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**STAR FEATURE**  
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## Hajj: FCT pilgrims protest delay of aircraft

### Harmattan disrupts flights in Kano

By Nasir Imam, Property & Exec. Editor, Ahmed Abubakar  
 Correspondent, Kano & Abdurrazaq Adebayo, Correspondent, Ikeri

Intending pilgrims for this year's Hajj from the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) yesterday barricaded the entrance to the Pilgrims

Welfare Board, crippling activities at the board in apparent protest over the non-availability of the board to provide aircraft to airlift

them to the Holy land. Officials of the FCT Pilgrims Welfare Board arrived at their offices Thursday morning only to find the entrance gate locked by hundreds of pilgrims who prevented them from entering the premises of

the board to carry out their official duties.

Malam Aliyu Usman, the Public Relation Officer of the FCT Pilgrims Welfare Board, who spoke to *Daily Trust* over the incident, said the protesting pilgrims were the second batch of 400 pilgrims who had been stranded at the Hajj camp.

Malam Aliyu Usman however said that it took the intervention of the FCT Minister, Malam Nasir Ahmed el-Rufai; the 2005 Amirul Hajj, Alhaji Ibrahim

Mantu, and the Bauchi State Governor, Alhaji Adamu Mu'azu, to calm the frayed nerves of the pilgrims.

The board's image maker said that the first batch of 480 pilgrims left Abuja last Sunday through a rescue operation by Kabo Airline which replaced IRS Airline initially slated to airlift FCT pilgrims but was unfortunately still sorting out some technical issues with the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA).

The Amirul Hajj appealed to the pilgrims to remain calm as every effort is being made to airlift them to the Holy land, promising that by evening yesterday, the second batch of pilgrims would be airlifted.

The FCT minister directed that each pilgrim be given N500 feeding allowance, apparently in response to complaints from the pilgrims that all their monies have been exhausted leaving them with only travellers cheques.

Contd. on Pg 2



Speaker House of Reps, Hon. Aminu Bello Masari (left), Chief Medical Director, University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital, Dr. Suleiman Yahaya (middle) and chairman, Board of Trustees, Health Reform Foundation, Dr. Haliru Yahaya, during their courtesy visit to Speaker in Abuja...yesterday. Pic: Felix Onigbade.

## PDP reform panel to reduce Ogbeh's power

By Hamed M. Bello, Senior Political Reporter (Reps) & Habeeb I. Pindiga, Political Reporter (Senate)

The internal reform panel set up by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is to recommend for the whittling down of powers of the party's national officers to strengthen its zonal and state levels, the Chairman of the sub-committee on nominations, Senator Dalhatsu Sarki Tafida, has said.

This development will affect the powers of the PDP national Chairman, Audu Ogbeh, who has recently been involved in altercations with President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Briefing Senate correspondents in Abuja yesterday, Tafida lamented the overbearing influence of the

party's national officers in affairs of government, saying the committee was poised to cutting down such influence.

Making comparisons with the situation in the United States, the Senate leader suggested that the ruling party had been too obvious for government to be com-

fortable. "In America for instance, after the election, it's only during nomination and election that you hear of party that party this. When elections are completed, they go underground and you don't hear anything. The government is allowed to function. And I think this is what's lacking here and I'm sure with time

Contd. on Pg 2

## Tension in Jos over land dispute

Less than one week after the murder of a community leader, Engineer Dawoa Bulle, following a land dispute between Berom and Fulani families in Ropp village in Barikin Ladi local government area of Plateau State, another land dispute has erupted in Jos south local government yesterday raising tensions in the area.

The heated dispute arose over a parcel of land situated within the premises of the Olusegun Obasanjo Model

School in Hwolshe, a suburb of Jos in Jos south local government area. The remains of Engineer Bulle were interred in Ropp also yesterday.

An alleged land speculator (name withheld), who is claiming ownership of the piece of land measuring 1.1 hectare, allegedly broke through the school fence, dug a pit, demarcated his alleged piece of land, as a first step

to commence construction on it. The development elicited widespread reactions from

Contd. on Pg 2

## Tsunami disaster: UN, IMF pledge \$2bn aid

### Reps propose bill on disaster management

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has indicated that it offer \$1 billion in financial assistance to countries hit

by the Asian tsunami disaster, its Director General, Rodrigo Rato, said in a

statement. "The IMF stands ready to

Contd. on Pg 2

## Missing ship: Admiral appeals dismissal verdict

From Adelenwa Bamgboye, Correspondent, Lagos  
 Nigerian Navy (NN) to a Commodore. Speaking in a telephone interview with our correspondent in Lagos yesterday, Chief Wole Olanipekun, the immediate past president, Nigeria Bar Association, said that Agbitti was set up as there was no single evidence linking him to the alleged offence.

Chief Wole Olanipekun said that he had commenced the process of appealing to

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# News

## Haji

Meanwhile, domestic and international flights were yesterday disrupted at the Malam Aminu Kano International Airport (MAKIA) following the harratani dust haze that engulfed Kano and most cities in the northern part of the country.

Daily Trust correspondent, who visited the airport, reports that pilgrims and local passengers were seen stranded at the airport due to the haze which prevented flights from take-off or landing at the airport.

The Assistant General Manager, Nigerian Meteorological Agency, Mr Okoloye Cyprian, who attributed the haze to dust raised from the Sahara, however said that the dust will move to the coastal part of the country in the next two or three days.

Some intending pilgrims who expressed worry that the dust haze may mar their airlift however observed that despite the harsh weather, some airlines landed and took off, but Mr Cyprian said his agency would bring any erring airline operator to book.

In a related development, about one thousand and four hundred intending pilgrims for the Hajj 2005 have so far

been airlifted from the Ilorin zone, the Manager of the Ilorin International Airport, Alhaji Garba Ringim, has said.

Speaking to newsmen at the airport tarmac yesterday, Alhaji Ringim said those airlifted were pilgrims from Kwara, Ekiti and Ondo States. He said a total of 1,700 pilgrims were expected to be airlifted from the zone for this year's Hajj.

Alhaji Ringim, while commenting on lapses observed, advised that the issuance of travellers cheques for pilgrims be decentralised with the involvement of more banks to avoid delay which was witnessed in the last five days.

He explained that if more than one bank had been involved in the procurement of Basic Travelling Allowances (BTA) for the pilgrims, the four day delay would not have occurred.

The Zonal Coordinator, Directorate of Pilgrims Affairs in the state, Alhaji Aliyu Olorongbe, who stayed with the pilgrims in the cold weather for 24 hour to commiserate with them, said the last batch of pilgrims is expected to take off today (Friday), thus completing the exercise for the zone.

## PDP

we'll get there," he said. Asked whether his committee would make the PDP conform with tendencies in the developed democracies, Tafida said, "If it's possible, we may be thinking of that; we believe if it's going to be good for majority of those who will take decision on the reform, we'll take that decision. But one thing I'll tell you without fear of being contradicted is that we want as much as possible to try to reduce the power at the national level of the party and give it back to the zones and the states."

The Senate leader also spoke on the recent crises rocking the PDP, saying the ruling party had no problem but that "we may have problems of indiscipline here and there and we all know and we are trying to address this."

Tafida spoke yesterday alongside some members of the sub-committee, including Dr Aminu Safana, Alhaji Abubakar Mu'azu Hassan, Alhaji Faruk Bibi Faruk, Mrs Josephine Atehin, Dr Kema Chikwe and Mrs Titi Oseni.

He said also that the main reform panel would on January 17 and 18 hold a public hearing, where all Nigerians would be given the opportunity to contribute to the process of reforming the ruling party.

Also yesterday, the PDP headquarters, through a statement by the party's scribe, Prince Vincent Ogbufo, denied reports that Ogbufo had resigned his position, saying the chairman was still in charge.

Reports (not in Daily Trust) have suggested that Ogbufo had told newsmen that he had thrown in the towel due to pressure from within and outside the party, following his shortcomings with

the appeal court in Lagos immediately the judgement of the tribunal was delivered.

He said that the trial of the three Rear Admirals was an exposure of the type of injustice that is obtained in Nigeria.

"Aghiji was set up. There was no single evidence linking him with any of the alleged offences. We know from the word go that he would not get justice but he had no choice. We are going on appeal."

He said further that it is rather unfortunate 'we are still wallowing in sin in doing what is unjust'.

He described the situation as men's hatred for progress of others. "In a good conscience, everybody knows Aghiji did not commit the alleged

provide financial assistance to affected countries, in the first instance through our Emergency Natural Disaster Assistance facility. This financing, which could be on the order of \$US1 billion for the most affected countries, could be made available quickly and without an IMF programme," Mr Rato said.

"The financing needs have yet to be fully assessed. This, together with the most appropriate forms in which the assistance should be delivered, will be discussed," the IMF chief said.

## Atiku to witness signing of peace pact between Sudanese govt, SPLM/A

Vice-President Atiku Abubakar will leave Nigeria tomorrow for Nairobi, Kenya, to witness the signing ceremony of the comprehensive peace agreement between the Sudanese Government and the Sudanese Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA).

Atiku Abubakar, who will be representing President Olusegun Obasanjo at the occasion, will be among distinguished leaders and representatives from Africa and across the world that will gather on Sunday to witness the historic event at Nyayo Stadium in Nairobi, Kenya.

It would be recalled that the war in the southern part of Sudan between the Sudanese government and the Sudanese Peoples' Liberation Army erupted in 1983 when the SPLA took up arms against the government based in the north, to demand greater autonomy and access to resources as well as opposition to the introduction of Islamic law in the

## Tension

the community and their leaders, including the ward head of the area, Da John Dadung; the Education Secretary of the Jos south local government area, Mr Justin Dachung and the Councillor of Hwolsle ward, Mr Julius Dalayop.

Tension was raised and it took the intervention of the police from the Nylon - Jos Police Division to avert its spread to other parts of Jos metropolis.

At the body of Engineer Bulle was laid to rest yesterday, the Plateau State Inter-Religious group condemned in strong terms his assassination, describing it as "dastardly" and capable of endangering the peace of the state.

The Chairman of the group set up by the former state administrator, General

Chris Alli, during the state of emergency to foster peace between Christians and Muslims in the state, Rev Yakubu Pam, said in a press conference yesterday that both Christians and Muslims in the state have unanimously agreed that the assassination of Bulle was evil and capable of resurrecting the ethno-religious crises that recently engulfed the state resulting in a state of emergency.

"To avoid future occurrence, the inter-religious group suggested that the full weight of the law must be thrown at the perpetrators of the act. It commended the Berom youths for not taking the law into their hands by embarking on a revenge mission.

The Vice Chairman of the inter-religious group representing the Muslim community, Alhaji Inuwa Ali, the Turakin Jos, exonerated the Muslims in the state from the act and called for a full investigation into the matter.

In addition, the Plateau State government has assured of a full scale investigation into the matter. State Deputy Governor Mr Botmang, who led a delegation of government officials to the burial, assured that everything possible would be done to unravel the circumstances that led to the murder of the late Engineer Bulle.

The deputy governor also commended the Berom youths for keeping the peace even in the face of provocation. He pointed out that their behaviour would augur well for lasting peace in the state.

He pledged government's assistance to the family of the late Engineer Bulle.

## Tsunami

national body to offer increased aid, pledging 100m euros (\$132m) to the immediate effort.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said the group - which includes India, Australia and Japan - had served its purpose and would now work with the UN.

Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said in Jakarta he would also seek the European Parliament's approval for additional 350m euros (\$464m) for long-term reconstruction.

Meanwhile, the US said it was disbanding what it called the core group of nations formed to tackle the crisis.

The BBC's correspondent at the UN said officials who had feared that the core group would duplicate the UN's efforts will be quietly relieved by this move.

World and local leaders, aid groups and international organisations are attending the Jakarta conference.

Also on the agenda is temporary debt-relief for the Indian Ocean nations affected by 26 December's disaster and the establishment of a tsunami warning system in the area.

Mr. Annan said the UN had drawn up a "focused set of programmes" tending to the immediate needs of the survivors of the tsunami.

But he warned that the number of fatalities could double if aid did not reach survivors soon.

"There are daunting logistical constraints. But they are not insurmountable. It is a race against time," he told world leaders.

The programmes - costing a total of \$977m - would include \$215m towards food; \$222m toward shelter and \$122m towards healthcare.

The biggest single recipient would be Indonesia, the worst-hit country, which would receive \$371m of the immediate aid, with the remainder spread across the rest of the region.

Although the UN has praised global generosity in responding to the disaster, aid agencies warn that in past disasters, pledges have not always been honoured.

Just more than a year ago, donors promised Iran more than \$1bn to assist with the Bam earthquake disaster. Iran complains that only \$17.5m ever arrived.

Other pledges may come as loans, in services and equipment or be earmarked for long-term reconstruction purposes.

There has been strong support at the meeting for the establishment of an early warning system to alert people to the dangers of any future tsunami.

Mr. Annan said prevention and early warning systems must become a priority, and Indonesian officials said a warning system like that in the Pacific Ocean should be set up in the Indian Ocean.

Also up for discussion will be temporarily relieving the nations affected of their international debt repayments.

Canada remains the only donor to declare a unilateral moratorium on debt repayments, but Japan said it is willing to do so and other countries indicate they would support the idea.

Earlier, Australia announced a \$1 billion aid package for Indonesia while Germany announced it increased its aid to tsunami-hit countries to 500

million euro (\$867.2 million).

Meanwhile, the Chairman, House Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Honourable Jerry Sonny Ugokwe, has said that the committee is considering preparing a bill that will reserve at least 25 kobo of every litre of petrol product for addressing disaster.

Honourable Ugokwe disclosed this yesterday at a press conference where the policies on emergency and disaster preparedness were discussed.

He said that the committee is also working on a Bill entitled: "National Emergency Mobilisation Bill" which seeks to empower the president to mobilise citizens in disaster situations.

The subject matter of the conference, he said, was to join the effort of the committee and the House of Representatives to the global sorrow occasioned by the December 26, 2004 Tsunami disaster which affected several countries in south Asia and east Africa.

He said that the committee would create national consciousness and awareness on the need for preparedness against unforeseen disaster and drum up support for federal government's decision to donate \$1 million to the Tsunami Relief Fund.

Stressing that an important lesson from the tsunami disaster is to make natural disasters and terrorism, Hon Ugokwe noted that "it is pertinent to collaborate with the federal government committee on Tsunami relief fund mobilisation".

"This committee will equally join hands with the committee set up by Mr President to raise funds and relief materials for the victims, just as we will mobilise members of the House of Representatives and Senate to make personal donations to this disaster relief fund project," he said.

Extending condolence to all the nations and families who lost their loved ones in the disaster, the chairman said that arrangements are being made to pay solidarity visits to respective embassies and if possible, to the countries that suffered from the disaster, adding that "the time has passed when a people did nothing for disaster victims from any part of the world which has become a global village."

He restated the committee's commitment to develop, equip and make the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) more pro-active towards effective discharge of its statutory function of pre-empting and managing disasters.

"The issue of procurement and installation of instruments for detecting early warning signals to major natural disaster would also be looked into by the committee."

The House Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness was created by the House of Representatives Resolution 7 of March 30, 2004 and inaugurated on December 16, 2004.

The committee is to, among other things, develop policies on emergency and disaster preparedness, pre-emptive programmes for search and rescue operations in the event of disaster occurrences, and design of spill control and illegal bunkering preventative measures.

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# NEWS

## CNPP expresses reservations over new election bill

The Conference of Nigerian Political Parties (CNPP) yesterday rose from a one-day meeting in Abuja expressing reservations about the new electoral bill sent to the National Assembly by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

CNPP said it was not comfortable with provision that gave the president adequate powers to sanction political parties, contending that the president should have no business with registration or sanctioning of parties.

The Chairman of the conference, Abdulkadir Balarabe Musa, who made CNPP's position known to journalists at the end of the meeting, said this provision portends grave dangers to democracy.

The conference, according to Musa, therefore resolved to set up a committee that will take a closer look at the bill and come up with a position for CNPP.

During yesterday's meeting, which was attended by 10 parties, the group also ratified moves to fuse up 11 political parties ahead of 2007 presidential polls. Musa, however, did not mention the parties involved.

Plans are also underway to convene an all-politicians' summit "as soon as practicable to set minimum standards of political behaviour and governance; the adoption of national political agenda, the tactics and strategy needed for the resolution of the national question."

Other decisions of the meeting include setting conditions for the planned national dialogue, which CNPP said must be sovereign, subject to referendum and must not be hijacked by the government through appointment of delegates.



Abdulkadir Balarabe Musa, CNPP Chairman



From left are former speaker House of Reps, Alhaji Ghali Umar-Na'Abba, Dr. Bashir of the VAV president Alhaji Abubakar office, Alhaji Ja'afaru Aliyu Paki special assistant to president Obasanjo on petroleum matters and one of the officials Alhaji Zubairu Abdullahi during their visit to the State House-Abuja, yesterday. Pic: Joe Oyoje

## Kaduna Assembly members to impeach speaker

As a result of discontentment by members of the Kaduna State House of Assembly over the leadership style of the House, there is a strong indication that the Speaker of the House has degenerated to the extent that National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) had to disconnect electricity in the House. This, a source said, occurred because a colossal amount meant for the running of day-to-day affairs of the House was also alleged to be misappropriated by the speaker.

The situation compelled members of the House to constitute two committees, in which one is to investigate the alleged misappropriation of fund. It is headed by the majority leader of the Assembly, Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu Bkara. The other committee is to investigate the encroachment of schedule of the House by the Chief of Staff to the speaker, Alhaji Nasiru Idi-Kano.

The speaker is also accused of borrowing some colossal amount of money from First Atlantic Bank Plc without due consultation

with other members of the House.

The financial situation of the House has degenerated to the extent that National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) had to disconnect electricity in the House. This, a source said, occurred because a colossal amount meant for the running of day-to-day affairs of the House was also alleged to be misappropriated by the speaker.

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From Aliya Haruna, Correspondent, Kaduna

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## Masari urges doctors to call off strike

The Honourable Speaker of the House of Representatives, Alhaji Aminu Masari, has given assurance that the shortfall in the payment of doctors' salaries will be paid soon by the federal government and urged that the on-going doctors' strike in the country be called off.

The speaker gave the cue yesterday when a delegation of the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) led by the Emir of Shanga, Kwara State, Dr. Yahaya Aliru, paid him a courtesy visit at the Apo Legislative quarters, Abuja.

Responding to their call for the full arrears of their salaries to be paid to enable them to call off the on-going strike, Alhaji Masari disclosed that President Olusegun Obasanjo has addressed the shortfall in the health sector, "but it is the administrative issue that constitutes serious concern to me."

He said that the administrative forces of paying arrears need to be carefully addressed so that all aggrieved parties will be assuaged at the end of the implementation. The main issue to me is how is the arrears going to be paid?"

He said that rather than resorting to strikes, the doctors

By Zainab Afimi Political Reporter (Reps)

should have protested to the National Assembly because it is the poor man on the streets who bears the brunt of the strike action, especially when it is embarked upon by doctors who are supposed to be concerned with saving human lives.

Earlier, the leader of the delegation, Dr. Aliru, expressed the determination of the NMA to end the strike action, and appealed for cooperation of the federal government to stall further loss of lives. He further expressed optimism that the speaker's words strongly indicate that the whole issue will be resolved in a few days.

## NASS to endorse new LGs-Mantu

By Habeeb I. Pindiga, Political Reporter with agency report

The Deputy President of the Senate, Alhaji Ibrahim Mantu, has said that the National Assembly would endorse additional local government councils created by some states across the country.

Mantu's disclosure is coming on the heels of the insistence by the federal government that creation of additional local governments was unconstitutional and the directives to states to abolish such councils.

Speaking in Minna on Wednesday during a ceremony marking the kick-off of this year's air-lift of pilgrims to Saudi Arabia, Mantu, who is the Chairman of the National Assembly Constitution Review Committee, said since it was apparent that the people wanted new councils created, the legislature would put its seal on such demands.

"Since the creation of new local governments reflects the collective wish of the people, the National Assembly will endorse such aspirations," he said.

The deputy president of the Senate said further that he would personally strive to influence his colleagues to actualise the people's dream.

Creation of additional councils had led to the withholding of revenue allocations to five states last year, among which was Lagos State.

The other four states had since abolished the new councils, but Lagos chose rather to challenge FG's action in the Supreme Court, which ruled late last year that government could not legally withhold revenues due to the third tier.

## N1.4m fraud: EAS airline staff set office ablaze

A staff of the EAS airless Sunday Joghbole has allegedly set fire in the airlines office to cover the N1.4 million he stole from the company's coffers.

The 29 year old Sunday who was paraded before journalists by the state commissioner of police, yesterday confessed to committing the crime which occurred, last Sunday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January. The

Maru where about 40 beneficiaries left their homes and Gumi with total number of also 40 who decided not to celebrate Sallah at their respective houses due to non-payment of their debts.

The Commissioner of Agriculture, Alhaji Muntari Anka, could not respond when contacted as he was said to be seriously sick, but the Permanent Secretary, Alhaji Abdulsalam Magami, who spoke on behalf of the commissioner, told our correspondent that the ministry was not aware of the harassment. "All we know is we gave out this loan to the people and we are concerned because the state government did not ask anybody to harass, or intimidate anyone. This is not the intention of the government," he concluded.

Other areas included

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, (Correspondent Jos)

25 litres jerry can in which Sunday stuffed the money was cut open by the police before journalists and content shown.

According to Sunday, he went to the office on the fateful day to wait for his friend whom he was to travel with but along the line was tempted to break the wooden safe in the office which money was kept.

"I did not know what came over me, I parked the money and put them into a jerry can he said adding "I put candle the safe and another candle on top of the safe and light them I came out and got home successfully with the money."

Speaking on how Sunday was arrested the Plateau state police commissioner, Mr. Joseph Apapa said it was following a tip off from some people around the scene of the incident who had earlier noticed Sunday's suspicious movements.

The N45,000 left by Sunday in the safe to make believe that money was not stolen, but was lost to fire, did not however get burnt before the fire was put off.

The EAS manager, Jos, Mr. Philibus Danfulani said though they were not in the habit of leaving money in the office, all attempt to lodge the money in the bank before the weakened of the new year celebration failed.

From Salisu Zakari, Maradun Correspondent (Gusau)

## 306 loan defaulters abandon homes in Zamfara

No fewer than three hundred and six (306) people who benefited from the farmers loan in Zamfara have fled the state for fear of intimidation from the government who allegedly ordered the arrest of the defaulters following their inability to repay the loan.

Investigations conducted by Daily Trust in the state showed that the people had to take to their heels leaving their families behind in order to avoid arrest.

In Zurmi Emirate where about 88 people fled the emirate because of the level of intimidation they received from their leaders

over the loan, popularly known as ZACAREP, a component of the only famous ZASIDEP programme in the state, source close to the emirate told our correspondent that the emir used his money to settle the government and collect same from the beneficiaries thereafter, which resulted in attacks on the loan receivers.

Also in Bukkuyum, investigation shows the 38 peasant farmers that sneaked away were forced to do so as a result of non-payment of the loan as they had no alternative than to run.

Other areas included

# News

## Metropolitan police arrest three over Damilola Taylor's murder

The Metropolitan Police Service Wednesday morning arrested three persons (names withheld) in connection with the murder of a Nigerian schoolboy, Damilola Taylor.

The suspects, according to our investigation, are being held in the police custody in south London.

A statement posted to the police website says Damilola's parents, Richard

From Musa Aliyu, in the United Kingdom

and Gloria, are fully aware of the latest developments and that they have been urged to continue to support the efforts.

Reacting to the arrest, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Bill Griffiths, from the Met's Specialist Crime Directorate, said: "These significant developments today are the

result of a determined effort to establish the truth of what happened on that day."

He also saluted the parents of the slain boy "for their patience, understanding and support throughout the course of this investigation".

Ten-year-old Damilola was stabbed to death while on his way home from school in Peckham, south-east London, in November 2000. Although the murder

investigation was opened in November 2000 shortly after the tragic death, it suffered a serious setback leading to the acquittal of four youths standing trial for the killing.

But the case was kept open and Detective Chief Inspector Nick Ephgrave was appointed to lead the investigation.

Meanwhile, as at the time of filing this report, Damilola's parents could not be reached to comment on the current development. Our investigation also revealed that the suspects were not the same people who were acquitted after the trial at the Old Bailey, but police have confirmed they were arrested as part of the original inquiry but were released without charge.

Detectives are hoping to use new DNA techniques on forensic evidence gathered at the time to crack the case.

## Funtua LG to name secretariat after Wada Nas

Funtua local government council in Katsina State is to name its secretariat after the late Minister of Special Duties and politician, Alhaji Wada Nas, who died recently.

The Chairman of the council, Alhaji Muntari Dandutse, told *Daily Trust*, while receiving condolences at the residence of the late minister, that the council would soon summon a meeting to discuss all possible avenues to honour the great statesman who has contributed immensely to the growth and development of Funtua local government in particular, the state and the country in general.

He said people of Funtua were saddened by the loss of one of its illustrious sons who was like a father to all Funtua

From Lawal Ibrahim, Correspondent (Katsina)

men and women and a person whose legacies would ever remain indelible to the memories of not only the Funtua people or Katsina State but the entire northern Nigeria.

Wada Nas, he said, never allowed political difference to override his decisions that affect the general interest of his community and people, and said his death was a great one that had created a serious vacuum that would be hard to fill within the shortest period of time.

Alhaji Muntari Dandutse urged politicians in the country to learn from the legacies left behind by Alhaji Wada Nas, and prayed to God to grant him eternal rest in *Al Jannah Firdausi*.

## Shariah commission denies ram allowance rumour

The Kano State Shariah Commission has denied allegations that the commission was against the recent proposal for rams allowances to be given to civil servants in the state.

The Chairman of the state's Shariah Commission, Sheikh Umar Ibrahim Kobo who made the denial, said the commission had never objected to the idea which he described as a gesture that would boost the morale of civil servants in the state.

Sheikh Umar Kobo, who was speaking at an occasion

From Yusha'u Adamu Ibrahim, Correspondent (Kano)

organised for presentation of 450 books to *Islamiyya* and *Qur'anic* schools, explained that the gesture would also encourage more civil servants to perform their religious obligation of ram sacrifice during the *Id-el-Kabir* festival. The chairman, who reiterated the full implementation of Shariah legal system in the state, said the donation of the books made by the state government would greatly boost the morale of younger generation in the course of seeking knowledge.

He disclosed that more books aimed at imparting religious and Arabic knowledge to Muslims were on the way, and called on the people to reciprocate the gesture by putting more effort in search of Islamic knowledge.

On his part, the Director, Shariah Commission, Ustaz Sani Abdullahi Tofa who charged both parents and teachers to inculcate moral and sound discipline to the younger generation, said this would greatly assist in making the society descent and coherence.

Meanwhile, civil servants in the state are to enjoy 50 per cent of their basic salaries as Ramadan and ram bonuses payable annually by the state

government. The Speaker of the state's House of Assembly, Alhaji Balarabe Sani Gani, said the gesture was made a reality due to some adjustments made on the earlier law passed on the issue by the members of the House after a closed door meeting with the members of the House.

The earlier law passed, captioned: "Bonus and Grant of Loan (Ram Advance) Law 2004", made a demand for a 100 per cent of one month salary as ram advance loan payable in 12 months and 50 per cent of salary as Ramadan bonus.

Alhaji Balarabe Gani said the law is now re-captioned: "Ramadan/Ram Bonus Law 2005", and the law provides that public servants in the state shall be paid 50 per cent of their one month's basic salary on or before 27<sup>th</sup> of every Ramadan as bonus, adding that the same percentage shall also be paid to them on or before 5<sup>th</sup> of *Dhu'l-Hajj* every year.

## Senator predicts further reduction in oil prices

From Dele Ogunyemi, Stringer (Ibadan)

Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Federal Capital Territory, Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin has predicted further reduction in the prices of petroleum oil products in the country just as he charged Nigerians to continue to support the various economic reforms being put in place by President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Senator Folarin representing Oyo Central Senatorial District at the National Assembly bared his mind in Ibadan on Thursday while featuring on the "Hotspot Platform" of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Oyo State Council.

