSP Clement Oyienmaide of Tolu police post, Lagos, during a shootout with armed robbers and hereby wish to appeal to the Inspector General of Police to urgently prepare and pay the death benefits of the deceased and also take responsibility for training the children of the deceased up to tertiary institution level.

This country needs people of DSP Clement's patriotism for it to develop and be respected among its peers.

May the almighty God grant the family of the deceased the fortitude to bear the great loss.

May I use this opportunity to congratulate Inspector Innocent Okoro on his promotion and the police authority for the prompt response.

Mohammed B. Imrana Central Insurance Company Limited, 8E Bello Road, P. O. Box 12031, Kano.

Buhari don't be afraid

Being in a democracy, General Muhammadu Buhari as a citizen has the right to say all he likes as well as practise the religion he prefers in mind. Muhammadu Buhari as a Muslim has called on Muslims to massively vote for somebody who will promote Islam. This is right because he didn't specify the person to be voted for. This could also be either a Christian or Muslim, but one who will promote Islam.

President Obasanjo who went from prison to presidency was massively voted by Northerners who are 90 percent Muslims. What he did first in the presidency was promoting his Christian religion through inviting Christian leaders within and outside the country to attend a well-organise church service in the presidential villa. Who accused him in view of what he did.

Haruna Mohammed Talle, Kano State Library Board, P.M.B. 3094, Kano.

## TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA &amp; THE MIDDLE EAST

## Onyia commends Romania

By Kevin Ebele Adinnu

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Chief Dubem Onyia has commended Romania for relocating its embassy from Lagos to Abuja.

Receiving the Romanian Ambassador, Dr. Gheorghe Dimitru in his office, the minister said he was happy that Romania relocated not necessarily to beat the December deadline he gave but to facilitate operations of the embassy.

On the request by the ambassador for Nigeria-Romania Joint Commission to hold in November in Nigeria, the Minister said all efforts would be made to accommodate the date.

Chief Onyia used the visit to solicit for investments by Romanian businessmen in Nigeria's privatisation programme, adding that Nigeria-Romanian chamber of Commerce should participate more actively in the relations between the two countries.

Speaking earlier, the Romanian Ambassador, Dr. Dimitru expressed satisfaction with the recent visit of the Senate President, Anyim Pius Anyim to his country describing the visit as very successful.

He recalled the long-standing relations between Nigeria and Romania, which culminated in the carrying out of the Turn Around Maintenance in the refineries in Port Harcourt by Romanian companies.

Dr. Dimitru urged the

## Russia criticises demolition of Palestinian homes

Russia urged Israel yesterday to stop demolishing homes in Palestinian-run areas, saying it could only lead to more bloodshed.

Israeli bulldozers ploughed through 26 Palestinian homes on Tuesday on the Gaza-Egypt border, leaving dozens homeless and sparking a fierce gun battle with the Palestinians. Some 14 houses were also destroyed in Arab East Jerusalem on Monday.

"In these circumstances it is impossible not to be concerned by the Israeli army's destruction of tens of houses in Gaza and the West Bank," Foreign Ministry spokesman, Alexander Yakovenko said in a statement. "These kinds of acts, however they are motivated, can only increase tension and hinder the restoration of trust between the sides, which is essential for realising a programme of normalisation which is at the root of the Mitchell Plan."

Former US Senator George Mitchell has proposed a plan aimed stopping fighting which has killed more than 600 people the vast majority Palestinians since last September.

"Moscow is convinced that Israelis and Palestinians should undoubtedly refrain from any acts which could undermine measures being taken by all sides, including Russia, to stop the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," Yakovenko said.

The Israeli army called the demolition "engineering work" aimed at stopping gunfire from unoccupied houses used only by gunmen for cover.

minister that the Nigeria-Romania businessmen to participate in the trade fair that would take place in Lagos about the same time.

In a related development, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Chief Dubem Onyia has praised the outgoing Ambassador of Iran, Mohammed Ali Ehanzadeh for the wonderful job he did in Nigeria.

He stated this during the ambassador's farewell visit to the ministry in Abuja.

The minister recalled with nostalgia that he discovered on a visit to Iran that the country was self-reliant, adding that a Nigerian delegation would soon visit Iran to learn from their experience.

Zimbabwean opposition leader, Morgan Tsvangirai, accused of acts of terrorism that could bar him from next year's elections, will challenge his prosecution today in a test case for freedom of speech in Zimbabwe.

Tsvangirai, leader of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), was granted a right by the High Court in May to refer his case to the Supreme Court to argue that a terrorism case against him was an attack on his right to free speech.

President Robert Mugabe's government said it accepted the High Court ruling, and would try to

## Zimbabwe opposition challenges prosecution

convince the country's highest court that Tsvangirai had a case to answer.

Tsvangirai told *Reuters* on Wednesday that he was ready, but had no doubt the Supreme Court would uphold his rights and rule as unconstitutional the law on which his prosecution is based.

"Our Supreme Court has a history of fairness, of protecting the rights of all Zimbabweans, of dispensing justice and that is the reason we have been calling for the protection of their integrity," he said.

"We are going to argue our case there... not outside," he said, refusing to comment on the case in detail.

Tsvangirai is being prosecuted for telling MDC supporters in a speech last year that Mugabe might be overthrown violently if he did not retire.

Tsvangirai's lawyers want the Supreme Court to decide if the opposition leader is being denied his freedom of expression rights guaranteed under Section 20 of the constitution.

In May, the MDC leader appeared before the High

Court to face accusations of terrorism and sabotage that could disqualify him from challenging Mugabe in elections due by April.

Tsvangirai told reporters then that he was not guilty, and the MDC accused Mugabe's ruling ZANU-PF party of abusing the country's justice system in trying to settle political scores against its opponents.

"The ZANU-PF government and its leadership are guilty of causing terrorism against its people. They, instead of anyone else, should be tried for the crimes against their own people," MDC spokesman, Learnmore Jongwe said.

Jongwe said Tsvangirai's prosecution contrasted sharply with the failure of the authorities to prosecute supporters of the government for violence.

## Workers begin strike in Lebanon

Workers at Lebanon's state-owned electricity, water and public transport companies went on strike yesterday to protest plans to cut back a scheme in which they pay reduced utility bills.

The strike will not reduce the electricity or water supply but will affect maintenance at the firms, utility workers' unions said.

"All our 6,500 employees in the country began their open strike today and they will not handle any reported damages," Fouad Harfoush, who heads the utilities workers syndicate, told *Reuters*.

He said employees at loss-making Electricite Du Liban (EDL), the Qadisha Electricity Authority, the Beirut Water Authority and the Public Transport Department were on strike.

Lebanon's government last month approved a budget law that included an article cancelling the lower tariffs for utility workers.

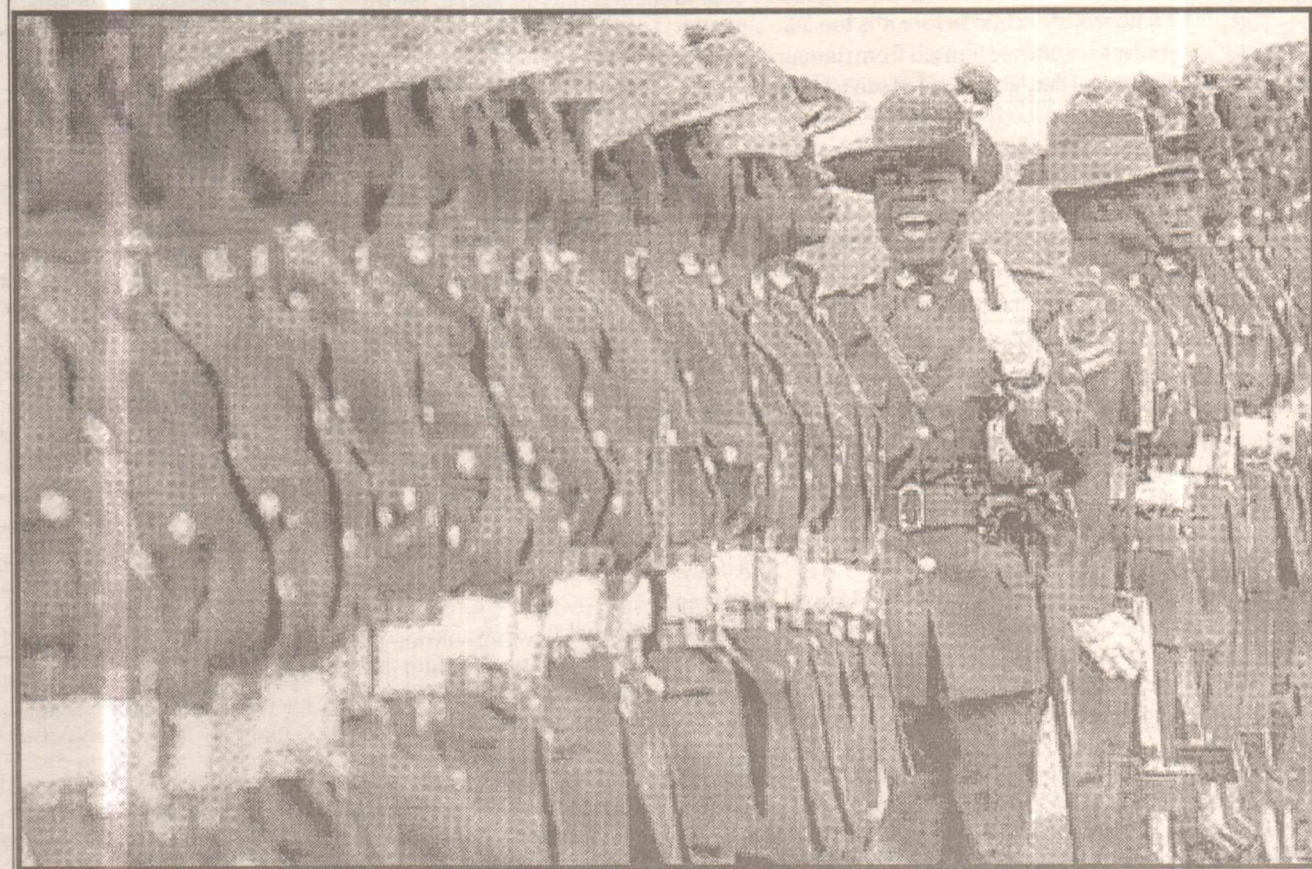
Earlier, Emile Joha, who heads the EDL workers syndicate, said all 2,800 employees of EDL in the country began to strike on Wednesday.

"We are not against the government's plans to cut waste but we do not want it to deprive us of privileges that have been there since 1954 and have become part of our salaries," he said.

Joha said the workers had warned the government starting on Saturday that they would strike. He said that the two sides were talking.

"There are negotiations with the government but we have not reached a result yet," he said.

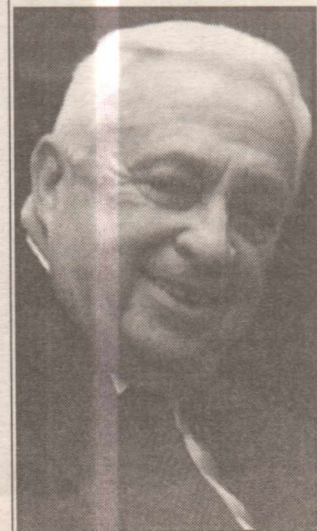
EDL, which loses \$500 million a year and collects on only half its bills, is scheduled to be sold off under a government privatisation plan intended to cut public debt of more than \$24 billion, or more than 150 per cent of gross domestic product.



The Zambian presidential guard parades during the arrival of African heads of state at Lusaka International Airport, July 8, 2001. African leaders gathered in Zambia for the final summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the last of 37 annual meetings stretching back to the era of Africa's decolonisation from European masters.

## Sharon urges expansion of Golan settlements

Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon called for expansion of Jewish settlements on the Golan Heights during a visit on Tuesday to the strategic



Ariel Sharon, Israeli Prime Minister.

plateau Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war.

"Only through developing the Golan, expanding the Jewish population, expanding the settlements and bringing in new residents... will we be able to turn the settlement of the Golan to a reality that cannot be reversed," he told residents.

Sharon's predecessor, Ehud Barak was reportedly prepared to return the Golan Heights to Syria as part of a final peace deal.

But peace negotiations deadlocked in January last year, apparently due to a disagreement over a narrow strip of land at the foot of the heights near the Sea of

Galilee, Israel's main water source.

Prospects for a renewal of negotiations have dimmed since the right-wing Sharon was elected in March and Syrian President Hafez al-Assad's death last year. He was succeeded by his relatively inexperienced son, Bashar.

Recent comments by Bashar al-Assad, who told the Pope in May that the Jews had betrayed Christ and tried to kill the Prophet Mohammad, and Israeli accusations that Syria was backing Lebanese Hizbollah guerrilla attacks have dealt a further blow to peacemaking prospects.

Sharon told residents in a speech that he was not opposed to an unconditional renewal of peace talks. Syria has traditionally demanded negotiations be renewed at

the point where they ended.

"If one day Syria will want negotiations it will be negotiations without preconditions, both sides will sit at the table and each side will present its demands, this is how you negotiate," Sharon said.

Around 17,000 Jewish settlers live on the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Syria during the 1967 conflicts.

Israel is under mounting international pressure to freeze construction of Jewish settlements in the West bank and Gaza Strip, where Palestinians have been waging an uprising since last September after peace negotiations stalled.

The international community largely views Jewish settlements as illegal.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

World Report

# Taiwan nationalists oppose asset check

Taiwan's main opposition Nationalist Party reacted angrily yesterday to a suggestion from President Chen Shui-bian that an investigation of the party's extensive assets was being considered.

The mass circulation *United Daily News* said Chen told members of his Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), that they should make an investigation of Nationalist wealth part of their campaign platform in year-end parliamentary elections.

Presidential spokesman Kuo Yao-chi, later said, Chen had merely told a DPP member who brought up the issue that an investigation into the Nationalist Party's wealth

needed 'further discussion.'

Nevertheless, the Nationalists, one of the world's wealthiest political parties, were furious and said Chen's comments ruled out any hope of cooperation between the parties.

"The president should take full responsibility for what he said, he is opening the door for vicious political squabble," Nationalists spokesman, Wang Chih-kang quoted party chairman, Lien Chan as saying.

Despite its defeat in presidential elections last year, the Nationalists far outnumber the DPP in the 219-member legislature and have blocked Chen's policy initiatives at almost every

turn.

Chen is hoping the DPP can make significant gains in the year-end elections.

"They say they want to cooperate with the Nationalist Party while at the same time they find every opportunity to attack the Nationalist Party," said parliamentary speaker, Wang Jin-pyng, a nationalist member.

"How can cooperation be possible?" he asked.

Chen swept to power in Taiwan's first democratic transfer of power last year ending more than five decades of Nationalist rule on the island.

Nationalist chairman, Lien has put total assets of his party at US\$2.2 billion.

Critics say much of the wealth was amassed on the Chinese mainland where the party ruled from 1912 until communist forces ousted it in 1949.

Once in Taiwan, the party nationalised assets left behind by Japan, the island's colonial ruler from 1895 to 1945, and critics say the line between party and state funds was blurred.

The party said in March it set up a blind trust to manage its portfolio and had transferred (\$61 million) of cash and bonds into it.

The party owns seven holding companies, with stakes in more than 200 firms ranging from securities brokerages to hotels. It plans eventually to bring its assets under the control of three holding companies.

# Embattled Wahid shuffles cabinet

Indonesia's embattled President Abdurrahman Wahid yesterday reshuffled his senior ministers but the move is unlikely to stave off an impeachment hearing due within weeks.

Close Wahid ally, Justice



Wahid.

Minister Marsilam Simanjuntak takes over as attorney-general, replacing Baharuddin Lopa, who died last week from heart-related disease, a spokesman for Wahid told reporters.

Marsilam's old job will be filled by another Wahid ally, Defence Minister, Mahfud M.D., whose own duties will temporarily be taken over by top security minister, Agum Gumelar.

"The president believes this is a good move," the spokesman said.

The top legislature convenes from August 1 to debate Wahid's chaotic 20-month rule and is virtually certain to impeach the ailing Muslim cleric, under attack for his erratic leadership and his failure to tackle the economic and social crises gripping his nation.

The reshuffle puts Wahid's friends in sensitive jobs which he has previous used to attack

is critics several have been targeted by corruption investigations.

Wahid, almost completely isolated politically, on Monday gave his enemies until July 20 to back off their efforts to oust him, warning he would declare a state of emergency and call snap elections if they push ahead with the impeachment hearing.

The renewed threat came after key party leaders, including Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri, refused to attend a meeting he called to rescue his failing presidency and serve out his term to its end in 2004.

Megawati, who automatically replaces Wahid if he falls, has said an impeachment hearing is the only way to resolve the leadership crisis.

# Russian police prevent Tibetan protest against Beijing Olympic bid

Russian police units in Moscow prevented Tibetan exiles from staging a protest yesterday against Beijing's bid for the 2008 Olympic games at the current IOC

sessions.



President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

About a dozen Tibetan activists were arrested and herded into a bus as they tried to unfurl protest banners near the World Trade Centre where meetings of the International Olympic committee are taking place.

"There can be no good games in Beijing because there are no human rights in Tibet," said Yangom Brauen of the Tibetan Youth Congress.

Beijing is the top favourite to become host city of the 2008 Summer Games at the IOC vote on Friday. The other bidders are Paris, Toronto, Istanbul and Osaka.

Press conferences by Tibetan exile groups who oppose Beijing's bid were scheduled for yesterday and further protests were planned for Friday.

## ADVERTISEMENT

### FUNAKAYE ELDERS FORUM

The Chairman, Board of Directors, Ashaka Cem PLC.

Through

The Managing Director, Ashaka Cem PLC., Ashaka Works.

## LACK OF REPRESENTATION IN THE ASHAKA CEMENT PLC.

We congratulate you and your Board of Directors for steering the affairs of this giant Company to such great heights. The Company has posted profits of over One Billion in the past one year. With this result and the peaceful relation existing between your Company and the host Community you deserve our accolade. We, the Communities of Funakaye Local Government Area, are very proud of your progress when other Cement Companies have closed shop or at best running only at a break even point. Other companies have been crises ridden especially on the wake of the privatisation by Bureau for Public Enterprises (B.P.E.). In fact, while your Company has never had any fracas with your host communities, other communities took the law into their hands, burning and vandalizing property.

With this unequalled co-operation from our people, we believe we deserve a reciprocal action. The Company should listen to the demands of our Community.

We are quite aware that in other places where such companies exist, the people are represented at various levels in the organisation. In fact, we are also aware of the Federal Government Policy that certain categories of staff in any organisation should be from the locality where such Companies exist. We are very much aware of the necessity in all such Companies to at least have officers who are indigenes to liaise with the people. In fact the need to have a Board Member in the Company who will represent the area cannot be over emphasised. To this end, the peace loving people of Funakaye would like to present our genuine demands for the urgent attention of the Board of Directors and the Management of this very successful Company.

