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ORJI KALU
For
PRESIDENT
2007
For Generational Change

COUNT DOWN TO CENSUS 2006
(21 - 25 March)

39 DAYS TO GO
ONLY PERSONS PHYSICALLY SEEN BY
ENUMERATORS WILL BE COUNTED



Courtesy: National Population Commission

3rd term can lead to coup - Kure

Governor Abdulkadir Kure of Niger State has warned that a tenure extension for President Olusegun Obasanjo and governors could lead to a military coup in the country.

From Aideloje Ojo,
Correspondent (Minna)

The governor warned national and state legislators against amending the constitution to pave way for tenure extension, remarking that they would be stoned in their con-

stituencies if they failed to stop the third term agenda.

Kure's warning came in a speech in Minna yesterday while declaring open the 9th Northern Speakers Forum meeting held at *Gidan Matasa*.

He said that posterity and the electorate would not forgive the legislators should they allow the third term agenda to scale through.

The governor said that he was critical of the third term agenda because he was afraid of being bundled into the Kuje maximum prisons as was

done to some 2nd Republic politicians in 1983 by the military.

The governor recalled

Cont. on Pg. 2

Bird flu suspected in Lagos

From Olumide Bajulaiye
Correspondent (Lagos)

An outbreak of the dreaded Avian bird influenza, popularly called bird flu, might have hit the Lagos metropolis with some chicken traders reporting that some of their chickens have died mysteriously.

The federal government, on Wednesday announced the outbreak of the deadly disease at Sambawa Farms in Jaji Village, Kaduna State.

Our correspondent who visited some markets in the state and spoke with traders, revealed that their chickens have been dying mysteriously.

A trader who spoke to our correspondent at the Ogba retail market, said she discovered that three of her chickens died without any cause.

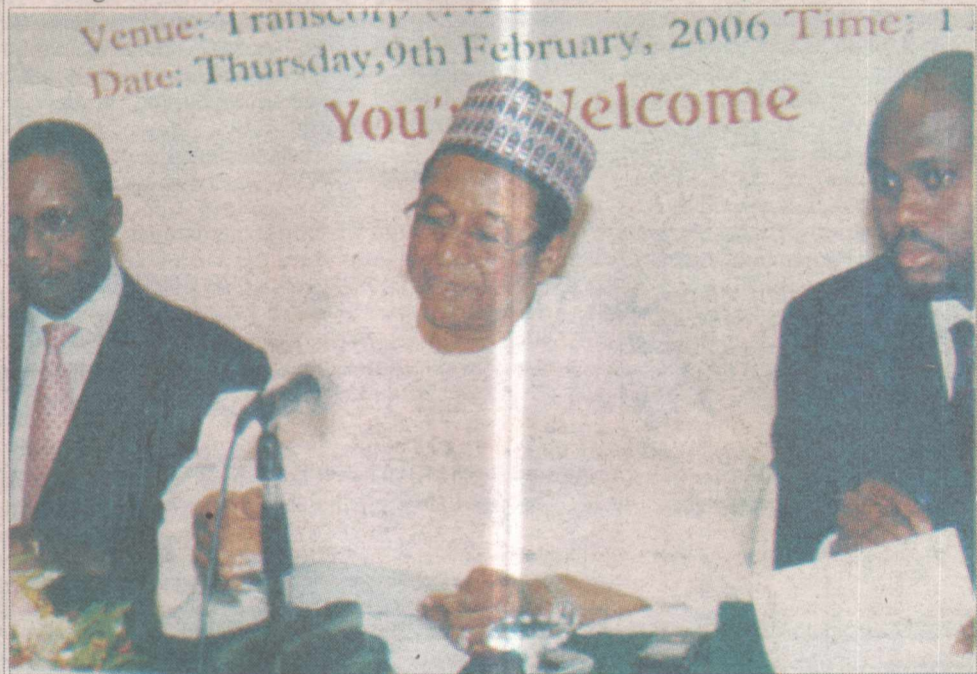
Two other traders in the market told our correspondent that there have been mysterious deaths of their chickens in the last two weeks

and there has not been any reason for this.