According to the Senator, the deregulation of the oil sector in Nigeria has started yielding positive dividends with the recent noticeable reduction in the price of petroleum products from #49 per litre to #48.

"The price oil will go down further as the deregulation process continues to take its firm roots in the country," Senator Folarin posted, explaining that with the ongoing deregulation, life will become better for the people in the long run.

## Pensions board boss warns fraudulent pensioners

The Chairman of the Military Pensions Board (MPB), Group Captain Adamu B. Kachiro,

has issued a story warning to pensioners who engage in fraudulent means to obtain money from the board to desist from such acts or face the wrath of the law.

Captain Kachiro issued the warning yesterday at a press briefing on sanitising the Military Pensions Board which was held at the military pensions office in Abuja.

"We want to warn all pensioners that gone are the days when it was business as usual. Henceforth, any pensioner found to be

By Zainab Alimi Political Reporter (Rep)

fraudulent will be prosecuted and his name removed permanently from our payroll."

Capt. Kachiro issued the warning following the apprehension of a fraudulent pensioner, one Mr Ahmadu Audu, an ex-sergeant with the Nigerian Army by the board with the liaison of one of their paying banks in Abuja.

Though himself a genuine pensioner, Mr Audu, a father of seven children from Kaduna State, was allegedly



Former head of State, Gen. Abdululami Abubakar congratulating Abia State Governor Dr. Orji Uzor Kalu after his conferment with a chieftaincy title at Etiofo Mbaito, Imo State, recently.

## NSE records N2.1bn capitalisation in 2004

### Opens new branch in Benin

The Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) Director General, Dr. Ndi Okereke-Onyiake, yesterday on the occasion of its first press briefing for the

From Bright Ewulu, Deputy Business Editor (Lagos)

New Year, owned up that the on-going financial sector consolidation is a heavy

challenge to the stock market.

According to her, despite the enormous responsibilities placed on the NSE by the reforms, the exchange is confident that the capital market will continue to record high level of investors' patronage of issues.

Going further, the director-general, who sat side-by-side with Mr Chike Asinobi, the Managing Director of Central Clearing System Ltd, and other top executive of the NSE, said the market recorded N2.112 trillion market capitalisation in 2004 as against N1.359 trillion of 2003, disclosing that the NSE will come January 27, 2005 open another branch in Benin, Edo State.

He said, however, that the branch expansion was to enable the exchange to create more investors awareness that the capital market had gone online and that the exchange does not need trading floors.

According to her, "Turnover on the Nigerian Stock Exchange in 2004 stood at N225.8 billion, up by 87.1 per cent on the N120.7 billion recorded in 2003. The bulk of the transactions was in equities, which account for N223.8 billion or 99.1 per cent of the turnover value.

"The federal government development stocks sector recorded a turnover of N300 million compared to N281.2 million in 2003, while the state government bonds sector and the industrial loans preference stocks sector recorded a turnover of N1.73 billion and N17.5 million respectively," she said.

On 2005, she expressed optimism and hoped that the privatisation programme would be engendered in the New Year and that planned sale of pseudo monopolies like NITEL, refineries, Peugeot Auto Mobile of Nigeria (PAN), Volkswagen of Nigeria etc., should be executed successfully.

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**Topic:**

***Reforming Nigeria, which Model?***

**Speakers**

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**Professor Sam Aluko**

**Malam Sanusi Lamido Sanusi**

*(Special Adviser to the Vice President on Economic Matters)*

*(Former Chairman National Economic Intelligence Committee)*

*(DGM Risk Management Department UBA)*

**Chairman of the Occasion**

**Chief Ernest Shonekan**

*(Former Head of Interim Government)*

**Special Guest of Honour**

**Vice President Atiku Abubakar**

*Turakin Adamawa*

**Chief Host**

**Malam Nasir el-Rufa'i**

*FCT Minister*

**Royal Father of The Day**

**His Royal Highness**

*Etsu Nupe, Alhaji Yahaya Abubakar*

**Other Important Guests include:**

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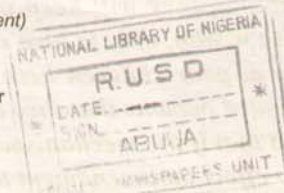
The occasion will also witness the Formal Presentation of the book; *Carrying a Burden* which is the proceedings of the 1st Annual Trust Dialogue held on January 15, 2004 by the Special Guest of Honour, Vice President, Atiku Abubakar

**Venue:** Ladi Kwali Hall, Abuja Sheraton Hotels & Towers

**Date:** Thursday 13th January, 2005

**Time:** 10:00am

*Signed*  
Management  
09-5235787, 5236054, 6705987



# ABBA GANA SHETTIMA

on Fridays

ashettima@hotmail.com

## Opinion

### Nuhu Ribadu as "Person of the Year"

The selection of Malam Nuhu Ahmadu Ribadu, the Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) as Person of the Year by LEADERSHIP newspaper (Vol. 1 No. 15, January 9, 2005) is an apt choice. A contagious get rich syndrome, aided by corruption and other forms of economic and financial crimes, has become institutionalized in this nation.

Corruption, the Nigerian made "Weapon of Mass Destruction" (WMD) has been ravaging the nation with a merciless ferocity for decades. Somehow, this social and economic WMD must be destroyed, because it is not less devastating than the dreaded biological and chemical ones.

Corruption maims and kills—by denying millions of Nigerians the basic essentials of human life—food, water and shelter, and converting hospitals and clinics into mere "consulting

Newsweek magazine reported a study from Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University, which estimated that the city's 1,000 entertainment houses pay bribes of \$600,000 a month to the local police. Nothing extraordinary, you might say. But wait! Newsweek further reported that 'the alliance between the police and the fleshpots has fueled an AIDS epidemic. Health officials say more than 400,000 Thais have been infected with the AIDS virus, most of them in brothels an honest police force would have closed long ago'.

Here in Nigeria, how many armed robbers, assassins, drug peddlers and ritual killers daily slip through police check points because our officers would rather busy themselves collecting unofficial road tax from travellers? See what corruption can do?

I normally give a simple example to my students to demonstrate that "corruption doesn't pay anybody" with those who

cannot peacefully sleep because of the anger of the poor', so goes an adage.

In carrying out his daunting task of fighting economic and financial crimes with a relentless zeal and unparalleled patriotism, Nuhu Ribadu has carved out a golden niche for himself as an exemplary public servant worthy of every accolade. In this land where public service has been converted into an avenue for personal enrichment, it is indeed gratifying to note that people like Nuhu Ribadu have dared to be different. In striving to fight corruption to a standstill, Nuhu Ribadu is helping everybody, including the corrupt and saving us from ourselves, as it were.

The war on corruption is not going to be an easy one and people like Nuhu Ribadu shouldn't be left to fight it alone. Everybody has a stake in this war. Every Nigerian is either with this war or against it, because there is no neutral fence where anybody can comfortably sit and watch.

The first and most

**"Unless such state officials are held accountable, they will keep on stealing our collective wealth, only to turn round and fling pittance at poor children here and there, the openhanded persons that they are. Personally, I submit that if the mechanisms are not put in place to effect an amendment to the immunity clause without more ado, we should at once stop all pretence and declare a truce: no more war on corruption!"**

clinics' (when the consultants are there).

Children in public primary schools sit on bare floor to be taught illiteracy because officials at all levels of government, with billions of Naira at their disposal, do not care about public education. State officials have built their own schools, including universities, and for all they care, public schools can go moldy and the children of the poor—those born with gourds and wooden spoons—can keep on reproducing the illiteracy, the poverty and the powerlessness of their parents. The circulation of the poor ensures the circulation of the elites! Another of the evils that corrode a nation is far away Thailand, only added to drive home our point. In 1994, long before the devastating Asian-Isotami-American

steal public money and buy fleet of cozy cars, only to end up negotiating the potholes on the roads with the rest of us—poor mortals.

Their cars may of course be 'better' and 'bigger' but they cannot avoid using the public roads on which everybody must travel, one way or the other. Road accidents, more often than not caused by bad roads, do not discriminate the poor and the rich.

Furthermore, public officials and many others with access to state funds brazenly steal public funds and build fortified mansions, which often look like a penal complex. What is more, even within such fortifications, they are neither safe from the grinding axe of armed robbers and assassins nor from the nifty ploys of the horde of refined swindlers. 'If the poor cannot sleep because of hunger, the rich

important challenging task in the war against corruption is the necessary constitutional amendment to the immunity clause for state governors and other public office holders. EFCC should not take pride and satisfaction in jailing the easy preys, those who have no immunity such as bank executives, while the real criminals, those who hide under immunity to betray monumental public trust and rob their people of billions of Naira are left free. Unless such state officials are held accountable, they will keep on stealing our collective wealth, only to turn round and fling pittance at poor children here and there, the openhanded persons that they are. Personally, I submit that if the mechanisms are not put in place to effect an amendment to the immunity clause without more ado, we should at once stop all pretence and declare a truce: no more war on corruption!"

### New initiatives on universities

Investing in universities is the most effective way to rebuild the foundation for independent thinking in Africa. The university should become Africa's premier institutional home that takes up the great task of global engagement without any sacrifice of the "idea independence" that is a university's hallmark.

The university is naturally inclined to seek out connections abroad and can thus define the principles and practices on

By Okello Oculi  
Corporation of New York November 9-11, 1997. Prewitt taught at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, and also served as a vice-president in the Rockefeller Foundation. The following proposition are a take-off from his comment.

The "Brain Drain" in the last two decades has, paradoxically, left behind in Nigeria's universities academics who (even though lacking in contacts with scholars in North

increases) deepened this bitterness and disempowerment. With the arrival of the World Bank, UNDP and UNICEF, etc as financiers of research, these pauperised Nigerian academics are unable to fight the imposition of pre-determined research agenda

by these foreign agencies. Academic nationalism, as reflected in priority areas selected for research, had become severally compromised for those who benefited from such

**"With the arrival of the World Bank, UNDP and UNICEF, etc as financiers of research, these pauperised Nigerian academics are unable to fight the imposition of pre-determined Research agenda by these foreign agencies. Academic nationalism, as reflected in priority areas selected for research, had become severally compromised for those who benefited from such findings"**

which connectivity must rest. It is also, and justly so, fiercely protective of its right to generate its own ideas, theories, methods, and values. That is, it represents, or can represent, the best of Africa—engages-the-world and Africa-protects-its- uniqueness. Africa needs an independent, institutional home for the production of ideas and for people with ideas. Smart "people need colleagues, infrastructure, opportunities for discourse, and the opportunity to pass "along ideas from one generation to the next".

Professor Ken Prewitt, is cited in Jennifer F. Klot, *New Directions for Africa: Trends in Economic Development, governance, and Knowledge Use* (Report of a Meeting Convened by Carnegie

America and Western Europe), are potentially patriotic because they are in the main, home grown and trained in local post-graduate programmes.

They have few contacts with editors of prestigious foreign journals or agents who control access to publishing. This isolation and sense of being shut out of the "been-to" medal of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s has in some cases bred much bitterness, and hindered the growth of "idea independence".

In some campuses academics watch more football matches on television than make trips to libraries, do field research, and write.

The collapse of their incomes and means of access to current journals and books (particularly before the Obasanjo salary

findings. Scholars who insisted on using Marxist framework found themselves denied access to funding support. Several policy implications suggest themselves.

In order to underline Nigeria's foreign policy objective of giving leadership and socio-economic priority to Africa, a Special Africa Research Fund should be established for supporting Nigerian academics and research scholars to travel, do research, and publish their works in individual African countries and regions.

Funds should also be made available to support Think Tanks which can offer complementary outlets to academics.

Nigeria should also give the lead to Africa by funding Mixed Alls Africa Research Teams for studying the Americas, Asia, the Middle East, Russia, and Western Europe. Such collective research would support the African Unit's diplomatic initiatives in the next decades.

Priority should also be attached to Giving Visibility to Libraries on campuses, in towns and Local Government headquarters. Nigerian society's "Gliterati" should be urged to link social prestige with donating libraries and books to academic institutions and community libraries.

Local communities should be encouraged to establish libraries in their villages and township neighbourhoods.

**"Nigerian society's "Gliterati" should be urged to link social prestige with donating libraries and books to academic institutions and community libraries. Local communities should be encouraged to establish libraries in their villages and township neighbourhoods"**



## YOUR LETTERS

### 2007: How Nasarawa will vote

It is not out of place to start talking of elections in 2007, especially with how posters are giving our cities new look, and it might be untimely if the discussion does not start now.

In Nasarawa state, there are more than a hundred people or better put dreamers who want to be governor in 2007. Few of them are aspirants, few will be contestants and a majority of them may not know, they are just flying the kite.

One criteria that will work come 2007 in Nasarawa state is history. As Professor Aliyu Babatunde Fanfua wrote: "History is to a people what memory is to the individual, a people with no knowledge of their past will suffer from collective amnesia walling blindly into the future without a guide post of precedence to shape their cause".

The people of Nasarawa state will not go into 2007 blinding because we shall make recourse to history to find solace, and we shall start with the struggle for the creation of the state.

By the time the scroll containing the list of men who supported or opposed the creation of the state is rolled out, we shall see men who want to govern us come 2007 among those who opposed the creation of the state.

They cannot govern a state they never wished it existed. Let them go back to Plateau state to contest. Have they forgotten Haruna Abubakar who opposed the creation of our dear state and later contested for governorship of the state? He was told simply, you cannot reap what you did not sow.

When the scroll is finally rolled out, it will influence decisions. For now, only time can unveil this bug before then, just keep a vigil.

**Suleyman Bin Muhammad Odapu Writers Collective, Mass Comm. Dept. Bayero University Kano.**

### The 5<sup>th</sup> Columnists at FCT water board

The crusading Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Mallam el-Rufai, is setting a precedent in an uncommon courage to prosecute the war against corruption and restoration of due process.

That is why it has dawned on popular consciousness that even long after the minister might have left office, it will not be possible that people will circumvent the due process, because of the shadow, the minister may have cast on the landscape of the FCT.

However, a very

important parastatal in the FCT, in which the Augean stable of yester years dirt's are being swept with crusading vigour, is the water board.

Within the FCT water Board, a crucial and very sensitive department is that of accounts and finance. It's head is diligent.

Given the sensitive nature of the board, both the director and the head of administration and finance endeavors to place the right people in the right place, hoping to achieve efficiency in service delivery.

Sadly, a very unpatriotic clique driven by self aggrandizement and greed, exist in the water board and it generally uses anonymous disposition to thwart and subvert the genuine effort of the top hierarchy.

Their strategy is reversal of transfers of staff posted to sensitive and strategic areas of the board and substituting them with pliable minions who are loyal to them only, to the detriment of the board. The greedy self-serving clique has been carrying on as if there are no rules and checks and almost

succeeding in demoralizing highly motivated staff.

The imperative to stem the tide of the painful phenomenon in the water board is for the management to take more than a cursory look at the internal posting and examine whether they have conformed to laid down procedures and above all, whether it has been done to achieve maximum organizational goals.

Except this is done, this entrenched vicious clique whose interest is at total variance with the goals and

mission of the water board will bring the genuine efforts of it's management to a grievous naught. A stitch in time they say saves nine.

Time to act is now otherwise this cankerworm of corruption and nepotism represented by this greedy clique will carry the day.

As the water board is the flagship of all FCT parastatals, it is only natural that its internal affairs should be as transparent as the clean water it serves the FCT residents.

**Danlami A. Mohammed Wuse Zone 5 in Abuja.**

### Costly roads? Adamu Adamu should come to Gombe

Adamu Adamu's Friday Column in *Daily Trust* of December 31, 2004 was an eye-opener to many of us who had been hoodwinked by our various state governments that the mere construction of roads were achievements big enough to celebrate, without looking at the costs and durability of the projects.

I only hope that the writer would turn on his searchlight 150 kilometers east of Bauchi, i.e. to Gombe, where the

government is pompously relying on shoddy road projects to say it has performed beyond reproach. I agree with Adamu that executing road projects in Bauchi is not an excuse to steal public funds through inflation of contracts.

But he should come to Gombe for a shock of his life, as the roads here, unlike Governor Ahmadu Mu'a'zu's, have started to rupture only one year after.

**Bashir Abdullahi, Madaki Quarters, Gombe.**

### Adieu Wada Nas

The death of Wada Nas has robbed Nigeria of a statesman of high standing who was never afraid to speak in truth.

Just as (Ujudud Shariff) said, he will be missed and remembered for generations yet to come, because he was a great fighter and defender for the north and its single and most vibrant

Indeed his death was certainly the end of an era and even his enemies would not deny that.

May the Almighty Allah reward him with Aljannah Fiddausi for all the good things he did and may he yet to come, because he was a great fighter and defender for the north and its single and most vibrant

**Atiku Abdul Azeez**

Reactions to articles published in this paper may be directed to the editor via the email address: [editor@dailytrust.com](mailto:editor@dailytrust.com)

## Opinion

# This King has danced naked

It is amazing that President Obasanjo is carrying on as if all is well with this country's leadership. Even, kings abdicate the throne, when their conduct is in clear breach of established principles and rules.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of December, the blind from birth British former Home Secretary, Mr David Blunkett announced his resignation, following a revelation that he "fast tracked" a visa application of a Filipino nanny for his estranged girl friend. He announced that he did not want government to be distracted by his personal travails and regretted sullying the government by the favour in fast-tracking the visa application. The sight of having this enigma, who overcome personal handicap to rise to the enviable height could melt the hardest of hearts, but the tradition that government business must be done in strict compliance and according to the highest consideration of public interest overwhelmed all personal empathies to the departing home secretary.

Yet, General Obasanjo sits tight in the hallowed number one office in the land, when he has revealed that his state counterpart in Anambra state was brought to office by means other than the electoral process. The henchman of the Anambra

By Charles Onunaija  
infamy, a former car washer, whose current billions of naira was spinned by a connection to State power, was too bold to paint a graphic picture of criminally putting somebody in public office, with out the slight regards to public sensibility.

The President of the country wants this felon reconciled to the illegitimate occupant of public office. Shamelessly, he set up committees to reconcile them and even empathizes with the felon and gangster who must be rewarded from the public resources. President Obasanjo description of Governor Ngeige's resignation letters and a video tape to that effect prior even to the election makes him no less different from a village head.

If he has incontrovertible evidence of criminal violation of electoral rules as was clearly evident of the tape and letters, why didn't his sudden moral outrage that led to his asking the "two armed robbers" to leave his house inform him to testify to the Anambra election petition tribunal that the election in that state was stolen.

And more importantly, had the godson and godfather between the two Chris gone ahead smoothly, would Obasanjo have had any qualms in

revealing his moral outrage. Didn't Chris Ubah openly boast that he installed every purportedly election office holder in Anambra state, ring the same tone, with Mr Tony Anineh similar boast that there is no vacancy in Aso Rock, and that all PDP governors will return to office, long before election was held. Perhaps, an open quarrel between General Obasanjo and his henchmen will reveal the detail of how they did it. But since the President is honouring, his agreement unlike the brash governor Chris Ngeige, there will be no spilling of the beans. If Chief Obasanjo is not delivering on the debt of his election charade, he wouldn't have thought that Chris Ubah deserved to be paid and therefore set out machinery for the reconciliation of the governor and the man who invented him as one.

How could any body in his right sense describe the Ubah/Ngeige saga as a political problem. A transactions that is not only totally at variance with constitutionalism but an open subversion of it and totally reprehensible to all shades of moral etiquette and proper conduct is defended by a President, who had the effrontery to challenge the party Chairman to reconcile the parties to this criminal

absurdity. By the time Obasanjo and his party exits the national stage, Nigeria would have become a full metaphor and reference point to criminal impunity and gangster haven that the notorious Bermuda triangle would have looked like the new Jerusalem.

The Anambra electoral infamy is only a prologue to the wider political fraud that traversed the Abel Guobadia show of shame. When the full story is told, if ever it will be, Mr Abel Guobadia and his petty commission fronted to organize a national waste of time would occupy an odious chapter. The man still sit tight at the buccaneer facade fronted as electoral alibi to masquerade the most heinous usurpation of public office with out the mendacity of a coup d'etat.

American very competent President Mr Bill Clinton was haunted and even impeached by the house of representative for lying under oath, about a private affair. The water gate scandal that swept away the Richard Nixon's presidency pales into insignificance when compared with the epistle of our emperor where he revealed his privy to felony and other illicit subversion of the constitution. Yet he carries on as if nothing happened and even have the effrontery to call the odious

correspondence between him and the PDP national Chairman, a "1-1 draw". Could a revelation of how more than 140 million people were duped, defrauded and despised be reduced to a cherry '1-1' draw, joke? General Obasanjo has not only brought the institution of the Presidency to disrepute, but has mocked the constitution and the due process which it inspired. If he has any shred of personal respect, he should quit and leave Nigeria to sort out itself.

The letter revealed so much about terrible things, done under his leadership. He agreed with the party Chairman that former Governor Mbadinuju needed a soft landing as an ambassador to a foreign country after he has been a disaster as a governor. What message has General Obasanjo conveyed to the outside world? That men who are disaster at home could be representative abroad. Why should foreign governments take Nigerian envoys serious, when they are incompetents and disasters at home. Has diplomatic work become such an unserious endeavour that only malcontents, who are not fit for any job at home can do it.

The enlightened world would be assaulted by the odium of official mediocrity

that pervade our public life. The entire Nigeria diplomatic crew abroad has been rubbished in a single stroke of the emperors anger and reduced to a baggage of failed political clan. The world in her normal pretension, might appear uninterested in the Nigerian sordid affairs, but nonetheless, it has duly taken notice.

The evident revelation in Chief Obasanjo's letter is that Nigeria is run on the whims and caprices of its henchmen and the constitution is a worthless document. Now that Chief Obasanjo is known to undermine the constitution, rather than uphold it, has he not danced naked enough to quit the stage? His political jobbers are rooting for the head of Chief Audu Ogbah for firing the first salvo that led to the exchange of letters. These men are the same set of people who rooted for Babangida, Abacha, Abubakar and should even a cow or goat be procured and be arranged to sit in Aso Rock, so long that it dishes favours, cash and other unearned wealth, the same men would crave for its perpetual rule a cow. They are society dregs but the tragedy of our time is that they are in charge.

Mr Onunaija is a journalist based in Abuja.

## Thoughts on democracy

The constitution of any country, written or unwritten stands as the only instrument that sets the bond between the citizen and the state. It also protects, safe guard as well as define the rights of the citizen. The Nigerian constitution is indeed no exception to the above, as confirmed by chapter 3 section 25 and section 42 of the constitution.

Prime among the demands of a country from its citizen is a high level of patriotism, the pillar upon which all other national demands on a citizen is built. The citizen, in return, demands prime among other expectations from the state, justice and fair play in his inter-relationship with other components, along side a window of opportunities.

The first qualification along others for aspiring to any elective post in any country is fulfilling the criteria of being first, among other things, a citizen. The Nigerian democracy as it relates to the present was and is still no exception, hence the election of 2003 was contested by

Bala Mohammed Tijani  
qualified citizens of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the person of Chief Olasegun Aremi Obasanjo and Alhaji

*"However the election 2003 case stands as the most shocking to the Nigerian democracy. The legitimacy of any government is sourced from democracy and democracy itself is engineered by the rule of separation of powers and finally by the rule of law. In the words of an early philosopher Hegel, "it is the evil in men that makes democracy necessary and the good in men that makes democracy possible"*

Muhammudu Buhari. This election has indeed formed beyond any reasonable doubt the basis of questioning the legitimacy of this administration evidently also by the challenge of the result of the election by Gen. Muhammadu Buhari at the Federal court of appeal in Abuja. This one could argue that this was born out of the

conviction of the petitioner to the election of the relevance, and his recognition of the institutions governing any

democratic state. He also could be said to be patriotic by seeking redress through lawful means rather than violence.

The rule of separation of powers in a democracy did not come into being at the same time with the concept of democracy itself, rather it came into being much later as a result of redress to the

concept of democracy. Developed as a political ombudsman to the organs of government by a French philosopher Montesquieu in

the eighteenth century, when applied properly and effectively, it is the only guarantee to the rule of law in any democracy. The rule works on the idea that any government of a genuine democracy should be run on the basis of three arms of government namely. The executive legislative and judicial areas.

Each independent of the others along side its responsibilities to the citizen whom in most cases rests as the final abode of sovereignty. In any democracy the executive is thus charged with the responsibility of administering state infrastructure and the provision of social requirements of the citizenry. The legislative on the other hand is charged with the responsibility of making the laws of the land as well as guiding the executive arm towards popular public opinion for effective governance. Whilst the judiciary stands as the interpreter of the laws and the final impartial arbiter where genuine separation of power exists.

The present democratic dispensation has never been put to test itself. Vis a Vis the concept of genuine democracy the crisis of election 2003. The recent decision of the federal court of appeal has forced the petitioner to move his case further to the supreme court of justice the highest court. The admission of the court

of appeal keys further the question of the authenticity of the existence of the rule of law in the Nigerian context.

So far the Nigerian judiciary has done fairly well as public opinion has clearly indicated a pass mark to that arm of government as evident in its handling of the government/labour cases and others.

The executive arm also on its part so far has been a responsible player in the game of democracy by adhering to the rulings of the judiciary in the past without contempt. However the election 2003 case stands as the most shocking to the Nigerian democracy. The legitimacy of any government is sourced from democracy and democracy itself is engineered by the rule of separation of powers and finally by the rule of law. In the words of an early philosopher Hegel, "it is the evil in men that makes democracy necessary and the good in men that makes democracy possible."

Bala Mohammed Tijani  
writes from  
47 Kinshasa Road, U/  
Rimi G.R.A., Kaduna state.



# Trust International

## 300 dead in Somali tsunami crisis- Report

Almost 300 Somalis have died in the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster, the regional authorities said.

At a news conference, officials in the semi-independent region of Puntland announced that 298 Somalis had died.

The giant waves hit the north-eastern Somali coastline at the height of the fishing season, when the population of coastal villages was larger than usual.

The United Nations has distributed more than 200 tonnes of food aid to 12,000 Somalis so far, it said.

The UN agency, the World Food Programme, said up to 30,000 require food assistance.

The largest quantities of food are being distributed in the Hafun peninsula, which was one of the worst affected areas.

The UN has four teams in the area to assess the damage and provide aid.

On Tuesday the UN launched an appeal for help saying at least \$13m was urgently needed to help some 54,000 Somalis affected by the tsunami.

Along the north-eastern coast a large number of shelters, fishing boats and equipment have been lost or damaged and wells have been washed away.

Relief workers have been trying to distribute immediate aid, such as food and clean water, to survivors.

But they said they are finding it difficult to reach a number of areas because some of the road tracks have become impassable and the main bridge which connects the Hafun peninsula to the Somali mainland has been washed away.

US and German soldiers, based in neighbouring Djibouti, have been helping aid agencies in Somalia to get fresh water and other supplies to the survivors.

Somali Prime Minister Ali

Mohammed Gbedi cancelled a planned visit to the affected region at the weekend.

It would have been his first trip to Somalia since his appointment from exile in Kenya.

South Africa's Nelson Mandela, one of Africa's most committed campaigners in the battle against AIDS has called for increased international efforts against HIV/AIDS after announcing that his only surviving son had succumbed to the disease yesterday.

## Mandela intensifies AID campaign as son dies

Makgatho Mandela, 54, died in a Johannesburg clinic where he had been receiving treatment for more than a month.

"I announce that my son has died of AIDS," the 86-year-old Nobel Peace laureate told a news conference, urging a redoubled fight against the disease.

"Let us give publicity to HIV/AIDS and not hide it, because the only way to make it appear like a normal illness like TB, like cancer, is always to come out and to say somebody has died because of HIV/AIDS. And people will stop regarding it as something extraordinary," said a frail-looking Mandela, surrounded by his grandchildren and other family members.