We, the concerned people of Funakaye, are demanding that our interest should be considered in the Ashaka Cement PLC. We are demanding as a right the following from the Company:-

1. We demand that at least One Person from Funakaye Local Government should serve on your Board as a Permanent Member of the Board of Directors.
2. That our indigene Students should be given special attention in your Scholarship Scheme. We have noticed with dismay, that you hardly see anybody from the Local Government in your Annual Scholarship Awards.
3. We realise that you have a vacancy for Employee Relations Manager. This post should be given to an indigene of Funakaye Local Government.
4. We demand also that, you should allocate a certain percentage of at least 5% of your Annual Profit to environmental resuscitation since your activities are obviously hazardous to our environment.

In conclusion, we would like the Board of Directors of this Company to realise that we have been extremely patient and law abiding.

We intend to continue in this way unless our patience is stretched to a breaking point. These demands and the manner of this mild protest is definitely quieter than what obtains elsewhere. We demand that the Board should consider this and act now, a stitch in time, they say, saves nine.

CONCERNED CITIZENS OF FUNAKAYE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA.

CC The First Executive Governor,

Gombe State.

The Honourable Minister of Industries.

The Honourable Speaker, Gombe State House of Assembly.

This submission was to have been presented at the last AGM OF ASHAKA CEM. PLC. held last Month at Bauchi, Bauchi State

- |                                                                                             |  |                                               |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Alhaji Abubakar Abubakar (SUL), Chairman, Funakaye Local Government Area, Bauchi.        |  | 15. Alhaji Lamusu Abdulkadir, Sarkin Baga.    |  |
| 2. Alhaji Muhammadu Adu Gadan, Secretary, Chikisan, Funakaye Local Government Area, Bauchi. |  | 16. Alhaji Lamusu Muhammad, Sarkin Wama.      |  |
| 3. Alhaji Haba Umar, Hon. Councilor Bagega East.                                            |  | 17. Alhaji Umaru Laminu, Sarkin Fagaba.       |  |
| 4. Alhaji Ahmed Muhammad Salihi, Hon. Councilor Bagega West.                                |  | 18. Alhaji Muhammadu Yahya, Ardon Watsika.    |  |
| 5. Alhaji Abdulkadir Adhidi, Hon. Councilor Ashaka-Fagaba Ward.                             |  | 19. Alhaji Umaru Saidu, Sarkin Tonga.         |  |
| 6. Alhaji Ali Ibrahim Bage, Hon. Councilor Bage West.                                       |  | 20. Alhaji Muhammadu Norodun, Ardon Tibe.     |  |
| 7. Alhaji Dan'ya Ili, Hon. Councilor Bagega West.                                           |  | 21. Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar, Sarkin Kapa.   |  |
| 8. Alhaji Masi Adams Abubakar, Hon. Councilor Wama Ward.                                    |  | 22. Alhaji Samba Adams, Sarkin Kapa.          |  |
| 9. Alhaji Yaya Bashi Tonga, Hon. Councilor Tonga.                                           |  | 23. Alhaji Sani Tinka, Sarkin Baga.           |  |
| 10. Alhaji Adamu Karim, Hon. Councilor Jiji Ward.                                           |  | 24. Alhaji Jisu (Wajji) Mazaikin Jiji.        |  |
| 11. Alhaji Haba Umar, Hon. Councilor Kapa Ward.                                             |  | 25. Alhaji Abubakar Kari Bage.                |  |
| 12. Alhaji Mohammed Umar Shonana, Hon. Councilor Tibe/Kobar Ward.                           |  | 26. Alhaji Alimada Bello, Sandamasa Funakaye. |  |
| 13. Alhaji Abubakar Muhammad, Sarkin Bagega.                                                |  | 27. Alhaji Ali Sheriff Bagega.                |  |
| 14. Alhaji Harisu Abdulkadir, Sarkin Autsika.                                               |  | 28. Alhaji Adamu Bapokawa Adota.              |  |
|                                                                                             |  | 29. Alhaji Ali Waziri Bage.                   |  |

# BUSINESS DAY

## ALSCON refutes newspaper report on plant reactivation

The management of Aluminium Smelter Company Nigeria (ALSCON) has refuted a newspaper report indicating that the Akwa Ibom State Government has been committing N500 million yearly towards the reactivation of the Smelter Company's plant at Ikot Abasi.

Specifically, the report titled: "Reactivation of ALSCON: Akwa-Ibom Government expresses concern," published in the midweek *Pioneer* of Wednesday, July 4, stated that the Akwa Ibom State Governor, Obong Victor Attah, recalled "that his administration spends N500 million yearly from his budget for the reactivation of the (ALSCON) project."

In a rejoinder signed by Mr. Felix Nyong, a principal public relations officer on behalf of the managing director of ALSCON, a copy of which was made available to *Business Day*, ALSCON refuted the story.

The management stated that though the State Government is a good friend and host of ALSCON, "we are never in receipt of any yearly contribution of N500 million from the Akwa Ibom State Government for the reactivation of our plant."

The rejoinder with reference number ALS.FN.SO.392 addressed to the Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper also denied any link

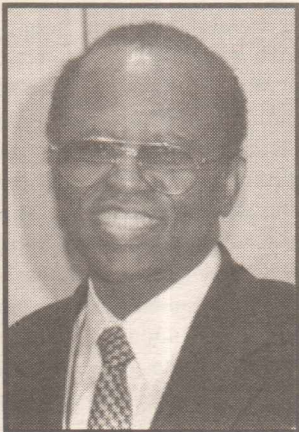
**By Ahmed Shekarau**  
to the delay in the take-off of the State's independent Power Project (IPP), which the newspaper report said, is being held back by the delay in resumption of production by ALSCON.

Incidentally, however, the Akwa Ibom State Government has also reacted to the report through a letter also addressed to the Editor-in-Chief of the state owned newspaper and titled: "Correction."

A letter dated July 9, 2001 and signed by the Director of Press to the governor, Mr. Udemé Nana, stated that: "The governor didn't make such a statement but rather was of the opinion that his administration is willing to commit that amount to the reactivation of the ALSCON project if the Federal Government encourage it to do so."

Despite the insistence by some western nations and international bodies that Nigeria's debt stock stood at about \$32 billion, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has come out to state that the nation's debt rose last year to \$28.4 billion.

According to the CBN, this indicated an increase of about \$429.0 million



Joseph Sanusi, CBN Governor

## CBN pegs nation's debt at \$28.4b \*Says debt rose by \$429m

**From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos**  
compared with the total sum of \$28 billion the preceding year.

This apparently shows that despite the ongoing macro-economic boom, Nigeria's debt profile is on the increase.

However, this increase is not as high as the World Bank believes. It would be recalled that some its officials have come out to put the nation's debt at about \$32 billion.

CBN's last report stressed that the distribution of the outstanding debt by Nigeria's creditors depicts that 75.4 percent of the entire sum is owned the Paris Club, totalling \$21.4 billion.

The Paris Club is followed by the multilateral institutions which hold about 12.1 percent, totalling \$3.4 billion and London Club owed \$2 billion. That is 7.2 percent of the entire debt.

The remaining debt were borrowed from "Promissory note holders (US \$1.4 billion) or 5.1 percent and non-Paris Club bilateral creditors (US \$66 million) or 0.2 percent."

The report also showed a decrease of \$10.6 million in our debt service payments in the year under review as only \$1.7 billion was paid out a for debt servicing. A sum which was higher than the budgeted debt payments of \$1.5 billion.

However, the sum paid

out was lower than that of the preceding year, of the amounts paid, the total sum of \$1.4 billion was in respect of principal repayments while \$278.9 million and \$23.6 million were for interest payments and penalty interest/other charges respectively.

The domestic debt of the federal government also spiralled by 13.0 percent to stand at N898.3 billion representing 24.9 percent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the rise was due to additional issue of treasury bills of N103.7 billion. This it stated brought the total of outstandings of treasury bills to N465.5 billion.

## WESTERN UNION

# Wallet of Fortune

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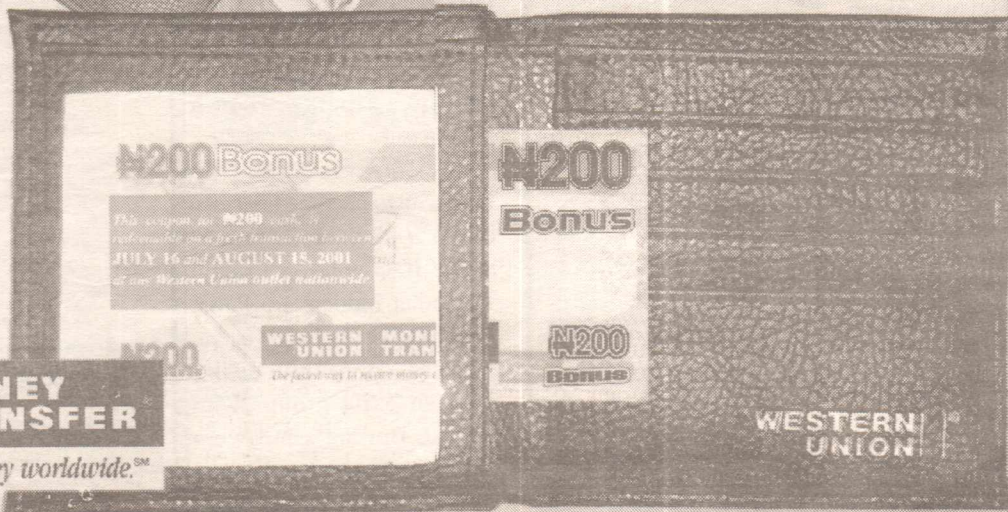
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## NUPENG strike: NLC lauds Obaseki's intervention

The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) has commended the efforts made by the Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Mr. Jackson Gaius-Obaseki to resolve the dispute between oil firms and their unions over casual labour in the oil industry.

The Nigerian Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas workers (NUPENG) recently threatened to embark on a nationwide strike action if some of the service companies in the oil industry, particular Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) continue with their plans to casualise conditions of employment of some of their staff.

The NNPC GMD, however, mediated in the dispute leading to the suspension of the proposed strike action, with both parties in the dispute represented at the reconciliation meeting.

According to a statement signed by the Group General Manager, Public Affairs of the NNPC, Ndu Ughamadu, the President of the NLC, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole commended Obaseki for his "prompt intervention" in the dispute.

Oshiomhole, who led the NLC delegation to a meeting of oil industry chief executives, NUPENG and PENGASSAN, held at the NNPC Towers in Abuja said Obaseki's efforts "had saved the industry and the nation from the catastrophic effect the strike action could have had."

# BUSINESS \$ DAY

## Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE)

Price List as at 11/07/2001

COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE
7UP	6.00	6.00	0.00	10	21,000	126,000.00
ABATEX	1.14	1.12	0.02	1	51,998	58,237.76
ACCESSBANK	1.18	1.20	0.02	15	600,200	694,940.00
SFDEIYVH	1.03	1.03	0.00	3	9,400	9,682.00
AFRPRINT	1.02	1.07	0.05	3	30,625	32,737.50
AFRIBANK	8.48	8.70	0.22	52	320,035	2,790,510.38
AGIP	29.00	29.50	0.50	36	88,679	2,600,594.89
AHICO	3.70	3.65	0.05	2	3,000	10,950.00
AP	19.34	19.34	0.00	24	8,912	172,358.08
ASHAKACEM	13.11	12.50	0.61	20	43,031	549,647.31
BATA	0.35	0.35	0.00	10	112,890	39,511.50
BCC	4.79	4.79	0.00	7	53,687	257,208.63
BERGER	2.70	2.58	0.12	9	5,600	14,820.00
CADBURY	23.00	23.40	0.40	27	31,523	743,433.06
CAP	3.14	3.08	0.06	2	1,500	4,620.00
CCNN	3.07	3.07	0.00	2	3,600	11,052.00
CFAO	2.30	2.30	0.00	8	26,675	61,352.50
CHARTERED	7.65	7.28	0.37	24	341,310	2,490,307.80
CHRISTLIB	0.50	0.50	0.00	1	10,000	5,000.00
CORNERST	1.79	1.71	0.08	5	25,410	44,683.90
CRUSADER	2.00	1.99	0.01	1	9,625	19,153.75
CUTIX	3.25	3.25	0.00	1	750	2,437.50
DELTGLAS	6.40	6.35	0.05	4	2,998	19,178.95
DNMEYER	14.74	14.74	0.00	9	9,520	141,630.00
DUNLOP	3.20	3.36	0.16	19	75,986	254,441.47
EKOBANK	1.70	1.62	0.08	19	261,065	440,831.65
ELLAHLAKES	0.50	0.50	0.00	1	300	150.00
EPICDYNAM	0.58	0.57	0.01	2	1,833	1,044.81
ETERNAOIL	1.20	1.20	0.00	4	20,200	24,240.00
FIRSTALUM	1.80	1.88	0.08	4	61,984	116,529.92
FIRSTBANK	31.26	30.11	1.15	933	3,856,992	117,422,314.16
FLOURMIL	16.91	16.60	0.31	41	162,265	2,722,005.47
FSB	6.00	6.01	0.01	15	273,558	1,641,571.58
GOLDBREW	0.78	0.75	0.03	1	10,000	7,500.00
GUARANTY	5.70	5.70	0.00	22	549,570	3,132,549.00
GUINNESS	37.51	38.00	0.49	36	65,350	2,461,543.82
HALLBANK	5.09	5.09	0.00	3	3,800	19,342.00
IGL	5.50	5.26	0.24	12	126,549	665,603.74
IMB	1.90	1.90	0.00	15	338,900	624,621.00
INLANDBANK	1.55	1.56	0.01	2	30,000	46,800.00
JBERGER	47.00	47.00	0.00	15	9,028	418,505.60
JOHNHOLT	1.97	1.88	0.09	4	41,229	77,510.52
LENNARDS	0.27	0.27	0.00	1	1,000	270.00
LEVNBROS	24.00	23.10	0.90	70	283,126	6,650,633.06
LIONBANK	1.42	1.49	0.07	6	39,165	58,285.85
LONGMAN	5.20	5.00	0.20	6	12,290	62,000.00
MANNYBANK	1.80	1.88	0.08	3	110,000	198,650.00
MAY&BAKER	2.82	2.80	0.02	6	15,000	42,000.00
MOBIL	63.00	64.00	1.00	14	8,627	548,167.00
NAL	5.65	5.37	0.28	38	735,468	3,949,463.16
NB	26.35	26.51	0.16	66	217,511	5,732,503.85
NBC	20.43	19.81	0.62	45	297,522	6,156,659.08
NCR	2.10	2.09	0.01	1	6,220	12,999.80
NEM	0.79	0.79	0.00	2	4,200	3,318.00
NESF	998.00	949.00	49.00	1	250	237,250.00
NESTLE	60.50	57.50	3.00	26	181,612	11,093,832.66
NIG-GERMAM	2.53	2.53	0.00	5	91,938	232,603.14
NIGERCEM	0.54	0.54	0.00	1	200	108.00
NIGERINS	5.07	5.00	0.07	14	455,416	2,28,914.12
NIYAMCO	3.29	3.28	0.01	1	390	1,279.20
NOLCHEM	39.80	37.81	1.99	20	3,267	124,968.02
OKOMUOIL	9.45	9.00	0.45	5	7,100	64,845.00
OWENABANK	3.47	3.30	0.17	11	77,442	255,632.89
PRESTIGE	2.31	2.20	0.11	2	2,469	5,442.80
PZ	13.50	13.25	0.25	30	106,980	1,422,444.15
ROYALEX	4.85	4.86	0.01	1	5,000	24,300.00
RTBRISCOE	1.35	1.35	0.00	5	19,559	26,404.65
SAVANNA	1.27	1.23	0.04	7	17,540	21,796.68
SCOA	1.99	1.90	0.09	2	20,000	38,000.00
SKBEECHAM	2.30	2.20	0.10	15	202,107	448,762.43
TEXACO	62.50	62.50	0.00	4	1,005	62,812.50
TOTAL	67.00	66.99	0.01	17	32,620	2,171,551.78
TRADEBANK	1.04	1.04	0.00	2	3,058	3,180.32
TRIPLEG	1.27	1.27	0.00	7	30,418	38,630.86
UAC-PROP	2.80	2.90	0.10	10	413,000	1,182,840.00
UACN	3.50	3.55	0.05	50	1,143,800	4,001,026.52
UBA	13.99	13.50	0.49	57	169,652	2,293,182.31
UBN	34.45	36.14	1.69	199	1,042,290	36,682,386.82
UNIC	2.25	2.15	0.10	2	2,449	5,410.25
UNIDONDCON	15.00	15.40	0.40	9	4,405	66,635.00
UNIPETROL	41.50	40.00	1.50	38	61,672	2,452,255.00
UNTL	3.10	2.95	0.15	10	11,972	35,980.25
UPL	4.00	3.90	0.10	3	8,734	34,207.60
UTB	4.60	4.40	0.20	6	15,600	69,180.00
UTC	1.43	1.43	0.00	4	33,000	47,017.48
VITAFOAM	4.00	4.01	0.01	11	65,532	266,328.00
VONO	1.60	1.62	0.02	1	100	162.00
WAPCO	36.05	37.60	1.55	98	272,043	10,216,333.58
WAPIC	1.50	1.50	0.00	5	65,081	98,381.50
WEMABANK	2.90	2.80	0.10	29	166,270	477,544.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>2,390</b>	<b>14,164,787</b>	<b>240,876,731.56</b>

## Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE)

Gainers/Losers as at 11/07/2001

Gainers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
NESTLE	54.48	57.50	3.02
UBN	34.45	36.14	1.69
WAPCO	36.05	37.60	1.55
MOBIL	63.00	64.00	1.00
GIP	29.00	29.50	0.50
GUINNESS	37.51	38.00	0.49
UNIONDICON	15.00	15.40	0.40
CADBURY	23.00	23.40	0.40
AFRIBANK	8.48	8.70	0.22
NB	26.35	26.51	0.16
DUNLOP	3.20	3.36	0.16
UAC-PROP	2.80	2.90	0.10
FIRSTALUM	1.80	1.88	0.08
MANNYBANK	1.80	1.88	0.08
LIONBANK	1.42	1.49	0.07
AFRIBANK	1.02	1.07	0.05
UACN	3.50	3.55	0.05
ACCESSBANK	1.18	1.20	0.02
VONO	1.60	1.62	0.02
VITAFOAM	4.00	4.01	0.01
ROYALEX	4.85	4.86	0.01
FSB	6.00	6.01	0.01
INLANDBANK	1.55	1.56	0.01

Losers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
NESF	999.00	949.00	49.00
UNIPETROL	41.50	40.00	1.50
FIRSTBANK	31.26	30.11	1.15
LEVNBROS	24.00	23.10	0.90
ASHAKACEM	13.11	12.50	0.61
UBA	13.99	13.50	0.49
OKOMUOIL	9.45	9.00	0.45
CHARTERED	7.65	7.28	0.37
NAL	5.65	5.37	0.28
IGL	5.50	5.26	0.24
LONGMAN	5.20	5.00	0.20
UTB	4.60	4.40	0.20
OWENABANK	3.47	3.30	0.17
UNTL	3.10	2.95	0.15
BERGER	2.70	2.58	0.12
PRESTIGE	2.31	2.20	0.11
WEMABANK	2.90	2.80	0.10
UNIC	2.25	2.15	0.10
SKBEECHAM	2.30	2.20	0.10
SCOA	1.99	1.90	0.09
JOHNHOLT	1.97	1.88	0.09
CORNERST	1.79	1.71	0.08
EKOBANK	1.70	1.62	0.08
SAVANNA	1.27	1.23	0.04
GOLDBREW	0.78	0.75	0.03

### Summary of Transactions

	OPENING	CLOSING	% AGE CHANGE
MKT.	614,353,394,924.94	612,981,244,883.37	0.22
INDEX	10,391.33	10,368.12	0.22
DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE	No. OF COMPANIES
2,390	14,164,787	240,876,731.56	90

Source: NSE, Abuja Area Office

## The bears maintain lead at NSE

Trading reports collected from Abuja Area Office of the Nigerian Stock Exchange indicated that a total of 14.16 million shares valued at N240.88 million in 2,390 deals were traded on the floors of the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

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

### Price Movement:

The Nigerian Stock Exchange All-Share Index closed at 10,368.12, a decrease of 0.22 percent. The index opened at 10,391.33. While the market capitalization closed at N612.98 billion, a decrease of 0.22 percent, it opened at N614.35 billion.