Mandela's announcement of his personal AIDS tragedy challenged the widespread taboo which keeps many Africans from discussing an epidemic which now infects more than 25 million people across the continent.

Makgatho Mandela was a lawyer with a background in insurance who kept a relatively low profile. He had been married twice and had three sons, all of whom appeared with Mandela as he announced the cause of their father's death.

Mandela had canceled several holiday engagements over the past month to remain close to his ailing son. He has several daughters from his marriages including two from his second wife Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.

## Kenyan becomes US senator

Kenyan, Mr. Barack Obama officially became a US senator on Tuesday at a ceremony attended by his relatives from Kenya and Cabinet minister Raphael Tuju.

During the ceremony, Mr Obama placed his hand on his family Bible as he became the fifth African-American member of the US Senate in its 210-year history.

And in Nyanzima Kogelo Village in Siaya District - the birthplace of Mr Obama's father - residents were celebrating yesterday following the senator's swearing-in.

The swearing-in ceremony was held on Capitol Hill, Washington DC. It capped the meteoric rise to global prominence by the 43-year-old son of a Kenyan father and an American mother, both dead.

A year ago, Mr. Obama was a little-known state legislator from Chicago who referred to himself on the campaign trail as "a skinny guy with a funny name".

However, he went on to win the Democratic Party's nomination for a Senate seat from the state of Illinois and then overwhelmed his Republican opponent in the November election.



Sudanese Vice-president Ali Osman Taha (R) and Sudan People Liberation Army (SPLA) rebel leader John Garang.

## Garang to become Sudan's vice president

The leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) will become the country's top vice-president next month, a rebel spokesman said.

"John Garang will be sworn in immediately after 20 February," rebel spokesman Samson Kwaje said in Nairobi on Wednesday.

He was citing the details of a protocol, signed last Friday between SPLM and the Sudanese government, on the

implementation of the final peace deal.

According to the power-sharing deal agreed to in May, the leader of the SPLM will occupy the vice-presidency up to the end of the third year, when general elections will be held.

The Sudanese first vice-presidency is currently occupied by Ali Usman Taha, who had been negotiating face-to-face with Garang,

since September 2003. The fate of Taha remains unclear.

Sudan's President Umar al-Bashir and Garang will sign the final peace deal on Sunday in the Kenyan capital, before several African leaders.

"The first thing after signing will be passing of an interim constitution," Lazaro Sumbeywo, a Kenyan army general mediating in the peace talks, said.

According to the deal signed last week, an interim constitution must be passed by the end of the sixth week from when a final agreement is signed on Sunday.

Also on Sunday, the first half of the oil revenue is expected to be transferred from the Khartoum government to SPLM in line with the wealth-sharing agreement agreed to in January last year, spokesman Kwaje added.

The signature is to definitively end war in southern Sudan, which erupted in September 1983 when the rebels rose up against Khartoum's Arab and Muslim domination of the south. The conflict was complicated by issues of oil, ethnicity and ideology.

The war and its effects have killed at least 1.5 million people and displaced four million others.

The peace deal does not cover a conflict in the western Sudanese region of Darfur, where tens of thousands of people and about 1.6 million others displaced by nearly two years of clashes between rebels and government troops and their proxy militias.

While visiting Eritrea on Wednesday to hold talks with President Isaias Afewerki, Garang pledged to push for a peaceful resolution of the conflicts in Sudan, including those raging in Darfur.

## ... as AU consents to peacekeeping troops in Somalia

The African Union has agreed in principle to provide troops to allow the newly elected Somali government to be installed in the capital, Mogadishu.

At present, the Somali president and parliament are working out of Kenya, because of fears for their security.

The African Union provided no details of when the force would be deployed, or what their mandate would be.

Somalia has been without an effective government since the overthrow of President Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991.

New Somali President Abdullahi Yusuf has asked the AU to provide between 15,000 and 20,000 troops. Uganda is reported to have offered 2,000 soldiers for the new force.

In Sudan's Darfur region, the first major deployment of AU troops has been criticised for failing to end the violence there.

Troop delays and a limited mandate have combined to restrict their effectiveness.

Kenya is urging the Somali government to return home, but Somali officials said that it is not yet safe enough to end their exile.

Kenya has hosted a two-year peace process that led to the forming of a Somali cabinet last year.

Somali MPs in Nairobi have still to approve a new cabinet, after rejecting a previously appointed government.

During the past 13 years, rival warlords have battled for

control of the country and Somalia has been divided into a patchwork of fiefdoms.

All the major warlords are involved in the two-year peace process in neighbouring Kenya that led to President Abdullahi's election, raising hopes that Somalia could soon return to normal.

## Bombers kill 18 in Algeria

Algerian activists were suspected to have killed 18 people in an ambush of an army convoy south of the capital Algiers.

The *L'Expression* newspaper said some 50 extremists used a bomb to blow up the convoy and then raked it with machine-gun fire, killing 13 soldiers and five civilians who were travelling with them.

The attack took place in the early hours of Monday in a remote area in the region of Biskra, some 420 kilometers south of the capital, the paper said Wednesday.

Some of the soldiers were able to fire back, reportedly injuring some of the assailants.

The paper said the rebels, said to be from Algeria's extremist Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), were later surrounded by security forces.

The attack was the deadliest in Algeria since 16 people were murdered more than three months ago in the region of Medea, also south of Algiers.

The GSPC has become the principal extremist group in

Algeria's Islamist rebellion that has left some 150,000 people dead since 1992. It was allegedly founded on the instructions of Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

The group was linked to the kidnapping last year of 32 European tourists, most of them Germans, in southern Algeria.

One group was freed in a raid by Algerian soldiers, but the other was forced to trek across the desert into Mali, before they were eventually released, allegedly in exchange for a ransom.

One of the hostages, a German woman, died in captivity.

Observers believe the GSPC group responsible for Monday's attack was backed by militants from other regions and is headed by Mokhtar Belmokhtar, who security forces say recently returned to Algeria after going into hiding in neighboring Mali.

*L'Expression* newspaper said that following the arrest in October of the radical group's number two leader, Amari Saifi, who was handed over by Libya, Belmokhtar has rallied hardline members

of the GSPC who have managed to survive in the south of the country thanks to contraband and drug traffickers.

According to authorities the GSPC has between 300 and 500 members.

The GSPC has become the only organized extremist group still operating in the country following the demise of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), once considered the deadliest radical movement fighting secular authorities.

Algeria's government on Monday announced that the killing in July of the head of the GIA has led to the "almost total collapse" of the group.

It said that action by security forces had reduced the GIA to "about 30 terrorists split into two groups... (which) security forces continue to hunt down."

The GIA, which rejected any deal with the government to end a fundamentalist insurgency that began in 1992, is held responsible for the massacres of civilians in the name of what its leaders saw as a war to enforce compliance with strict Sharia Muslim law in a secular state.

## Trust International

## Iraq elections delay too risky -PM

Iraq's Prime Minister, Ayad Allawi, is sticking to his position that the country's elections should be held Jan. 30, despite daily insurgent attacks and calls by some for a delay to win over minority Sunnis. He may have little choice.

The government said it does not want to give in to the degradation of violence by Sunni-led insurgents, but there's another reason. Iraq risks even wider violence if it infuriates the Shiites, who make up 60 percent of this nation and are eager to parlay the ballot into a leading political role.

Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi and President Bush have repeatedly promised that the vote will go

forward, and both American and Iraqi officials have warned the insurgents would step up their campaign of violence beforehand.

Allawi recognised that problem in a press conference on Wednesday, when he said some political groups had asked him for a delay. He said there was no clear plan for what to do during the delay to make the vote more credible.

"I told them, 'What shall we do during this period? What are we going to do if the elections were postponed for a month or two? Is there an alternative that we can study?'" Allawi said. "In fact, none of the brothers who call for postponing elections ... had anything tangible to offer

for the period during which elections will be delayed."

To back down now would allow the insurgents to claim victory, as well as seriously damage Allawi's credibility before an election in which he is also running as a candidate.

"It would lead to more degradation in security and cause a political crisis because the interim government would lose its legitimacy and credibility," said Saad Jawad, a Shiite and senior member of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq. "The majority of the Iraqis will be frustrated and will deem the political powers, which have repeatedly promised them the vote, unethical."

In an interview with U.S.-supported *Alhurra* television station on Wednesday, Iraq's interim president, Ghazi al-Yawer, a Sunni whose post is mostly symbolic, said Iraq has a "legal, political and moral duty to abide by the election date" but also suggested that Iraqis needed to think hard about whether a legitimate vote could be held, and if not, should consider a delay.

"I see that we should continue working on how to

hold the elections on schedule but we should not move or lack the courage if we see that this is impossible," al-Yawer said.

On Monday, Iraqi Defense Minister Hazem Shaalan told reporters in Cairo that he has asked Egypt to try to persuade the Sunnis to participate in the elections.

"And if they agreed, then we could postpone the date to let all Iraqis go to the polls in one day," he said.

There is only one body that can decide whether to delay the vote — Iraq's electoral commission. And so far, no one has submitted a formal request asking that the vote be delayed.

Jawad's party is a key player in the coalition of mainstream Shiite parties that is running for the elections. He insisted that Shiites would not resort to violence if the vote is delayed, saying that Grand Ayatollah Ali al-

Sistani, the influential Shiite leader who has been a leading proponent of elections, would not condone it.

But other Shiite clerics and their followers might. One success the United States and its allies have had in neutralising dissent has been its handling of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. He's kept his militia quiet since a cease-fire agreement in the holy city of Najaf, and fighting in the Shiite district of Baghdad's Sadr City ended in April.

And mainstream Shiites could also make things extremely difficult for the government if the vote is delayed. For example, they could call on their supporters in cities like Najaf, Baghdad, and Karbala to rise up in protest, essentially paralyzing much of the south.

## ...18 found dead in Mosul

The bodies of 18 young Iraqis executed after seeking work at a U.S. base have been found in a field near the volatile city of Mosul, police said yesterday.

Police in Baghdad said the insurgents shot the men, aged between 14 and 20, on Dec. 8 after stopping their two mini-buses about 30 miles west of Mosul as they traveled from Baghdad.

Their hands were tied behind their back and each of them was shot in the head. All of them were Shiite Muslims from Baghdad's northern neighborhood of Kadhimiya who were hired by an Iraqi contractor to work at a U.S. base in Mosul.

Their corpses were discovered on Wednesday and were taken to the Kadhimiya hospital in Baghdad, police said. Police in Mosul confirmed the killings, but could not provide more details.

Mosul, a predominantly Sunni city 225 miles north of Baghdad, was relatively peaceful in the immediate aftermath of the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime last year.

But it has become a hotspot of violent insurgency ever since U.S.-Iraqi forces invaded the main guerrilla stronghold of Fallujah in November. Most of the Fallujah militants are believed to have fled either to Mosul or to Baghdad.

A suicide attack on Dec. 21 in a mess tent at a U.S. base Mosul led 22 people dead, including 14 American soldiers.

## Odd World

## Pregnant woman survives in sea after Tsunami

An Indonesian woman who was plucked from the sea after clinging to a palm tree for five days in the wake of a devastating tsunami heard Wednesday that she is 18 weeks pregnant with her first child.

"I'm very glad, very happy," 25-year-old Malawati said from her hospital bed in the northern Malaysian island of Penang after doctors gave her the news following medical checks.

The farmer from Indonesia's Aceh province, which was among the worst hit by the Dec. 26 disaster, said she could not wait to share the news with her husband of four years and relatives, although she was not sure how many of them had survived the tsunami. When the waves swept her out to sea, Malawati clung to a sago palm and lived off its fruit before being rescued by a passing Malaysian tuna-fishing boat last Friday.

"I slipped twice, but managed to hold on," she said. "I saw sharks around me but prayed they wouldn't hurt me."

Malawati said that another woman from her village who had clung to the tree had disappeared after three days at sea.

More than 94,000 Indonesians have been killed in tidal waves that struck the Aceh province in the west of the Indonesian archipelago after a massive undersea earthquake.

## Smugglers hide heroin in puppies' bellies

Colombian drug traffickers surgically hid heroin in puppies' bellies in a plan to evade international customs controls, police said on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, police found six puppies with scars on their abdomens at a rural property near the city of Medellin in northern Colombia, the Colombian Police said in a news release.

Ultrasound scans revealed bags of liquid heroin hidden inside the living animals. Police said traffickers planned to retrieve the drug once the dogs had passed customs abroad.

"The lust for money leads criminals to commit acts of great cruelty," the police said.

The puppies were recovered after the heroin was removed by veterinarians.

Using animals for smuggling is unusual although drug smugglers often rely on couriers to swallow condoms full of drugs and one Colombian woman was once found with cocaine surgically implanted in her buttocks.

Colombia is the world's largest producer of cocaine and the main supplier of heroin to the United States.

## Woman, 55, delivers triplets for daughter

A 55-year-old woman acting as a surrogate for her daughter gave birth to triplets Tuesday.

The Cade, who already had three children, delivered the babies by Caesarean section at Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital.

She had carried the babies for her oldest daughter, Camille Hammond, who suffers from endometriosis, a condition affecting the lining of the uterus that makes it difficult to become pregnant.

Hammond and her husband, both doctors at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, had tried for four years to become pregnant.

Cade started hormone treatment last winter, and in the spring she underwent test-tube fertilization. Three embryos were implanted and all three survived.

"We didn't plan for triplets," Cade said recently. "I thought we would be blessed with one. It was quite a surprise."



Iraqi Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi

## Hamas owns up to attack on Israeli base

Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades have claimed responsibility for firing two mortar shells at an Israeli military base, according to a statement.

*Aljazeera's* correspondent in Palestine, Wail al-Dahdub, reporting from Gaza said Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam had issued a statement claiming responsibility for attacking an Israeli military base near Nahal Oz, east of Gaza Strip.

Twelve Israeli soldiers were injured in the incident.

An Israeli army spokesman and Israeli public radio had confirmed the incident and said ten soldiers were lightly injured and two were in a serious condition.

The army confirmed the attack, but details of the incident were under censorship, according to media reports.

A number of mortar shells were also fired earlier on Wednesday at Israeli military targets in the Gaza Strip and its northern parts, al-Dahdub reported.

"One of the shells landed in Sderot area in northern Gaza Strip damaging a building in the Jewish settlement of Ghibin," he said.

"These operations came few hours after Fatah's al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades and Islamic Jihad's al-Quds Brigades had launched a joint operation at the Erez Israeli-

Gaza crossing targeting an Israeli military base," he added.

Israeli sources said they killed one of the Palestinian resistance fighters.

"However, the two organisations, al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades and al-Quds Brigades have issued a joint statement, stating that communication with the fighter has been cut off and his fate is yet unknown," al-Dahdub reported.

Palestinian sources said these operations come in response to the escalation of Israeli military incursions and killings.

While Israeli incursions continue unabated,

Palestinian presidential candidate continued campaigning in different parts of Palestine.

He attempted to visit a hospital in Bait Lahya, but was unable to step out of his vehicle due to heavy Israeli tank fire nearby.

Seven Palestinian youths, including five teenagers and an 11-year-old boy, were killed on Tuesday when Israeli tanks shelled a strawberry farm while it was being harvested.

Israel said the incursions and shelling is aimed at putting an end to rockets being fired at the military, and Sharon has given his army free rein to do so.

## US dismisses Afghan, Pakistan

## border clash

The United States military has dismissed border clashes between Pakistani and Afghan troops earlier this week as a "misunderstanding".

Fighting on the border between the two countries resulted in the death of a Pakistani soldier on Sunday.

Pakistan said the clashes were "totally unprovoked and uncalculated".

Troops from both sides exchanged artillery and mortar fire in the fighting, which took place in the North Waziristan tribal area of Pakistan.

"We believe that this was nothing more than a

misunderstanding between the two sides present on the ground at the time," US military spokesman Major Mark McCann told reporters in the capital, Rabul.

He said that measures had been put in place to prevent such incidents happening again.

US-led forces who have been fighting Taliban and al-Qaeda militants in Afghanistan for the last three years were not involved in the clashes, he said.

American officials also say that they have no knowledge of claims made by Pakistan that an American helicopter opened fire and killed the Pakistani soldier near the town of Miranshah.



**MINISTRY OF FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY  
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) UNIT**  
MFCT Secretariat, Kapital Road, Area 11, PMB 24, Garki, Abuja Nigeria.  
Tel: (09) 314 1295, 314 2371, Fax: (09) 314 3859

**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN MASS HOUSING PROJECTS IN THE FCT**

**PREAMBLE**

The Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory (MFCT), in line with the national vision for the provision of affordable housing to the citizens of Nigeria, has identified the need to partner with the private sector in the provision of houses. This effort we believe will not only provide cheap and affordable houses to Nigerians living in the FCT but will also create opportunities and boost production in construction related industries.

The MFCT is looking for competent companies that are interested in the provision of affordable mass housing and are willing to finance the provision of secondary infrastructure to the districts where the land is provided. It is expected that the housing units should not be less than two hundred and fifty (250) and must be completed within two years and six months.

The preferred method of delivery of the projects is through the Developer-Finance Scheme in which the developer sources for funds, develops the houses and infrastructure and recoups his investment from the sale of these houses.

Accordingly, the MFCT through the FCDA hereby invites interested investors to submit pre-qualification documents for the above mentioned projects.

**PRE-QUALIFICATION**

To be pre-qualified, interested investors must supply the followings [with relevant verifiable evidence] :-

- Profile of the firm or consortium including the list of the board of directors/their ownership structure and management team;
- Memorandum and articles of association;
- Method statement/ Workplan for the development of the housing scheme;
- Site plan and concept drawings;
- Cost analysis and financial projections;
- Length and terms of the financing structure;
- Share capital of the company;
- Power of Attorney (where applicable);
- Partnerships agreement (where applicable);
- Experience and qualification of staff;

- Construction period;
- List of similar investments or projects undertaken by the firm or members of the consortium;
- An outline of the firm or consortium's ability to raise the financial resources or a letter from financiers indicating willingness to finance the project;
- Other similar information to facilitate the evaluation of investor's capability, resources and track record;
- Quantity of land required should be expressed in hectares.

**SUBMISSION**

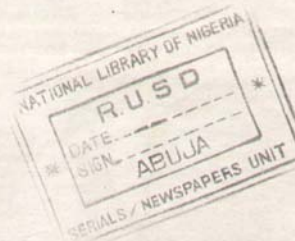
Completed submissions must be delivered in five (5) separate sealed envelopes clearly marked "Expression of Interest for Provision of Mass Housing in the FCT" to the address below, on or before 4.00 pm on Tuesday February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

"PPP Unit, Room 335, Minister's Block, MFCT Secretariat, Kapital Road, Area 11, PMB 24 Garki, Abuja-Nigeria".  
Attention: Mohammed Aliyu

**Note**

This is the last opportunity for all interested parties to express interest in mass housing projects. All unsolicited proposals henceforth may not be acknowledged.

Only shortlisted developers will be contacted.



On Saturday 4th December, 2004, Alhaji Baba Ahmed Yusuf, the Managing Director of NEXIM Bank, was turbaned as Walin Borgu, by HRH the Emir of Borgu, Dr. Senator Halilu Dantoro, Kitoro III. Below are some of the caption of the event.



Alhaji Baba Yusuf Ahmed (Walin Borgu) just turbaned



From left shows Alhaji S.K. Mohammed, Alhaji Abdullahi Baba Umah (Dan Morikin Walin Borgu), Dan Mallini of Gusau, Mataka and Mall Musa Abdullahi.



Alhaji Shetima Borgu, Alh. Baba Yusuf Ahmed (Walin Borgu) and Mrs. Garafini



Alhaji Baba Yusuf Ahmed, Walin Borgu(right) and other recipients.



Former Senate President, Anyim Pius Anyim, Col. Habib Shuaibu (rt) and Col. Rasheed Sekoni (rt)



L-R Mr. Joseph Wahab, Alhaji Bawa Rijau, Alhaji Baba Yusuf Ahmed, (Walin Borgu) and other dignitaries.



Mr. M.A. Akano, Col. Habib Shuaibu (rt) A.I.G. O. Oduoye (rt), Alhaji Baba Yusuf Ahmed, (Walin Borgu), Dr. Jonah N Exikpe, M.D. Manny Bank, Justice Tumakar and other dignitaries



L-R Alhaji Lateef Atanda Balogun, Alhaji Baba Yusuf Ahmed and Dr. Senator Dantoro, Kitoro III, Emir of Borgu, Alh. Aliyu Wara



Alhaji Lateef Atanda Balogun and Alhaji Baba Yusuf Ahmed (Walin Borgu)



Mrs. Bintu Yusuf flanked by Mrs. Hawa Kulu Yusuf (extreme right) and others.

# Business Trust

## Energy

### Today's flight schedule

#### Albarka Air

Lagos - Abuja 07:20  
10:30  
15:15  
13:00  
Abuja - Lagos 8:45 a.m.

11:00  
13:15  
17:00

Maiduguri - Abuja 06:50  
Abuja - Maid 17:00  
Abuja - PHC 9:00 a.m.  
PHC - Abuja 11:00 a.m.  
Lagos - Yola 1:00 p.m.  
Abuja - Yola 14:30  
Yola - Abuja 15:30  
Yola - Lagos 4:00 p.m.

#### Chanchangi Airlines

Lagos - Abuja 8:15 a.m.  
11:00 a.m.  
12:10 p.m.  
4:45 p.m.

Kaduna - Lagos 8:30 a.m.  
P/H - Lagos 9:00 a.m.  
4:30 p.m.

Abuja - Kaduna 2:30 p.m.  
Kaduna - Abuja 1:30 p.m.

#### IRS Airlines

CBQ - Abuja 8:00 a.m.  
Abuja - Lagos 9:45 a.m.  
Lagos - Kaduna 9:30 a.m.  
Kano - Lagos 7:30 p.m.  
Lagos - Kano 11:15 a.m.  
Kaduna - Lagos 11:00 a.m.  
Lagos - Abu/MM 2:30 p.m.

Abuja - MM 1:45 p.m.  
MM - Abuja 7:15 p.m.  
3:45 p.m.

Abuja - CBQ 5:15 p.m.  
Kano - Abuja 1:15 p.m.

Abuja - Kano 2:30 p.m.  
Kano - Lagos 3:45 p.m.

Lagos - Kano 6:00 p.m.

#### EAS Airlines

Lagos - Abuja 8:15 p.m.  
11:45 a.m.  
5:45 p.m.  
Abuja - Lagos 10:15 a.m.  
7:15 p.m.

#### Dasab Airlines

Abuja - Lagos 8:30 a.m.  
Lagos - PHC 10:30 a.m.  
PHC - Lagos 12:30 a.m.  
Lagos - Kano 2:30 p.m.  
Kano - Lagos 4:30 p.m.  
Lagos - Abuja 6:30 p.m.

#### ADC Airline

Lagos - Abuja 7:15 a.m.  
12:45 p.m.  
8:55 a.m.  
Abuja - Lagos 11:15 a.m.  
Lagos - Calabar 8:55 a.m.  
Lagos - Sokoto 11:55 a.m.  
Sokoto - Lagos 7:20 a.m.  
Calabar - Lagos 9:45 a.m.  
PH - Lagos 9:45 a.m.

Most airlines operate the same flight schedule on week days.

## Shell resumes production at oil stations

Royal Dutch/Shell Cos. on Tuesday resumed production at two



Basil Omiyi, Shell MD

By Hamisu Muhammad Reporter (Business) with agency reports.

pumping stations that were shut down three weeks ago by villagers demanding a greater local share of southern Nigeria's oil wealth. Hundreds of villagers had overrun two Shell pumping stations and one owned by ChevronTexaco Corporation at the height of the protest, on Dec. 5.

The protests blocked a total of 120,000 barrels a day — 100,000 from Shell and 20,000 from ChevronTexaco. Villagers in southern Nigeria's oil-rich Niger Delta

were protesting what they said was a lack of local benefits from more than four decades of oil drilling around their impoverished community, Kula.

The Niger Delta accounts for nearly all of Nigeria's 2.5 million barrels of daily exports. Nigeria is Africa's leading oil producer, the world's seventh-largest exporter and the No. 5 source of US oil imports.

Villagers left the platforms after three days on condition that the oil giants would resume production only after local demands had been negotiated fully.

ChevronTexaco reopened its own platform last week and there were no disruptions to its exports, company officials said.

Shell was reopening its shut stations after Nigerian authorities intervened to assure the communities their

grievances would be addressed, a Shell company spokesman said.

Disruptions to crude oil loading from the protest were expected to last through January, he added.

Protests frequently disrupt production in the Niger Delta, where impoverished communities complain of being deprived of the oil riches pumped from their region.

## ...donates \$3m to tsunami victims

Following last week's tsunami earthquake which ravaged some countries in Asia, Royal Dutch, Shell Group of Companies has announced the donation of \$3 million to cushion the effect of the disaster in the affected regions.

From Mohammed Shosanya, (Correspondent, Lagos)

made to account for its employees who may have been on holiday in the region.

"In terms of disaster relief, our primary objective has been to focus on providing immediate local support as the ground to local communities through our Shell operations" it stressed.

## Oil prices drop as fuel stocks rise

Oil prices fell yesterday, extending losses triggered the previous session by US data showing a big rise in stocks of winter heating fuels in the United States as mild weather suppressed demand. US light crude dropped 52 cents to \$43.87 a barrel, close to the middle of a \$40-\$45 trading range held since Dec. 22, but nearly \$13 below late October's all-time peak of \$55.67.

In London, Brent crude futures fell 47 cents to \$40.04 a barrel.

Prices fell one percent on Wednesday after a US government report showed a two-million-barrel rise in the nation's stocks of distillate, including heating oil and diesel, in the final week of 2004 when use of heating fuel should be reaching a peak.

The counter-seasonal increase in winter fuel supplies came as US refiners cranked up production to record levels and unseasonably mild temperatures kept heating demand at bay in the Northeast, the world's largest heating oil market.

"I can see this developing into a bit of a trend and we'll see more (stock) rises. We really haven't hit a sustained cold period in the U.S. At this stage there's been no real draw on those stocks," said Daniel Hynes at ANZ Bank in Melbourne.

The production increase from refineries led crude oil supplies to drop 3.3 million barrels, far steeper than the 930,000-barrel fall analysts had expected.

Analysts were generally dismissive of the fall in overall stocks and said it reflected temporary tax considerations that favor lower year-end stocks rather than any shortage of crude. Producers' cartel the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

has cut back production following an agreement struck in December to remove one million bpd of excess supply from the world market from Jan. 1.

Top exporter Saudi Arabia said on Tuesday it had sliced 500,000 bpd from its production, bringing it down to 9 million bpd. Qatar said on Wednesday it had implemented a cut of 40,000 bpd.

OPEC is seeking to avoid a big build-up in global stocks ahead of the second quarter of the year, when oil demand drops at the end of winter.

Some OPEC ministers have said the group might need to cut formal production limits of 27 million bpd when it meets on Jan. 30 to stop prices falling further.

## ChevronTexaco expands to deep water

Chevron Petroleum Nigeria Limited has announced a significant extension in the west of the Usan field in deepwater oil prospecting License (OPL) 222, Offshore South Eastern Nigeria.

The company disclosed that the Usan-6 well located around 68 miles (110 kilometers) offshore and 2.5 miles (4 kilometers) south of the Usan-5 well in water depth of approximate 2,000 meters. The appraisal of the western extension of the greater Usan complex discovered in 2002.

According to ChevronTexaco Nigeria Limited, during the well test, Usan 6 was flowed at the level of 5,800 barrels of oil per day from Zone under restricted flow condition adding that the well has confirmed the high potential the greater Usan complex.

Managing director of ChevronTexaco Niger/Mil African Business Unit, Jay Payo explained that the continued appraisal successes

the company said of the whopping amount earmarked for disaster relief, \$2 million will be donated locally and distributed through its operating companies in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Malaysia to relief funds.

It also disclosed that the companies expect other local Shell schemes around the world to deliver the rest \$1 million, such as the donation to relief funds of 5% per every litre of petrol and diesel sold in Singapore this week adding that it is also ensuring the continuing supply essential fuels and products to the affected areas.

The company further expressed that all Shell SAs

## Global Energy re-brands business units

Global Energy Decisions (Global Energy) announced today the re-branding of its business units: Henwood Energy, M.S. Geber & Associates, Energy Velocity, EnerMap and Acu-Power into Global Energy.

"Since our founding we've operated as one company in practice, now we will be one company in name as well. We wanted a single brand identity to underscore the value of our integrated data, software and advisory businesses," said Ron McMahan, Global Energy Chairman and CEO. "Our goal has been to create a centrally branded range of products and services to serve professionals in various segments of the global energy industry."

As the flagship brand, Global Energy will be supported by four business

## Global Energy re-brands business units

units that use consistent underlying energy markets data in all their products and services, coordinate product planning and leverage multiple client relationships. The re-branding will have no material impact on the management of the company. Existing management teams will remain in place and all existing products and services will continue to be supported.

Global Energy Decisions (www.globalenergy.com) is a leading provider to the energy industry of solutions based on a common framework of software applications, energy markets data and advisory services to enable energy professionals to forecast electricity pricing and demand, conduct resource planning, perform strategic studies and competitor analysis, manage risk, trade energy and schedule delivery and optimize generation performance.



ChevronTexaco's giant oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico.

# Business Trust

## Finance

### BOI disburses N6bn for 42 projects

The Bank of Industry (BOI), last year, disbursed the sum of N6 billion to meet its statutory obligation of growing business in the country to finance 42 projects.

The bank, which was set up in October 2001, with the mandate of providing financial assistance for the establishment of large, medium and small projects, had since been faced with the challenge of meeting the teeming number of companies seeking its facility.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) investigations showed that over 594 applications for projects worth N130 billion have so far been received by BOI.

The 42 projects, which received its attention last year had a sectoral spread of beverages, chemical, electrical, food, metal, textiles and wood, among others.

In spite of the constraints that had faced the bank, including the inability of the federal government to raise its capital base to N50 billion however, the managing director Dr. Lawrence Osa-Afiana, had, at several fora, given assurance that the bank would meet its obligation.

He stressed the importance of development financial institutions (DFIs), such as the BOI, to the promotion of industrial development in general and the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in particular.

The BOI boss remarked that easy access to credit remained the fundamental problem of MSMEs due to low rating of this class of enterprises, their weak capital base, high mortality rate, low productivity and shortage of managerial skills.

Osa-Afiana said that the bank would, against the backdrop of huge demands from projects promoters, consider the option of sourcing funds from some international markets with long-term facilities and very low interest rates.

He said that "BOI epitomises the hope for DFIs in

Africa" and as such had commenced discussions with some multilateral and regional financial development institutions, such as the African Development Bank (ADB).

The national president of the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA), Chief John Odeyemi, had recently called on the government to properly fund the BOI to effectively carry out its mandate.

He suggested that the amount already disbursed for the small and medium industries equity fund (SMIEFS) by the Bankers Committee totalling N22 billion as at May 2004 should be transferred to the bank to strengthen the working capital base/quantum funds for loans to SMEs.

One of the recipients of BOI facility, Mrs. Bose Ogunsanwo, Managing Director of Afrotec Industries, Lagos, manufacturers of PVC Pipes, told NAN that the idea of the bank was "very good" but complained against the legal procedures required to get funds, describing it "as slow and cumbersome".

She disclosed that her company actually got Letter of Credit worth N40 million to purchase extrusion machine for the manufacture of PVC pipes and PVC fittings.

"But this offer came in November 2003 and not drawn down until May 2004," she said, adding, "at

the end of the day the interest rate that is supposed to be 10 per cent went as high as 12.5 per cent and may get as high as 15 per cent depending on the processing".

Ogunsanwo, commended BOI for its openness and commitment to the plight of small businesses but advised it to relax its stringent measures to allow more businesses to benefit from the facility.

She also urged the government to meet its own obligation of providing an enabling environment for business to thrive, especially power supply.

A Kaduna-based Islamic scholar, Sheikh Abubakar Tureta, has attributed the continuous involvement of some Nigerians in child labour to extreme poverty ravaging most Nigerians.

Reacting to the plight of Nigerian children forced into exploitative labour in some parts of Europe, Tureta said the phenomenon reflects the harsh economic situation in the country.

He told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Sokoto yesterday that the exodus of young Nigerians to Europe could be likened to the era of the abolished slave trade.

### Poverty, main driving force of child labour - Cleric

Tureta, who is the chairman of the Da'awah (missionary) Committee of the Jamatu Nasril Islam JNI, blamed industrialised nations for making the illicit business lucrative in their yearning for cheap labour.

"This is another form of slave trade in disguise. It is a legacy of colonialism and neo-colonialism," the cleric said.

Tureta challenged developing nations to urgently stem the trend to convince

developing nations that they were not profiting from the obnoxious trade.

He, however, said it would be wrong to liken child trafficking for exploitative purposes to child work as encouraged by Islam.

"Islam encourages children between the ages of three and 10 years, depending on their physiological make-up, to assist their parents in light work," Sheikh Tureta said.

The objective, according to the cleric, was to make the Muslim children more productive and prepare them for future productive challenges.

NAN recalls that in 2003, 11 girls from Edo were arrested by immigration officials while trying to sneak out of the country en-route Kamba border in Kebbi State.

No fewer than 115 big-time child traffickers were also arrested by the Sokoto State Command of the Nigerian Immigration Service at Illela border post alone in 2004.

The suspects were handed to the immigration headquarters in Abuja for prosecution, according to the Sokoto State Controller of Immigration, Albaji Hassan Ali.

### Taxes: Odili tasks coys

Rivers state governor, Odili, has tasked multinationals and other corporate outfits in his state to pay their correct taxes promptly.

Odili stressed, at a state banquet in Port Harcourt, that the call had become necessary "to avoid undue pressures from government".

The receipt of taxes from companies and other corporate entities doing business in the state was quite legitimate, he stressed, noting that "the government needs revenue to realise its development targets".

According to Odili: "The year 2005 is loaded with government activities, all geared towards enhancing the standard of living of the people, and so we need your full compliance."

The governor, in a related situation, praised the judiciary in his state "for maintaining its financial independence, while discharging its duties".

The hope of the common man in the judiciary had thus been kept alive, he said, adding that his administration was ever ready to lend its support to keep the judiciary functioning efficiently.



L-R: Mr. Samuel Olatunji managing director of Gateway Bank, Mr. Ayo Ajayi, director and Chief Samuel Adegbite, chairman of the bank during its extra ordinary general meeting (EGM) held in Lagos, recently. Pic: Olatunji Odeyemi

### UTB shares attract investors at NSE

Universal Trust Bank (UTB) Plc on Wednesday attracted the highest investors' interest at the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) in spite of the general lull that has characterised the market

since it re-opened this year.

At the end of transactions, investors picked 25.95 million Universal Trust Bank shares worth N21.34 million traded in 27 deals.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the high interest shown in UTB

shares saw the banking sub-sector maintaining its dominance of the market with 54.50 million shares worth N207.1 million executed in 1,295 deals.

The insurance sub-sector followed with 1.66 million shares valued at N2.14 million traded in 73 deals, while the Healthcare sub-sector accounted for N5.17 million shares in 76 deals.

In all, 64.74 million shares worth N433.51 million was executed in 3,475 deals.

Over all, the cumulative average price of the 203 listed equities fell by 0.2 per cent, as shareholders await new bank offers in the ongoing N25 billion share-holders funds consolidation.

Mobil Oil led the price losers chart today, shedding N5.85 to close at N178.12

7Up Bottling Company

### NAICOM commences public building insurance

The National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) has commenced the implementation of the compulsory insurance for all public buildings as stipulated by the Insurance Act of 2003.

The NAICOM Commissioner, Chief Emmanuel Chukwulozie, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Wednesday in Lagos that the compulsory insurance for public buildings is a statutory requirement contained in the insurance act.

"Section 65 (1) of the act states that every public building should be insured

with a registered insurer against the hazards of collapse, fire, earthquake, storm and flood," he explained.

According to him, public building is any building which members of the public have unrestricted access to.

The Insurance Commissioner said that the commission had concluded plans to compel churches and mosques to provide such cover for their buildings.

"As public places of worship, churches and mosques fall within the kind of buildings referred to

in the law," he said.

He said that every building under construction that is more than two floors must be insured to cover building risks.

Chukwulozie disclosed that a monitoring committee had been set up by the commissioner to ensure compliance.

"The commission is working with town planning authority to ensure effective implementation of the law and compliance by owners of such buildings," he said.

NAN reports that section six of the Insurance Act prescribes a fine of N100,000 or one year imprisonment for both or



# FEDERAL MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

P.M.B 88. (OLD SECRETARIAT) AREA 1. GARKI - ABUJA



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### **REGISTRATION OF DESIGNATED NON-FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (DNFIs) IN NIGERIA <HOTELS, SUPERMARKETS, CAR DEALERS, LEGAL PRACTITIONERS, CASINOS, LOTTERY POOL BETTING ETC.**

Pursuant to the enforcement of Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act 2004 and matters connected therewith, any designated non-financial institution whose business involves one of cash transaction shall

a. in case of;

- (i.) a new business, before commencement of business,
- (ii) existing business, within three months from the commencement of this act.

Submit to the Federal Ministry of Commerce a declaration of its activity.

b. prior to any transaction involving a sum exceeding US\$5,000 or its equivalent, identify the customer by requiring him to fill a standard data form and present his international passport, driving license, national identity card or such other document bearing his photograph as may be prescribed by the Federal Ministry of Commerce;

c. record all transactions under this section in chronological order, indicating each customers surname, forenames and address in a register numbered and forwarded to the Federal Ministry of Commerce.

2. Accordingly, the Honourable Minister of Commerce is hereby notifying all designated non-financial institutions in Nigeria to, as a matter of urgency, register their businesses with Federal Ministry of Commerce, Abuja as prescribed by the Act.

For the purpose of clarification, the designated non-financial institutions, according to the law and the declaration of Hon. Minister of Commerce are; dealers in jewellery, Cars and luxury goods, chartered accountants, audit firms, tax consultants, clearing and settlement companies, Legal practitioners, hotels, casinos, lottery and pool betting operators, supermarkets, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or such other business as the Federal Ministry of Commerce or appropriate regulatory authorities may from time to time designate.

3. Please note that it is in your interest to submit the activities of your business to the Federal Ministry of Commerce in accordance with the law as heavy penalties await defaulters.

4. For this purpose, the registration form is obtainable from the Director, Domestic Trade Department, Room 222, 'G' Block, Federal Ministry of Commerce, Area 1, Garki, Abuja, or in any of the Ministry's state offices nearest to you.

## 5. REGISTER NOW.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF TRADE DATA BANK ON ALL REGISTERED COMPANIES IN NIGERIA AND PRODUCTION OF NIGERIAN TRI-ANNUAL TRADE DIRECTORY**

Due to paucity of information on Trade and activities of registered Companies in Nigeria, the Ministry is undertaking the establishment of Trade Data Bank on all Registered Companies in Nigeria and production of Nigerian Tri-annual Trade Directory. The objectives of these exercises are to;

- serve as basis for evaluation of genuineness of local businesses with a view to recommending Nigerian companies to foreign investors and enquirers,

- avail the Ministry with the data to produce Nigerian Trade Directory tri-annually, which will serve as a reference point for local and foreign businessmen interested in doing business in Nigeria,

- create conducive level playing field for all businesses to thrive in Nigeria, and  
- curtail trade malpractices in order to protect Nigeria's good image in the comity of nations.

## 2. Consequently;

The general public and all Corporate bodies that is registered companies in Nigeria are required to obtain Trade questionnaires from the Director, Domestic Trade Department, Room 222 'G', Federal Ministry of Commerce, Area 1, Garki Abuja, or in any of the Ministry's state offices.

Please note that our objective is to create conducive atmosphere for good business relations as the information so obtained will be ware- housed in our website for the world business community to visit.

SIGNED

A.I. Pepple (MS) OON, *mmi*  
Permanent Secretary



## NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME

### **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

**T**he National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) invites qualified Health Maintenance Organisation (HMO), Health Care Providers, Banks and Insurance Companies interested in participating in the formal sector (workers) programme of the Scheme to register their interest at the Headquarters of the Scheme or at the nearest NHIS office close to them.

The registration exercise which commences immediately will end by January, 31 st 2005.

**Signed:**

**Dr. Muhammed Lecky**

*Executive Secretary*

*NHIS*



# Business Trust

## INTERNATIONAL

### Ex-WorldCom

## directors to pay \$54m fines

Ten former WorldCom board members have tentatively agreed to pay \$54 million, a third of it from their own pockets, to settle their portion of a lawsuit brought over the company's collapse, according to published reports yesterday.

Agence France Presse (AFP) reports that the outside directors agreed in principle to pay \$18 million of their own money, with the remaining \$36 million to be paid by the directors' liability insurers. The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times reported. The classaction suit was brought by investors who lost billions when WorldCom

went under in a multibillion-dollar accounting scandal.

Negotiators for the investors demanded that the settlement include personal payments in the hope of making an example of the board members, the Times reported, citing lawyers involved in the settlement. The size of each director's payment has not been determined, the newspapers said.

The agreement is expected to be signed and presented for approval to a U.S. District Court in Manhattan as early as Thursday, the Journal said.

The New York state Common Retirement Fund is

the lead plaintiff in the suit. David Neustadt, a spokesman for New York Comptroller Alan Hevesi, said no formal agreement had been completed. He declined to comment further.

The telecommunications giant, which was based in Clinton, Miss., filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in 2002 after admitting that it overstated profits by billions of dollars.

WorldCom's former chief executive, Bernard Ebbers, is scheduled to go on trial later this month on charges that he oversaw an \$11 billion fraud at the company, the largest corporate fraud in US history.

## Toyota to staff factories with robots

Toyota Motor will introduce robots which can work as well or better than humans at all 12 of its factories in Japan to cut costs and deal with a looming

labour shortage as the country ages, a press report says.

The robots would be able to carry out multiple tasks simultaneously with their two

arms, achieving efficiency unseen in human workers and matching the cheap wages of Chinese labourers, the Nihon Keizai Shinbun said.

Agence France Presse (AFP) reports that the Japan top automaker currently uses 3,000 to 4,000 less advanced robots at its domestic factories but their use has been confined mostly to welding, painting and other potentially hazardous tasks, the economic daily said.

The new robots would also be used in finishing work, such as installation of seats and car interior fixtures, that have been too complex for conventional robots up to now, the daily said.

A Toyota spokesman confirmed the company would expand the use of advanced robots but said it had not decided whether to install them at all factories.

"Our principle is that human workers are the main players and robots are only in a supportive role," the spokesman said.

The Nihon Keizai said Toyota planned eventually to become the first automaker to use the advanced robots in all production processes but it did not give a timeframe.

Japan's population is forecast to peak by 2006 with the average number of children a woman has during her lifetime standing at a post-World War II low of 1.29, according to the latest government data.

## Samsung unveils first speech-to-text mobile

South Korea's Samsung Electronics Company, one of the world's top electronics companies, has developed the world's first mobile phone with the capability to convert spoken words into text messages.

This "revolutionary" speech-to-text VoiceMode capability, available on two new Samsung phones, will allow users to speak into the phone and have the phone convert those words directly into text, it said.

"This new technology will significantly change how people interact with their wireless phones," Peter Skarzynski, senior vice president of Samsung Electronics, said.

"For the first time, consumers can dictate messages

directly to their wireless phones, substantially simplifying the messaging process," he said.

Agence France Presse (AFP) reports that the using a related system dubbed Qu-ckPhrase, users will also be able to send pre-programmed short messages such as "Call me" or "Will call you later" by simply speaking those words.

Samsung Electronics has overtaken Motorola to become the world's second largest seller of mobile handsets after Nokia.

Its global market share stood at 13.8 percent, compared with Motorola's 13.4 percent and Nokia's 30.9 percent, in the third quarter to September.



This shows two Korean ladies admiring Samsung's new mobile handset.

## BAT Nigeria gets intellectual property award

British American Tobacco Nigeria has won the Intellectual Property Lawyers Association of Nigeria award for its contributions to the development of intellectual property law practice and administration in the country.

The award was presented to the company at the 10th anniversary conference of the association held recently in Lagos.

"The association said the award is in further appreciation of the considerable investment brought into Nigeria by the company which has impacted significantly on the country's copyright and advertising industry. BAT Nigeria was selected along-side Unilever Nigeria and MTN Nigeria Communications for the conferment," the statement said.

The Intellectual Property Lawyers Association of Nigeria acknowledged that BAT has, through its brand enforcement activities, demonstrated the force and dynamism of authentic trademarks. The company was commended for being at the vanguard of the fight against counterfeit products and counterfeiting through its collaborative efforts with regulatory authorities, the statement said.



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF POWER & STEEL  
Federal Secretariat Complex, Shehu Shagari Way,  
Abuja

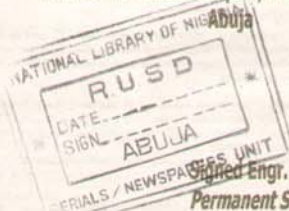
### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### INVITATION TO BID FOR INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS (IPPs) IN NIGERIA

The Federal Government of Nigeria wishes to promote the generation of electricity in Nigeria and has decided as a policy to involve the private sector in generation of electricity for sale to the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA).

- Efforts are being made to achieve generation capacity of 10,000MW by the year 2010 through the construction of new host power stations, overhaul/rehabilitations of existing power stations and procurement of IPPs.
- Independent Power Producer Companies that had expressed interests and had been negotiating with the Federal Ministry of Power & Steel/ NEPA and others that are interested in developing IPPs in Nigeria are hereby invited to submit their proposals
- The Request For Proposals (RFP) are obtainable from the Director, Planning, Research and Statistics of the Federal Ministry of Power & Steel at No. 55 Misau Crescent, Garki II, Abuja upon payment of a non-refundable fees of N100, 000.00 or presentation of receipt of payment of the processing fee of USD100,000.00 paid to NEPA earlier.
- The proposals are expected to be submitted in the standard RFP obtained as per paragraph 4 above not later than six weeks from the date of this publication and addressed to:

The Permanent Secretary  
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF POWER & STEEL  
Federal Secretariat Complex, Shehu Shagari Way,  
Abuja



Engr. S.M Mahmood, FNSE  
Permanent Secretary  
Federal Ministry of Power & Steel



# UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA

P.M.B. 117, ABUJA, NIGERIA.

## INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTOR

### Introduction:

The University of Abuja is desirous of commencing the development of Phase One of the following projects at its Permanent Site:

- i) Students Centre (UA/PS/09)
- ii) Lecture Theatre (UA/PS/10)
- iii) Faculty of Arts (UA/PS/II)

Accordingly, applications are hereby invited from interested and reputable construction companies for pre-qualification, adhering strictly to the conditions set hereunder.

### SCOPE OF WORK

#### (i) Student Center

The Student Center consists of a phased bungalow type building housing cafeteria etc, with interconnecting walkways and associated conveniences.

#### (ii) Lecture Theatre:

The Lecture Theatre consists of a large theatre seating approximately 750 students with associated toilet facilities.

#### (iii) Faculty of Arts

The Faculty of Arts is a two storey L-shaped building partitioned with concrete block work. The building is intended to house faculty offices and lecture rooms.

### PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

#### A. General

- i) Evidence of registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).
- ii) Evidence of current registration with the University of Abuja in Category E.
- iii) Tax clearance certificate for the last three years (originals may be required for sighting).
- iv) Certified audited company accounts for the last three years (originals may be required for sighting).
- v) Evidence of registration with the Federal Ministry of works as a civil/building engineering contractor.

#### B. TECHNICAL COMPETENCE

- i) Bidders must show for projects (i) & (ii) above three (3 Nos) separate building contracts of a value not less than N75 million in the last four years one of which must have been completed. Photocopies of the letters of award and final payment certificate must be enclosed as evidence. The University reserves the right to verify accuracy of submissions.
- ii) Bidders must show for project (iii) above, evidence of three separate (3Nos) contracts valued not less than N200 million each executed in the last four years two of which must have been completed. Bidders must attach photocopies of the letters of award and completion certificates or final payment certificate as evidence. The University reserves the right to verify accuracy of submissions.
- iii) Bidders must provide evidence of core top management and key professional staff of the company with their designations clearly indicated within the organizational structure of the company. The CV of the key professional staff for the project must be included in the submissions.
- iv) All bidders must provide a list of verifiable civil/building/electrical engineering equipment for the project proposed. These must be listed as owned, hired or leased. Bidders must be ready to show this equipment at short notice to assessors during the period of prequalification.

#### C. GENERAL CONDITIONS

- i) All prequalification documents are to be bound and sealed in an envelop with the title "Prequalification Documents for project."
- ii) Candidates interested in more than one project must apply separately for each project in line with the criteria outlined above. However, candidates are not to apply for more than two projects.
- iii) For further clarification on the contents of these prequalification criteria, please contact the Department of Physical Development and Management, University of Abuja, Mini Campus, Gwagwalada, Abuja between the hours of 10 am - 2 pm Monday to Friday from the date of this advert to the close of the Prequalification period.
- iv) The scoring criteria for this prequalification shall be 85% of the Tendering Process of which bidders must score at least 51% to be considered for the next stage.

#### D) PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT

- i) Bidders will be required to pay the sum of N20,000.00 (Twenty thousand naira) for pre-qualification in respect of (i) and (ii) above while (iii) above will attract a fee of N50,000.00 (Fifty thousand naira) for pre-qualification.

The documents can only be submitted upon showing the evidence of payment for prequalification which must also be included in the pre-qualification documents.

- ii) Payments for the prequalification fee can be made in cash or certified cheque at the Cash Office of the Bursary Department, University of Abuja, Mini Campus, Gwagwalada, Abuja.
- iii) The prequalification Documents shall be collected from the Department of Physical Development and Management upon the presentation of the evidence of payment of the prescribed fees in the University Bursary. Completed forms are to be sealed and marked at the top right corner of the envelope "prequalification document for project" and hand delivered to:

The Registrar  
University of Abuja  
Abuja

Submissions of Prequalification documents must reach the above address on or before 12 noon on the 19th of January 2005. The documents so presented will be publicly opened at 2.00 p.m. of the same day at the Senate Chambers of the University's Mini Campus Gwagwalada Abuja. All Bidders are required to be present on the day and time of opening.

- iv) Successful companies deemed to have been pre-qualified will be notified within two weeks of the opening, to proceed to the next stage of the process.
- v) Bidders are to note that participation in the prequalification exercise does not grant any company the right to be considered for Tender.
- vi) The University reserves the right to disqualify any or all prequalification documents.

## REQUEST FOR THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE PROVISION OF STUDENTS/STAFF HOUSING, COMMUNAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER PARTNERSHIP ON BUILD OPERATE AND TRANSFER (BOT) SCHEME

1.0 The University of Abuja was established in 1988 with the aim of providing qualitative education to all Nigerians through conventional and a unique mandate on distance learning. The University is planned to accommodate a total of 27,000 students and staff at full development.

2.0 The University, which is located on an 11,800 hectare expanse of land along the Kaduna -Lokoja road (directly opposite the Abuja International Airport), is desirous of entering into partnership on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis for the provision of communal and commercial services to its students, staff and the general public.

3.0 Interested parties are invited to submit an Expression of Interest on (but not limited to) the following:

- (a) Students hostel
- (b) Staff housing
- (c) Provision of Conference Center
- (d) Fuel Stations
- (e) Parks and gardens
- (f) Shopping malls
- (g) Tourism development etc

4.0 The Expression of interest should include the following:

- \* Company name and address
- \* Contact name and title
- \* Phone, fax and e-mail
- \* Evidence of experience in BOT and other business activities
- \* Evidence of registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission (Corporate Bodies only)
- \* Area(s) of interest
- \* A write up on the proposed activity
- \* Any other useful information.

5.0 The signed and sealed Expression of Interest should reach the Office of the Registrar, University of Abuja, P.M.B. 117 Abuja, Nigeria on or before 21<sup>st</sup> February 2005.

6.0 Only shortlisted candidates will be subsequently contacted for further talks.

7.0 For further enquiries, please contact the undersigned through the following fax number: 09-8821379

Signed  
Alhaji Umar Bappah  
Ag. Registrar  
UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA

## National Pension Commission (Cont.)

### 4.0 Transitional Issues for Self-Funded Public Sector Agencies

4.1 For the purpose of implementing the Act, this section covers public sector agencies that do not derive their funding from the annual Federal Government Budget.

4.2 With effect from the commencement of the Act and before the licensing of Pension Fund Administrators and Pension Fund Custodians, employers shall open a Temporary Retirement Savings Account for each employee.

#### Accrued Retirement Benefits Rights

4.3 As at the commencement of the Act, the retirement benefits in respect of accrued or past service earned by each employee shall be computed by each employer in accordance with the existing contract of service. Every defined benefits scheme shall within ninety days from the date of publication of these guidelines cause to be prepared in respect of the scheme fund an actuarial valuation, provided that defined benefits schemes which have caused to be prepared an actuarial valuation in respect of the scheme fund within twelve months prior to the date of publication of these guidelines shall not be required to prepare another valuation.

4.4 The employer shall credit the Retirement Savings Account of each employee with any funds to which each employee is entitled in paragraph 4.3. In this regard, an employer that keeps its retirement benefits funds with a third party should liaise with the fund manager or administrator and ascertain the value of the fund.

4.5 In the event the funds are not sufficient to meet the accrued liabilities computed in paragraph 4.3, a written obligation to that effect shall be issued to the concerned employee and such obligation shall have the same priority as salary. The terms of repayment of such obligation shall be agreed with the employee.

4.6 The employer shall notify the Commission of any written obligation under paragraph 4.5 and the steps taken or to be taken to meet such obligation.

#### Contributions to the Scheme

4.7 With effect from the commencement of the Act, contributions by the employer and the employee shall also be credited to each employee's temporary Retirement Savings Account.

4.8 Every employer shall maintain proper books of accounts and records of contributions made after the commencement of the Act.

4.9 The contribution of the employer and the employee shall be a minimum of 7.5% each of the employee's monthly emoluments as provided in the Act.

4.10 Where the contributions, prior to the commencement of the Act, by an employer exceed the minimum stipulated by the Act, such employer will not reduce the level of that contribution.

4.11 An employer could decide to make both the employer and employee's contributions to the Retirement Savings Account provided that the total sum contributed by the employer meets the minimum sum (15% of total monthly emoluments) required by the Act.

4.12 If the employer chooses to contribute more than the 7.5% required by the Act, but less than 15% of the employee's total monthly emoluments, the employee will still be required to contribute the minimum of 7.5% so that the total amount of money contributed by the employer and employee must not be less than the 15% minimum required by the Act.

4.13 After the licensing of Pension Fund Administrators and Pension Fund Custodians, an employee shall open a Retirement Savings Account with a PFA of his/her choice and the amount standing to his or her credit derived from the accrued rights and the contributions referred to in paragraphs 4.4 and 4.7 respectively shall be transferred to that account within thirty (30) days. The employer shall thereafter notify the National Pension Commission of such transfers.