The bears maintained their lead on the floor, with a total of 16 companies gaining and 25 losing in their share prices.

Gains were recorded in the Food/Beverages & tobacco, Banking, Building Materials, Petroleum Marketing, Breviaries, Automobile & Tyre, Real Estate, Industrial & Domestic Products, Textiles, Conglomerates and the Insurance sub sector.

Nestle Foods Plc led the price gainers, as it appreciated by 302 kobo to close the day at N57.50 per share, followed by UBN Plc, which appreciated by 169 kobo to close at N36.14 per share.

Other price gainers include WAPCO (155 kobo); Mobil (100 kobo); Agip (50 kobo); Guinness (49 kobo); Union Dicon and Cadbury (40 kobo apiece); Afribank (22 kobo); NB and Dunlop (16 kobo apiece) and UAC Properties (10 kobo).

NESF Plc led the price losers, crashing by 4900 kobo to close at and N949.00 per share, followed by Unipetrol Plc, which lost 150 kobo, to close at N40.00 per share.

Other price losers include First bank (115 kobo); Levnbros (90 kobo); Ashakacem (61 kobo); UBA (49 kobo); Okomu oil (45 kobo); Chartered (37 kobo); Nal (28 kobo); IGL (24 kobo) and Longman and UTB (20 kobo apiece).

**A**s a Professor of Economics, what does Globalisation mean to you?

Globalisation means that the economies of the world are opened up. So that what we have now is the grouping of countries without, especially in terms of trade. That's what it means. But to me it means more than this. I think it is an extension of capital dominance. To me, I feel that anytime the capitalistic system has a problem they always have a way of wriggling out.

That also mean that the world is one village. But let us ask ourselves who is gaining. So, in terms of conventional economics, it means the economy is being opened up. But in the real sense it means that the western countries are dominating the underdeveloped countries. So, it is an extension of imperialism really. Capitalism without its borders that's what it means.

other words, we must build our own economies to be very strong. We must come together as Africans. In other words, Nigeria cannot do it alone. We can't face them alone. We must be united. Let me give you the example of China. The world is looking towards China because China has built its economy. So China has called the bluff of the other powers. China has decided its own place in the world. This is because their economy is strong. It has carried itself forward and so the world is looking towards her. The other one is a small Island like Cuba. Cuba has also taken its place in the world. If you don't like them it's so unfortunate but you can't talk about the world without talking of Cuba. So, the western world cannot develop if not for the raw materials that they exploit. In my own view, for us to be part of the world system, we must build a strong African

# Globalisation is an extension

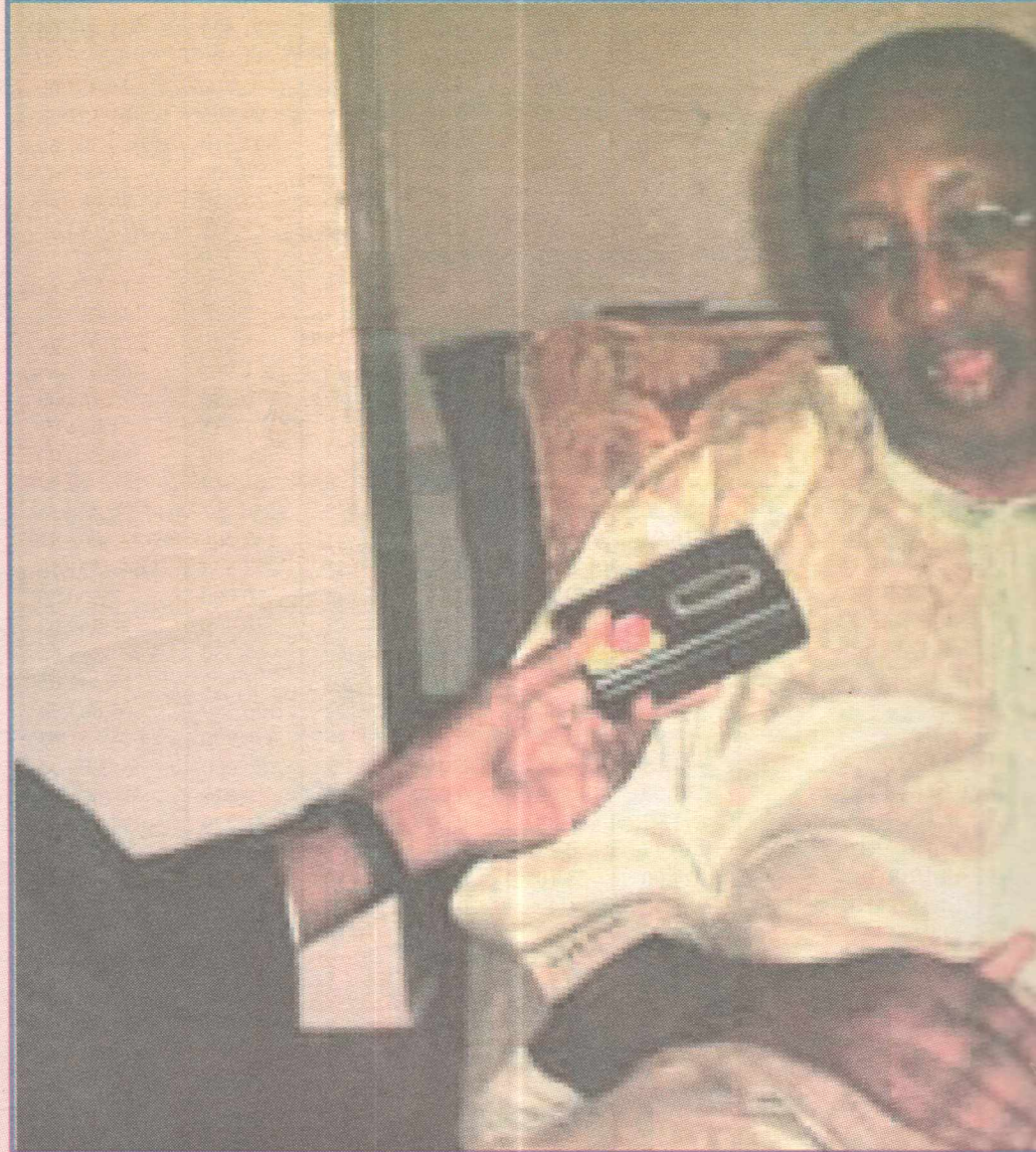
can benefit from WTO if we really understand what it is. It speaks of free trade. Now what do we export in this free trade arrangement, especially raw materials? We don't export a lot of finished goods. Even the prices are not controlled by us. So you find that all these make exports very cheap so that they can buy them from us. But there are some countries that could benefit from WTO if they understand the process of the intricacies of the WTO, they can gain.

**What kind of group?**

For example in Nigeria if you say WTO, who are the people that would gain? The Nigerian traders, what we might call the importers. I don't like calling them capitalists but they are, in a sense. They are capitalists without capital. They buy and sell. They will gain be-

can see that even in free trade concert when it comes to two developed countries, they always quarrel. Like Japan and the US. US and their neighbours over the WTO. I know that in Nigeria a lot of people have argued that we can benefit from WTO. How do we benefit? The only thing that we export now is oil. As for the price of oil

Recently, a conference held in Africa on the "Challenges of Globalisation." Professor Akpan Ekpo, Vice-Chancellor of State was present at the conference. He discussed the significance of Globalisation and its impact on the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the challenge of deve-



Professor Akpan Ekpo

**What challenge does it pose for Africa?**

The challenge for Africa is that Africa is part of the world. So, Africa must position itself. How do we do that? We must come to realise that we should act as one, and decide to make our own economies relevant. So that the western countries would now look towards Africa. In

economy.

**The World Trade Organisation (WTO) has replaced the General Agreement on Trade and Tariff (GATT). Of what relevance is WTO to developing economies like ours?**

You are right, the WTO has replaced GATT. There are two ways to look at it. First of all, African countries

cause they make the money. But then the economy remains essentially the same. We don't build factories. So, what we have as I see it is a kind of unequal trade. But for the WTO it talks about free trade. You can even see the irony, they have been calling among themselves for a sort of subsidy in agricultural products. So, you

and the output everything is controlled by a cartel.

**So how do we wriggle out of this problem? Should we opt out of WTO and control the goods that come to our country?**

To be honest, my position is that we should opt out of WTO. But there must be a particular way for us to develop meaningfully. We must have what is called restrictive embargo. A sort of embargo on a lot of goods coming. India did it. When you go out to our shops you find a lot of imported fruit drinks, juice and so on and so forth. They dump these in our market. So anybody that wants to operate that kind of business cannot succeed. Through this free trade you see all kinds of goods are in Nigeria. So, except you restrict certain goods, coming in, if you use tariff it won't work. Say for two years we don't want to see "Five Alive" for example and then Nigeria can go into it. By the time they get to a point, they

may buckle up a little. China has used it for example. China closed its borders for a very long time, about 10 years, you know. People didn't really know what they were doing. But they were building their economy. India did that also. I know that it is difficult. We should opt out of WTO. The essential part you need for your industry you will still get them anywhere. There are sanctions on Iraq but Iraqi factories are still operating. It is just that we need the political will to do it. You need to have an internal economic agenda that calls for national reconstruction of the economy. One which doesn't depend on blue-prints of the World Bank and IMF.

**So you are saying that efforts to revitalise Ajaokuta and other projects will come to naught except we make this radical shift?**

Well, if you look at the Ajaokuta issue nothing was done about it for years. Essentially, the continental fi-

nancial institutions did not support Ajaokuta being revitalised. If you do now the type of steel the industry produce is no longer useful anywhere in the world, so they don't really care. Years ago the World Bank said it was a white elephant project. Now, they do care because the steel is not going to be useful there are alternatives.

**In a global society where we have the weak and the strong countries, especially in terms of economic development, there is this issue of forming blocs by countries so that they can protect trade among themselves. Are we now drifting back to the cold war era and the tension it generated, especially between the East and West blocs?**

I don't think we are really drifting back. If you mean that we now have regional blocs that enhance their trading capacity. I don't see anything wrong. For example, in our own region we have the ECOWAS. That means we should come together and become stronger and the volume of trade is high. Again that is to enhance trade among countries. The cold war era was different. Right now we have a unipolar system, with the US calling the shots. How long it will last, I don't know but it won't last forever. So,

Interview

ion of imperialism — Professor Akpan Ekpo

ja on "African States and the chal-  
**Akpan Ekpo, a renowned Professor**  
*of the University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom*  
 In this interview conducted by **Kevin**  
*of our Foreign Desk, he expands on*  
*er Africa, the World Trade Organisa-*  
*ment and much more. Excerpts:*

creased the inflation rate. It has made our goods expensive. The Central Bank even devalued the naira. Why are they devaluing? You devalue to make your goods cheaper so that you can export. The only thing we export is oil. So, why devalue. It's all part of this opening up because the market is not sacrosanct. When market works you can

mance with the IMF and World Bank, once you start that and you have a weak productive base your currency will be useless. In fact, the IMF is saying that the exchange rate should be 200 and that's when the system is finished. If you are a businessman you cannot borrow at 40 percent with three percent profit margin, how do you pay back? So it is either you get the volume in speculation, or you buy and trade.

*Despite the fact that our economies in Africa have not been yielding we keep going back to seek the advice of these multilateral institutions. What would you suggest that African countries do?*

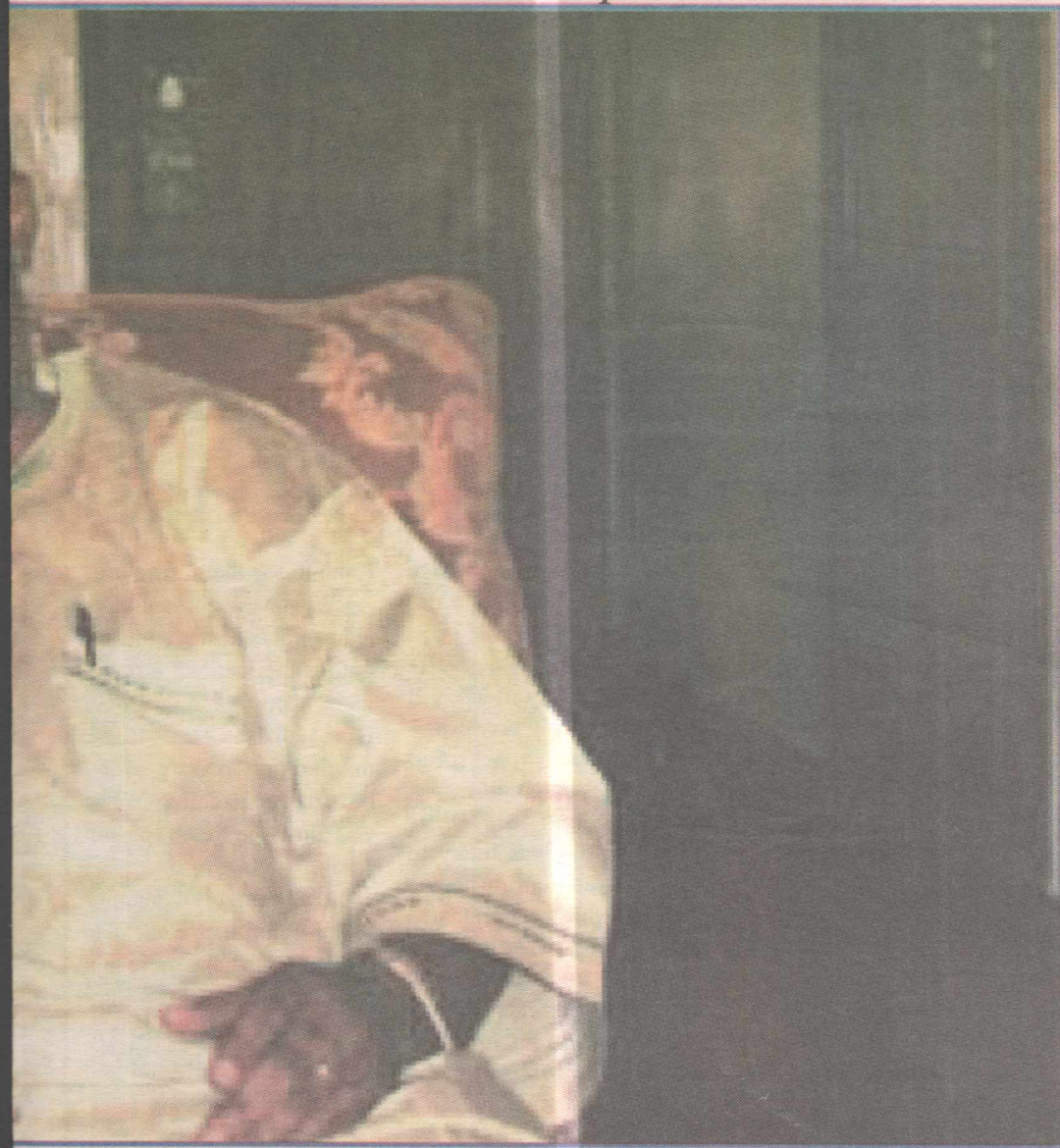
Well, you see, African countries must develop their own economic model for getting out of the problem. Look at South Africa, it rejected

different. So, we have to build our own programme of economic recovery and transformation. The ECA did develop alternative strategies but there were no resources to finance it. If you remember, when Asian countries were having problems, the IMF was the first to intervene and they said, carry out reforms. Malaysia resisted. So you must build your own self-reliant economic programme

*Finally, how do you rate Nigeria's performance in fostering unity and cooperation among African countries so as to brace up to the challenges of development?*

We have already started to champion Africa's integration but how well we do it is another matter. But I think this time around we should not do it foolishly. We must also attach some cost.

time we have an African common market. That would sustain any political union. A political union without a strong economic base is a weak union. I think we are trying in the political aspect but we must put more pressure to develop an African union. Because if you have a strong economy in the continent you can do a lot of things. The sad thing is like the African Development Bank, it was meant to help finance development projects for African countries as soft terms. Now it's like the World Bank. It's just operating like the World Bank and then brought in non-regional members. So, the whole effort is destroyed. If you want to get back to that again, its like a government bank is put there for a purpose, otherwise they will



was saying earlier, if we are to be part of the global system we cannot go it alone. Nigeria cannot face WTO, IMF, World Bank and the rest of them. We must come together as Africa. And I think as Africans we can do it even though we have our differences.

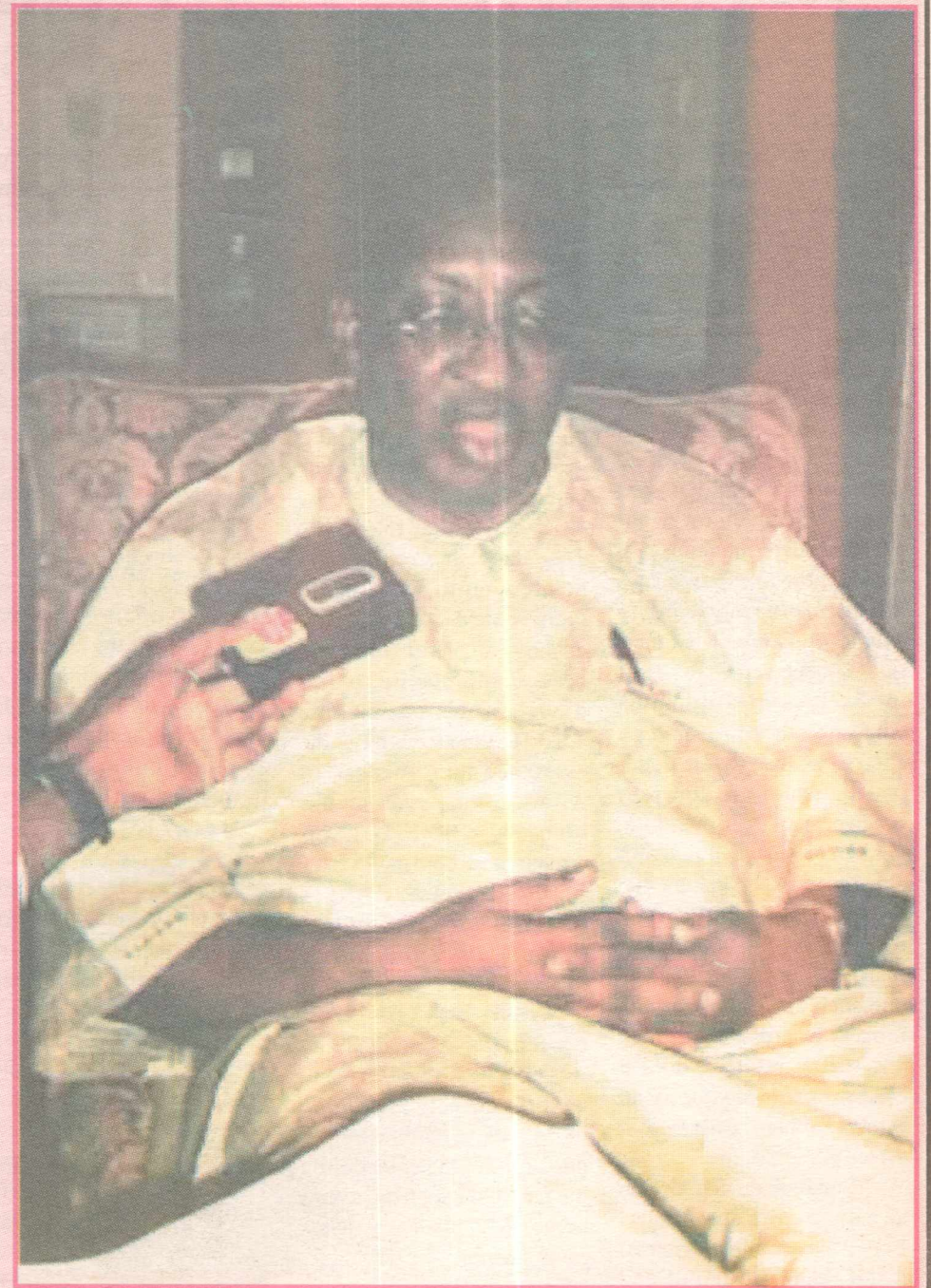
As a corollary to all these, during the Abacha in spite of every other thing the exchange rate of naira was stable. And that was the period that Nigeria was isolated in the International community. Now we are part from the international community, our relations with the US and others have improved. **But our currency has gone down. What is your assessment of this situation?**

Well, I think that during the Abacha era despite the military aspect, because of being isolated, there was an attempt perhaps unconsciously or by default to be nationalistic. Perhaps by default for example, I remember there was a period that time I was involved in advising government. We argued that we should not allow the cause to be bastardised, for whatever reason. There were so many variables but we finally said that we should invoke the national sovereignty and make sure that it was strong. Because of the fact that he wanted to build nationalism by default

or unconsciously, he called the bluff of the World Bank and IMF. This issue of deregulation, there was a lot of argument. And at point they said abandon SAP for a while. And then in France we had a finance minister who was interested in building up reserves. And of course as he built up reserves it was being spent by the Abacha regime. But the rate stabilised. Of course, the economy was opened up but we didn't have a productive base. So, we are not producing anything for export because in the strict economics sense it is the volume of the production that you export that determines the value of your currency.

So, if you are not producing anything and you open up, of course, your currency will depreciate. It depreciates by the market prices or by deliberate devaluation. And you could see now that the naira is around 140 to a dollar. It doesn't make any sense because it has in-

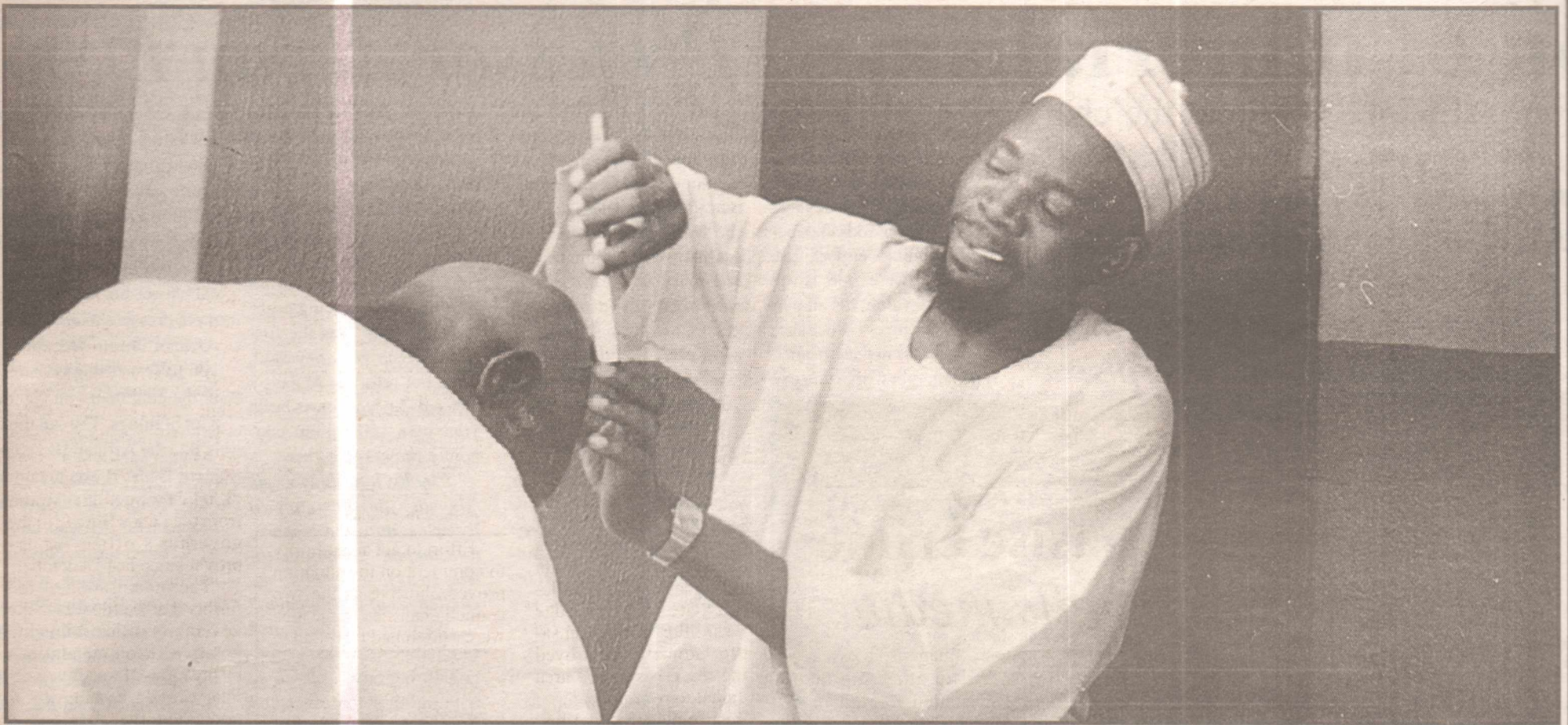
use it, sometimes it doesn't work in certain areas. The foreign exchange market in Nigeria cannot be a complete market because the future suppliers are government. So, the supply curve cannot be the well-behaved work. It is almost at the vertical. So you cannot say that you will allow the market to determine the rate. I will give you a good example, say economy like British economy, but the pound is stronger than US dollar because they will not allow it to fall. Not because they are producing more than the US but because of their pride they ensure that their currency is relatively stable. So, in our own case it has increased the inflation rate. Interest rate has gone up. So, you cannot borrow to invest. If you borrow to invest you cannot pay back, you cannot make profit. All these are caused by the instability of the exchange rate. So, the whole issue of opening up, globalisation, our new ro-



the IMF, the World Bank and developed its own model. They have their own economic programme, which they are implementing and they are doing well. Iran is another example. So, for me, South Africa is doing well but cannot do it alone. The IMF and World Bank have the same model for all countries and their economies are

Not necessarily in monetary terms. The US, for example, when they say they are giving a country aid, strings are attached. But you will be amazed how other African countries are not appreciating what we have done. That doesn't mean that we should stop, but I think we can use it to get more economic and political co-operation. It's

allow everybody to go to the market. Government will now charge a lower rate so as to encourage people's patronage. We must now move towards an economic integration. It's even a way of helping our economy to develop. So performance in the political aspect needs economic backing.



Mallam Muhammadu Sanni Dan ai at work

## Street Barber: I saved for 22 years to perform Hajj

**H**ow would you feel when somebody tells you that with determination, you will hit your target? Well, for those of us who think that we have exhausted all possible means to achieve our desired goals, it may be difficult to see anything determination can do in taking us to our target. Still, there are those who believe that determination could lead them to their desired goals of life but simply do not know what constitute determination and, indeed, how to express it.

Unfortunately, many people who know what their goals are tend to find themselves in a dilemma when it comes to making a choice because at this point, one's attention is drawn to social esteem. It is, therefore, not enough to set a goal, but one must also consider the instrumentality. The question then is: Is your instrumentality a negative one such as stealing, armed robbery or prostitution?

If it is positive, does it elevate or reduce your social esteem? Where really does it affect it?

Muhammadu Sanni Dan ai hails from Kano Central Local Government Area of Kano State. He is tall and huge with a dark complexion and a fine beard. He is a man who would never make the mistake of wearing shirts and trousers or even a suit. "No, they are western cultural materials and rather to revealing. Besides they do not speak mature mind as far as I am concerned," he said.

Aged 45, this man is married with three children,

By Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman

two boys and a girl. He rejected western education and opted for Quranic education, and he seems to have mastered the Quran. He speaks a little English but he is well versed in the reading and writing of Arabic.

Muhammadu Sanni Dan ai is a street barber, a very cheerful personality, and quite proud of his poor parental background.

Sanni Dan ai told *Daily Trust* that right from the time he grew up to know that a man could choose his destiny, all his dreams had been to fulfil the five pillars of Islam which include TAWHEED i.e. belief in the existence and oneness of Allah, his messenger Muhammad (PBUH) and his Angels and book), SALAT (daily prayers) ZAKAT (alms) giving, SAUM (fasting), HAJJ (pilgrimage to Mecca).

What was of great concern for Mallam Sanni was how he would be able to perform the holy pilgrimage to Mecca. "How would I perform HAJJ, considering the fact that I am from a poor home? My father was just a poor farmer. He could not afford to perform Hajj, neither was my mother able.

So, how really was I going to make it?" he queried.

As a young man who was bent on fulfilling all the five pillars of Islam, observing, Tawheed, Salat, Zakat and Saum was not a problem. But to perform Hajj, Sanni Dan ai at a very tender age of 15 took to street barbing. In his words: "I was born in 1956. By the time I was 15 years old in 1971, I started street barbing. I moved from house to house barbing people. Until very recently I do not charge people a specific amount for my services, but whatever a customer gives me, I take. At the beginning, I used to collect one kobo or even less, and at times higher than that," he laughed and added, "but you know, money had value then."

Today, Mallam Sanni Dan ai has had 30 years of barbing experience. But the question that remains is how was this man able to finance his Hajj from the token which he makes from barbing?

As far as he was concerned, it takes only determination for one to achieve the desired goals of life. Mallam Sanni told *Daily Trust* that he saved money for 22 years to perform the Hajj. His words: "I worked for 22 years, saved money and by 1993, I travelled to Mecca to

perform the Hajj."

Although he could not recall exactly the amount he paid as Hajj fare then, he knew certainly that he had more than enough to embark on his journey, and he made all his money from barbing. Nothing else!

Wonderful as this may sound to many people, Mallam Sanni has this to add: "I was not only able to finance my Hajj from my savings as a barber, but I also got married from it, had three children and maintain them and still fulfil financial obligation to my parents who are alive."

Mallam Sanni told *Daily Trust* that he spent three years in Saudi Arabia after his Hajj. His words: "I returned to Nigeria in 1996 after spending three years in Saudi Arabia. It was the left-over of my savings from Nigeria that enabled me to survive my initial days in Saudi Arabia. When I was there, I was barbing." When asked about how and when exactly he took up the job of barbing in Saudi Arabia, Sanni replied that he took up barbing soon after his Hajj programme. According to him, he was not discriminated against in Saudi Arabia because of "Islam which is in the blood of the people there," he

added. Although patronage was low, but just as I did before leaving Nigeria, I was not charging any specific amount of Riyad (Saudi currency) for my services.

On his personal experiences in Saudi Arabia, Mallam Sanni told *Daily Trust* that he was lucky to have met a friend by name Dawood who accommodated him. At intervals, he travelled to Nigeria to see his family. He left Saudi Arabia finally in 1996 when pressure from his wife and parents that he should return home became too intense.

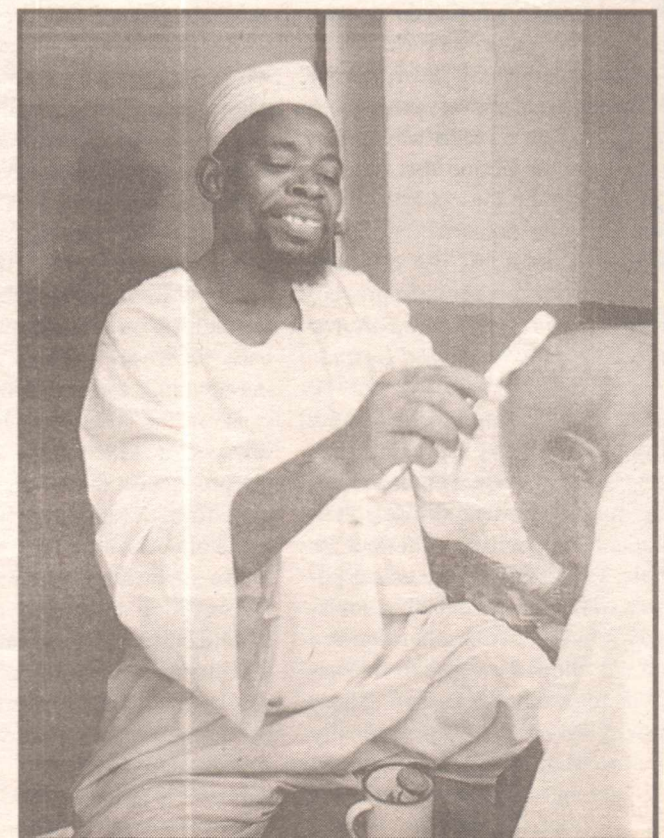
"Since my return, I have continued my business in Abuja. My family is in Kano. So, whenever I come to Abuja for business, I spend two weeks and go back to

Kano to see them.

What Mallam Sanni Dan ai has not been very pleased with is the fact that he came from a polygamous home. His words: "My father married only two wives, but he had over 30 children. That was too much for one person, Allah."

In a very civil manner, Sanni noted that even if he was going to have more than one wife, he wouldn't think of such a large number of children. To him, it is problematic and unnecessary.

Concluding his experience, Mallam Sanni has this to say: "So long as one lives, and has a means of income, no matter how little, one should struggle to reach one's target in life."



Muhammadu Sanni working cheerfully Pix by Yakubu Ozohu-Sulaiman

**"As a young man who was bent on fulfilling all the five pillars of Islam, observing, Tawheed, Salat, Zakat and Saum was not a problem. But to perform Hajj, Sanni Dan ai at a very tender age of 15 took to street barbing. In his words: "I was born in 1956. By the time I was 15 years old in 1971, I started street barbing."**

NEWS

# Only state assemblies can query our performance - Gov Ibori

The Delta State Governor, Chief James Ibori has said that it is not the business of the Federal Government to determine whether a state governor uses derivation money well or not, as it is only the state Houses of Assembly that can query governors on performance.

Chief Ibori who disclosed this to newsmen at the presidential wing of Murtala Muhammed Airport, Lagos Monday, stated that the ques-

From Shakirat Modurojeed, in Lagos

tion on whether literal state governors are using the derivation fund well or not is a visionary tactic.

According to him, derivation fund is a factor of revenue allocation which can not be separated from money that comes to the states, stressing that money accruing to the state both from derivation and internally generated revenue are all referred in the budget.

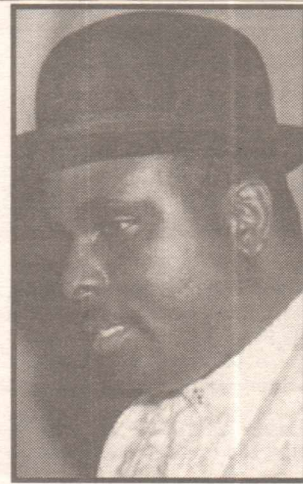
He alleged that those who looted OMPADEC money are not from Niger Delta and are walking free while their son, Eric Opia is on government's 'wanted list.'

In his words: "The money is our money, we are entitled to it; if we embezzle it, we are from the region."

Asked about his trip to London to attend Terry Wayas party, Chief Ibori, who was in Lagos for offi-

cial assignment, said there was nothing wrong in his attending a party in London."

He reiterated that he does official work wherever he is, saying "Anywhere I am, it is official. As the governor of a state, whatever I am doing, even if I am in the toilet, it is official."



Gov. Ibori

## Release mosque land-Lekki Muslims beg Tinubu

The Lekki Muslim Ummah (LEMU), an umbrella organisation for all Muslim residents of the Lagos state owned Lekki Scheme I estate, have appealed to Governor Bola Tinubu to release the land earmarked for central mosque in the estate to the body for immediate construction of a mosque.

In a statement signed by its publicity secretary, Ustaz Abdulfattah Olajide, LEMU noted that its application for the mosque land contained in file No. LU/Y2/Lekki/POW/08/01 has been transferred from the Lands Bureau to the governor's office for approval since last December.

The organisation stated further that the file was to the governor's office following positive recommendations by the former Executive Secretary Land Use and Allocation Committee, Mr. Segun Ogunlewa and the permanent Secretary, Lands Bureau, Mr. Abiodun Adeyemi.

While urging governor Tinubu to sign the land document urgently, the organisation noted that "there is no single mosque in the estate currently whereas various plots of land have been allocated to many Christian groups which have built over 20 Churches therein."