#### Continuation and Management of Existing Schemes

4.14 Any employer wishing to continue with its existing scheme shall apply to the Commission and should comply with the following:

- (i) the pension scheme shall be fully funded;
- (ii) the pension funds and assets shall be fully segregated from the funds and assets of the employer;
- (iii) the pension funds and assets shall be held by a licensed Pension Fund Custodian;
- (iv) every employee in the existing scheme shall be free to exercise the option of coming under the Scheme established under Section 1 of the Act;
- (v) in the event that an employee exercises the option in (iv) hereof, the employer shall compute and credit to his/her account the contributions and distributable income earned as at the date the employee exercises such an option subject to further rules and guidelines issued by the Commission;
- (vi) any amount computed under (v) hereof shall be transferred to the Retirement Savings Account of the employee maintained with a Pension Fund Administrator of his/her choice;
- (vii) all investments in assets other than specified as permissible investment for pension funds and assets under Section 73 of the Act may be maintained and from the commencement of the Act all investments shall be subject to the regulation, rules and standards established by the Commission;
- (viii) the employer shall undertake to the Commission that the pension fund shall be fully funded at all times and any shortfall to be made up within 90 days; and
- (ix) the employer shall have managed pension funds and assets for a period not less than 5 years prior to the commencement of the Act.

4.15 An employer that elects to continue with its existing scheme and desires to manage its pension fund shall also apply to the National Pension Commission to be licensed as a Closed Pension Fund Administrator (Specific guidelines for the requirements of a Closed Pension Fund Administrator will be issued shortly).

### 5.0 Transitional Matters Relating to Existing Pensioners and those Exempted by the Act

5.1 The retirement benefits of employees exempted by the Act in the public and private sectors shall be computed as provided in the First Schedule of the Act and Existing Scheme Rules respectively.

5.2 Existing pensioners and employees of the Public Service of the Federation and Federal Capital Territory who had three years or less to retire as at the commencement of the Act and the categories of officers mentioned in Section 291 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, shall be paid their retirement benefits by the respective Pension Departments.

### 6.0 Licensing of Pension Fund Administrators and Pension Fund Custodians

6.1 Effective January 2005 the licensing processes of Pension Fund Administrators and Pension Fund Custodians would commence.

6.2 Guidelines on the licensing of PFAs and PFCs would be issued in due course.

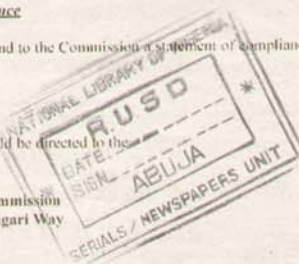
### 7.0 Statement of Compliance

7.1 All employers shall send to the Commission a statement of compliance with these guidelines.

### 8.0 Further Enquiries

8.1 Further enquiries should be directed to the

Director-General:  
National Pension Commission  
Plot 2774, Shehu Shagari Way  
Maitama District  
P.M.B 2170, Wuse  
Abuja  
09-4133363, 4133364, 4133398, 6720091  
www.pencom.gov.ng



## THE HOME FRONT

# What are your New Year resolutions?

*Time – a wonderful phenomenon. It's equally given to all. It heals, it proves, it tells, it's priceless.*

*As we enter a New Year the notion of something new is in the mind of all. We want to be better than what we are presently. We set goals we wish to achieve, but the question is do we achieve our aims before the end of the year? A year is not just a minute, it contains 365 days, it can mark the beginning of your success and at the same time mark the beginning of your downfall.*

*It is unwise for a country or an organization or an individual to sit down and allow a year to pass by without making adjustment for improvement in life and we can only achieve these our aims by hard work, dedication and determination life is full of challenges which we should gear up to overcome.*

*Every year people make New Year resolutions, and while some try to keep to it, some resolutions fly away with the euphoria of entering a new year.*

*The Home Front asked peoples' views and opinions about New Year resolution. Some confessed to resolve to get married, some wished to acquire higher education, while some wanted to help the less privileged. It is a package full of wishes.*

**Excerpts:-**

**N**igerian New Year target, according to Information National Orientation Minister, Chukwemeka Chikelu, at the network service on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2004, was that government would provide a solid background to the implementation of government's policies.

A staff of Federal Civil Service Commission, Aminu G. Aminu said his New Year resolution was to sit for promotional exams before the end of this year. He also wished Nigeria peace and prosperity and hope God would enrich him to be able to purchase the government house that the federal government is intending to sell to civil servants.

Godwin A, a staff of Foreign Affairs, said his resolution was to urge Nigerians to come together and work hard to make Nigeria a better Nigeria. He said "we have been praying but the problem is the poor are becoming poorer and the rich are becoming richer every day. We will still continue to pray to God for improvement."

He also wished to improve his professional carrier and educational carrier

**By Aisha Umar, Reporter  
(Women Affairs)**

because he is a student and at the same time a civil servant, so he resolved to attend higher education to improve his grade level.

Baba Gana a staff of Foreign Affairs said he had two major wishes he wished to achieve this year, to marry and acquire PGD Certificate. According to him, he has also finished all the marriage arrangement, and was just waiting for the date.

Mustapha Wakil also of Foreign Affairs, said his New Year resolution was to marry, because he needed a woman he can call his.

But Hauwa Muktar, a student of Federal Government Girls College Abuja, S.S.I., said her New Year resolution was to keep to school rules and regulations and be a good student. She also wanted to make more friends, and also to be a better daughter to her mother.

Akan Ekpo, a civil servant has two wishes personal and official resolution: The official one was to be more hard working so that his boss would be satisfied with him.

As for the personal wishes, since he is a student, he said, he wanted to put more efforts in his stud-

suit," he stated.

He further maintained that to be a candid fellow, he strongly believed that straight forwardness and sincerity in our daily life helps one to achieve one's goals and as such sincerity will always be his watch dog through out the year by the grace of God.

Princes Festus also resolved to ensure that by the grace of God he would touch the lives of those who are in need of his assistance in his best capacity. Thus give recognition to the less privilege especially in the areas of education and the disabled in the society," he

servant insisted that his New Year resolution was he wished a better life for every one, especially those in difficult situations. He was also praying to God for things to go as he planned them. He was also happy he got hajj offer and wants those who did not get to exercise patience, that their time will come one day.

The New Year resolution of Godstime Edim was to live peacefully with everybody, as according to her she didn't want to quarrel with anybody, and she wanted to be friendly with people, adding that she wanted to be submissive to

Munro states that "when a purpose is not known an abuse is the next victim". These implies that for an economy to be stable in this new year the purpose for which all the economic activities exist must surely be known as there would not be stable economy. These require the immense contribution of the economic pilots mentioned above.

Besides, on the political phase the focus should be on justice and social welfare of the masses so as to achieve stable political economy in the year 2005. The so called leaders should prioritize the need of their



President Olusegun Obasanjo (left) the chairperson/the founder of the Child Care Trust (middle) embracing the disabled children during the formal commissioning of the permanent site for the Child Care Trust at Bwari, Abuja... recently.

PH: Kennedy Egbonije

ies to graduate with the good result. He also wanted to go in to a relationship that will bring positive result.

According to Prince Festus Nwagbale, a graduate of Ambrose Ali University, Ekpoma, Edo State, his New Year resolution was to be time management, time consciousness with his daily activities or endeavour. "It is said he who fail to plan, plan to fail. Time is the key to success in human pur-

Salihu Danjuma a civil

her parents and any elderly person.

Ohiaogu Nelson Chinenye disclosed that investment was his focus for 2005. He wanted a long-term capital investment that would yield future benefits like trading on shares.

He was also calling on the society and the government on things that need to be reshaped.

He said, "it is a thing of joy we have seen a New Year and for the fact that we are living is evidence that we are advancing towards positive result. Everyone's expectation is to achieve positive results in all aspects of life, including the economic, political, and religious and the social life."

In the area of economic life there is an expectation of achieving stable economy for the purpose for which the economy exists is known by the pilots of the economy. For instance the great man of Bahama named Mylse

subjects in order to avert civil practices, observed in all sectors of the economy. With these in practice, there will be improvement of the entire economy.

In the social aspect of the economy the life of the masses will be improved if adequate care will be taken on the social life by providing social needs such as proper care of roads, electricity, etc.

Religiously all hands must be on deck for the achievement of positive life of the masses. The preaching of the metamorphosis of behaviour of the masses should not be left alone in the hand of the religious leaders, because there is something God has deposited in the life of everybody crying for more expression which will enhance to bring a total revolution in the year 2005.

If all the above should be taken care of, the year 2005 will doubtlessly be better than the previous year.

***"Godwin A, a staff of Foreign Affairs, said his resolution was to urge Nigerians to come together and work hard to make Nigeria a better Nigeria. He said "we have been praying but the problem is the poor are becoming poorer and the rich are becoming richer every day. We will still continue to pray to God for improvement."***

# THE HOME FRONT

## Women in Chiranci, Kwana Hudu learn video recording

To operate a video camera the first thing that you need to do is put in your battery then press the 'on' button, put in the cassette and close the cassette cubicle. Lift the video camera by putting the fingers of the right hand into the lens strap and carefully lift the camera unto your right shoulder. In her opinion men who had hitherto engaged in video recording of weddings and naming ceremonies in her community can now stay put as women in Chiranci and Kwana Hudu who received the training could now effectively handle the equipment.

This was Malama Bilkiisu Mu'azu of Chiranci in Kumbotso local government of Kano state, one of the ten women who recently graduated from a six months training in video recording programme organized for farmers' advancement network (WOFAN) in Kano State. Though the training was informed by the need for women in Chiranci and Kwana Hudu communities to have basic functional literacy training Bilkiisu viewed the training beyond this benefit. To her and the other women who took part in the training, it was some form of emancipation which also proved invaluable to Kano State's recent policy on Social Reorientation - 'A daidaita Sabu' which is a community targeted program conceived to re-institute moral value into socio-economic and political activities in the state. The programme recommended for women under the social reorientation include initiatives that would uphold dignity and respect for women as well as promote self-employment.

WOFAN also seemed to have matched the

From Jamilah Nuhu Musa, Correspondent (Kano)

implementation strategies of supporting and facilitating women education along this line as Bilkiisu who was elated about the development said that she was now well equipped with the knowledge about how to operate a video camera. In her opinion men who had hitherto engaged in video recording of weddings and naming ceremonies in her community can now stay put as women in Chiranci and Kwana Hudu who received the training could now effectively handle the equipment.

She disclosed that even their husbands and father in laws support the idea of the training which has put the women on a higher scale of socialization in the society, as according to her it would be thrilling to stand before other women and actually record activities going on in the community. "When we come together to celebrate the birth of newborn babies or during wedding ceremonies it will be an honour for those of us who can operate a video camera to capture such events for remembrance."

Bilkiisu Ma'azu said that it was an added advantage for men in the society who can now have their homes shielded from any intrusion. Men (husbands) do not actually like other men to come into their homes to do the video recording, they had often accepted grudgingly to pay for such services not because they did not have the money but because of the fact that men who do the video recording have to come into their homes. Women too had

always felt embarrassed to have their privacy invaded.

She described the video camera placed on her right shoulder as light to carry and easy to handle. The only problem facing the women however is the issue of how to own a camera now that they had received the training. Bilkiisu agreed that one needs a lot of money to purchase a video camera and the women she said do not have the financial ability to get one for themselves or for the community. She was of the view that the women might not actually gain the benefit of the training and that this might as well be the end of their dream. Her colleagues were not dauntless, for them there is no going back as they promise to seek assistance from their husbands and also government to give them loans to help them actualize their dream. They also commended WOFAN's initiative to give them the training. The women in Chiranci and Kwana Hudu

said that the initiative would go along way in promoting technological advancement in their community. WOFAN on its own part however is not

resting on its oars to ensure that the women folks gain full benefit of the basic skills. The national coordinator, Hajjiya Salamatu Garba said the

association was working out strategies through its empowerment programme for the purpose.

However, a video recording expert Mallam Umar Adam Ibrahim said that it was interesting that the women have acquired the training but showed skepticism that they can effectively handle the business of video recording even in the confines of their homes. According to him the mere fact that they are women and are saddled with household chores and the rearing of children makes it the more difficult for them to do so. Then there is the issue of editing which could only be expertly carried out in a studio. He therefore suggested that WOFAN should extend the training to give the women editing skills. The women on their part should be reorganised for their domestic activities and contain their children's distractions to make room for full concentration to enhance video recording ability.



Bilkiisu Mu'azu, a recipient of video recording training by WOFAN (Women Farmers Advancement Network)

## Looking attractive after childbirth

Every woman looks forward to having a child of her own, to cuddle a little bundle of joy, as they say. But many changes occur to women after childbirth that some let the strain and stress of looking after the baby to get the better of them. In other words some women neglect to look after themselves and subsequently lost their attractive figures.

Many women find it difficult to do exercise or do the household chores, relegating everything to house helps or relatives.

Perhaps it is little wonder that some men start looking for women outside after their wives have given birth, because the wives have become very unattractive.

The Home Front asked some people about this important problem and also added some tips on how to be attractive after having a child:

Excerpts:-

Mrs. Chinwe Samuel Uwadi said, it was advisable to wear brassier

By Emeshara Nkechi Hope, IT Intern

all the time after childbirth because of the increased weight of the breast and it would enable the woman to avoid stretching and sagging.

According to her, the size of the brassier chosen has to be increased as the breast grow bigger after childbirth and that it is good to buy a nursing brassier that has front opening over each nipple with changeable pads to absorb leaking milk.

Looking good after childbirth is a serious issue for the fact that no man would appreciate his wife suddenly becoming fat, insisted Mrs Samuel Uwadi and therefore advised women to try and eat good food but not in excess just because they are breast feeding.

Mrs. Evelyn who spoke with this reporter said, she

always engaged herself in cooking, made sure that she stand erect while grinding pepper, cutting vegetables etc. She equally said exercise made her stomach flat without using hot water or girdle. Many women she said depend on hot water due to their laziness and because they find the exercise difficult, and so decide to go with hot water.

A score of women who spoke with this reporter advised nursing mothers to be using strong brassier, saying many women have flat breast after childbirth due to their refusal to use strong brassier to hold their breast.

Here are some tips that could help keep women in good shape after childbirth.

Exercise: After childbirth it is advisable to exercise your body at least twice a week, because it helps to flatten the stomach.

Cooking: Try as much

as possible to engaged yourself in cooking, making sure you cook what your husband will eat because when you are doing this, you are also helping your self.

Also engaged yourself in doing laundry and ironing as a form of exercise.

Laziness: Laziness is not in anyway good for nursing mothers. It prevents them from exercising themselves.

Brassier: The size of the brassier chosen has to be increased, as the breasts grow larger after childbirth. The strong brassier is advisable for a nursing mother and wearing brassier is advisable for a nursing mother and wearing brassier at all times because of the increased weight of the breast, this will enable the women to avoid the stretching.

Cream: Make sure the cream you use suits your skin because during pregnancy it is not advisable to use certain creams to avoid complications, so try and keep yourself neat.

The importance of regular exercise by women cannot be over emphasised as it does not only help to keep the body fit, it also ensure good and healthy shape as well as making women fit to fathom the problems that may arise after childbirth.

## CEDAW calls for legal action over women's equality

The federal government has been called upon to place high priority on completing the process of full domestic legislation for the establishment of a legal culture supportive of women's equality and non-discrimination in the country.

This call was contained in the recommendations of the committee on the convention on the Alienation of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) made available to *The Home Front* within the week.

The committee recommended that government should set a concrete timetable for amending provisions in the constitution and in federal and state legislation that discriminate

By Abuhakar Haruna, Reporter (Women Affairs)

against women. It recommended that government should intensify its collaboration with parliamentary and civil society in order to enhance understanding by all stakeholders of the state party's obligations under the convention.

The UN committee noted with concern the existence of a three-pronged legal system, namely statutory, customary and religious law, which according to it result in a lack of compliance of the country with its obligation under the convention.

It further recommended that proactive and innova-

tive measures should be taken to remove contradictions between the three legal systems with regards to women's rights.

The committee which indicated dismay on the continued prevalence of violence against women and girls in the country also noted with concern that a bill on violence against women proposed in 2003 has yet to be acted on by National Assembly.

It also urged the government to place the elimination of such practices high on the agenda of the federal and state governments and bring to an immediate end the apathy of law enforcement agencies with regard to implementation existing legislation.



# National Pension Commission

Plot 2774, Shehu Shagari Way  
Maitama District  
P.M.B 5170, Wuse  
Abuja  
234 9- 4133363, 4133364, 6720091  
Website : www.pencom.gov.ng

Transitional  
Arrangements

Circular GUID/01/TRANS

December 31, 2004

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PENSION REFORM ACT 2004 GUIDELINES FOR TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of the guidelines is to provide general guidance on transitional matters for both the public and private sectors relating to the implementation of the Pension Reform Act 2004.
- 1.2 The guidelines are intended to ensure smooth transition to the new Contributory Pension Scheme.
- 1.3 The guidelines shall apply to all employees in the Public Service of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, and the Private Sector that has five (5) or more employees.
- 1.4 Any employee covered by paragraph 1.3 and who at the commencement of this Act is entitled to retirement benefits under any pension scheme existing before the commencement of this Act but has 3 years or less to retire in accordance with the term of his/her employment shall be exempted from the scheme. Similarly, the categories of officers mentioned in Section 291 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 and existing pensioners shall be exempted from the Scheme.
- 1.5 The guidelines are based on the National Pension Commission's interpretation of the relevant legislation in respect of the various existing retirement schemes for which it is the regulator.
- 1.6 The guidelines will be revised, by the National Pension Commission (Commission), from time to time.
- 1.7 Users of the guidelines are encouraged to exercise their own skill and care in relation to any matter contained therein.

### 2.0 Transitional Arrangements for the Private Sector

- 2.1 For the purpose of implementing the Act, this section covers all business establishments other than government but including civil society organisations, local employees of Embassies and High Commissions and International Organisations.
- 2.2 As from the commencement of the Act and before the licensing of Pension Fund Administrators (PFAs) and Pension Fund Custodians (PFCs), employees are required to open a temporary Retirement Savings Account for each employee.
- Accrued Retirement Benefits Rights**
- 2.3 As at the commencement of the Act, the retirement benefits in respect of accrued or past service earned by each employee shall be computed by his/her employer in accordance with the existing contract of service. Every defined benefits scheme shall within sixty days from the date of publication of these guidelines cease to be prepared in respect of the scheme fund an actuarial valuation, provided that defined benefits schemes which have ceased to be prepared an actuarial valuation in respect of the scheme fund within twelve months prior to the date of publication of these guidelines shall not be required to prepare another valuation.
- 2.4 The employer shall credit the Retirement Savings Account of each employee with any funds to which the employee is entitled in paragraph 2.3. In this regard, an employer that keeps its retirement benefits funds with a third party should liaise with the fund manager or administrator and ascertain the value of the fund.
- 2.5 In the event the funds are not sufficient to meet the accrued liabilities computed in paragraph 2.3, a written obligation to that effect shall be issued to the concerned employee and the terms of repayment of such obligation shall be agreed with the employee.
- 2.6 The employer shall notify the Commission of any written obligation under paragraph 2.5 and the steps taken or to be taken to meet such obligation.

### Contributions to the Scheme

- 2.7 As from the commencement of the Act, contribution by the employer and the employee shall also be credited to each employee's temporary Retirement Savings Account.
- 2.8 Every employer shall maintain proper books of accounts and records of contributions made after the commencement of the Act.
- 2.9 The contribution of the employer and the employee shall be a minimum of 7.5% each of the employee's monthly emoluments as provided in the Act.
- 2.10 Where the contribution, prior to the commencement of the Act, by an employer exceed the minimum stipulated by the Act, such employer will not reduce the level of that contribution.
- 2.11 An employer could decide to make both the employer and employee's contributions to the Retirement Savings Account provided that the total sum contributed by the employer meets the minimum sum (15% of total monthly emoluments) required by the Act.
- 2.12 If an employer chooses to contribute more than the 7.5% required by the Act, but less than 15% of the employee's total monthly emoluments, the employee will still be required to contribute the minimum of 7.5% so that the total amount of money contributed by the employer and employee must not be less than the 15% minimum required by the Act.
- 2.13 After the licensing of Pension Fund Administrators and Pension Fund Custodians, the employee shall open a Retirement Savings Account with a PFA of his choice and the amount standing to his or her credit derived from the accrued rights and the contributions referred to in paragraphs 2.4 and 2.7 respectively shall be transferred to that account within thirty (30) days. The employer shall thereafter notify the National Pension Commission of such transfers.

- 2.14 For employees who were exempted by the Act (having less than three years to retire contractually), the employer shall continue to contribute to such employees' retirement benefit the same level of contribution before the commencement of the Act until such employees retire.

### Access to Retirement Savings Account

- 2.15 Any sums of money generated by the accrued pension rights of an employee determined for or contributed by each employee before the commencement of the Act may be accessed by the employee on retirement based on the terms of the contract of employment prior to the commencement of the Act.
- 2.16 Contributions made after the commencement of the Act, shall only be applied, accessed or otherwise utilised in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Act.

### Continuation and Management of Existing schemes

- 2.17 Any employer wishing to continue with its existing scheme shall apply to the Commission and should comply with the provisions of Section 39 of the Act.
- 2.18 Any employer that elects to continue with its existing scheme and desires to manage its pension fund shall also apply to the National Pension Commission to be licensed as a Closed Pension Fund Administrator (Specific guidelines for the requirements of a Closed Pension Fund Administrator will be issued shortly).

### Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF)

- 2.19 The Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) shall compute for each contributor or beneficiary the contributions made and attributable income thereon in the context of NSITF Act of 1993 before the commencement of the Pension Reform Act.
- 2.20 NSITF shall open Retirement Savings Accounts for each contributor or beneficiary and credit such account with the amounts computed in paragraph 2.19.
- 2.21 The funds credited to the Retirement Savings Account of a contributor shall remain with the PFA of NSITF for not less than 5 years from the commencement of the Act. Thereafter, each beneficiary is free to determine which PFA will manage these funds on his or her behalf.
- 2.22 All contributions made to the NSITF from the commencement of the Act but before the licensing of PFAs shall be transferred by the NSITF to an employee's Retirement Savings Account with a Pension Fund Administrator of his/her choice.
- 2.23 The NSITF shall establish a company to be licensed by the National Pension Commission to undertake the business of a Pension Fund Administrator.

### Transitional Arrangements for the Unfunded Public Sector

### Accrued Retirement Benefits Rights

- 3.2 As at the commencement of the Act, the retirement benefits in respect of accrued or past service earned by an employee shall be computed by the Government in accordance with the terms of contract of service existing before the commencement of the Act.
- 3.3 Each employee shall be issued with a Federal Government Retirement Bond equivalent to the total retirement benefits that was due to him/her as at the commencement of the Act as computed under paragraph 3.1.
- 3.4 Upon retirement of an employee, the bond shall be redeemed by the Central Bank of Nigeria from the Redemption Fund Account already established for that purpose.
- 3.5 The proceeds of the bond so redeemed shall be transferred to the credit of the Retirement Savings Account of the employee.
- Contributions to the New Scheme**
- 3.6 Collections of contributions from the employer and the employee commenced in the month of July 2004 and are being lodged at the Central Bank of Nigeria pending the licensing of Pension Fund Administrators and Pension Fund Custodians. The Central Bank of Nigeria is investing the contributions in Treasury Bills, Ministries, Departments and Agencies are advised to refer to the Head of Civil Service of the Federation's Circular No. HCSC/503/II/96 of 28th June, 2004 and the Accountant-General of the Federation's Treasury Circular No. TRY/A/10/REB/10/2004 of 28th September, 2004 for ease of reference.
- 3.7 Each Ministry, Department and Agency must submit to the National Pension Commission a profile of each employee as requested in the specified format issued by the Commission.
- 3.8 The Commission shall cause to be open a Temporary Retirement Savings Account for each employee whose profile has been verified.
- 3.9 The National Pension Commission will within ninety (90) days of licensing of PFAs compute and transfer all contributions and returns thereof to the credit of the Retirement Savings Account opened with the Pension Fund Administrator of employees' choice.

# ABUJA TRUST

## Karu planning authority to construct six bus stops

The Karu Area Planning and Development Authority (KAPDA) has decided to clear the 45 metres set back along the Abuja-Keffi expressway and construct six bus stops, starting from the Nasarawa/FCT boundary.

The decision according to inside sources is informed by the haphazard development giving on along the Abuja-Keffi expressway and indiscriminate use of the road shoulders as business premises by petty traders' mechanics, spare parts and building material dealers.

Public Affairs officer,

### Driver slaps policewoman in bus stop fracas

By Shuaibu Abubakar & Rabi Othman, (IT interns) Abuja

A lady police constable was slapped by a bus driver yesterday, at the junction of Wuse Zone 6 in Abuja at about 1.30pm after the policewoman alleged that the bus driver dropped a passenger very close to the junction.

The police constable, who happened to be a lady, arrested the driver and insisted he should drive them to the police station, as they proceeded, the driver took a different direction, when she realised what the driver was trying to do she held the bus steering wheel which caused him to stop.

The conductor of the bus, known as Olatunde confirmed to our reporters that they did not take or drop any passenger, they only joined the normal queue at the Wuse bus stop.

When the police woman came to arrest them and even went ahead to slap the bus driver for asking her why they should go to the station.

Olatunde, the bus conductor, lamented to one of our reporter "my Oga did not lay a finger on this woman it was when she saw people and other police men coming she started crying and shouting "he slapped me! he slapped me!"

According to eye witnesses, the bus driver gave the policewoman one hundred naira which she rejected and insisted that they should go to the station so the driver drove to the other side of the road and stopped, that was when people started to gather around them and that he even saw the driver going on his knees.

However, the conductor expressed grievances over the attitude of the police towards the driver who was seen taken away to the Wuse police station with his conductor plus two

By Godwin Tynonogo (Reporter)

Dahiru M. Ibrahim told *Abuja Trust* that the clearing, landscaping and construction of bus stop embarked upon by KAPDA

was aimed at ensuring free flow of traffic, improving visibility, scenic beauty, as well as reducing the danger to lives and properties posed by the activities of traders and commercial vehicle operators at the road side.

The second batch of 500 pilgrims from FCT who had been stranded at the Hajj camp are expected to have left for Saudi Arabia last night by Kabo Airlines.

Malam Aliyu Usman, public relations officer of the FCT Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board, disclosing this in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja yesterday.

Usman said that some of

## Second batch of FCT pilgrims leave for Saudi Arabia

pilgrims had been at the Hajj Transit camp for about 20 days.

He lamented that IRS Airline slated to transport FCT pilgrims was still sorting out some technical issues with the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA).

NCAA had raised some queries on the safety of the aircraft IRS had intended to

use to transport the pilgrims. The image maker said that the first batch of 480 pilgrims left Abuja on Sunday through a rescue operation organised by Kabo airline.

Usman noted that IRS had not lifted a single pilgrim since beginning of flight operation on Dec. 27 last year. He appealed to other pilgrims to exercise caution and be patience as the board

would do all within its powers to ensure that all her pilgrims were transported before the Jan. 12 deadline.

Usman reminded pilgrims to abide by all the lessons they learnt from induction courses they attended and from the teachings of the Holy Qur'an on Hajj.

He also advised them to keep to the advice given to them by the FCT minister,

But owners of such properties have failed to remove them as required.

KAPDA has embarked on a cleaning exercise to ensure that properties earlier affected are removed in accordance with the law.

Malam Nasir el-Rufai.

NAN correspondent who was at the Hajj Transit camp in Gwagwalada yesterday reports that many of the pilgrims were anxiously awaiting their departure to the holy land.

All efforts to contact IRS officials proved abortive as those on duty said they were not competent to speak on the issue.

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9. Al-Muayy	S'garai	Kano	08023142712 08042115122 08023142712	19. Halimah Nig.	Wuse 2	FCT	08011144014
10. Al-Arabi	Utchoro	Kaduna	08028409405	20. FOX MASTER	Acra	Osun	08023130207

# ABUJA TRUST

## FCT: How education fared in 2004

As parents brace up for higher fees in public schools in the FCT, Nigerians, especially Abuja residents, were shocked to hear the bizarre story of a Principal Education Officer in the Government Secondary School, Karu, one Musa Akogun, who was dismissed by the Education Secretariat of the Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory (MFCT) for raping two of his female students, within five months, one of them a virgin, in his office, and impregnating both of them in the process.