Ustaz Olajide explained that in the meantime, the organisation has built a temporary wooden structure on a portion of the mosque land for the purpose of observing Jumah and other obligatory prayers in congregation.

## Langtang crisis: LG boss denies N4m pledge

The Chairman of Langtang North Local Government Area of Plateau State, Mr. Ponfa Iyem Banda, has denied allegations that he made a pledge of N4 million as compensation for properties destroyed during the crisis in the area but failed to redeem it.

Testifying before the Justice Jummai Sankey Commission of inquiry into the recent crisis in Langtang, Mr. Banda said although some victims of the crisis approached him demanding for compensation, "I only appealed to them to be calm until tension in the area subsided."

He said that no amount of cash was stated in that regard and debunked any knowledge that the sum of N800,000 was lost by one of the victims during the crisis as alleged during the commission hearing by one of the counsels.

Several people were believed to have fled their homes, leaving their farm products and belongings in fear of being attacked by the Fulanis.

Many of them were seen packing their properties like tables, beds, grinding machines and other belongings heading toward Benue State.

From Buhari Bello, in Jos

Effort to get an authority to comment on the situation proved abortive as the two council chairmen in the area were said to have travelled to



Gov. Joshua Dariye

Jalingo for briefing on the crisis.

One of the sacked victims who was sighted at one of the filling stations in Wukari, told Daily Trust that a war against the Tiv has been declared "and the best thing for me is to run back to my state."

## Do not overemphasise crime - Commissioner tells media

The Lagos State Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr. Dele Alake, has appealed to the nation's media not to over-emphasise the increasing crime wave in the country, saying "the situation is not worse than what obtains in some western countries or

From Abdulfatah Olajide, in Lagos

even South Africa."

Although he acknowledged the crime situation, he noted that over reporting it would continue to dent the nation's image.

The commissioner stated that an enhancement of the

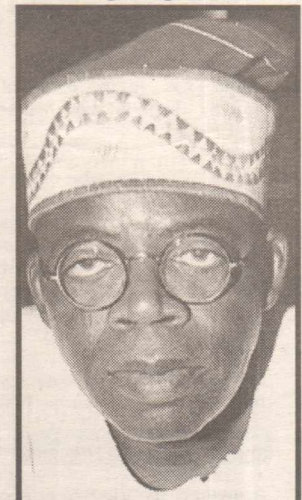
nation's image is an essential tool in attracting the much needed foreign investment. He reiterated that the lasting solution to the increase in crime wave was the establishment of state police.

He further remarked that the prolonged military rule in the country was responsible for the inefficient state of the Nigeria police.

From Jamilah Nuhu Musa, in Kano

fully as according to him "success of any leadership depends on the guidance and co-operation that it gets from the members."

Other members of the new exco are Mohammad Hamisu Abdullahi, Vice-chairman, Hassan T. Hassan, Secretary, Umar Danladi Ado, Assistant Secretary, Maryam Hassan, Treasurer and Ahmed Tijjani Sani, Auditor.



Gov. Bola Tinubu

## NUJ chapel chairman urges support for the Triumph

Kano State Government has been called upon to continue to give the necessary support to the Triumph Publishing Company Limited to enable it compete favourably with other newspapers in the country.

The newly elected chairman of the NUJ Triumph Chapel, Malam Abdullahi Datti Abdullahi, made the call in his response after taking the oath of office.

He said that, though the company is doing creditably well, it still needs additional support to facilitate its activities and meet the challenges of the new millennium.

Malam Abdullahi, disclosed that the new leadership intends to contribute to the resuscitation drive of the company.

Towards this end the union would ensure improved working conditions for its members, in-house training, lectures and computer programmes would be organised as well as the introduction of incentives to encourage optimum results.

The newly elected chairman commended, the initiatives of the Managing Director, Alhaji Muhammad Danyaro, which he said had led to the recording of tremendous success by the company.

Mallam Abdullahi then solicited the support of his colleagues and The Triumph management to enable him perform his duties success-

## Lagos to phase out molue buses

The popular but accident-prone molue buses will soon be phased out in Lagos State.

Governor Bola Tinubu, who gave the hint on Monday, stated that some 27,000 modern buses would be purchased by the government to replace the molue buses.

Governor Tinubu, who was receiving a delegation of Busenard Africa led by

its Managing Director, Mr. Godwin Ogorji in his office, explained that the proposed phasing out of the molue buses was aimed at improving road transportation in the state.

He stated that the introduction of the 27,000 modern buses would ease the transportation problems facing Lagosians.

The governor stressed

the need for the establishment of more buses assembly plants in the country, noting that the Anambra Motor Manufacturing Company (ANAMCO) could not meet the bus needs of the entire country.

Speaking earlier, Mr. Ugorji stated that Lagos State was chosen as the venue of the exhibition because of its teeming population and economic potentials.

## Gov. Yar'Adua re-organises LGSC

In an effort to further strengthen the local government system in Katsina State, Governor Umar Yar'Adua has approved the re-organisation of the State Local Government Service Commission.

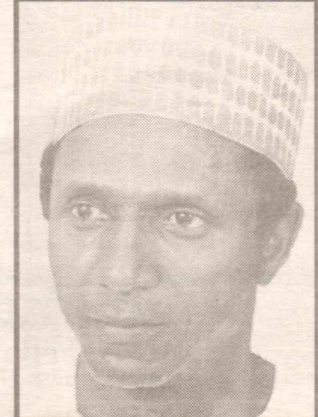
In a statement made available to Daily Trust, the Secretary to the State Government, Alhaji Isa Muhammad Katsina explained that the reconstituted commission would be headed by Alhaji

From Hassan A. Karofi, in Katsina

Kabir Aliyu Musa as the chairman.

This he said is done to ensure prompt and efficient running of the local governments in the state.

The commission comprises the state government. Meanwhile, the State House of Assembly has approved the appointment of the chairman and board members of the commission.



Gov. Umar Yar'Adua

## JAMB to take action against exam malpractices

Authorities of the Joint-Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) have threatened to henceforth take disciplinary action against principals of centres where examination malpractices is perpetrated during the Board's entrance examinations.

This was disclosed on Tuesday by the Board's Principal Administrative Office, Mr. Raphael Adeniram at a seminar organised by JAMB for school Principals, Vice principals, and Career counsellors in Oyo State.

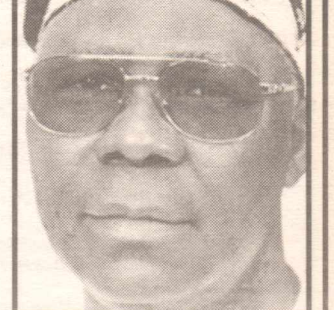
While speaking on the severe penalties awaiting officers who convince with students to perpetrate the illegal act during the University Matriculation Examination (UME), Polytechnics and Colleges of Education (PCE) examination, he said the provision of the constitution against the act was still in force.

He said that the 21 years jail term stipulated by decree 33 of 1989 was still applicable and anyone caught in the act would be made to face the consequence.

Decrying the rate at

From Yinka Oladoyinbo, in Ibadan

which the young ones are involved in examination malpractices in recent years.



Prof. Barrishade, Education Minister

he said "apart from the principal or any school staff made to pay for the crime, those candidates found cheating, impersonating, disturbing, obstructing, aiding and abetting examination malpractices would be prosecuted in the count of law."

Adeniram further stressed that it was an offence for any candidate to leave the examination hall or go away with examination papers without the permission of the invigilators or the examination body.



# UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC

RC. 2457

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the 40th Annual General Meeting of the Bank will be held at the Maiduguri International Hotel, Maiduguri on Thursday 2nd August, 2001 at 11.00 a.m. to transact the following business:

### ORDINARY BUSINESS:

1. To receive the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2001 together with the reports of the Directors, Joint Auditors and the Audit Committee thereon.
2. To declare a dividend.
3. To elect / re-elect Directors.
4. To authorise the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors.
5. To elect members of the Audit Committee.

### SPECIAL BUSINESS:

6. To consider and if thought fit, to pass the following resolutions as Ordinary Resolutions:
  - [i] "That the authorised share capital of the Bank be increased from N1,000,000,000 (One billion Naira) to N2,000,000,000 (Two billion Naira) by the creation of 2,000,000,000 (Two billion) ordinary shares of 50k each."
  - [ii] "That notwithstanding Article 50 of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Bank that the Directors be and are hereby authorised to issue shares to increase the Bank's paid up share capital up to the sum of N2,000,000,000 (Two billion Naira) or any fraction thereof by way of rights issues and/or fresh public issues in such proportions and timing and for such consideration as the Directors deem fit."
  - [iii] "That the creation of an Employee Share Ownership Scheme, excerpts from the draft Trust Deed for which are contained in the circular to the shareholders of the Bank dated 31st May, 2001, be and is hereby approved, provided however that the terms of the Trust Deed shall not be altered to the advantage of the participants without shareholders' prior approval."
  - [iv] "That the Directors be and are hereby authorised to issue at par 85 million Ordinary Shares of 50k each (representing 5% of the Company's currently issued share capital) to the Trustees of the Employee Share Ownership Scheme to be reserved for the employees of the Company as the Trustees may determine."
7. To consider and if thought fit, to pass the following resolutions as Special Resolutions:
  - (a) That the Memorandum of Association be amended in the manner set out hereunder that is to say:
    - [i] By inserting the following object clauses 3 (d - i):
      - 3(d) To provide finance, consultancy and advisory services relating to corporate, financial and investment matters (including but not limited to asset management, the valuation of securities and businesses, credit-rating and credit-reference work);
      - 3(e) To make and hold investments for others and to sponsor, operate and manage unit trusts and other investment schemes, securities and other investment assets for others;
      - 3(f) To carry on business as brokers and agents for all classes of insurance, and to invest in insurance, retrocession, counter-insurance and loss adjustment enterprises;
      - 3(g) To carry on business as a clearing house and handle all matters relating to the clearing of cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and money market instruments;
      - 3(h) To carry on business as an issuing house and to place, subscribe to and underwrite shares, debentures and all other kinds of securities and offerings thereof;
      - 3(i) To engage in capital market activities (including but not limited to investment in and management of exchanges, trade points and other markets for securities and other investment assets, stockbroking, trusteeship, custodianship, transfer agency, and the creation, development, acquisition and disposal of, and all other dealings whatsoever with, securities and other investment assets).
    - [ii] By renumbering the existing clauses to accommodate the new clauses and inserting the following as clause 3 (ii):
 

"To apply for and obtain from all relevant regulatory bodies in Nigeria, all relevant licences, approvals, permits and consents required for the conduct of business as practitioners of universal banking in Nigeria."
    - [iii] By deleting the sentence "Provided further that none of the objects of the Bank shall be deemed to include the power to act as stock and share brokers or dealers" from the second paragraph at page 6 of the Memorandum of Association.
    - [iv] By deleting the present clause 6 and substituting therefor the new clause:
 

"The capital of the Bank is N2,000,000,000 (Two billion Naira) divided into 4,000,000,000 (Four billion) ordinary shares of 50k each."
  - (b) That the Articles of Association be amended in the manner set out hereunder that is to say:
    - [i] By deleting Article 10 and substituting therefor the new Article:
 

"The capital of the Bank is N2,000,000,000 (Two billion Naira) divided into 4,000,000,000 (Four billion) ordinary shares of 50k each."
    - [ii] Article 52 - Line 7: Deleting the words "a Member of" and replacing them with the word "two". Inserting the words "at least" after the word "Members".
    - [iii] Article 52 - Line 8: Replacing the word "one-tenth" with the word "one-third".
    - [iv] Article 58 - Line 5: Replacing the words "fifteen minutes" with the words "half an hour".
    - [v] Article 100(x) - Line 3: Replacing the phrase "Minister of Finance" with the phrase "Governor of CBN".

### NOTES

#### [1] EMPLOYEE SHARE OWNERSHIP SCHEME

The objective of the Scheme is to motivate and retain excellent staff.

The following clauses are excerpts from the draft Trust Deed for the Scheme:

- a) Interpretation: "Employees" means Nigerian citizens whether in managerial or non-managerial positions that are in the full time employment of the Company, including Directors holding salaried employment or offices in the Company.
- b) Clause 3.1: The Trustees shall hold the Trust Assets upon trust for the benefit of the Employees, and shall apportion any dividends or income received from the Trust Assets among the Employees at the time and in the manner set out in the Apportionment Rules attached to this Deed. For the purpose of any apportionment, the decision of the Trustees as to whether a person is an Employee, as to length of service as an Employee, and as to all other matters arising out of or concerning the interpretation of the Rules shall be final and binding.
- c) Clause 3.2: As a reward for exceptional performance, the Trustees shall appropriate or transfer to specified Employees such number of the Company's shares as have been acquired and are held by the Trustees as Trust Assets, as may be determined in accordance with the Appropriation Rules attached to this Deed. The appraisal of the performance of Employees of the Company for this purpose, as well as the nomination of specific Employees as recipients of such shares, shall be entirely and solely at the discretion of the Executive Committee, or as the Board of Directors of the Company may otherwise direct, and such selection or direction shall be final and binding. The Trustees shall, whenever shares of the Company that are held as Trust Assets are transferred to specified Employees in furtherance of this clause, purchase such number of the Company's shares as shall be sufficient to replace the transferred shares.
- d) Clause 4.1: The Company shall upon the execution of this Deed make available to the Trustees from its general reserves, in such manner as may be determined by the Board of Directors, an amount to be used in purchasing such number of the Company's shares as shall constitute not more than 5% of the issued share capital of the Company.
- e) Clause 6.1: The Trustees shall receive all dividends and income from time to time paid or received in respect of the Trust Assets and may, at their discretion, divide the same amongst all the Employees eligible for distribution in accordance with Clause 8 and in line with the mode of computing entitlements stipulated in Schedule 1 to this Deed...
- f) Clause 6.3: The Trustees shall ensure that one Trustee is nominated to attend all General Meetings of the companies (including the Company) in which the Trust has shares and exercise all voting and other rights conferred upon them in respect of the Trust Assets, in accordance with the best interests of the Employees. The Trustees shall appoint a proxy for the purpose of attending and voting at shareholders' meetings.
- g) Clause 13.1: The Trust hereby created shall forthwith terminate:
  - Clause 13.1.1: upon a resolution to that effect being passed at a general meeting of the Company or
  - Clause 13.1.2: if an order is made or an effective resolution passed to wind up the Company.
- h) Clause 13.2: In the event of such termination, the Trustees shall deal with the Trust Assets held by them in such manner as the Board of Directors of the Company may direct.
- i) Clause 15.1: An Employee who resigns from, or whose employment is terminated, or whom the Company otherwise dismisses, shall cease to be a beneficiary of the Trust.
- j) Clause 15.2: In the case of an Employee who resigns or whose employment is terminated, such cessation shall be without prejudice to his right to share in the income of the Trust for the accounting year during which he resigned or in the course of which his employment was terminated. The proportion of the distributable income for that accounting year apportionable to such Employee shall be calculated in accordance with the rules set out in the Schedule to this Deed.
- k) Clause 15.3: An Employee who is dismissed by the Company shall not be entitled forthwith to share in any further distribution of income from the Trust.

### [2] PROXY

A member entitled to attend and vote at the General Meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his / her stead. A proxy need not be a member of the Company. A proxy card is attached to the annual report. To be valid, the proxy card must be duly stamped at the Stamp Duties office and returned to the Registrar, United Bank for Africa Plc, Raymond House, 97 / 105 Broad Street, P. O. Box 6492, Lagos, not less than 48 hours prior to the time of the meeting.

### [3] DIVIDEND WARRANTS

If the dividend recommended by the Directors is approved, dividend warrants will be posted on 16th August, 2001 to all shareholders whose names are registered in the Company's Register of Members at the close of business on 18th July, 2001.

### [4] CLOSURE OF REGISTER OF MEMBERS

The Register of Members will be closed from 19th July, 2001 to 1st August, 2001, both dates inclusive, for the purpose of paying the dividend.

### [5] AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee consists of 3 shareholders and 3 Directors. Any member may nominate a shareholder as a member of the Audit Committee by giving notice in writing of such nomination to the Secretary of the Company at least twenty one (21) days before the Annual General Meeting.



# UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC

RC. 2457

*...the wise choice in banking*

57 MARINA, P. O. BOX 2406, LAGOS.  
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 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT NIGERIA  
 NEW YORK BRANCH : 40 EAST 52ND STREET,  
 20TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

By Order of the Board

**Prof. Isabella Okagbue**  
 Company Secretary, 57 Marina, Lagos.

Dated this 31st day of May, 2001



# NEC MEETING

The National Leadership of our Great Party, ALL PEOPLES PARTY, APP has Scheduled the next quarterly meeting of the National Executive Committee (NEC) for Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State.

**ON:** Friday & Saturday July 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> 2001

**VENUE:** Government House, Birnin Kebbi

**TIME:** 11 AM Prompt

By this notice, the National Working Committee (NWC) is also scheduled to meet on Thursday, July 26<sup>th</sup> 2001 at the Government House, Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State at 9 pm prompt

Please be punctual.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George N. Moghalu', is written over a horizontal line.

**Chief George N. Moghalu**

National Secretary



# HABITAT (Housing and Environment)



By Warsaw Imoh Udosen

## A background to abandoned projects

Abandoned projects abound in Nigeria. Lagos and "the young" FCT are hard hit as they are teeming with abrogative developments both in the low income, high density areas and the high income, low density neighbourhoods. To the layman, the reason is obvious "oh that man is broke". This apparent reason is not always the case. A recent study has shown that over 50 percent of abandoned projects in the FCT is not because the developers are broke but, principally as a result of inconclusive or non-existent feasibility and viability studies.

It is also very common to find completed projects or developments not gainfully in use. Such properties remain in the market for too long. One might wonder, how come such a beautiful house is still vacant for so many years. If one takes a closer look at the genesis of the project, one would be surprised to find out that a good feasibility and viability study on the project was either eschewed, not properly done or ignored by the developer.

The question of the developer asking for too much will not arise as the viability aspects of the appraisal would have taken into cognisance an obtainable open market figure. In the FCT, one could point to instances such as the numerous vacant commercial properties in the CBD and a well finished shopping complex that has been vacant for over five years on T.Y. Danjuma road in Asokoro.

### Why undertake feasibility and viability appraisal

The starting point for any system of project appraisal must be an examination of objectives and alternative means of achieving them. The first rational step before any take-off in the analysis is the decision to undertake the analysis. The decision process is a complicated one in the sense that the quality of any decision depends on the quality, accuracy, and reliance on the basic information on which that decision is based. For a more reliable information on which to base the ultimate decision to invest funds (whether public or private) in any project, it is very necessary that a feasibility and viability study of the proposed project be carried out first.

There has been an apparent misconception and actual confusion by many on the definition and meaning of the terms - feasibility and viability. Both concepts are co-terminous and it is a known dictum that "viability starts where feasibility stops." A feasibility study is concerned with the fundamental question of the possibility or practicability of a development project or investment proposal. It begs the simple question "can it be done"? If the answer is 'yes,' then feasibility is established but if 'no' the project is rejected. To establish feasibility, the project has to be weighed against certain parameters known as feasibility indicators, which primarily comprises technological, economic, legal, financial and socio-political feasibility. If the feasibility question is answered affirmatively given these constraints i.e. is this project practicable within the limits of available technological knowledge; is there available, enough economic resources to support the project; does the implementation of this project not contravene any law of the land; are there enough finances available for this project to see it through; and if so, is such a project or scheme, welcome and beneficial to our socio-political framework as a people? Feasibility is only established when these parameters are positive.

The other side of the coin is viability and it seeks to find out the necessity, financial worthwhileness and economic desirability of the project with regards to its ability to generate enough funds to repay the capital and interest on the loan. It seems to ask the question "must it be done, should it be done?" Is it worthwhile tying up funds on this project having regard to other opportunity costs of the same funds. It considers the major issues of costs of development, the benefits expected from the development, and the relationship between them, having regard to the major objectives of the project and the relative constraints. Viability appraisal perspicuously examines all the pros and cons of the project, the implications socially, politically, legally, technologically, economically and financially. It involves survey, computations, analysis, research, data processing etc., then comes up with figures based on facts and reasonable assumptions on which final decision are to be taken. The most important aspect of viability is the analysis of cash flow.

This analyses the proposal based on the cash flow to establish its performance under the various indicators for project evaluation including PBP - The Pay Back Period, which seeks to establish the length of time for the stream of cash proceeds produced by the investment to equal the original cash outlay by the investment; NPV - The Net Present Value that is the value today of the surplus that a project makes over and above what it could make by investing at its marginal investment rate. A positive NPV means that the project is viable; IRR - The internal rate of return, which shows the rate of return that is being earned by capital tied up, while it is tied up. The higher the IRR the more viable the project. The style and method of presentation of each report might differ but all necessary issues are outlined and recommendations made with serious observations showing various possible outcomes or consequences.

The bottomline is that a thousand and one reasons can be adduced for project failures (either abandoned ones or those completed but remaining void for long periods) therefore developers or financiers should learn to consult a professional in real estate, preferably an estate surveyor whose professional ethics encourages that he be perspicacious enough to anticipate a clients future needs and the unparalleled relevance of a feasibility and viability appraisal before the commencement of a project and seeing to it that the contents of such a report is implemented and concluded.

Imoette Warsaw Udosen is a Senior Estate Surveyor with country Home, Abuja

## Over 1.8 million Nigerians contributed N7 billion to NHF

The Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN) has said that over 1,837,407 Nigerians have contributed to the National Housing Fund (NHF) since the enactment of the NHF law in 1992.

Also, over N7 billion was realised as collection from the contributors and 17,244 employers have been registered while the FMBN has issued about 1,596,069 pass books to the contributors.

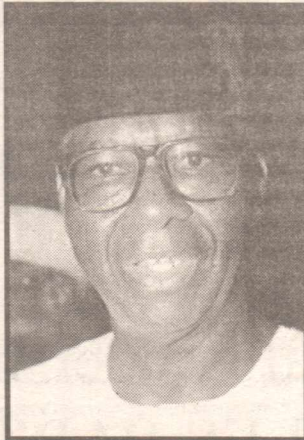
Mr. M.B. Achi, controller, FMBN, Federal Capital Territory branch, revealed this at an enlightenment seminar on National Housing Fund and operations organised for the staffers of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Abuja headquarters.

Mr. Achi also revealed that the sum of N347,311,763.39 was disbursed as loans to 643 qualified contributors to the fund through the PMI's to enable them build, buy or renovate their houses; while over N17.9 million has been refunded to 5114 contributors since inception.

According to him, the low rate loan disbursement in relation to collection is attributable to the problems of land administration in the country and the difficulty in getting title documents.

### Stories by Tashikalmah Hallah

However, he said, most of these stringent measures which have hitherto restricted contributors access to the loan have been recommended to the National Assembly for review.



Chief Tony Anenih, Works/Housing Minister

Mr. Achi also noted that given the cost of housing in relation to average household home, borrowing is the most logical way to reduce pressure on available personal resources.

Although he noted the difficulty in getting loans particularly where funds are expensive even if funds were available, a deliberate objective of the NHF to respond to the scenario of fund scarcity and high rates of interest which have been the major reason for the huge backlog in housing services.

However, despite the difficulty in getting the fund, Mr. Achi explained that a contributor to the NHF is qualified for a loan, after six months contribution.

The loan he explained is expected to be repaid in 25 years with a fixed interest rate of nine percent only, "which is cheaper than any commercial bank in the country."

He said: "the much desirable opportunity for a contributor particularly the low or medium income earner, to own a house, loans are granted at 90 percent of the cost of the house, or N1.5m, whichever is lower."

"Loans are cheap and at an affordable rate interest of nine percent; and interest on loans remains fixed throughout the payment period of up to 25 years."

Mr. Achi then revealed to INEC staff that they have been contributing to the fund since April, 1994 and has remitted over N3m with the participation numbers given to a total of 6,336 employees.

"Without doubt ladies and gentlemen, the NHF is one of the laudable efforts of the Federal Government to address and redress the problems of housing financing in Nigeria. For the scheme to succeed, the support of everyone is solicited," the controller concluded.

## FMBN disburses N347.3m NHF loan

Contributors to the National Housing Fund (NHF) are now at the verge of realising the dreams of having a decent house of their own, as the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria

(FMBN) has approved for disbursement the sum of N347.3 million loans to 643 beneficiaries nationwide.

FMBN in a press statement signed by Mike Omeri, Manager Public Relations, explained that the loan is part of the N1 billion application package to applicants across the country, and has put to rest the seeming ineffectiveness of the bank to provide housing to Nigerians.

The ineffectiveness of FMBN - NHF to provide loans to Nigerians desiring to own their houses, has pitied both the FMBN and NHF

against the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) led by Comrade Adams Oshiomhole culminating to the workers suspending contribution to the fund.

However, Mr. Omeri in the release said, FMBN in its drive to meet the increasing housing financial need of Nigerians, has approved for disbursement the sum of N347,311,763.39 for onlending to 643 individual beneficiaries as NHF loans nationwide.

"This is from the N1 billion loan application package by 26 primary mortgage institutions on behalf of 1,172 individual NHF loan applicants.

Loans granted under the NHF scheme are used to build, buy, renovate, or expand existing houses, which becomes security for the loan," he said.

Contributors to the NHF that have attained retirement age but have not benefited from the scheme, he said, are entitled to a refund at four percent of their total contributions.

"Refund cases are treated when applications are made to the FMBN with evidence of retirement from employers."

According to him, the sum of N17,912,283.66 were refunded to 5714 NHF contributors who withdrew from the scheme and met the requirement of withdrawal as stated in the NHF Acts.

Five hundred and nine individual applications from NHF contributors package in 29 batches by 20 primary mortgage institutions for the sum of N574m263,840.00 are currently being considered for approval.

## Yobe govt disposes 632 houses

Yobe State government has announced modalities for the disposal of 632 housing units on owner-occupier basis, an exercise that would fetch the state government N335.2 million.

Addressing newsmen on the sale, approved by the State Executive Council two weeks ago, the Commissioner for Housing, Alhaji Ibrahim Umar, said: "all government houses would be sold to interested persons."

Such houses, he explained, included government housing estates, residences of the Secretary to the State government and the Head of Service, commissioners' quarters, as well as the legislators' quarters, with their prices ranging between N80,000 to N1.65 million.

He said that while interested civil servants would have the amount deducted from their salaries within a period of 10 years, non-civil servants and corporate organisations would be given one to two years to complete payments.

The commissioner noted that the state government had approved the construction of 500 houses in Damaturu and 1,020 others in the 17 local government areas of the state, saying: "contract for the construction would be signed very soon."

The News Agency of Nigeria

(NAN) reports that the state government sold 1,065 houses last year on owner-occupier basis at a total cost of N142.8 million.

The State Governor, Alhaji Bukar Ibrahim, had then told newsmen that the sale of the houses was in line with his administration's policy to monetise fringe benefits and allowances of civil servants and political appointees.



Gov Bukar Abba Ibrahim

## Abia spends N510.75 million on 344 houses

Abia State government has committed N510.75 million to the construction of the 344 housing units in the first and second phases of the Orji Uzor Kalu Housing Estate, Ehimiri, Umuahia.

The houses are being allocated to civil servants in the state at the cost of their construction.

Speaking with the

News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Wednesday in Umuahia, the Managing Director of the State Housing and Property Development Corporation, Mr. Okezie Ugboaja, disclosed that each two-bedrooms unit cost N1.35 million and three-bedrooms, N1.5 million.

He explained that allottees were expected to pay 20 percent of the total

amount as an initial deposit while the balance would be spread and deducted from their salaries within their remaining years in service.

Ugboaja said that efforts were being made to ensure that the houses were constructed by direct labour to reduce cost, pointing out that the one-bedroom units could be sold for about N700,000 if their construction by direct labour was carefully executed.



# HABITAT

(Housing and Environment)



## 8 ministers signed pact on environmental degradation

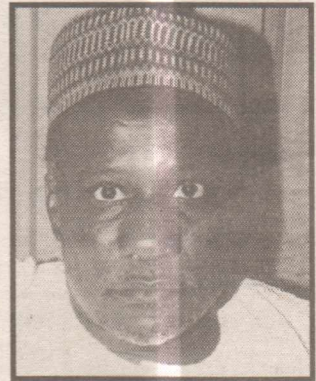
By Tashikmah Hallah

Bearing in mind that about 80 percent of the degradation of the coastal and marine environment is from land-based activities, eight ministers have signed a memorandum on environmental protection.

The ministries which included, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, Integration and Cooperation in Africa, Water Resources, economic matters in the Presidency, Science and Technology, Defence and the host, Ministry of Environment, seek to develop a Nigerian National Programme of action for the protection of the marine environment for land-based activities (NPA). They also seek to actively contribute to the first inter-governmental review meetings of the global programme action for the protection of the marine environment, from land-based activities.

According to the ministers, the agreement has become necessary owing to the growing number of shipping activities at the ports and its antecedent on the environment. They also promised to hold regular consultations on matters of mutual interest which will promote the African process for the development and protection of coastal and marine environment in sub-Saharan, with a view to facilitate development of concrete actions.

Some of the tenets of the agreement reads: "In order to ensure the fullest possible cooperation of the private sector and financial institutions, the minis-



Alh. Moh'd Kabir Sa'id, Environment Minister

tries concern will remain in regular liaison with the African Development Bank (ADB) and the African Round Table.

Special attention will be paid to the generation of business opportunities for Nigerian companies, in preparation of the partnership conference for the development and protection of the coastal and marine environment in sub-Saharan Africa."

On the cooperation within Africa and global context, the ministers agreed that Nigeria in partnership with South Africa will forward a resolution to the

Organisation of African Unity, (OAU) to request for the reconfirmation of the commitment to the partnership conference and the preparatory work leading to a conference to be held in Abuja in February 2002.

Impressed by the joint agreement, however, the United Nations, under Secretary-General in charge of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Professor Klaus Topfer, congratulated the Federal Government for the 'bold step.'

Professor Topfer in a commendation later written to the Minister of State for Environment, Dr. Imch Okopido noted that the joint ministerial statement constitutes a solid commitment on the part of the various sectors of the federal government to the protection of the environment.

The officer in charge of UNEP observed that the statement would also provide an additional impetus which should augur well for the environment management goals being pursued by the government at the national, sub-regional and global levels.

He then assured Nigeria that UNEP would ensure that the policy as well as regional implications of the statement are fully taken into account in the relevant processes in which UNEP is involved.

## Abia govt set to enforce decree on environmental assessment

The Abia State government has announced its determination to ensure strict compliance with the existing federal and state laws on environment, including the Environmental Impact Assessment Decree No 1992.

The Deputy Governor, Chief Enyinnaya Abaribe, made this known during the celebration of this year's world environment day at Mgboko, the headquarters of Obingwa Local Government Area.

Abaribe, who represented Gov. Orji Kalu on the occasion, said that the measure was part of the state government's resolve to achieve a friendly environment.

"To this end, every new major development of great environmental importance in the state would henceforth, be subject to an environmental impact assessment evaluation before its commencement," he said.

He also explained that the government would strengthen the operations of the state's ministry of environment to make it better placed to tackle the numerous environmental problems facing the state.

He listed some of the factors militating against a healthy environment, as including pollution, illegal dumping of refuse, pipeline vandalism, bush burning and deforestation.

He added that the state was already threatened by erosion and flood, noting that the state required N2 billion to make visible impact on the menace.

The deputy governor, however, said that the state was one of the 14 states in the country that would benefit from the Federal Government's efforts to

launch an intervention programme on the environment in 20 urban communities.

"Such efforts could produce the desired results only if the citizenry are steadily enlightened on the need to cultivate healthy attitudes towards the environment and shun any acts capable of threatening it," he noted.

He said that the government spent N10 million monthly on

refuse management in Aba and Umuhia as part of the determined efforts to maintain a friendly, healthy environment.

He explained that the event was marked in the state 24 days after the official date due to some logistic problems, bothering on lack of proper communication between us and the federal ministry of environment.

## Population, development & environment: A search for balance

The theme of this year's World Population Day is instructive. Tagged 'Population, Development and Environment,' the theme will seek to reveal the synergy of population, environment and development for sustainable human development.

Experts said the major variables in human population are fertility, mortality and migration which account for changes in all human populations.

While the environment in its modern context, includes all the external factors, living and non-living surrounding man, the environment includes not only water, air, soil and forests which formed our immediate environment, but also social and economic conditions under which we live.

The concept of development can be all-embracing and widely participatory with the aim of bringing social, political and economic

change in the society.

With development, one can have greater access to health, education, infrastructures, employment and freedom. Its absence results in poverty, ill health, illiteracy, high population growth, low economic activities and political dictatorship.

The consequences for development also include youthful population, crime and violence, slum development, environmental degradation, climate change, high mortality rate, food crisis, brain drain, child labour and child trafficking.

Environmentalists and economists also agreed that efforts to protect the environment and to achieve better living standards are intertwined and are mutually reinforcing.

"Matching population growth with per capita demand can take pressure off the environment and buy time to improve living standards on a sustainable basis," they said.

### You and the environment

By Dr. Sani Mashi

## Linking development to environment in Nigeria

Eradication or alleviation of poverty necessarily implies that the standard of living of an average Nigerians must be raised. Because average Nigerian relies on land for survival, it means that the extent to which the people relate with the land must be enhanced and effectively intensified. Unfortunately, the land exists within a given context; that of the environment. The land is only an element of the environment. The others, including, air, water, vegetation, human beings, rocks, minerals, rivers etc all maintain delicate relationships with the land. Human beings depend on the land for agriculture, settlement development, construction of utilities, recreation and several other services. To them therefore, land is almost everything. Vegetation also relies upon the land for growth and development for without it only few vegetation species can survive. Infact, the only known ones in this regard are the so-called hydrophytic plants that live in water. Even these, a substantial part of the resources they take from the water for growth and development originate from the land. With the exception of sea water, all water bodies on earth are located on the land - lakes, dams, reservoirs, ground water, streams etc.

One may therefore be correct to argue that without land, there will be no freshwater, the name by which such water bodies are known. What happens on the land also influences to a great extent the condition of air above the land. As human activities take place, some materials are released that find themselves directly or indirectly into the air. Infact, the type and nature of such materials determine greatly the nature and condition of air that lies above the land.

It is apparent that land is the medium or platform upon which most other elements in the environment depend. It is hence commonly described as the source and sink of virtually all known processes that make the earth a living environment.

As Nigeria moves towards a poverty "free" society, efforts are being made to implement a "package" that intends to make its people as self-reliant as possible. Those that are originally attached to farming are being encouraged, at least verbally, to relate more with the land. Industrial activities; cottage, small, medium and quasi-large; are being encouraged. Where investors who are willing to risk investing in an atmosphere of uncertainty are available, Nigeria is not only welcoming them, but the nation's resources are to be transferred onto their hands, almost on a completely and permanently basis. Infact, to make sure that such investors get the maximum best out of their investments, trade policies are being liberalised, the entire economy is being deregulated while the helpless Naira is being allowed to find its feet in an open competitive market. I am poor in economics, but I fundamentally agree with virtually every position being taken by them in this regard. Though some economists (especially the ageless Eskor Toyo of Calabar University) believe that the economists that propagate such policies are lacking in norms of economics, I feel that economics as a scientific discipline is inherently more inclined towards development and promotion of ideas that promote over-exploitation of the land, without corresponding efforts towards conserving it. It is in this regard that economics can hardly escape being identified as a major culprit where enemies of land development are being identified.

In Nigeria today, the issues certainly is how to grow in economic terms. This, it is being assumed is the best way for us to join the ranks of perhaps the so-called Tigers of Asia, the free market economies of the north or the emerging powers of central Europe. Admittedly, if our economy is strong, we would be able to play a major role in international politics. But it is an illusionary vision for us to assume that we could grow and sustain the growth by surrendering our environmental resources to those who have no stakes on whether it (the environment) is over-exploited or not.

Promoting development in a society that is fundamentally agrarian in nature like Nigeria's necessarily means that more emphasis must be placed on agriculture. Industrial activities rely, on mineral resources which are found from the land. The implication here is that development in Nigeria can only be made viable provided more emphasis is placed on extraction, processing and consumption of resources. Most of the resources are unfortunately non-renewable over a time scale and if they are, substantial investments are essentially required. Whenever resources are extracted, the working of the environment is basically tempered with. Such may create some situations that may not necessarily be favourable to the entire environment. For instance, oil exploration do provide good base for obtaining raw materials required by oil and gas industries.

It can however bring about disruption of the environment through direct clearance of vegetation, oil spillage leading to soil and water pollution and pollution of the atmosphere through gas flaring.

In physics, there is a simple law that is commonly called the principles of mass and energy. The law provides that whenever a resource or materials generated from it is taken up, waste must necessarily be generated. For example, when human beings take in oxygen through respiration, carbon dioxide gas is released as a waste. Resources we do extract, process and grow in our normal economic development processes are products of synthetic events that use energy as the primary ingredient. It therefore follows that when we extract, process and consume, waste must necessarily be generated.

The path we have chosen to pursue development in Nigeria is obviously a major source to the environmental crisis we now face. Perhaps because we are doing little justice to the issue of linking development processes with environmental abuses, we seem to be in favour of a situation whereby the two are considered as independent entities. The ministry for economic development can never see itself as responsible for promoting environment-free economic investment policies. The Ministry for Environment on the other hand has no hand in deciding which investment should be allowed or not given its real or potential effect on the environment.