Executive Secretary, Education in the MFCT, Dr Auwal Anwar, who made the shocking revelation to members of the MFCT press corps during the end of year 2004 press briefing, also said that another teacher, one Mohammed Nasir, a Senior Education Assistant with Government Secondary School, Yaba, was also dismissed for continuously absenting himself from his duty post without good reason since October, 2003.

Dr. Anwar said that these two undesirable elements constitute an embarrassment to the ethics of the teaching profession and as such, removing them from the FCT schools is doing a good service to the society.

Education, as the saying goes, is the bedrock of development, and these negative stories need not allow FCT residents to write off the educational system in a hurry as the MFCT is currently undergoing reforms in line with the National Public Sector Reform agenda, with the objective of increasing service delivery and accountability in the FCT.

The continuous influx of people into the FCT has led to massive overstretching of its educational facilities. The implication of this is that the existing classroom facilities and other infrastructure are no longer adequate.

"City classrooms now record an average of 100 children per class and some do not have basic classroom furniture or school buses," the FCT Minister, Malam

By Nasir Inuam  
Property & Environment Editor

Nasir Ahmed el-Rufai has said, in another fora.

The minister said the desperate need for rehabilitated schools as well as additional schools of better quality and standard is portrayed by inhabitable primary schools, shortage of basic teaching materials, absence of libraries, standard laboratories and information technology IT facilities.

In the meantime, the MFCT Executive Secretary, Education, Alhaji Auwal Anwar has said that since assumption of office, he had been trying to capture the nature, scope and dimension of not only the educational requirements of the FCT but more especially how best to do it without unnecessarily disrupting the existing equilibrium.

Four ad-hoc ministerial committees, Alhaji Anwar said, have since been established to closely examine issues of staff academic qualification, evaluation of educational projects, development of education in the FCT and accreditation of private schools.

Already, he said, some of the committees have submitted their findings and a team of experts charged with the responsibility of drafting a white paper and making recommendations to government are working on it.

The committee on projects, for instance, discovered several anomalies like some projects on the schedule that we not even seen on the sites, and irregularities on some project instruments.

Other anomalies, the Education Secretary said, include 16 projects in some school sites that were abandoned by contractors, and that many end-users of the projects did not have any input in the projects on their sites.

The committee on projects, Alhaji Anwar revealed, also discovered that some contracts, for which payments had already been made without



Mallam Nasir el-Rufai, FCT Minister

completion of work, were still reflected as outstanding liabilities, and also violations of store procedure in the central store including evidence of cases of fraudulent escalation of unit prices of items seen in many of the supply contracts.

Similarly, the committee on development of education in the FCT, the executive secretary explained, has said there are not enough schools, especially secondary and tertiary institutions in the FCT.

The existing schools at all levels and categories in the urban and semi-urban settlements are overpopulated, the committee had uncovered, and that some basic infrastructures are lacking in many of the schools, especially those located in the rural areas.

Again, the committee on development of education discovered that most of the public school buildings are in great disrepair and are in dire need of rehabilitation while qualified teachers are inadequate in some of the subject areas e.g. technical, vocational etc and a lopsided distribution of existing

teachers between rural and urban areas.

In general, the committee discovered that education in the FCT in both formal and non-formal sector is not adequately funded, and that FCT has been excluded from the list of the JAMB state codes, hence the original settlers are in a disadvantaged position in admission into higher institutions.

However, the committee on Accreditation of Private Schools discovered that private participation in education has helped to complement governments effort in the FCT, and that private operators have shown more interest in pre-primary and primary school education for obvious reasons for quick returns.

Most private schools, the accreditation committee discovered, are not built on land meant for such, and many lack basic facilities such as teaching material, and conducive learning environment, while some private schools operate irregular school hours, make extra lessons compulsory even for junior classes in order to make more money.

The accreditation committee also discovered that many private schools recruit unqualified teachers whom they often pay salaries below the national minimum wage, and that some of these schools are located on temporary sites which sometimes are not suitable as school sites.

Lastly, the committee revealed that there is wide variation in the fees charged by private proprietors, but that from available statistics, they perform better in examination than public schools.



Prof. Fabian Osoji, Education Minister

On the committee on verification of staff academic qualification, Alhaji Anwar said however that the committee screened 13,700 employees of the secretariat and discovered that most of the staff are qualified, properly employed and assigned appropriately, hence over 80 percent were cleared.

The verification committee also discovered that many teachers especially in secondary schools have no teaching qualification while some are assigned to teach subjects in which they are not qualified, and that many teachers do not have certificates, only statement of results.

However, some of the teacher's certificates, other found not physically fit, while some were discovered to have been upgraded or converted to different or higher grades through dubious and fraudulent means.

In some cases, the verification committee discovered disparities in placement and salary scales of staff with similar qualifications, while some others were employed with only statement of results and spent many years without producing certificates.

Example is the College of Education, Zuba where most of the lectures were found to have only first or second degrees while there was a very high and unbalanced number of non-teaching staff which far out-numbered the teaching staff.

In line with the objective of expanding the frontiers of knowledge, the FCT executive committee has approved the establishment of a Secondary Education

Board and a Department of Policy and Implementation in the Education Secretariat.

The good news however, is that 26 new principals have been appointed by the secretariat, 18 deployed to other schools, and one re-appointed to the same school, while 62 other senior members of staff within the ranks of Chief Education Officers to Directors posted out of their present offices.

As regards primary schools education, they presently four hundred and six (406) primary schools run by the FCT Primary Education Board, with 321,102 pupils cutting across the six area councils.

N450 million has been budgeted for year 2005 as capital budget, a sharp increase from the amount budgeted for last year.

The Primary Education Board has said it collaborated with donor agencies who provided a loan of N30 million for a rehabilitation of schools, libraries, furniture and materials to 83 schools in the FCT.

On the maintenance levy which was at one time authorised by the Education Secretariat but cancelled due to pressure from parents, principals are now to show convincing evidence of credible projects for which the reflected amounts were spent.

Alhaji Anwar concluded by saying that school fees for public schools would be increased in the year 2005, while school management committees will be established, and 47 school buses would be procured for the convenience of FCT students and pupils.

**As parents brace up for higher fees in public schools in the FCT, Nigerians, especially Abuja residents, were shocked to hear the bizarre story of a Principal Education Officer in the Government Secondary School, Karu, one Musa Akogun, who was dismissed by the Education Secretariat of the Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory (MFCT) for raping two of his female students, within five months, one of them a virgin, in his office, and impregnating both of them in the process.**





# ATYAP TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

## TRANSITION TO ETERNAL GLORY

With gratitude and total submission to the will of God, we announce the passing into eternal glory of his Highness, MALLAM BALA ADE DAUKE GORA, the Agwatyap 1 of Atyap Chiefdom in Zango Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State, which sad event occurred on Saturday 1st January, 2005.

### FUNERAL ARRANGEMENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Corpse leaves Barau Dikko General Hospital Kaduna to Mabushi Kataf on Friday, 7th January, 2005 for wake-keeping at 2:00pm

Funeral Service begins at 10:00am on Saturday 8th, January, 2005 at the Agwatyap Palace Atak Jei, Samaru Kataf, Zango Kataf, Kaduna State.



LATE MALLAM BALA ADE DAUKE GORA  
Agwatyap 1 of Atyap Chiefdom

*To God be the Glory.*

John Bala Gora  
(Dan Madamin Atyap)  
Secretary  
Atyap Traditional Council

# KANO TRUST

## Sanitation in Kano, matters arising

Cleanliness is next to godliness as it is a part of 'Tahik (finah)' says a Hadith of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Religiously, cleanliness has been rated in both Qur'an and Bible as a significant factor that deserve to be given priority attention in the society.

Sanitation being an important factor that keeps society clean and healthy could not be neglected by any responsible government be it military or a civilian administration. Any improvement recorded in the sector deserves commendation in any quarters. Sanitation in a state like Kano with an estimated 3 million people, need to be given priority attention and any administration that ignore sanitation does it at its perils while those that improves sanitation should be rated as a responsible and competent administration.

However, Kano Trust

By Yusha'u Adamu Ibrahim, Correspondent (Kano)

Our investigation also revealed that areas like Noman's land, Brigade in Nassarawa Local Council, and Jakara, Sataima, Soron Dinki in Kano city were among the areas that were facing serious problem of both refuse and flooding problems in Kano.

However with there has been some level of improvements on the issue of garbage collection and drainage clearing in the last one year. Since the inception of the present administration, sanitation in Kano State has been improved as government give adequate financial and moral support to the sector, as it purchase additional working materials, employed more workers called 'Street Managers'

improving the sector's service, the development had reduce the unemployment, minimized the Yandaba problems as well as alleviating poverty among the teeming youth in the state. When asked on how can the new development can be maintain even after the present regime, Alhaji Hussam said it depend on the government of the day as according to him the main problem is the continuity of programmes, adding that Shekarau's administration had continued with some meaningful programs inherited from the immediate past administration of Kwankwaso.

Alhaji Hussam also appealed to the general public to cooperate with the street sweepers and other officials of REMASAB as according to him only through the general public



One of the worst affected roundabouts in Kano, Yankura roundabout, flooded due to lack of proper drainage.

Hajjiya Salamatu also hinted that laws and a Mobile Court will soon be introduced in the state to handle sanitation, pollution and desertification matters. The laws which she said are already on the ground will be sent to Ministry of Justice for endorsement after review and will later be applied on people. She emphasized that the laws will greatly assist in managing unruly behaviors of people in respects of sanitation.

The problem of flooding of roundabouts in Kano metropolis has been a teething problem for past administrations in the state. The worst hit round about are those at Yan kura, Dausa Hotel, Hadeja by Ahmadu Bello way, Kundila round about, Triumph Newspapers round about, Kano Club round about and Bara roundabout. However Kano Trust discovered that the recent contracts for the renovation of the roundabouts have been awarded and work already commenced. One aspect that bothers Kano residents however is that the worst affected roundabouts are not the ones that the rehabilitation work started with.

Commenting on the issue of flooding, the Managing Director, Kano State Environment Protection and Planning Agency (KASEPPA) Alhaji Mustapha D. Inuwa said the state government has recently awarded a contract of rehabilitation of 10 roundabouts in the state metropolis. Alhaji Mustapha stated that the selection of which roundabout to begin work is not made by his agency, saying it was the decision of the contractor to start from which ever round about they desired. He however said that the rehabilitation exercises, which include the construction of drainages in all the roundabouts, will go along way of tracking the menace of flooding in the state. He explained that the work would be completed before this year's rainy season.

The Managing Director also said apart from the rehabilitation exercise some roads and culverts were being reconstructed across the state through direct labour, which is handled by the Agency. Adequate measures, he said, have been taken to ensure qualitative work. A cross section of people interviewed by the Kano

Trust commended the present administration on the improvement so far recorded in both sanitation and flood control, and also expressed hope that the development will be maintain even beyond the present administration.

A trade in Kano City, Alhaji Shehu Idris Sataima told Kano Trust that Kano State Government deserves commendation as far as sanitation and flooding problems are concern. Therefore it is left for the people to reciprocate the gesture by ensuring continuous clearing of their drainages and culverts. Another contribution, Malam Sani Garba of Sheka makaranta said that they have really witnesses some changes in sanitation and flood control. He then called on the both Government and the concern parastatals to maintain the tempo.

Mallam Idris Ibrahim however said that the Sanitation Board need to draw out a comprehensive timetable for refuse collection in the state capital because many refuse dumps are left for days before clearing. He cited the Tudun Maliki and Sheka-Achilafiya junction refuse dumps where they are left for more than a week before collection, thereby exposing the residents of the areas to health hazards. He also stressed that they is need for adequate supervision of the street managers because on many occasion you will see them sleeping by the road side or chatting under trees.

Kano Trust also discovered that since the clearing of the drainages in April last year, officials of the ministry of Environment have not visited the drainages cleared thus allowing them to fill up again with debris. The officials also left most of the drainages opened after breaking the slabs on them thereby allowing more refuse into the drainage system. Unless these drainages are revisited and cleared early before the coming of rainy season this year, the ugly incidences of flooding that characterized the 2003 rainy season may recur again in Kano city and environs.



Sanitation sweepers keeping roads clean.

investigation revealed that the population density of the state could not be counted out among the factors that shaped peoples attitude concerning refuse disposal. Investigation show that peoples attitude towards refuse disposal is among the factors militating against the successes of sanitation in the state.

Kano Trust also discovered that it has gone to the extent that some residents have formed the habit of dumping refuse on the streets, throwing away pure water sachets indiscriminately and defacing round abouts and other public places with stool and garbages. These and other related attitude are contributing a lot in making Kano dirty and hampering the success of sanitation in the state. Apart from making the state dirty, the menace is also contributing in causing flooding especially in the state metropolis as most of the drainages and culverts were blocked by human waste.

Kano Trust also discovered that hawkers like sugarcane sellers, pure water hawkers as well as carelessness of some house owners in Kano metropolis are playing a greater role in causing high rate of refuse and blockage of drainages and culverts in the

under its new Sanitation approach which has receive accolades from many quarters.

The Managing Director State Refuse Management and Sanitation Board (REMASAB) Alhaji Hussam Musa said the development could be best attributed to governor Shekarau's willingness to assist the sector because no matter how equipped the sector is if the government is not willing to assist directly even the policies could not be implemented. "So I can say the success so far achieved is based on the support the present administration is giving to the sector". He added.

Alhaji Hussam explained further that government had last year employed 2,000 street sweepers, purchased 20 refuse collection vehicles, wheel brows and rehabilitation of grounded vehicles among other things adding that the Board had also applied for more working materials and government is willing to purchased.

The REMASAB Managing Director said that currently government had recruited addition 5,000 workers, which will commence work this month noting that apart from

cooperation success could be recorded. He said people should be sanitation conscious they should make sure that all the refuses collected from their houses or their business places have been dumped in the designated refuse collection centers.

Kano Trust recalled that during the 2004 rainy seasons flooding episodes were minimized in the state capital following drainage clearing exercise embarked upon by the state government in the flood prone areas of Kano metropolis. The havoc of flooding that characterized the 2003 rainy season in Kano city in particular was avoided in 2004 after the drainage clearing exercise.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of environment, Hajjiya Salamatu Garba explained that serious measure have been taken in providing additional drainages and culverts in the city as well as rehabilitation of the old ones. She further disclosed that state government is also planning to establish a central water treatment center in the industrial area of Kano with a view to tackling the problem of contamination water coming from the industrial areas.



Construction of drainage along Yan by Sarkin Jaki Road, by Governor Shekarau administration.

# EKO TRUST

## Road triggers battle between Tinubu, Ogunlewe

The face-off between Lagos State Governor, Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the Minister for Works, Senator Adeseye Ogunlewe, which has been raging since last year, continued last year over who should construct a just 2.5km road in the state.

Later last year some officials and contractors working on that road were seriously beaten by police officers from the office of the state governor. The policemen from Governor's Monitoring Team were said to have beaten all workers on site that faithful to a state of coma.

Since May 29, 1999 return to civil rule in Nigeria, there has been intermittent exchange of verbal jabs between the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) led Federal Government and the Alliance for Democracy (AD) controlled Lagos State over the ownership and control of some roads believed to be federal roads in the Lagos State.

At first the state government in a bid to have motorable roads in the state repaired all damaged roads owned by both tiers of government on the ground that such money expended would be refunded by the central government but the reverse is the case as out of the N1.5billion claimed to have been spent by the Lagos State in putting federal roads in good shape only N800million has so far been refunded. According to the minister the said amount being claimed by the Lagos was far cry to what was actually spent.

Late last year after 13 years of neglect by both government the 2.5km Majidun-Ipakodo road was re-awarded in Ikorodu a suburb of Lagos by the state government putting what seems to put an end to months of controversy between the federal government and Lagos state government over who should build the road.

The construction of Majidun-Ipakodo road with the length of 2.5km and width of 7.3m was conceived during the rehabilitation of Oke-Oriya/Majidun project. The road was to form a spur from the existing Lagos-Ikorodu expressway to Ipakodo and is to service and open up the large residential and agricultural areas along its alignment. The proposal for the construction of the road received further impetus during

**Olumide Bajulaiye,**  
Correspondent (Lagos)

the advance stages of the rehabilitation of Oke-Oriya/Majidun road. Prior to the construction of the Majidun/Ipakodo, the entire alignment were virgin overgrown with thick mangrove vegetation on swampy terrain.

The federal ministry of works in the mid 70s due to pressures from eminent citizens of Ikorodu was directed to carry out survey for the construction of the road. The

ging and sale of sand business, which thrived as a result of the heavy development of building within Ikorodu and beyond. The use of heavy vehicles for the haulage of the sand led to the gradual and progressive degradation of the pavement structures, which eventually led to the collapse of the road over the years.

The construction of the road according to investigations led to the expansion of business activities within the towns bordering it. The essen-

ted by the federal government in the late 70s during the administration of Commodore Ebitu Ukiwe as Lagos State Governor. But the administration of Alhaji Lateef Jakande in the 90s took advantage of the opening up of the road to established a school at Majidun, which is presently functioning

Further investigations by *Eko Trust* revealed that after years of neglect by the federal government the Lagos state government in the year 1993 under Michael Otedola

proposed the reimbursement of money spent on federal roads including that of Majidun/Ipakodo to the federal government. After sending its engineers to assess the job and the engineers expanded the specification of the job to meet with the federal government's standard measurement and consequently reviewed the estimated cost of completion to N150million, though the re-evaluation of the Lagos State government engineers based

that the former contractor abandoned the project after collecting more than N80million from successive administration in the state.

"To redeem the situation, we called on the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority, LAMATA to take over the project and thus bring to an end the anguish that the contractors had inflicted on the government and the people of Majidun - Ipakodo," Tinubu said.

An indigenous construction firm-Messrs Costeng Nigeria Limited is to re-develop the road within the next three months at a cost of N63.3million. Tinubu, who officially flagged off the re-development, presented the firm with a cheque of N118million as mobilization. Tinubu wondered why the winning contractor displayed such lackadaisical attitude towards the project after applying for cost variation several times.

In his reaction, state commissioner for works and infrastructure, Rauf Aregbesola informed that the contractor implemented only 18.8 per cent of the contract despite collecting N80million, which according to him was more than 50 per cent of the total contract sum.

Apparently disregarding the court case instituted by the erring contractor against the state government, Aregbesola said that the Tinubu administration does not owe the contractor any apology over the termination of the contract.

Both the Federal Ministry of Works through its agency Federal Road Maintenance Agency FERMA and Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority LAMATA have been struggling for the control of the road. The rivalry heightened penultimate week forcing the intervention of the state police commissioner Israel Ajao who presided over a meeting on Thursday between the two agencies.

During the fracas state agents including kerbs that were constructed by the state government destroyed about 400 tonnes of gravel deposited at the site by the former contractor who is now in the PDP. It was learnt that over N100million was lost to the fight last week. But the question on the mouth every Lagosians is what political gains does both Senator Ogunlewe and governor Tinubu stand to gain from that road.



Gov Bola Tinubu of Lagos State



Senator Adeseye Ogunlewe, Minister for Works

survey of the road eventually led to the submission of the proposal, which recommended the construction of the road on sand base, finished with interlocking stones.

Investigations revealed that the proposal of the ministry of works and housing was adopted by the federal executive council presided over by General Olusegun Obasanjo. The federal ministry of works and housing in November 1978 thereafter awarded the contract for the construction.

The construction and eventual commissioning of the road in the late 70s led to the expansion of the sand dig-

ging and sale of sand business, which thrived as a result of the heavy development of building within Ikorodu and beyond. The use of heavy vehicles for the haulage of the sand led to the gradual and progressive degradation of the pavement structures, which eventually led to the collapse of the road over the years.

The maintenance of the road was almost negligible after it was constructed and commissioned. The successive governments made zero allocation for the maintenance and the sand sellers had great impact/stress on the pavement structures, which also led to its collapse.

The construction of the Majidun/Ipakodo road was initially conceived and ex-

ecuted by the federal government in the late 70s during the administration of Commodore Ebitu Ukiwe as Lagos State Governor. But the administration of Alhaji Lateef Jakande in the 90s took advantage of the opening up of the road to established a school at Majidun, which is presently functioning

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## NIGERIAN EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL



### DISBURSEMENT OF APPROVED EXPORT EXPANSION GRANT (EEG), 3RD JUNE 2004.

The General Public and in particular, the Nigerian Exporters are hereby informed that the Federal Government has authorized the release of Export Expansion Grant (EEG), in form of Negotiable Duty Credit Certificates (NDCCs), approved on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2004 by the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Export Expansion Grant. The release is in line with the directive by the Federal Government that all pending claims before the suspension of the scheme be released.

2. In view of the above, exporters whose names appear below are being invited to come to the Nigerian Export Promotion Council Headquarters at Block 312, Kumba Street, Wuse Zone 2, Abuja for the collection of their Negotiable Duty Credit Certificates which are scheduled below:

S/NO	COMPANY NAME	PRODUCT EXPORTED	EEG (NAIRA)				
				16	Bhojraj Industries Plc	Polyester & Printed Fabrics.	50,217,658.56
1	Alkorn Nigeria Limited	Polyester Staple Fibre	105,246,087.22	17	Kanotan S.A. Limited	Finished Leather	18,985,853.52
2	United Spinners Nigeria Ltd.	Cotton Yarn	50,247,156.02	18	Afirmex Enterprises Limited	Finished Leather	17,692,629.96
3	Angel Spinning & Dyeing Ltd.	Wax Prints	133,753,838.35	19	Mario-Jose Enterprises Ltd	Finished Leather	244,432,249.07
4	Afprint Nigeria Plc	Coton Yarn & Wax Prints	21,290,374.74	20	Multitan Limited	Finished Leather	71,702,885.31
5	Globe Spinning Mills (Nig) Plc	Cotton Yarn	81,287,539.74	21	Gashash Tanneries Limited	Processed Crust Skins	10,877,427.04
6	First Spinners Plc	Hoisery Wax & Comber Noi	34,061,751.32	22	Globus Enterprises Limited	Finished Leather	17,228,637.36
7	African Textiles Manufacturers Ltd	Printed Fabrics	51,888,666.94	23	Trends Venerate Limited	Vegetable Tanned Skins	24,866,492.14
8	Century Polyester Plc	Polyester Staple Fibre	8,786,853.41	24	Marmada Ind. Nig. Ltd.	Finished Leather	527,902,048.67
9	Cotton & Agic Processor Ltd	Cotton Lint	9,246,968.41	25	Nasmier Enterprises Limited	Finished Leather	81,511,178.00
10	Chelco Industries Limited	Blankets	1,015,560.00	26	Mahaza Company Limited	Finished Leather	182,266,866.20
11	Royal Spinners Plc	Cotton Yarn	2,433,604.26	27	Codina Company Limited	Finished Leather	147,482,728.75
12	United Nig. Textiles Plc	Grey Cloth	31,040,708.57	28	Axylose (Nigeria) Limited	Rubber (NSR 10)	1,903,528.17
13	Spintex Mills Nigeria Limited	Polyester & Cotton Yarn	7,957,676.08	29	Michelin Development Co. Ltd	Rubber (TSNR)	53,409,103.02
14	West African Cotton Co. Ltd.	Cotton Lint	6,938,776.02	30	Unilever Nigeria Plc	Omo Detergents	17,544,444.79
15	Nig. Embroidery Lace Mafg Co. Ltd.	Embroidery Lace	27,334,058.94	31	Michelin Nigeria Limited	Tyres and Flaps	64,297,129.04

32	Eng Huat Rubber Industry EPF	Standard Rubber(NSR 10)	39,833,508.96	73	Tropical Wood Technologies Ltd	Floor Tiles	3,197,431.20
33	Ferdinand Enterprises (Nig.) Ltd	TSR Rubber	10,235,520.00	74	Caprisage (Export) Wood & Furniture Co. Ltd	Furniture Components	1,396,141.84
34	West African Rubber Products Nig. Ltd	Bathroom Slippers	39,421,860.33	75	Aa-Klalyz Resources Limited	Furniture Components	28,648,053.68
35	Africa Star Nigeria Limited	Frozen Shrimps	412,155.74	76	Omo Wood Industry Limited	Apa Parquet & Squares	56,931,095.39
36	Atlantic Shrimpers Limited	Frozen Shrimps	170,159,451.69	77	Coop Cocoa Products Limited	Cocoa Butter	13,108,516.84
37	Honeywell Fisheries Limited	Frozen Shrimps	5,594,778.37	78	Ice Limited	Cocoa Butter & Cake	23,210,404.00
38	Kulak Trades & Industries Plc	Frozen Shrimps	47,615,866.82	79	Fantastic Traders Nig. Limited	Cocoa Butter	22,935,723.32
39	ORC Fishing & Food Processing Ltd	Frozen Shrimps	8,087,870.95	80	Lomeview International Limited	Cocoa Shell	2,424,051.42
40	Ocean Fisheries Nigeria Ltd.	Frozen Shrimps	53,787,893.24	81	Olam Nigeria Limited	Agricultural Products	590,989,993.03
41	United Fisheries Nig. Ltd.	Frozen Shrimps	29,469,643.02	82	Gum Arabic Co. Nig. Ltd.	Gum Arabic	608,518.62
42	Tarabaroz Fisheries Limited	Frozen Shrimps	25,759,432.06	83	Century Export Limited	Cocoa Beans	1,485,065.67
43	Dolphine Fisheries Limited	Frozen Shrimps	47,612,480.00	84	Trinco Limited	Furniture Components	6,382,441.10
44	H.R.Ventures Limited	Frozen Shrimps	13,767,701.20	85	Unique Leather Finishing Co. Ltd.	Finished Leather	472,388,083.43
45	Banarly Nigeria Limited	Frozen Shrimps	31,931,180.23	86	Multi-Trex Investment Limited	Cocoa Beans & Butter	64,315,901.60
46	Nulec Industry Limited	Blank Video Cassettes	8,297,419.68	87	Wood Mills Industries Limited	Floor Tiles	26,127,612.77
47	Decent Bags Industries Ltd.	Poly Bags	71,370,978.80	88	Vital Products Limited	Fruit Juice	33,211,104.00
48	Western Metal Products Co. Ltd.	Zinc Skimmings	22,872,498.05	89	Inrica Ventures Limited	Ball Point Pen	11,650,758.00
49	PZ Industry Plc	Household Products	43,065,560.76	90	Vista International Limited	Envelops & Photocopy Papers	1,706,965.03
50	West African Seasoning Co. Ltd.	Monosodium Glutamate	10,821,646.52	91	Amciti Nigeria Limited	Hulled Sesame Seed	43,965,643.84
51	Celplas Exports Limited	Coolers, Plastics & Household Goods	1,552,758.77	92	Star Seed Nigeria Limited	Polished Sesame Seed	10,555,776.00
52	Celplas Industries Limited	Plastic Chairs & Fans	1,157,417.28	93	Don-Capo Afrosia Limited	Aluminium & Lead Ingots	2,565,796.91
53	Darsa Food Processing Co. Ltd	Gum Arabic Spray	30,240,000.00	94	Olokun (Piscos) Limited	Frozen Shrimps	1,578,388.80
		Dried Powder		95	Erpee Industry Plc	Polyester Fabrics	4,184,143.67
54	Sonnex Packaging Nig. Ltd	Pre-form Tubes	11,057,693.40	96	Reliance Textiles Ind. Limited	Super Prints	3,494,369.19
55	Chemical & Allied Products Plc	Emulsion Paints	1,524,393.66	97	Purechem Industries Limited	Glue	708,870.59
56	Viva Metal & Plastic Ind. Ltd.	Poly Bags	28,851,005.81				
57	Union Autoparts Mufg Co. Ltd.	Pure Lead Ingots	4,439,205.88				
58	Promasidor Nigeria Limited	Instant Milk & Tins	10,323,296.74				
59	Mobil Nigeria Limited	Mobil Gard & Insecticides	5,419,670.02				
60	Gorgoni Company Limited	Insecticides	56,826,778.80				
61	Cybel Cosmetics Limited	Cosmetics	2,575,688.70				
62	West Africa Milk Co.(Nig.) Ltd.	Cream Milk	2,700,000.00				
63	Standard Plastic Ind. (Nig.) Ltd.	PVC Slippers	43,226,509.66				
64	Standard Footwear (Nig.) Ltd	Beach Combers	24,480,613.18				
65	Bally Plastics & Footwear Ind. Ltd.	PVC Slippers	13,424,683.56				
66	Asia Plastics Ind. Limited	Bathroom Slippers	86,331,279.43				
67	Assan Oil Mills Limited	Palm Olein	165,794,160.00				
68	Nigeria Oil Mills Limited	Palm Olein	750,386,000.00				
69	Int'l Fractionation & Marg Prod Ltd.	Margarine	39,860,825.76				
70	Premier Timber Ind. Nig. Ltd	Furniture Components	83,020,343.23				
71	Advanced Business Systems Ltd	Furniture Components	2,976,843.63				
72	Piedmont Plywoods Nig. Ltd.	Furniture Components	4,566,488.81				

TOTAL  
5,583,474,441.30

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#### Important Notes:

- 1 Only employee(s) of the beneficiary companies who have been accredited by the Council will be allowed to collect the certificates, as NEPC would not deal with any third-party on this matter.
- 2 Beneficiaries requesting for blank endorsement of NDCCs for third party use should please note that a processing time of five (5) working days is required after the submission of a letter of indemnity to the Council. To minimize the traveling inconvenience to beneficiaries, endorsed certificates will be returned to them by courier service at their expense.