Consequently, at least at government policy level, we do pretend that the environment is not intricately, but remotely, linked to economic development. The only remote link here being the raw materials that are derived from the environment. To make the environment capable of absorbing our economic development policies Anow and in the future, we must simply appraise how we pursue economic growth in Nigeria. We must examine 'a particular how we conserve energy and materials in the environment, to avoid wastages and to avoid generation c' wastes. In this regards, we must not use technologies that promote wastages or lower down the quality of the environment. We must equally economise on the amount of energy and materials used to produce the same amount of output over and above any reductions in wasteful use. For example, we can always aim at achieving a particular level of output using lower amounts of energy and materials. This means that we must be in a position to relate technology with conservation rather than technology with production.

Introducing development policies that aim at conservation is however not going to be an easy task. We can for instance formulate policies that aim at reducing the extent to which forests are cleared for logging or fuelwood activities. Enforcing them without providing incentives certainly will bring about displacement of people from their jobs which will enhance rather than alleviate poverty in Nigeria. We can however achieve this by introducing incentives which can encourage people not to clear forests. Command and control are simply not enough to promote conservation. In as much as environmental abuses are traceable to the wasting of the economy, we must therefore aim at using the workings of the economy as the means of eliminating the abuses. We should therefore not by accident or design pursue development policies that tend to aggravate environmental abuses.

While our President shuttles between one country to another, and as the Bureau for Public Enterprises makes itself busy transferring ownership of government investments into what are now called private investors, the need definitely arises for the country to quantitatively link the need to make the economy grow with that of protecting the environment.

We pray that development in Nigeria should now and in the future be linked closely to the environment so that only policies that are environmentally friendly and sustainable are those upon which we package our development programmes.

Dr. Sani A. Mashi lectures at the Department of Geography, University of Abuja, Abuja.

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# Crime & Punishment



The Minna Mobile magistrate court II has directed that a lady, Miss. Hasana Hassan and three others be remanded in Kagana prison.

The women in collaboration with one Alhaji Garba Abdullahi and four

## Four to face sharia for running Brothel

From Kashim Sule, in Minna

others were arraigned for turning their personal house into a brothel in which the women practised their

profession.

When the case was mentioned recently, the prosecutor, sergeant Gabriel Ofikwu submitted that they

were arrested last weekend in Minna town, opposite the central market.

The chief magistrate, Alhaji Muhammad Gwagwa,

explained that his court is a secular one and therefore lacks the jurisdiction to try the case as the persons are all Muslims and should be

transferred to a sharia court.

The prosecutor, sergeant Ofikwu, accordingly moved the suspects to prison alleging that if they were given bail on self recognition, they would jump bail.

## Ex soldier, six others face robbery charges

Mr. Shedrack Iyamah described as a former military personnel and six others recently appeared before an Ilorin Chief Magistrate court on charges of armed robbery.

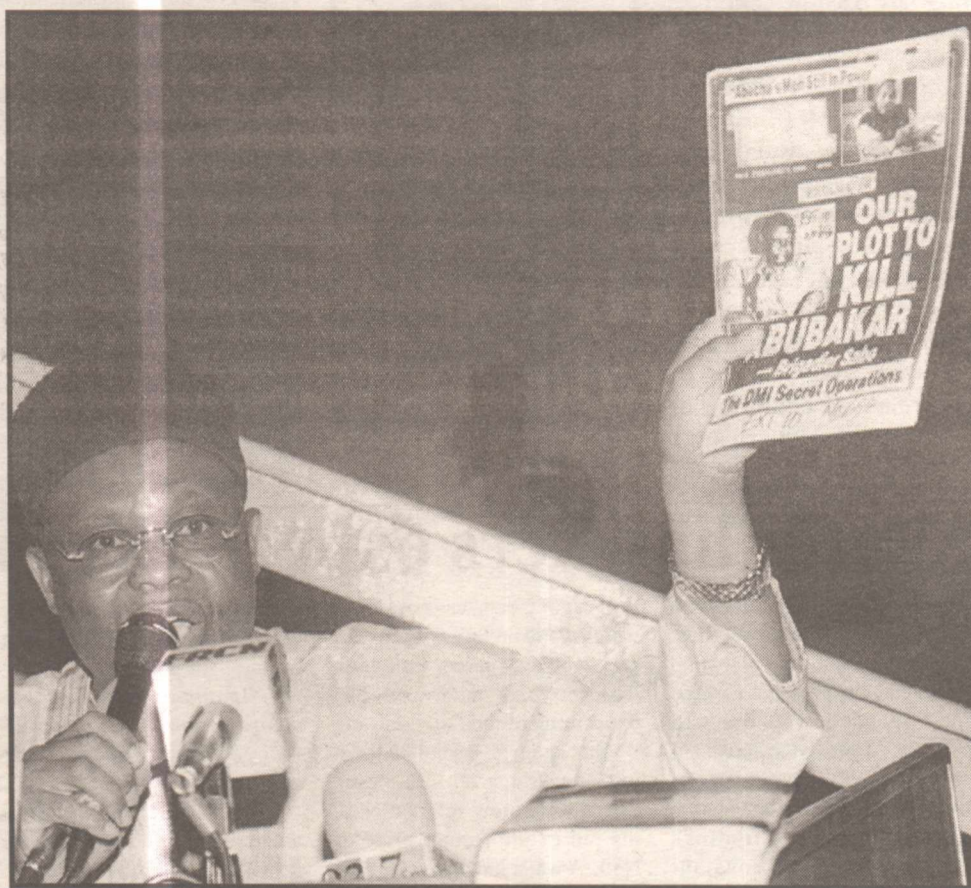
According to the police First Information Report, (FIR), the offence is contrary to section 1 (2) of the Armed Robbery and fire arms Act Cap 398 laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 1990.

The prosecutor informed the court that following a tip off received sometimes on April 4, 2001, the state Criminal Investigation Department (C.I.D.) learnt that a man in military uniform and other young men were in possession of fire arms around Oloje area of Ilorin and were committing atrocities in various parts of the city.

According to the police prosecutor, a team of men from the state (C.I.D.) accompanied by some mobile policemen later raided the area and arrested Iyamah along with Benjamin Oyime, Godwin Hassan Uche, Paulson Amadi, Abu Musa and Sule Audu.

The police FIR stated that after investigations, it was revealed that the suspects were members of a gang of armed robbers who specialised in raiding petrol stations within Ilorin and its environs.

The police also alleged that the gang had earlier robbed one Jutale petrol station, Edidi via Ajase Ipo, Kwara State.



Brigadier-General Ibrahim Sabo, former Director of DMI, testifying at Oputa's Panel, Abuja on July 2, 2001. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje

## Two bank staff face fraud charges

Two members of staff of Omega Bank Plc were on Tuesday arraigned at an Ibadan Chief Magistrate Court for conspiracy and theft of seven million (N7m) from the Oke Bola branch of the bank.

The two staff, Oriloye Lasisi and Victoria Fasuyi were alleged to have conspired to commit the offence with another person now on the run.

According to the police prosecutor, the suspects conspired to commit the offence which is contrary to and punishable under section 516 of the criminal procedure code cap 30 volume II laws of Oyo State,

1978.

The prosecution told the court that the suspects did steal the sum of N7m, property of Omega Bank Plc, Oke Bola, Ibadan and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under section 310 (7) of the same criminal code.

According to the prosecutor, Inspector Johnson Fakunle, the suspects an one other now at large did fraudulently convert the money to their own use contrary to section 463 of the criminal code laws of Oyo State.

## Police Alay fears on robbery seige

The police in Lagos have paraded 25 armed robbery suspects arrested barely one week after parading 17 suspects in its renewed drive to stem violent crimes.

Some of those paraded, however, told newsmen that they were members of the Odua Peoples Congress (OPC) against Police insistence that they were robbery suspects.

The Police say they are not aware of OPC, since they have been banned.

Briefing newsmen on the command's position on the new trend to stem violent crimes, the State Police Commissioner, Mr. Mike Okiro, said that several armed bandits arrested in the past by the command's joint patrol with the military had been charged to court.

He said that the Police, "mindful of the huge cost of losing hard-working personnel with some equally injured, has decided to address the situation with precision." He restated the Command's commitment to enhance the war against crime and appealed to the public to avail the police with useful information about criminals. He also advised parents and guardians to protect their children and wards from engaging in any form of crime "to avoid the obvious security consequences." He said that Police efforts had

begun yielding dividends, explaining that prompt police action aborted a robbery incident at Fagba junction, along Iju road on July 5.

He said that policemen from Oko-Oba division drafted to the scene arrested two of the robbers whose confession led to the arrest of two others. He said that the Police also on June 27, bust a gang that specialised in robbing commuters in intercity buses. Okiro said that the gang with their popular.

## Robbers kill inquisitive trader

A 36-year-old trader, Solomon Okeleke, who left his dinner table to enquire from dare-devil robbers what was amiss, got killed as they pumped bullets into him in reply on Monday night in Lagos.

An eyewitness told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Lagos that Okeleke, unaware that a robbery gang was raiding shops nearby, stepped out of his shop at Abule-Nla bus stop on Apapa Road, Ebute Metta and asked the hoodlums what was amiss without knowing who they

were. NAN learnt that the eight man gang, armed with pistols and pump action rifles, stormed the area at about 8:45 p.m., raiding one shop after the other.

According to an eyewitness, Okeleke, whose shop was not attacked by the bandits, apparently irritated the robbers when he tried to ascertain their mission.

As soon as he asked the question, "what is happening?", the eyewitness said, one of the robbers drew out his pistol and shot him thrice in the chest and he died instantly.

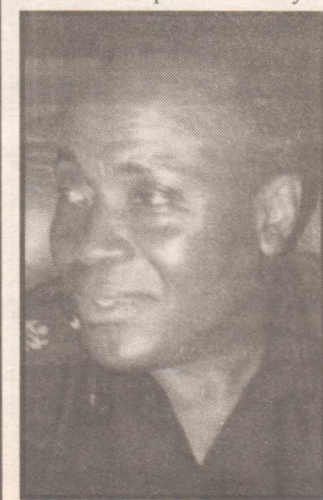
"Okeleke died immediately with the spoon with which he was having his meal of rice in his hands," the eyewitness said.

He said that no sooner did they kill Okeleke, than the robbers started shooting into the air to make their escape through Abule-Nla bus stop.

NAN learnt that the robbers who operated in the area for about five minutes, snatched two taxi cabs after discharging the drivers and other occupants.

One of the passengers in apparent fright fell into a gutter.

Meanwhile, the body of late Okeleke, who hails from Ebu in Oshimili North Local Government Area of Delta, has been deposited at the General Hospital mortuary.



Musiliu Smith, Police I-G



Mike Okiro, Lagos Police boss

Push-on-The-Air" act, used a "Fedeco bus" with registration No. XE 909 SMK, to rob a couple who had gone to Yaba to board Edegebe Bus to Benin of their belongings and cash amounting to about N60,000. He said that N11,000 and some of their belongings were recovered and that the three suspects had confessed to the crime and are now helping the police to track down such other gangs.

## Police arrest three for conspiracy, kidnapping

The police in Gwagwa, FCT, have arrested three persons for alleged conspiracy and kidnapping of a nursing mother, Mrs. Amaka Opara, and her two-weeks-old baby.

The suspects - Cosmos Joseph, an Okada operator; Ugwu Joseph, apprentice; and Mercy Francis, applicant - allegedly hypnotised Amaka in a commercial vehicle on her way home from a hospital at

Mabushi on July 24 this year.

A police first information report on the incident already before an Abuja chief magistrate court quoted Amaka as saying that the three persons were in the vehicle when she boarded it.

According to the nursing mother, the suspects sprayed her with a substance which forced her to sleep.

Amaka said that when she woke up, she found herself in a bush which she later

discovered to be near Madalla in Niger state, with her hair completely shaved.

She further informed the police that her baby was taken away from her and that she believed that the three suspects were behind everything that happened to her.

A police source said in Abuja that the three suspects have been arrested and were due to be charged to court soon.

# Abuja News

## Corps members in a fix over posting

By Habiba Adamu

Members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), serving in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja have expressed disappointment with their rejection by some government parastatals and institutions.

The Corps members have been searching for places at the Federal Secretariat where they could be absorbed for their primary assignments.

Peter Ogwake, a Corps member who was redeployed from Kano to Abuja disclosed that it had not been easy for most of them to get places for their primary assignments.

"Government parastatals are rejecting youth corpsers just like the private sector, I wonder what the future holds for us since we cannot get places of primary assignment under government parastatals as it is," he lamented.

Vivian Audu, who is lucky to get a place with the Ministry of Aviation after being rejected by Government Girls Secondary School, Garki, also lamented the rejection of corps members by government agencies and parastatals.

At the NYSC Secretariat, the case is not different as corps members that were redeployed and those that did their orientation in Kubwa camp in Abuja have kept on reporting. Most of them were reposted only to be rejected.

Some of the corps members whose posting letters had been with some ministries for two weeks did not know what their fate would be. They have been waiting anxiously for permanent secretaries, and directors-general of the ministries to accept or reject them.



Hajiya Aisha Ismail, Minister of Women Affairs & Youth Development.

Authorities in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, have been urged to institute management schemes to improve traffic situation in the territory.

The management schemes according to residents who spoke to *Daily Trust* in separate interviews, would check the chaotic traffic situation in several parts of the capital city, including the Berger junction, Karmo, Nyanya, Idu, and AYA at Asokoro.

Speaking with *Daily Trust* last Saturday, Mr. John Onoja, a businessman who lives in Asokoro, observed that Abuja is becoming another city where street traders constrict sidewalks and motorways, thereby making traffic uncontrollable.

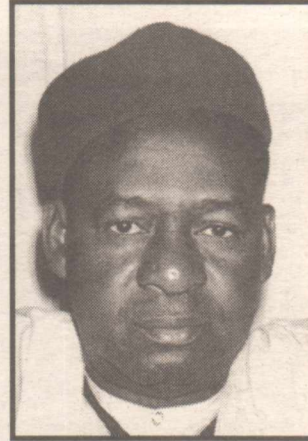
Mr. Onoja also observed that public transportation in the FCT is becoming grossly inadequate, adding that *Okada* riders and minibus operators contribute immensely to the disorderliness in the city's

## FCT residents call for traffic management scheme

By Austine Odo

transportation.

Another resident of Asokoro, Mrs. Regina Chukwuma, noted that pockets of avoidable traffic problems were growing at the Asokoro/Nyanya junction, and called on government to check the trend. Mrs. Chukwuma pointed out that the disorganised condition of transportation in the FCT was capable of affecting the



Engr. Abba-Gana, FCT Minister.

effective development of a model capital city.

Mallam Haruna Abdul, a banker who lives in Garki, called on the authorities to stop public transportation in the FCT from being an all comers' game.

He noted that due to the fact that every "Dick and Harry" can use any rickety vehicle for public transportation in the FCT, there is little regard for road traffic rules.

Investigations by *Daily*

*Trust* corroborated the observations of the residents. Many buses appear to be previously abandoned scraps, which were quickly deployed to Abuja for public transportation. *Okada* riders also contribute to traffic chaos through recklessness and carrying of more passengers than one, which sometimes lead to loss of lives.

The Berger junction is home to buses from satellite towns and interstate buses which all add to make whatever the Abuja Master-Plan seeks to avoid.

## Water hawkers experience low returns

Water hawkers who had made the best use of the perennial water scarcity in some parts of the FCT are now facing hard times as a result of the constant rainfall, which has reduced demand for their water cans.

*Daily Trust* findings revealed that the constant rainfall has led to a reduction of

the cost of plastic cans of water, which was sold for between N30 and N60 in places that lack frequent water supply, prior to the coming of the rainy season.

In Gwagwa, a satellite town just after Idu, a 50 litre plastic can of water now sells for N20, instead of the former price of N50. A water hawker in the area who chose to be identified as

Usman, told *Daily Trust* that he was preparing to quit the business for now.

"No make money plenty like before, rain don de fall well-well, so de water no de sell like before," he complained.

Residents of Idu, *Daily Trust* learnt, now save rain water for domestic use, and depend less on the hawkers. As soon as it starts

to rain, women and children would put containers to collect the rain water. This is also common in Karmo, Lugbe, Kuchingoro and similar places that lack constant pipe-borne water supply.

Miss Tonia Oke, a resident of Kuchingoro, told *Daily Trust* that the rain water is more "reliable" than the hawked water.

"Sometimes, you never can tell what you are drinking, or where it comes from. We just rely on God, so now that it's rainy season, it is more reliable to drink rain water," she said.

Though Kubwa residents enjoy pipe-borne water supply, the rains and constant supply of water in the area have forced the price of plastic cans of water to less than N10 for those who still patronise the hawkers.

Prior to the coming of the rainy season, the only source of water for residents of the satellite towns was the hawkers, who sell water in 50 litre plastic cans for between N30 and N50, depending on the locality. Residents have complained of the safety of the water, but have little choice than depend on the hawkers whose source of supply is sometimes suspect, since according to a Karmo resident, "government has yet to extend water supply to our area for reasons best known to them. All the same, life goes on."

## NAFDAC organises workshop on packaged water, juices

By Emmanuel Ande

In a determination to restore sanity in the consumer manufacturing industries, the National Agency for food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), has organised a workshop to educate producers on how to package healthy water-based products.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the workshop on Tuesday in Abuja, the Director-General of NAFDAC, Dr. (Mrs.) Dora N. Akunyili, said "the workshop is to educate participants on the processes

involved in the registration and advertisement of their products with NAFDAC, to educate producers and intending producers on the dangers that improperly processed water and fruit juices pose to the health of the general public."

She stated also that the workshop was to introduce participants to the right type of equipment used in the production and packaging of water and acquaint them with

proper methods of producing safe drinking water.

Dr. (Mrs.) Akunyili maintained that the seminar is a new strategy to dialogue, persuade and educate in its regulatory responsibilities.

She disclosed that many of those involved in the illegal business of production and sale of contaminated water and related products, do not understand the dangers of their action, adding that it is against this background, that the new management of NAFDAC decided to organise the workshop.

"As you already know, packaged water is produced everywhere in Nigeria by very many people whether they know how to do it or not, most of the producers are not registered by NAFDAC, which has the authority to screen and confirm that the water they produce is good for drinking and will not

cause any disease when consumed," she maintained.

Speaking further, she said many producers did not register their products for the fear that their products would fail the required laboratory tests and that long delays in the registration process also scared producers for registering their products.

She pointed out that as soon as the agency completes its enlightenment campaign in the 36 states of the federation and Abuja, it would make every effort to physically identify and locate all companies producing and distributing unregistered regulated products for appropriate sanctions, adding that NAFDAC would seize the products and prosecute anybody caught selling unregistered packaged water or related products.

## Security chief sends SOS to police

By Mhii Samuel Selumun

An appeal has been made to the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Police Commissioner, Mr. Dika Bwala, to check the activities of men of the underworld who have taken over the Federal Housing Estate, Lugbe, on the outskirts of the capital city.

The zonal security chief of the estate, Mr. Raphael Igah, who made the appeal in his office in Lugbe, said criminals who have illegally occupied most of the uncompleted buildings from where they operate had besieged the estate.

"Robberies have become frequent within this estate. Could you imagine that as early as 8.00 p.m., they start their house to house searches. They shot a man and collected his N20,000 the

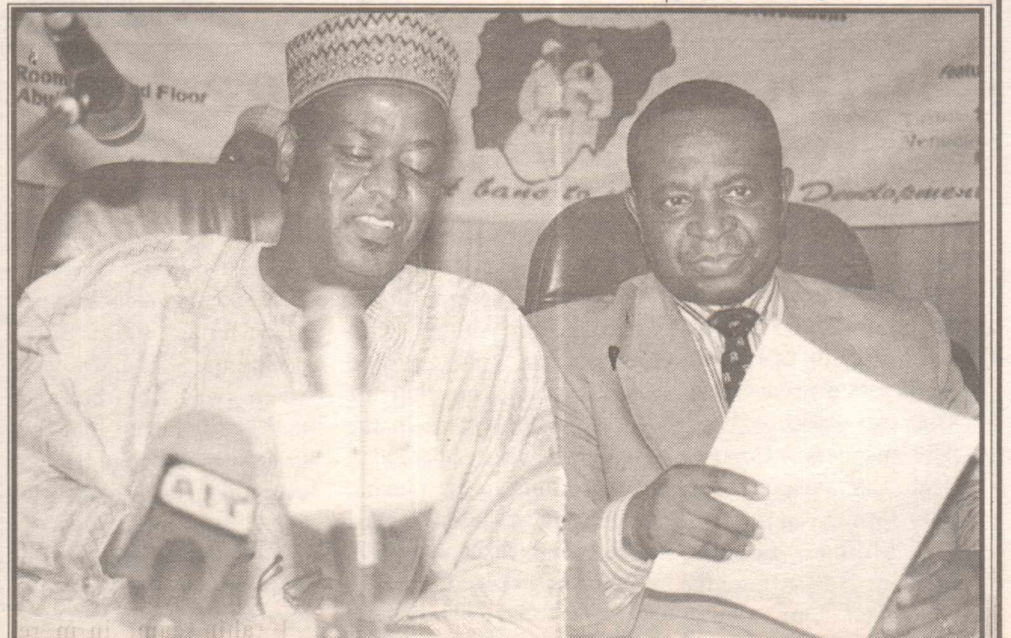
other day. Residents now live in fear," he said.

*Daily Trust* investigations confirmed that the security department of the Federal Housing Estate, Lugbe, has besides robberies, recorded cases of ritual killings involving children.

According to Mr. Igah, the situation has gone out of control for the Lugbe police and hence his appeal to the police commissioner for assistance.

He appealed to the commissioner to deploy police personnel to keep the estate under constant surveillance.

Mr. Igah also called on the police authorities to flush out illegal occupants in the estate, particularly those in the uncompleted buildings.



The Director, Hospital Services, Dr. Suleiman Sani (L) representing the Minister of Health, puts a word to the Programme Officer, UNFPA, Mr. Tom Odemoringe, at a news conference to mark the World Population Day in Abuja, Tuesday. Pix: Felix Onigbinde.



# SPORTS



## Obikwelu, Nku continue to shine

### Athletics

Nigeria sprinters, Francis Obikwelu and Mary Nku, on Monday continued to shine in the build-up to next month's world Athletics championships in Edmonton, Canada, in an international athletics meet in Nice, France.

Obikwelu placed third in the men's 200 metres behind American runners Ramon Clay and Shawn Crawford. Clay and Crawford each finished in 20.27 seconds while Obikwelu clocked 20.41 secs.

Olympic champion Marion Jones of the U.S. and Chandra Sturup of the Bahamas beat Nku to the third place in the women's 100 metres.

Jones, winning her 50th consecutive 100 metres, clocked 11.25 seconds while Sturup breasted the tape in 11.30 and Nku finished in a time of 11.36 seconds.

Other Africans also recorded impressive performances in their events at the meet.

Kenyan dominated the men's 3,000 metres steeplechase.

Wilson Kipketer led the Kenyan pack in a time of 8 minutes 0.5.78 seconds, followed by Bernard Barmasai in 8:06.12 and Kipkirui Misoi 8:08.90.

The Kenyans maintained their stronghold in the men's 3,000 metres where Paul Bitok returned in 7:34.74 while his compatriot Leonard Mucheru came third behind Morocco's Mohamed Hamyn.

Kenyan runners; William Yampoy and Noah Ngeny took the first two places in the 1,000 metres in 2:16.53 and 2:16.93 respectively.

Ghana's Abdul Aziz Zakari continued to display his impressive form, placing second behind Tim Montgomery of the U.S. in the men's 100 metres.

Montgomery finished in a time of 10.18 seconds while Zakari clocked 10.31 seconds. Jamaican

Llewellyn Bredwood placed third in 10.31 seconds.

In the women's 3,000 metres steeplechase Kenyan Irene Limika was second behind Justyna Bak of Poland. Bak. clocked nine minutes 25.31 seconds while Limika breasted the tape in 9:39.51 and Elisabeth Jackson of the U.S. came in a time of 9:43.36.

## Kenyan officials angry as top athletes stay in Europe

Kenyan officials are fuming over the absence of their leading athletes from an official training camp as they prepare for next month's world championships.

Many of the athletes are still competing in races on the lucrative European grand prix circuit, leaving the team's coaches with nothing to do at the International Sports Centre in Kasarani.

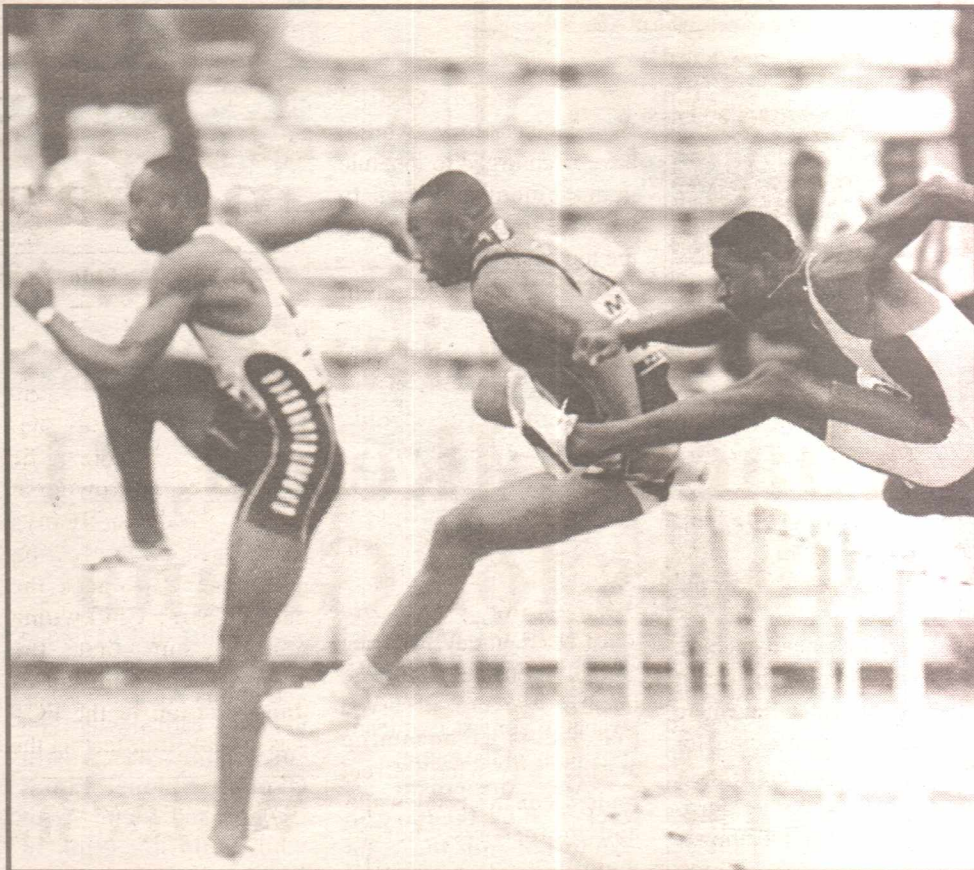
"They are like generals with, no army "an official who requested anonymity told Reuters. "We only have a team we read about in the media, as they run in Europe but we don't know them in detail."

Kenya selected a team of 23 athletes after the trials on June 23 but released them to take part in selected races in Europe as part of their preparations for the world championships in Edmonton, Canada from August 3 to 12.

A rift is also brewing between agents and the Kenya Amateur Athletic Association (KAAA) over an imposed limit of two-races-per-athlete.

KAAA initially set a July 10 deadline for all athletes to return home, but later pushed the date back to July 20.

Olympic 1,500 metres champion, Noah Ngeny is expected to run at the British Grand Prix on July 22 against Moroccan rival, Hicham El Guerrouj.



Nigerrian athletes in action during the 2000 Mobil Track and Field Championship. The AFN is inviting 17 foreign-based athletes for this year's event.

## AFN approves 17 foreign-based athletes for Mobil

The Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN) has invited 17 foreign-based athletes for the 2001 Mobil track and field championships.

Athletes making up the national contingent to the Toronto World Championships slated for August 10 to August 13 would be selected at the Mobil competition, the News Agency of Nigeria NAN reports.

Prominent on the list is Chioma Ajunwa, the 1996 Olympic gold medalist of the Atlanta Games, an AFN source told newsmen in Lagos yesterday.

Also in the list are three of the bronze winning quartet at the 2000 Sydney Olympic games Sunday Bada, Jude

Monye and Anefiok Udo-Obong.

The AFN source gave the names of the other invitees as Endurance Ojokolo, Mary Onyali, Francis Obikwelu,

Deji Aliu, Fidelis Gadzama and Taiwo Ajibade.

Others are Bisi Afolabi, Christiana Ohaeri. Uche Enidoli, Falilat Ogunkoya and Uduak Ekah.

The Mobil track and field championships had been scheduled to hold between July 20 and July 22 at the National Stadium, Lagos.

## Ghana calls up five foreign players against Sudan

The acting coach of the Ghana senior national team, the Black Stars, has invited five foreign-based players to join the 18 local players for their World Cup qualifier against Sudan in Accra next Sunday, a report from Accra has said.

The report, monitored by the West African Correspondent of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) said that Nii Odartey Lamptey, who plays

for Shandong Club in China is among the foreign-based players invited.

The other foreign-based players are Charles Amoah of Sturm Graz, Emmanuel Duah of Urliaro Liera, Baffour Gyan who plays for a Czech side, Slovan Liberec and AC Parma's Stephen Appiah.

According to Joy FM, an Accra-based radio station, Coach Osam Duodu invited the bulk of his local players from Obuasi Goldfields, while the rest are from Hearts of Oak and Asante Kotoko.

From Obuasi Goldfields, Coach Osam invited Yaw Owusu, Kofi Amoako, Princeton Owusu-Ansah, Kenneth Ababio, Aminu Musa, Isaac Boakye, Nana Arhin-Duah and Stephen Amo.

Accra Hearts of Oak has James Nanor a goalkeeper, Amankwah Mireku, Jacob Nettey and Charles Taylor,

while Asante Kotoko's Osei Boateng also a goalkeeper, Isaac Owusu and Godwin Ablordey were also called up.

Osam Duodo also called Essilfie Fatau of Great Olympics, Issa Mohammed of Hasaacas and Hamza Mohammed from Real Tamale United.

In another development, the FIFA Executive Committee has agreed to a \$750,000 compensation for Accra Hearts of Oak and 11 other competitors, for the cancelled World Club competition.

The decision by FIFA means that Accra Hearts of Oak would get \$250,000 in addition to the 500,000 dollars already paid by the world soccer body.

The Spanish Football Federation, which was to host the event this month, would receive 1 million dollars.

## Walk over causes drama at LLTC

### Tennis

There was a mild drama yesterday at the Lagos Lawn Tennis Club (LLTC) venue of the second Gov. Bola Tinubu Interna-

tional Tennis tournament after Kabiru Ibrahim, an unseeded former junior

player, was walked over by number four seed Sonny Kayombo of CDR.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that Ibrahim who was walked over in the men's singles second round came in more than five minutes after the umpire had certified his opponent, Kayombo, the winner.

"How can they (the umpires) walk me over like that? I have been around since," Ibrahim who had earlier won his first round match over Frederick. Omuta 6-3, 6-1 said, insisting that the match be recalled.

But his business like opponent, Kayombo had entered the court on time and waited impatiently until the 15 minutes grace was over, before he called the attention of the umpire to take a decision.

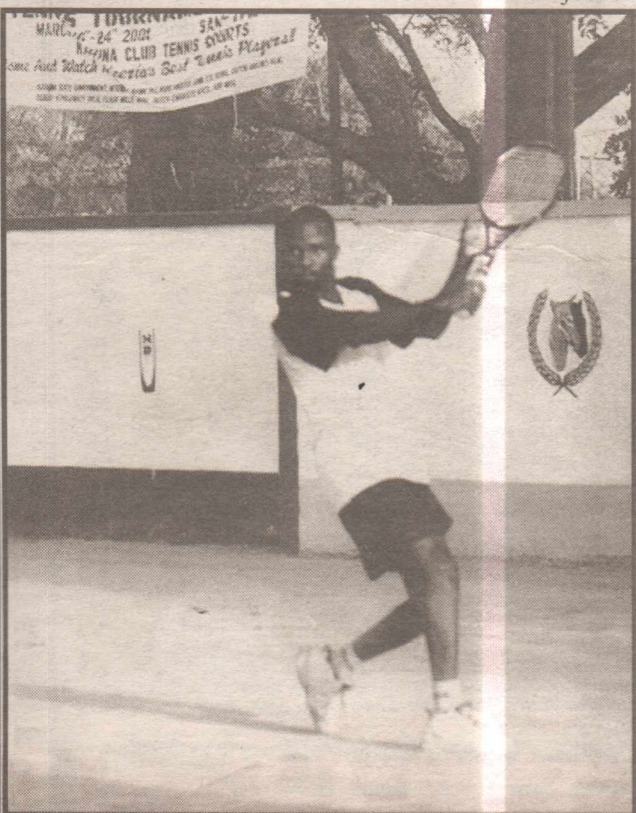
The umpire allowed some more minutes before he decided to declare the match a victory for Kayombo.

Ibrahim came in more than five minutes later and started shouting asking that

the match be recalled. He caused a stir before the organisers of the tournament cautioned him. Ibrahim, however, declined to talk to NAN about what kept him from his match but officials at the tournament told NAN that Ibrahim was seen shortly before the match but since he did not leave a message about his whereabouts, he was walked over.

In other men's singles second round encounters, Rotimi Jegede, seeded six, beat unseeded compatriot, Ali Mukhari, 6-2, 6-3, while Sule Ladipo, seeded eight, defeated compatriot Ishgeli Benson 6-1, 6-0, Christopher Pogon, of Benin, last year's runner-up seeded 10 beat Arnaud Segodo 6-3, 6-1.

Ladipo would meet Pogon on Wednesday in the third round. In the Ladies singles first round, unseeded Uju Ben beat wildcard Suzan Okocha 6-2, 6-1, unseeded Nimota Kadiri beat Jumoke Ajulo, 6-2, 7-6, while top seed Omotayo Ibrahim beat Abass Olakunbi, 6-1, 6-2.



Alfred Koripamo goes for a back hand volley against Olusola Adebisi during the Kaduna Clay Court tournament.



Lamptey

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# Amodu invites Abacha, Ikedia, 21 others for Ghana

Three home-based players have been invited by the Super Eagles technical crew to team up with others in camp for the crucial World Cup qualifier against the Blacks Stars of Ghana in a fortnight.

The trio of Sani Abacha, Efe Ehirorbo, and Tony Alegbe are to join 20 others to fight for shirts in the match that would make or mar Nigeria's qualification for the Japan/Korea 2002 World Cup.

Gabros International FC goalkeeper, Ajide Austin who manned the post in Windhoek, Namibia during the Nations Cup qualifier and his counterpart in El-Kanemi, Rotimi Sunday equally got the nod to report to camp even as Murphy Akanji was dropped.

Iwuanyanwu Nationale's left wing attacker, Kelechi Okoye who was on the reserve bench when the Eagles crushed the Falcons of Sudan along with Chukwudi Nworgu of Enyimba and Justice Christopher complete the list of

**By Patrick Andrew**  
 the home-based players coach Ahmodu Shuaibu wants to contest first team positions in the camp.

Ajax Amsterdam attacker, Pius Ikedia who could not join the team against Sudan has an opportunity as coach Shuaibu wants him to battle against Tijani Babangida for a shirt.

However, Garba Lawal whose injury caused him a place in Sudan makes a return to the squad along with two-goals hero Yakubu Aiyegbeni, Nwankwo Kanu and Karibe Ojigwe.



Lawal

The list that excluded Sunday Oliseh, Eric Ejiofor and Julius Aghahowa due to injury, card offences and suspension has Austin Okocha, Skipper Finidi George, and Victor Agali who could not click in Omdurman, Sudan.

Ike Shorunmu who shone in the Sudan cracker, Yobo Joseph, Taribo West, Issac Okoronkwo, Ifeanyi Udeze, Patrick Ovie and Rabiun Afolabi complete the squad the technical crew wants to report to camp in July 20 and 22 in Port Harcourt.

Already, the NFA has consigned letters to the individuals clubs of the players to facilitate their release.

Nigeria must beat Ghana on July 28 to secure the ticket for the 2002 World Cup.

The Super Eagles currently leads the group comprising Liberia, Sudan, Ghana and Sierra Leone with 13 points after humbling Sudan 4-0 and Black Stars surprise 2-1 bashing of the Lone Stars of Liberia in Monrovia. Before these results Liberia was almost comfortably in the lead.



Orlando Magic guard, Troy Hudson, left, drives past Philadelphia 76ers Dikembo Mutombo during last season's NBA Eastern conference play-offs.

## Ogbemudia allays fears on C'mttee's report

The chairman of the committee on the problems confronting sports development in Nigeria, Dr. Samuel Ogbemudia, has reassured Nigeria that the Ministry of Sports and Social Development would do justice to the final report of his committee.

In a chart with *Trustsports* in Lagos at the weekend, Dr. Ogbemudia said that the Ministry of Sports and Social Development has assured him that the recommendation of the committee would be followed to the letter.

"I can assure you that this committee is going to be different from other committees we have had in the

**From Babs Oyetoro, in Lagos**

past, as the ministry has shown tremendous interest in the activities of the committee, he has also given his words that the committee's reports would be adhered to strictly," he assured.

The former Bendel State governor, stressed that his committee is committed to doing a thorough job as they are aware that their report would serve as a recipe for development in Nigeria.

He added that they have visited 16 states of the federation and have received over 100,000 memoranda and 3,000 oral evidences from difference states visited.



Nigerian soccer fans will be expecting a five star performance from Jay-Jay Okocha to help the Super Eagles beat arch rivals, Black Stars in July 29 World Cup qualifier in Port Harcourt.