Signed  
**G.M. Sasore (Mrs.)**  
Special Adviser to the President/ CEO  
Nigerian Export Promotion Council.

# News Focus

## Day of judgement of missing M.T. African pride

Although Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2005 has come and gone, it would never be forgotten easily by the two Naval Rear Admirals - Samuel A. Kolawole and Francis A. Agbiti - who were on that day dismissed from the services of the Nigerian Navy, NN, which they had served for 34 years each by a general court marshal.

For the duo, it became crystal clear that whether a battle was fought on the deep sea, in the war field or in the court marshal, a battle is a battle.

Not only was Rear Admiral Agbiti dismissed from the Nigerian Navy, he was also demoted and reduced to the rank of a Commodore after the two months' legal battle.

Rear Admiral Antonio Bob-Manuel, Rear Admiral Samuel Kolawole and Rear Admiral Francis Agbiti, who used to be the most senior in rank, were dragged before a general court marshal sitting in Lagos over complicity in the disappearance of an oil tanker, *MT African Pride*, which was alleged to have been hijacked by oil mafia for illegal oil bunkering.

*MT African Pride* was on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2004 arrested by the Nigerian Navy with crude oil on board valued at over N10 billion and detained at the Western Naval Command until 10<sup>th</sup> October when the ship developed wings and flew into the air.

Before he was discharged and acquitted by the tribunal, Rear Admiral Bob-Manuel, NN/0276 of HQ NAV TRAL, was the Flag Officer Commanding (FOC) Western Naval Command in Lagos when the ship was arrested.

He was accused of criminal conspiracy to commit felony contrary to Section 114 (1) Armed Forces Act (AFA) Cap A20, Laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (LFN) 2004 and punishable under Section 516 of the Criminal Code Act, Cap 41 LFN 2004.

According to the team of prosecutors led by Brig. Gen. Idada, Rear Admiral Bob-Manuel conspired with Rear Admiral Francis Agbiti, NN/0237; Rear Admiral Samuel Kolawole NN/0212 and other persons unknown to facilitate and effect the disappearance of the vessel, *MT African Pride*, from the lawful custody of the Nigerian Navy.

Rear Admiral Bob-Manuel was also alleged to have between February and July 2004 failed to brief the Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) of any existing constraint which hampered the handing over of the *MT African Pride* to the Nigeria Police as ordered by the Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) and thereby committed conduct to the prejudice of service discipline contrary to Section 103 (1) AFA, CapA20 LFN 2004.

He was further alleged to have within the same period as FOC Western Naval Command disobeyed the orders of the CNS to ensure handover by all Naval Commands of all vessels, including the missing ship, to the Nigeria Police Force.

Bob-Manuel, who was represented at the tribunal by the President of the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), Chief Bayo Ojo (SAN) who led four other lawyers, pleaded not guilty to all the charges proffered against him.

Specifically, Rear Admiral Francis Agbiti was charged with criminal conspiracy with unknown persons to facilitate the disappearance of the missing ship.

Agbiti was further alleged to have failed to comply with the directives of the CNS and wrongly caused the release of a signal "Exhibit E" which led to the non-compliance with the

CNS directives.

He was also alleged to have lied to the CNS and to have been involved in conduct prejudicial to service by giving the impression that the missing ship was already handed over to the police.

Agbiti, then the Chief of Training and Operations (CTOPS) Naval Headquarters, Abuja, was represented by Chief Wole Olanipekun (SAN), the immediate past NBA president, who led four other lawyers. He was further charged with fraudulent alteration being a person subject to service law.

The charges pressed against Rear Admiral Samuel Kolawole include criminal conspiracy of alteration of service document and negligence to take proper security of the missing ship. Kolawole, who has barely three months to retire from the Nigerian Navy, was the FOC Western Naval Command at the time the ship disappeared. According to the prosecutor, Kolawole lost *MT African Pride*, a public property and prized ship property of the Federal Government of Nigeria valued at N308 million, equivalent of \$2.2 million.

Altogether, no fewer than twenty Prosecution Witnesses (PWs) testified for the prosecution while over a dozen witnesses testified for the defence.

Even before the commencement of the trial, preliminary objections were raised by lawyers to the accused persons challenging the competence of members of the tribunal to try the suspects.

Agbiti, through his lawyer, Wole Olanipekun (SAN), claimed that since all the members of the tribunal were junior in rank to him, they were not competent to try him in accordance to service rules.

Some of the issues raised in the preliminary objections which are fundamental to aspects of the trial were however not canvassed at all during the address by the lawyers.

The defence counsel also challenged the competence of the prosecutor, saying that he was a retired general who ought to get a fiat from the Attorney General of the Federation before appearing, since he was not employed by the Federal Ministry of Justice, or any other ministry.

In the opinion of the defence counsel, all that the prosecution had done was a nullity. This point was however over-ruled by the Judge Advocate (JA) during his summons.

While advising the tribunal, the JA urged the court to take the totality of evidence into consideration as well as the demeanour of the accused who appeared before the court.

In the event of any iota of doubt entertained in respect of any accused, the JA urged the tribunal to resolve such in favour of any of the accused persons.

In the summons, the JA, who cited a number of legal authorities, noted that Bob-Manuel was not blame worthy in all the allegations against him. But the JA's opinions on the other suspects were different, urging the court to be thorough in its judgement.

In its judgement, the tribunal held that without reliable arrested forces led by Rear Admirals, Generals etc, the various reforms to tackle corruption will be a pipe dream.

"We on our part have been able to abide by our oath to do justice to all the accused senior officers without fear or favour. We have carefully assessed the entirety of the evidence before us. To this end, we have not allowed any extraneous matter to influence or cloud our sense of judgement."

In the decision of the



Rear Admiral Babatunde Kolawole

tribunal, Rear Admiral Antonio Bob-Manuel was now here linked to the offence of criminal conspiracy by the prosecution either directly or indirectly.

The tribunal noted that Bob-Manuel followed due process of command and response by beefing up security on the ship which remained under custody till 5<sup>th</sup> July 2004 when he (Manuel) left as the FOC Western Command.

The tribunal also discharged and acquitted him on all other charges, including negligence to duty and alleged disobedience to CNS directives, noting that he obeyed all orders from Naval Headquarters, Abuja, by handing over the crew of the ship to the police.

On the strength of this, even lay-men who commended the decision, began to wonder why Rear Admiral Bob-Manuel was brought before the tribunal in the first place despite that he court-marshalled junior officers who were implicated in the disappearance of the crude oil on board the vessel.

Bob-Manuel, who was seen wearing a smiling face since the trial started, was yet to get the report of the court marshal he (Manuel) set up before he was dragged before a general court marshal.

On Agbiti, the tribunal found evidence of criminal conspiracy but had no sufficient proof to find him guilty. He was accordingly discharged.

On failure to comply with CNS directive, the tribunal held that it was established beyond reasonable doubt that Agbiti failed to ensure compliance with CNS directive, adding that there was no evidence that he even followed up the directive before he was charged to the tribunal.

The court held further that he (Agbiti) wrongly caused the release of a signal "Exhibit E" which led to the non-compliance to the CNS directive.

The tribunal also found him guilty of lying to the CNS by giving the impression that the missing ship had already been handed over to the police; however, to avoid double jeopardy, a similar count to this charge was dropped.

On Rear Admiral Samuel Kolawole, the tribunal held that he was guilty of conspiracy as he allowed some officials from the Russian Embassy to visit the detained ship without the permission of the CNS.

It was barely five days after the visit of the Russians that *MT African Pride* developed wings and disappeared into thin air, despite intelligence warning not to allow the visit.

Kolawole was equally found guilty of fraudulent alteration of service documents. He was said to have marked the letter of the Russians with "Treat", but later erased it and wrote "Take note" while awaiting CNS directive.

He was further found guilty of negligence to take proper security of the missing ship as



Rear Admiral Francis Agbiti

the FOC during the time of the incident.

The tribunal also found him guilty of losing *MT African Pride* valued N308 million property of the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Altogether, the tribunal held that A. Bob-Manuel, count 1: Not guilty; 2: Not guilty; 3: Not guilty; 4: Not guilty; - B: Kolawole, Count 1: guilty; 2: guilty; 3: guilty; 4: guilty; 5: withdrawn by prosecutor; 6: guilty; C: Agbiti, count 1: Not guilty; 2: guilty; 3: guilty; 4: struck out; 5: guilty; 6: guilty.

Rear Admiral Bob-Manuel at this point was called upon to leave the courtroom while the two convicted were asked if they had any plea for mercy.

In his plea for mercy, Kolawole called his lawyer, Mr. Lekan Shofolahan, to speak on his behalf.

According to the lawyer, "Rear Admiral Kolawole has served this nation meritoriously through the NN for well over

34 years and due for retirement in three months. He had a distinguished service in the NN and acquired experience both in Ghana and Nigeria; he has integrity, industry and has never faced a court marshal in his entire career."

"In the 34 years of service to the nation, he spent 17 years in training environment both in Nigeria and abroad; he has trained so many officers," Lekan Shofolahan said.

"He is a loving father to his children, one of which is in the NDA yet to become an officer. On 10<sup>th</sup> March 2004, he lost his wife. Kolawole appears to me to be a victim of circumstance who took command at FOC West in July 2004 and the incident happened in August 2004."

The lawyer, while begging the tribunal to temper justice with mercy, noted that all the members of the tribunal were Christians. He added that two weeks ago, they passed through Christmas period, saying that God sent his son to the world to atone for the sins of mankind.

"In that same spirit, I urge the court to be very magnanimous on the sentence and temper justice with mercy."

Asked to call any witness that could testify for his character before sentence was passed, Agbiti called three persons including his lawyer.

These include Mr. Paul Harris Ogbole, his lawyer; Rear Admiral Peter Ijebu (rd) and Commander Njoku, his former staff officer.

In his plea, Mr. Paul Harris Ogbole said that "It is never possible by mortal men to establish absolute truth but only relative truth."

According to him, Agbiti had

rendered selfless services for Nigeria.

"If we wield the big stick over these senior officers today, what message would it convey to other junior officers," he said.

The President of the NBA, Chief Bayo Ojo, in his contribution, said "We are indeed in a democracy". The NBA boss commended the tribunal but noted that the convicts should be considered for lesser punishment as according to him, only the inflexible.

Ojo said that what led to the trial was a mistake, adding that in view of their distinguished careers, they had learnt their lessons.

Daily Trust investigations reveal that never in the history of the Nigerian Navy has such senior officers being tried, which shows that the NN has come of age.

With the calibre of lawyers that appeared before the tribunal, including both past and present presidents of NBA and others as well as the in-depth analysis of the issues raised, the tribunal, to an extent, was reportedly fair.

However, one of the lawyers for the defence was of the opinion that since Agbiti was next to the CNS, the tribunal was merely used to frustrate him.

The lawyer, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that from the on-set, he never expected his client to get justice from the tribunal.

As at the time of filing in this report, it was not clear whether or not the two dismissed Rear Admirals are going to the appellate court to appeal.



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### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public, Share holders and other Stakeholders that the 1st Annual General Meeting of Northlink Insurance Brokers will be coming up on:

**Date:** 27th January, 2005

**Venue:** Northlink Boardroom, First Floor, NIDB Building, Waff Road Kaduna.

**Objectives:** i) Appointment of Auditors  
ii) Declaration of Dividends  
iii) Increase of Capital base and any other Business.

# Inside Politics



Governor Peter Odili of Rivers State here welcoming Hajji Janta Shehu to Government House, Port Harcourt during a courtesy call by the House of Representatives Committee on Poverty Alleviation.

## APGA warns against truncating Igbo presidency

The South-East zone of the All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA) has warned "dissidents" in the party to desist from their nefarious acts to truncate the Igbo political agenda or be ready to face the wrath of the law.

In a statement signed by the Assistant National Organising Secretary, South East zone of the party, Mr. O. N. C. Akanegebu, the zone noted that it upholds the election of the national Treasurer of the Party, Mr. Victor Umeh, and others by the Anambra State Chapter of the party and called on the National Working Committee (NWC) and the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the party to ratify the expulsion of these people in their subsequent meetings.

The zone frowned at the wrongful interpretation of the party's constitution, especially section (19)3 by the suspended national Treasurer, Mr. Umeh and his colleagues which they claimed gives them power to even expel the national chairman of the party. The section, the statement explained, implies that, "there shall be no arrest, prosecution and conviction by a proper Court of Law for the officers to be deemed to have been indicted which shall attract automatic expulsion from the party".

The South-East zone of APGA warned the people of Anambra and Ndigbo in general to shun the actions and utterances of those they described "dissidents" in the party just as it alleged that all their nefarious and antiparty activities are hatched at the Enugu residence of Chief Chris Ubah whom they alleged coordinates their activities.

While thanking party faithful in the zone for their support and loyalty to the national leadership of the

party, the zone also appealed to all to remain resolute in their determination to pursue the Igbo political agenda from the ward to the national level.

The zone therefore expressed its unflinching support

and loyalty to the national leadership, the party and the national Chairman and founder, Chief Chikwas Okorie, urging him to remain focused and not to be disturbed by the activities of the dissidents.

## Benue hails Ogbeh's survival as PDP boss

The peaceful resolution of the leadership crisis rocking the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) and eventual sustenance of Chief Audu Ogbeh as the Party's National Chairman has been commended by the leadership of the party in Benue state.

Several persons who spoke to *Daily Trust* were full of praise that the party leadership proved its worth last Tuesday when it finally resolved the crack which almost appeared impossible to be mended.

One of such prominent persons was the return Zonal Auditor of the PDP, Dr. Godwin Dabo Adzuana, who commended President Olusegun Obasanjo for a show of maturity which, according to him, led to the eventual return of peace and understanding.

He also commended his fellow Benue people who stood behind him in the several appeals he (Dabo) made for a peaceful resolution, saying the gesture proved that unlike the Chief Banabas Gemade days, Benue people are now united at protecting their own while also supporting the President Obasanjo administration in its drive to run a successful government.

Also speaking to *Daily Trust*, the National Secretary of Middle Belt Youth League (MBYL), Comrade Joseph Miom, said he was sure that

From Hir Joseph, Correspondent, (Makurdi)

all the parties involved in the dispute world emerge stronger from the disagreement, just as he noted that Chief Ogbeh proved that he is a patriotic Nigerian desirous of a stable polity.

Comrade Mtom said the leadership of the PDP also was proved that it acknowledged that something was wrong somewhere and praised it for the peaceful resolution of the crisis without any victims.

For Chief David Attah, former image maker of the former head of state, the late General Sani Abacha, the tussel and the eventual resolution showed that democracy was at work.

He said the differences in ideas are expressed in harmony under democracy, while advising all Nigerians to work for the survival of democracy.



Chief Audu Ogbeh

## ALGON explains parley with FG

President of the Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON) Baver Dzeremo, he said that the meeting between members of the association and the federal government was aimed at confidence building.

Addressing State House correspondents yesterday after the meeting which was presided over by President Olusegun Obasanjo, Dzeremo said a number of people did not understand what ALGON was all about.

"Some people do not understand what ALGON is all about and have tended to misrepresent its views ever since," he said.

He said that even a good number of governors did not understand what the association stood for but "they bring out their machetes and are after members of ALGON".

Dzeremo said the association was not formed to function as a trade union, but was willing to work with all levels of constituted authority as well as to coordinate its members at the level of local governments.

"Our position now is that ALGON is a veritable tool for the institutionalisation of democratic rule at the level of the grass roots," he said.

"We are ready to facilitate federal and state authorities' projects and programmes that are of value and benefit down there at the third level of authority.

"At no instance whatsoever do we intend to be another

level of government other than the local government," Dzeremo added.

He said the association had no intention of running into confrontation with governors or with federal authorities.

"We complement each other in the process of nation building," the ALGON president said.

The meeting which was also attended by Vice President Atiku Abubakar, was open to all local government chairmen in the country. NASS to endorse newly created.

## Wada Nas' death will not disintegrate PSP

- Engr. Anyawun

The leadership of the People Salvation Party (PSP) has said that the death of its president General, Alhaji Wada Nas would not lead to its disintegration, but rather make the party wax even stronger.

The deputy president of the party, Engineer Emma Anyawun, in a message from Owerri said the virtues of late Wada Nas were worth emulating, adding that the vacuum he created will be very difficult to fill.

In a statement made available to *Daily Trust* and signed by the party's National Publicity Secretary, Mr. Mike Ugoh, Engr. Anyawun said the party would soon embark on reaching out to various states, and towns in the south where the message of PSP have been driving down by the late Alhaji Wada Nas.

According to him, PSP was synonymous with Wada Nas and vice versa, adding that, "the death of the leader" is a challenge to us, who are

living and I urged all members of the PSP to brace up for the hard work ahead".

He also added that, "PSP is the alternative party", assuring that there will be no let up until "we improve upon what the late president has started".

He then called on all Nigerians to pray for the repose of the soul of the leader of party, who he described an enigma, who meant different things for different people while he lived.



Late Wada Nas

## VACANCY

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# SPORTS

## Edu blasts Arsenal over contract

Arsenal's Brazilian midfielder Edu has hit out at the club for stalling over offering him a new contract.

Edu's deal expires next summer and he has been linked with Spanish trio Real Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia.

He told BBC Sport: "I'm not sure if I want to stay or not because the club have let the situation go on this far."

"If they had really wanted to sign they should have come up with an offer six months before indicating they wanted to sign me and that's made me think."

Edu's brother and representative Amadeo Fensao has previously said that Arsenal's current offer to the midfielder was well short of what he was seeking.

And Edu, 26, added: "My brother is due to come to London on Thursday."

"There is a meeting planned for 6 or 7 January to



Edu

sort it out with Arsenal.

"Now I have a choice to stay or go. I want to sort it out as soon as possible, that's in the best interests of both the club and myself."

"I'm going to make my decision after the meeting later this week."

Edu is now able to begin negotiations with other clubs because Fifa regulations allow players to start talks six months before their contracts expire.

The midfielder, who broke in to the Brazilian national side in 2004, admitted he had been flattered to have been linked with the three Spanish giants.

Edu said: "I've just heard stories from the news that the Madrid president Florentino Perez, the Valencia people, as well as Barcelona are interested."

"That's nice, but I've never talked to them, so I can't say they want me sign

100%."

Last month Wenger said he was hopeful Edu would sign a new deal and played down suggestions that the lure of a club like Real Madrid would be too strong for Edu.

Edu added that he had been encouraged by Wenger's support for him.

"I still have a good relationship with Arsene Wenger - he's always said he wants me to sign."



Mendes says linesman Rob Lewis' error at Old Trafford robbed him of a special moment.

## Mendes feels robbed by linesman

Tottenham's Pedro Mendes says linesman Rob Lewis' error at Old Trafford has robbed him of a "special" moment.

TV replays showed the midfielder's long-range strike was fumbled over the goal-line by Manchester United goalkeeper Roy Carroll on Tuesday.

Lewis ruled it out but Mendes said: "It was a perfectly good goal and the ball clearly crossed the line."

"It would have been a superb goal and something to remember, scoring the winner at Old Trafford in that way."

Former United midfielder David Beckham scored with a similar effort against Wimbledon in 1996 and Mendes says he could also have carved out a place in folklore.

The former Porto star added: "It would have been a fantastic goal. Beckham

scored with a lob like that and it would have been great."

"I don't score many goals and it would have been something special for me and the team."

"I feel sad because we should have had three points."

But Lewis defended his

decision, saying: "The Spurs player shot from distance and I was doing my primary job which was to stand in line with the last defender and watch for an offside."

"There was nothing I could have done differently apart from run faster than Linford Christie."

## English League offers to test technology

The Football League has volunteered to be used as a "guinea pig" for goalline technology which, if successful, could be implemented throughout the world. Rather than video evidence, the scheme would involve using a specially created ball fitted with a microchip that beeps whenever it crosses the line.

Fifa's international board, the only authority with the power to change the laws of the game, will be given a demonstration of the Adidas-designed ball at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium before its annual meeting on February 26. It will then decide whether to accept the Football League's offer of an extended trial period on the second, third and fourth rungs of English football.

"The golden goal and the 10-yard rule for dissent were

both tested in one of our competitions, the LDV Trophy, and we have informed Uefa that if they want to try out goalline technology we would be happy to help," said the league spokesman John Nagle.

He said discussions had started long before Tuesday's controversy at Old Trafford when Manchester United's goalkeeper Roy Carroll dropped a long-range shot from Tottenham's Pedro Mendes over his goalline and clawed it back. Play was waved on, the match finished scoreless and the oversight by the referee Mark Clattenburg and his assistant Rob Lewis prevented Tottenham from recording their first win at Old Trafford since 1989.

"There has been a feeling at club level for a long time that goalline technology can help and that there is no harm

in trying these things," said Nagle. "There is a desire to move the game forward when necessary. So if there is a system that works, and part of the problem is that there has never been one that was considered foolproof, Fifa know the offer is there."

One stumbling block could be that the contract to supply balls to the league is currently held by Mitre, not Adidas, but if the technology proves viable this should not be insurmountable.

It is likely that end-of-season trials will lead to another vote at Fifa's annual meeting in 2006, when a decision will be made about implementing it on a full-time basis.

"I do not think that after one presentation or one trial a quick decision will be taken," confirmed Fifa's communications director Markus Sieglar. "This is a

crucial matter."

The FA will be represented at next month's meeting by a delegation including the chairman Geoff Thompson and the head of refereeing John Baker. Along with their counterparts from Scotland and Northern Ireland, they will back calls for a period of experimentation.

"The FA is willing to discuss and consider any form of goal-line technology that would improve decision-making while not disrupting the game," the organisation said in a statement. "The key factor is whether a message can be transmitted immediately to the referee, allowing him to take an immediate decision without interrupting play."

Video evidence is unlikely to do that without a short delay and, though the FA's incoming chief executive Brian Barwick has advocated such a move, Fifa is adamant that it will not happen. Sieglar said Fifa was "strongly against" using replays and added: "The only thing that could be considered is the technology to decide whether or not the ball has crossed the line."

Keith Hackett, the former referee who is now in charge of the training and management of match officials, said the system would have to be fully researched. "There is no point in introducing technology without understanding the wider issues."

He emphasised with the match officials at Old Trafford. "The referee's assistant didn't have the pace [to keep up with the ball]. But an Olympic sprinter might not have had the speed to get into position to make that judgment. He can't guess - he has to be certain the ball crossed the line."

## Liverpool seal Pellegrino signing

Liverpool boss Rafael Benitez has signed defender Mauricio Pellegrino from Valencia on a free transfer.

The 33-year-old has agreed a six-month deal with the option of a further year, after an injury-hit season in La Liga.

Pellegrino joined Valencia in 1999 from Barcelona and helped them to Champions League finals in 2000 and 2001.

The Argentine also played in the Spanish title-winning sides of 2002 and 2004, and last year's Uefa Cup final win over Marseille under Benitez.

His agent Filippo Cavadini said: "He has passed his medical and is very happy he is going to Liverpool - a great club."

"He has already spoken to Rafael Benitez and is looking forward to playing with Liverpool."

"Mauricio will now be going to Valencia for two or three days to organise his per-

sional situation before returning to Liverpool."

The 33-year-old told the Liverpool club website he was thrilled to have the chance to join the club.

"I feel very satisfied," said Pellegrino.

"At my age it's a great satisfaction that this opportunity comes along. I have always wanted to play in English football."



Pellegrino

## Luxemburgo's preparations pay off for Real

Real Madrid coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo's decision to treat his first seven minutes in charge as seriously as possible paid dividends in Wednesday's 2-1 defeat of Real Sociedad.

The two sides were forced to return to complete the league match after a bomb threat caused their December 12 game to be halted at 1-1 with only minutes to play.

"I made all the preparations I could in order to achieve the win I had dreamed of," said Luxemburgo who was brought in for Mariano Garcia Remon last week. "I knew we could win because football is capable of springing the greatest of surprises."

Zinedine Zidane provided the finishing touch with a perfectly-executed penalty, restoring Real's self-belief at a stroke.

"Winning a game in just six minutes is something that could only happen at Real Madrid," said fullback

Roberto Carlos. "It was the sort of game you want to record on video and show to your children to say 'that's how you play football'."

"For Real Madrid nothing is impossible and we can still win everything this season."

The result pushed Real up to third in the table, level on points with Valencia and 10 behind leaders Barcelona.

Goalkeeper Iker Casillas said the win showed his side's luck had now changed.

"I said last year that we couldn't afford to concede any more points if we wanted to challenge for the league, but this win has now put us within 10 points of Barcelona and we can rejoin the race for the title."



# Sports

## Rusedski falls to in-form Federer

Greg Rusedski was subjected to a fezzing and playing a mandolin during his 6-3, 6-4 defeat to Roger Federer in the second round of the Qatar Open yesterday.

The entertainer summed the prevailing mood. There were some short, sharp roars for several rampant Federer forehands and a few intriguing moments in the second set when Rusedski had two break points, but the crowd's attitude was one of temporary admiration for a uniquely gifted player rather than one of attention to a match which might become a contest.

The truth was that nobody gave Rusedski a sniff of a chance against a tennis genius whose 20th successive victory was only briefly in doubt. It was harsh and possibly a little unfair but it summed up the gap which has opened in the years since the Briton was a genuine contender for a grand slam title. Even Federer's post-match words sounded a little disparaging.

"There is only so much you can do yourself," the Wimbledon champion said. "What counts is that I didn't lose my serve. I kept him under pressure all the time. I can play better but I can also play worse, so I am happy. It was just a regular match for me."

Yet Rusedski will take some comfort. There were moments when he returned serve sharply; he moved adequately well; and his performance improved in the second set, which was remarkable given an appalling start in which he lost the first seven points and allowed the most dangerous player of all to swing even more freely than he might have done on his own initiative.

The truth is that Rusedski knows his horizons are limited now. This year is partly about vindicating himself after what he feels the ATP

did to him when it failed to help rescue his career after he had been found innocent of doping. It is also partly about proving himself as a person.

Rusedski flies to Sydney with a shorter haircut and a cheerful appearance and hopes for a couple of wins next week, which is all he feels he needs to set him up for the Australian Open. But even at this stage of the year a piece of his mind is on Wimbledon.

This was really a day for two 18-year-olds. Rafael

Nadal, who beat Andy Roddick to help Spain win the Davis Cup last month, reached the quarter-finals after upsetting the fifth-seeded Andre Pavel in the first round, and Gaël Monfils, the Wimbledon boys' champion, very nearly joined him.

Monfils, who has not yet played in a grand slam, beat the French Open champion Gaston Gaudio on Tuesday and followed it yesterday by holding a match point against a former champion here, Fabrice Santoro.

Monfils's speed and counter-biting were startling, and so was his exit after a 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 defeat by his fellow Frenchman. The teenager collapsed with cramp before and after the final point and twice lay twitching on the court for five minutes. But when they began to wheel him off on a stretcher he was having none of it. Instead he dragged himself up and hobbled away to loud cheers. This son of a former Guadeloupe footballer is not only an eye-catcher, he is a bit of a showboater too.



Rusedski

## Shaq helps Heat return to winning ways

Shaquille O'Neal had 33 points and 18 rebounds and Dwyane Wade chipped in with 21 as the Miami Heat quickly returned to winning ways on Wednesday, dumping the New York Knicks 102-94.

After having their franchise record 14-game

winning streak snapped by the Seattle SuperSonics on Monday, the Heat took control early on the way to improving their record to an Eastern Conference best 26-8.

Wade also had nine assists and six rebounds as Miami avoided losing back-

to-back games for the first time since early November.

Stephon Marbury had 28 points for the Knicks, who continue to look for their first win in 2005.

In Cleveland, Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 28 points while LeBron James flirted with his first career triple-

double in sparking the Cavaliers to a 101-85 win over the Atlanta Hawks.

James, playing his second game wearing a mask to protect a broken left cheekbone, carded 20 points, nine assists and six rebounds as the Cavaliers registered their sixth consecutive win over the woeful Hawks.

Antoine Walker had 26 points and 10 rebounds for Atlanta but could not prevent the Hawks (5-25) from absorbing a fifth straight loss.

In Houston, Shawn Marion scored 22 points and the Phoenix Suns had six players in double figures as they blasted past the Rockets 108-98, improving their NBA best record to 28-4.

Tracy McGrady answered with 24 for the Rockets while Yao Ming had 14 points and 10 rebounds.

In Orlando, Steve Francis hit for 35 points, snared 11 rebounds and added six assists as the Orlando Magic silenced the Seattle SuperSonics 105-87 to record their first win in five games.

In Dallas, the Mavericks used a balanced attack led by a season-high 28-point effort from Jason Terry to tame Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers 118-104.

Bryant, the NBA's second leading scorer, had a game-high 32 but the Mavericks countered with six players in double figures as Dallas collected their fourth straight win.

In Charlotte, Gerald Wallace and rookie sensation Emeka Okafor both nailed double-doubles to lead the Bobcats to a shock 102-84 win over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Wallace potted 21 points and had 12 rebounds while Okafor chipped in with 18 points and 10 rebounds as the Bobcats stopped a six-game losing skid.

In Salt Lake City, Kenny Thomas poured in 30 points and Allen Iverson added 23 as the Philadelphia 76ers registered a 106-99 win over the slumping Utah Jazz.

In Toronto, Chris Bosh continued to assume the leadership role left vacant when Vince Carter was traded to New Jersey, pouring in 23

points and grabbing 13 rebounds as the Raptors held on to beat the Sacramento Kings 96-93.

In Boston, Paul Pierce had 19 points, eight rebounds and eight assists as the Celtics slipped past the Golden State Warriors 84-83.

In Milwaukee, Joe Smith and Mike James each had 17 points to lead the Bucks to a 97-74 win over the New Jersey Nets.

In New Orleans, Kirk Hinrich scored 19 and Eddy Curry added 17 and nine rebounds as the Chicago Bulls defeated New Orleans 95-89, handing the Hornets their ninth straight loss.

In Los Angeles, Corey Maggette had 31 points to lead the Clippers to a 102-98 win over the Portland Trail Blazers, improving their record to 16-15.

## Petrova drops out after muscle strain

Top-seeded Russian Nadia Petrova withdrew from her quarter-final at the Australian women's hardcourt championships on Thursday but said she would still be fit for the Australian Open.

Petrova, who had been scheduled to play fifth seed Silvia Farina Elia at the Gold Coast, pulled out because of a buttock muscle strain.

"She said the injury would not affect her preparations for the Australian Open starting in Melbourne on January 17."

"I'm not disappointed. I have two matches under my belt and it's not too bad for just starting the season," Petrova said.

"The Australian Open is coming up so it's more important for me to stay healthy for the big one."

Petrova said she planned to play in a further warm-up tournament in Sydney next week.

Switzerland's second seed Patty Schnyder defeated 15-year-old Bulgarian qualifier Sesi Karantancheva 6-2, 6-3 and Australia's world number 65 Samantha Stosur beat Bulgarian eighth seed Magdalena Maleeva 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.



Miami Heat center Shaquille O'Neal goes up for a shot against the New York Knicks on Wednesday in Miami

## Hewitt breezes through to finals

World number three Lleyton Hewitt swept into the quarter-finals of the Australian men's hardcourt championship on Thursday with a 6-1, 6-4 second round win over Argentina's Agustín Calleri.

Playing in his home town of Adelaide, the tournament's top seed won comfortably in an hour, with his new girlfriend and Australia television actress Bec Cartwright cheering him on from the stands.

Hewitt said his form was improving as part of his preparations for the Australian Open starting on

## ... in Adelaide

January 17 in Melbourne.

"I was pretty happy with the way I was hitting the ball out there," the Australian said.

"It's just a matter of getting used to the conditions, I guess, and getting a match under my belt."

"You don't want to lose sight of the big picture as well and the big tournament is in a couple of weeks time still, so it's all trying to build up to that."

Argentina's fourth seed Juan Ignacio Chela advanced with a 7-5, 7-5 win over

France's Jean-Rene Lisnard, while Austrian eighth seed Juergen Melzer defeated

American Amer Delic 6-3, 6-3.

American fifth seed Taylor Dent beat France's Julien Bennetou 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 to earn a clash with Hewitt on Friday.



Hewitt

# Trust Classified

## NEPAD YOUTH OF NIGERIA (NEYON)

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for the name to be changed to NEPAD YOUTH NETWORK (NEYON).

- The Trustees are:
- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Rev. Chima J. Othi (National Co-ordinator) | 2. Muhammad Sani Isah (Secretary) |
| 3. Ferni John Sesi (Member)                   | 4. Bala Hassan (Member)           |
| 5. Harstinor Sioch Ephraim (Member)           | 6. Babu Ochi (Member)             |
| 7. Harstinor Kingsley Osumugi (Legal Adviser) | 8. Dr. Victor Onda (Member)       |
| 9. Banghuda Kola (Member)                     |                                   |

Any objection to the application should be sent to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:  
Via Olu Ekwosye, Esq.  
(Legal Practitioner)

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the original Offer of Terms of Grant/Conveyance of Approval of Plot No. C71 & C72 of about 2,480, sqm in MPAPE II Layout, bearing the name of ALH. KABIRU YAKASAI of Sky Memorial Complex Abuja, is declared missing.

If found please, bring to Sky Memorial Office Wuse Zone 5, Abuja.

## PROGRESSIVE BICYCLE DEALERS ASSOCIATION, LAGOS

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Organization has applied for registration to the Corporate Affairs Commission under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Decree of 1990.

- The Trustees are:
- Chief Josiah Oluhemi Adeniyi
  - Alhaji Yinkas Muhammed
  - Mr. Matthew Oyeyi
  - Chief Moses Adebayo Oshinji
  - Alhaji Isidula Olayele Ashafa

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:  
Secretary

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the original Land Documents belonging to Alh. Shehu Turaki of the State House, Abuja, with Certificate of Occupancy No. NS.2212 of about 25.48m x 43.99m x 19.03m x 12.50m x 14.81 x 15.12m x 28.65m located at Maraba Nasarawa State is missing. Whoever transact business with the said document does so at his/her own risk.

Signed  
Alh. Shehu Turaki

## GINDIRI OLD STUDENTS' FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Organization has applied for registration to the Corporate Affairs Commission under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Decree of 1990.

- The Trustees are:
- Major General Haladu Anthony Hananiya (rtd)
  - Architect Pam Dung Gyang
  - Mrs. Phoebe Yisa-Doko
  - Ambassador Ezekiel Dirinka

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:  
LADEPN, GWAMZHI, ESQ.

## AFRICA WOMEN'S VOICE

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Organization has applied for registration to the Corporate Affairs Commission under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Decree of 1990.

- The Trustees are:
- |                                       |                            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Mrs. Seyi Sandra David (President) | 2. Mr. Kayode John David   |
| 3. Mr. Afolayan Yinka                 | 4. Mr. Egberuare Celestine |
| 5. Miss Motunrayo Akande              | 6. Miss. Biene Roberts     |
| 7. Miss Ladi Samuel                   |                            |

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:  
FIDELIS A. OBATERU & ASSOCIATES

## MISSING DOCUMENTS

The general public is hereby notified that the letter of allocation for plot 439 located at Maitama District Cadastral Zone A5 Abuja with Ref. Nos. FCDA/LA/83/FG.370/31 and FCDA/LA/83/FG.370/40 respectively, belonging to NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY IS MISSING. If found, please return it to the Agency or the nearest Police Station.

## ALIYU MU'AZU SARKIN YAKIN MINAN MEM FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Organization has applied for registration to the Corporate Affairs Commission under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Decree of 1990.

- The Trustees are:
- Malam Ibrahim Aliya
  - Alhaji Abdullahi Aliya
  - Dr. Maszu Babangida Aliya
  - Hajiji Daso Bala Zakari

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:  
Secretary

## UMUNAKARA AUTONOMOUS COM. PROG. UNION NWANGELE LGA, IMO STATE

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Organization has applied for registration to the Corporate Affairs Commission under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Decree of 1990.

- The Trustees are:
- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Chief B.B.C. Uzoma       | 2. Mr. C.N. Nwawube        |
| 3. Chief A.N. Onuogbo       | 4. Chief Tobias Anyaogbo   |
| 5. Chief Augustine Umunakwe | 6. Mr. Edward Erekweme     |
| 7. Mr. George Oha           | 8. Nze C. A. Orisakwe      |
| 9. Mr. Eugene Amefula       | 10. Mr. Cajetan Ikeamaceze |

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:  
Uzoma Amakiri

## CHANGE OF NAMES

I, MISS JOY BOSE MAWEDO ALL, now wish to be known as MRS JOY BOSE MAWEDO OCHOGWU. All former documents remain valid. General public to please note.

I, formerly known as UCHENNA ANGELA ODOEMENAM now wish to be known as MRS. UCHENNA ANGELA MESIKENOR. All former documents remains valid. Dasab Airlines Ltd and general public should please take note.

I, formerly USMAN MUHAMMAD, now wish to called YA'U ABDULLAHI. All former documents remain valid. J.S.C.O.E. Gumel and general public to note.



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# Sports

## Controversy dogs Nigerian soccer

Imagine a situation where Nigerian clubs, the national teams would not take part in continental and international competitions in 2005.

That was the situation Nigeria faced until the world soccer governing body, FIFA, granted a reprieve to the country barely 10 days to the Dec. 31 deadline it had given for the repeal of the contentious Decree 101.

The unprecedented historical victory of Enyimba FC of Aba in the CAF Champions League as the first club to clinch the title for two consecutive years had paved into insignificance with the FIFA noose hanging over the country's neck.

It was after the announcement that the country had been given more time to put its soccer house in order that Nigerians were able to savour the victory of the Aba side.

FIFA had decided to beam its searchlight on Nigeria's soccer just as it had done with other African countries, notably Kenya, Niger, Malawi, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, where governments had interfered with the game by enacting laws and appointing key

By Peter Agbekaku, (NAN) officials instead of statutes in accordance with the world body's style.

Kenya was suspended outright and was excluded from taking part in the World Cup and African Nations Cup qualifiers until it rectified the anomaly.

It was exciting while the drama lasted. Sports Minister Musa Mohammed attempted to play tough. The soldier in him came out and he was firing from all cylinders but wise counsel prevailed when he was made to realise that FIFA was a tough nut to crack and he could be toying with Nigeria's soccer future.

Mohammed, who had attempted to treat FIFA with disdain, was later forced to visit the Zurich headquarters of the world soccer body, where he submitted the draft law's documents for their study. He told the press that FIFA made their input. The world body wants its affiliated national associations to enjoy some measure of "autonomy for sustainable and enduring growth".

Enyimba's victory in the highly competitive Champions League after an

unpredictable run getting into the final stages was the icing on the cake for the country in an eventful year for football.

The Aba side's win was particularly sweet as they swept aside two Tunisian sides in the semi-final and final to avenge the defeat of Nigeria's Super Eagles by the North Africans in February during the African Nations Cup finals in Tunisia.

The Super Eagles had kicked off the year with a bronze medal in the Nations Cup in February after a shaky start in the competition. The team lost its opening match against Morocco and it was a defeat that saw government authorities and soccer officials looking for scapegoats and they quickly found one.

Defender Celestine Babayaro and strikers Yakubu Aiyegbeni and Victor Agali were axed from the team after they reportedly broke camp and were said to have gone dancing in a discotheque. The players denied the accusation.

The trio refused to return after they were pardoned. It took a lot of fence-mending and a visit to the family home

of Aiyegbeni by erstwhile Secretary-General of NFA, Taiwo Ogunjobi before the Portsmouth player rescinded his decision never to play for the country again.

Skipper Austin Okocha is yet to get his one million Naira trapped in Societe Generale Bank - owned by frontline politician, Dr Olusola Saraki. He had reluctantly agreed to join the team after assurances that the money would be paid to him. Okocha made FIFA's 100 players of the century as the world soccer body celebrated its centenary.

Nigeria finished the year in second place in the qualifiers for the 2006 African Nations Cup and World Cup behind Angola with 10 points in a group featuring Zimbabwe, Gabon, Rwanda and Algeria after five matches. They lost to Angola in Luanda and drew 1-1 with Gabon in Libreville.

The female national team, the Falcons drubbed Cameroon 5-0 in the final of the African Women Nations Cup in Johannesburg to emerge champions of the continental contest for the fifth consecutive year.

The Falcons were ousted in the quarter-finals at the Olympics in Athens in August, while the Under-19 team, the Falconets also lost



Mohammed

at the same stage in the World Cup in Thailand. On the domestic scene, Dolphins clinched the double, taking the Globacom Premier League and Coca-Cola Challenge Cup titles.

Death also dealt a cruel blow on football during the year, claiming the lives of NFA's Head of Marketing, Edozie Enemuoh, former Secretary, Patrick Okpomo, former Green Eagles defender, Austin Ofookwu, YSFON chief Dokun Abidoye and two-time NFA chairman Justice Chuba Ikpeazu.

The sword which had long been hanging over the NFA management was finally unleashed on Dec. 23 when the minister sacked the entire management staff of the association led by Ogunjobi.

He replaced it with a new one led by former international Segun Odegbami. Justifying his action which also included the setting up of an interim league management, the minister said he drew his powers from Decree 101.

He accused the management of financial recklessness. "A committee set up by the board of the NFA and its reports seriously indicted the management team headed by the Secretary-General. For instance, expenditures were made without reference to the board for approval.

"Loans were incurred in several thousands of dollars and proceeds from FIFA and CAF were not properly accounted for.

Simply put, no proper financial procedure was ever followed," Mohammed said. Club proprietors declared in no uncertain terms that they were vehemently against the minister's action. "We want a permanent structure on ground so that the league can grow.

"We are rejecting the interim League Board. We are not going to play anything interim," declared the club owners after their emergency meeting summoned to deliberate on the minister's action.

### FIFA's threat: Minister makes effort to resolve face-off

As FIFA's hammer dangles on Nigeria over the NFA reforms, the Sports Minister, retired Col. Musa Mohammed, says efforts are being made to resolve the impasse.

"The Federal Ministry of Sports is putting every effort to resolve the seeming dispute regarding the current changes in the NFA and the attendant reaction from FIFA," Mohammed said yesterday in a statement in Abuja.

In spite of the efforts, the statement said that the controversial new interim management team of NFA constituted by the minister had assumed duty.

Meanwhile, Mohammed has summoned a meeting with NFA chairman, Ibrahim Galadima and CAF executive

By Ismaila Umaru Lere, Group Sports Editor

member, Amos Adamu, as part of efforts to resolve the crisis.

The minister and the NFA boss are expected to resolve their differences and send a harmonised position to FIFA before Friday's deadline.

Galadima told *TrustSports* that he was on his way to Abuja for the meeting, but declined to give any further details.

"I am on my way to Abuja at the moment," he said. "I cannot say anything further for now until after the meeting."

Speaking to *KICKOFF* yesterday, CAF executive

committee member Amos Adamu, also said the meeting is expected to see both parties iron out areas of conflict and come to an agreement on the proper procedures for the inevitable house-cleaning in the football house.

But the former COJA boss Adamu, also declined to make any categorical statement on the meeting.

"It is not my place to make any comments. Either the Minister of the NFA chairman should be the one to speak." However, he maintained that the outcome would be in the interest of Nigeria.

"By the end of the day, Nigeria will not be banned," Adamu stated with some conviction. "Everything will be settled."

The world soccer governing body had issued a fresh ultimatum to the government to reinstate the sacked Ogunjobi-led management team of NFA by Jan. 7 or face outright ban.

Mohammed had in his reforms, replaced the team with Segun Odegbami and others, as well as set up an autonomous league board.

The minister's action met with stiff opposition from both the NFA board and FIFA.

FIFA has insisted that the minister's action negated the spirit of "constructive discussions" between it and the minister when he visited Zurich in December 2004.

### Odegbami, others stay away from office

Two days after their inauguration, members of the NFA interim management team are yet to assume office at the Glass House in Abuja.

The team had been directed by the Sports Minister, Col. Musa Mohammed, to assume duty immediately they were inaugurated on Jan 4.

But as at yesterday afternoon only three of the members had actually reported for duty at the ministry instead of the NFA.

Those constantly sighted at the ministry are the new Head of Public Relations, Bassy

Koma; Head of female competitions, Henrieta Ukaigwe and head of marketing, Musa Ahmad.

It was also gathered that the team led by the new Secretary-General, Mr. Segun Odegbami, decided to stay away from the Glass House until they were properly briefed.

The ministry announced their appointment on Dec. 23, 2004 after the sacking of the Ogunjobi-led management.

Since then, there had been a vacuum in the leadership of Glass House following the exit of all the departmental heads.

### MISSING DOCUMENTS

The general Public is hereby informed of the following missing documents belonging to Edozie Akunyili and Obumneme Akunyili.

The Information as it concerns the documents are file copies of Letters of Allocation of 2 Plots of Land at Kuruduma Layout from Abuja Municipal Area council dated 21/8/2002 each bearing the following names:

Nkoli Okafor changed to Edozie Akunyili and Ifeyinwa Okafor changed to Obumneme Akunyili.

Anyone that finds these documents should please report to the nearest police station or call 09- 5241109/5240994.

Signed

Edozie Akunyili

## This Space is for Sale

In the arena of post cold war democratisation in Africa, Ghana clearly hit the ground running. From the first election in 1992 that saw the transformation of Flight Lt Jerry Rawlings to President Jerry Rawlings, through the 1996 'stolen election', to the 2000 election, which resulted in the alienation of power from Rawlings' NDC Government to John Kufuor's NPP government, the 2004 election promised all the elements of a consolidation election. This was the context of the ECOWAS-West Africa Civil Society Forum's observer mission to Ghana's election this week. Although ECOWAS deployed its own official observer mission, the leadership of West African civil society bodies affiliated to ECOWAS also felt we needed to undertake our own mission. It was a small team of ten led by Sierra Leone's civil society activist and politician, Zainab Bangura and we deployed in five regions - Greater Accra, Volta, Ashanti, Eastern, and Northern regions. I was in the Greater Accra region with our Team Leader, Zainab Bangura, and coordinated the reports from our colleagues in the hinterland.

Although we were prepared for a well-run election, as Africans who have also 'monitored' elections in several African countries, we were on the lookout for inadequacies. In terms of the preparation and even-handedness of the electoral commission, we were not disappointed. The Electoral Commission arranged our accreditation promptly even though we applied late, it sent its officials to train us on the peculiarities of elections observation in Ghana, and the training covered a range of subjects from security to the voter register. Finally, the EC invited us to contact its officials immediately we notice anything unusual during the voting exercise. In the period prior to the polls we also met with the leadership of the major political parties, NPP, NDC and CPP, and they all evinced a strong desire for a peaceful and well-run election. All espoused non-violence and all said that if they lost they would seek redress through legal means or accept defeat. It was apparent that campaigning also involved an element of voter education, for example in how to mark the ballots correctly, making the point that those with a vested interest can be the most committed teachers.

The parties were not without complaints, especially officials of the official opposition - NDC and these were extensively documented in a "Memorandum for Foreign and Domestic Observers and Monitors" which was shared with us by its officials. Their concerns ranged from the Voters Identification Card system, delays in disbursement of funds to the EC, manipulation of the media and biased coverage in favour of the ruling party, training of foreign mercenaries and importation of weapons and the alleged partisan involvement of President Obasanjo of Nigeria. On the eve of the election, the NDC insisted on a meeting of all the political parties with the Electoral Commission to discuss lingering concerns about the "flawed process". We attended the meeting as observers and it was interesting to see the manner the Electoral Commission responded to all the allegations made by the NDC, both in the way it conceded on some of the gaps noticed by NDC and in the manner it held its own grounds on other aspects of its preparations. I am familiar with many of these allegations as a Ghanaian resident and felt the EC did a good job of demonstrating its independence.

On Election Day, our team visited no fewer than forty polling stations in the Greater Accra region. It was only in one station that the election did not start promptly at 7 a.m because materials did not arrive there due to a vehicle breakdown. We made a point of speaking particularly to party polling agents and it was remarkable that not a single polling agent, particularly those from the opposition parties had any complaints to make to us. In a few polling booths with unusually large number of voters, there was some rowdiness, but by the time we brought this to the notice of the Deputy Chairman in Charge of Operations at the EC headquarters, the Commission promptly took action. In all cases, police presence was hardly noticeable as they stood some distance from the polling officials, except when their attention was requested. Our colleagues in the other regions painted pretty much the same picture, except the Northern region where there were pockets of violence in the Bawku constituency. With respect to counting, this was done at each polling station immediately after voting stopped at 5 p.m. In a unique collaboration between Joy 99 FM station, the Institute of Economic Affairs and Ghana's largest mobile telephone company, Spacefon, results were relayed by phone to the news studio and broadcast, across the country.

What Ghanaians have managed to do with this election is, prove that election management is no rocket science. It

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## Reflections on Ghana's recent election

By Kayode Fayemi

requires adequate and competent preparation, a high degree of transparency, a responsible government, which respects its own citizens and an alert citizenry ready to protect their vote. It does not matter who wins the election in Ghana as the results were still coming in by the time this was written, but the process that I witnessed was without exaggeration better than what transpired in the last US election.

Yet in spite of all one has written, Ghana is not without post election challenges. If President Kufuor wins the election, he would be mistaken to interpret the verdict as a vote of confidence in his government's performance. Ghanaians still worry that their economy is too aid-dependent with sixty percent of the budget coming from external assistance and extreme poverty still stalking the land. My own assessment listening to Ghana's proliferating FM stations and to ordinary people in my four years of part-residence in Ghana is that the legacies of authoritarian rule and the search for stability count more for ordinary Ghanaians than immediate economic gains. But this may not be for long. As long as many Ghanaians see the shadow of former President Rawlings lurking in the opposition NDC



President John Kufuor

though, the likelihood of its victory in presidential election is remote. The irony is that the NPP government has not necessarily performed creditably in ensuring the security and safety of ordinary Ghanaians, especially Ghanaians in the Northern region. The brazen murder of the local monarch, the Ya Na in Yendi District, a centre of traditional influence in the Northern region remains a major source of tension and there are those who see the NPP as responsible for this, given the prominence of major NPP figures like Alin Mahama (current Vice President), Joshua Hamidu (former National Security Adviser and now High Commissioner to Nigeria) and Malik Ahasan Yakubu (former Interior Minister) in the conflict. Indeed, the only area that witnessed serious conflict during the election was the North, especially the Bawku constituency where Hawa Yakubu, prominent civil society activist and ECOWAS Parliamentarian was a candidate.

Equally, in terms of development, the property owning democracy and golden age of business that NPP promised Ghanaians is yet to materialise four years after it came into office. Generally, the economy is no better than where the NDC left it. Over the past two decades, market forces have dominated the economy and this trend has continued with the NPP government. The economy is reliant on the export of primary products and thus making it vulnerable to the general shocks of the global economy including price fluctuations. Further, since the 1990s, the economy has been characterised by high rates of inflation, high interest rates, depreciation of the cedi, dwindling foreign reserves, excessive public debt overhang and stagnant economic

growth, implementation of the Government Poverty reduction strategy notwithstanding. The real test of NPP's popularity will come in 2008 when Kufuor's term expires, and the opposition parties have managed to re-organise themselves.

There are lessons too for other West African countries, especially the most populous of them all, Nigeria. It is arguable that elections in Ghana have resulted in enhanced legitimacy because the chain has remained unbroken since 1992. Having run the fourth election in an unbroken cycle, the Electoral Commission in Ghana is regarded as one of the best managed in the whole of Africa. Its Executive Chairman, Dr Kwadjo Afari-Gyan and his fellow commissioners have become well-known elections gurus in the continent, earning the respect of peers across the board. Sitting in on one of the Commission's meetings with political parties, one can understand why. Dr Afari-Gyan demonstrated a mastery of his brief without being arrogant, entertained legitimate complaints from the opposition parties and left all with a clear impression that he was not in the pocket of any government or opposition party. The challenge is therefore to organise an Electoral Commission that is truly independent of Government and wholly accountable to the people. The Ghanaians can help by sharing their experience with other West Africans, and since Dr Afari-Gyan is already the Secretary-General of the Elections Management Bodies in Africa, there is a platform on which this objective could be achieved. Also, given the plans by ECOWAS to establish a full Elections Unit in the ECOWAS Secretariat, that Unit has the specific challenge of assisting to enhance election management in West Africa, by providing capacity strengthening initiatives and strictly upholding the provisions of the Supplementary protocol on Democracy & Good Governance signed by all Heads of States in West Africa, but yet to be ratified by majority of these leaders.

Another lesson that West African states should take to heart is the relevance of freedom of information and the vigilance of civil society. A major credit for the transparent conduct of the Ghanaian election goes to the several FM stations dotted around the country and the vigilance of CODEO - the local domestic observer mission of 7,000 people. Although some of the FM stations can be a bit over the top in the use of inelegant adjectives to describe President Kufuor, ex-President Rawlings and other opposition leaders - depending on which camp they belong to, but they feed the public with regular, minute-by-minute updates on the elections, and in the process prevent potential problems. They also broadcast provisional election results as soon as counting is completed at the polling booth and follow this to the collation centres until final results are delivered. And, more importantly, they are encouraged to do so by the Electoral Commission. So, the idea that a result known to everyone at the local level suddenly produces another winner as it happens in Nigeria is immediately nipped in the bud.

Finally, what Ghana proves is the importance of distance between the Electoral Commission and the political leadership in any state and the confidence that comes from understanding and surefootedness. We need a better understanding of electoral geography in all of our countries in West Africa. Two, we should let the public nominate elections commissioners and subject them to public scrutiny before Parliament appoints them in our countries; three, we must fund the electoral body direct from the Consolidated Account without any interference from the ruling government; four, the electoral body must be supported by an independent bureaucracy, not the regular civil service, and finally, we must ensure that the electoral law promotes independent candidacy and proportional representation rather than winner takes all mentality in our countries where diversity should be celebrated, rather than pilloried.

In many of these areas, Ghana is light years ahead of other West African states but that is really where the greatest hope lies. Here is a country that was a complete basket case in the early 1980s and many never thought it could recover from its abysmal state. It also defies political science theory up to a point, in that material economic benefit seems to weigh less in the mind of the average voter in Ghana. Ghana is an example and a beacon of hope for the rest of Africa. It shows that the democratic deficit in many of our states may yet produce concrete transformation and I believe that if the chain remains unbroken, electoral legitimacy will come.

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