Investigations revealed that no fewer than 200 birds

have so far died in Lagos state markets in the last few days with the highest recorded only last Monday where about 70 birds were reported to have died in Ojuwoye mar-

Cont. on Pg. 2



The Chairman/CEO, NUB International Bank Limited, Alhaji Muhammed Imam Yahaya (right), Managing Director, Alhaji Danjuma Ocholi (left) and Company Secretary/Legal Adviser, Adamu Sani Muhammed, at the court-ordered shareholders' meeting which approved NUB's scheme of merger with First Inland Bank Plc and IMB International Bank Plc in Abuja... yesterday.

Corruption: Obasanjo not doing enough



Dr. Patrick Wilmot

Former Ahmadu Bello University Sociology lecturer, Dr. Patrick F. Wilmot, yesterday stressed the imperative of fighting corruption in Nigeria but pointed out that President Olusegun Obasanjo lacks the political skills to succeed at it.

Dr. Wilmot said at an interactive session with members of the Media Trust Editorial Board that the only saving grace for the country against corruption and other related atrocities is that Obasanjo has started the fight.

By Uthman Abubakar,
Senior Reporter

However, Wilmot said, "he is not doing enough because he doesn't have the skills. He lacks the political

Court defreezes Plateau accounts

A Federal High court in Lagos presided over by Justice Mohammed Shuaibu, yesterday vacated the order freezing 33 accounts being operated by the Plateau state government with various banks in the

country.


The judge had on December 20, 2005, granted the Economic and Financial Crimes

country.

From Mohammed Shosanya,
Correspondent (Lagos)

The judge had on December 20, 2005, granted the Economic and Financial Crimes

Cont. on Pg. 2



NATIONAL POPULATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC NOTICE

QUALITY CHECK OF CENSUS 2006 ENUMERATOR
AREAS NATIONWIDE: INVITATION FOR
COMPLAINTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC

The Enumeration Area Demarcation (EAD) for the 2006 population and housing census has been completed. The EAD involves division of the entire country into small land areas that can be conveniently covered by a pair of enumerators during the census period.

The Commission is currently checking these areas for quality and correctness. Members of the public are requested to cooperate with the Quality Control Officers.

The general public is also requested to report to the Commission's State/FCT offices if either their houses have not been numbered or visited during the demarcation period (September, 2004 to December, 2005).

The reports, which are expected not later than 9th February 2006, should be forwarded through any of the following:

Physical contact - National Population Commission offices (Headquarters and all state capitals)

Telephone/SMS-09-5239450, 096700097, 08065399551, 08043158878
Fax: 09-5239450
E-mail - cccnpchq@yahoo.com



News

3rd term *Cont. from pg. 1*

that the NPN government then failed to honour its pledge to the people which he said prompted military intervention.

"We should always pray for our leaders including Obasanjo, state governors members of the national and state Assemblies so that God can make things to be well. I am truly against third term not because of my godfather, General Ibrahim Babangida, but because it is against the constitution.

We are all living witnesses to what happened in 1983 during the NPN era when it failed to honour its pledge," he declared.

The governor said that he was not drumming support for military coups but that there was the need for those in positions of authority to be cautioned and to be made aware of history.

Kure said it was unfair for some governors to peg two to three years single tenure for local government council chairmen only to turn back to support the elongation of the term of the presidency and office of the governors.

Also addressing the forum, the chairman of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), Chief Sunday Awoniyi, said that the issue has grown beyond a third term to life presidency manipulations by Obasanjo.

Awoniyi called on the Speakers and the lawmakers to vehemently reject any negative amendment of the constitution, adding that the

constitution in its present stage was in perfect condition.

Awoniyi said the problem of the country was not with the constitution but with President Obasanjo whom he argued has turned the constitution into a document of terrorism.

"We must guard against tenure elongation," he warned, saying if the constitution was in the hands of God-fearing men, it would have been used for the good of the country. "It is in the hands of a wrong man who has turned it into a document to terrorise the people. The trust between brothers has been destroyed," he said.

He urged the lawmakers to have the courage to fight against the third term agenda for the unity of the country.

Earlier in his address, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Alhaji Aminu Bello Masari, had called on the Northern Speakers to work hard for the unity and stability of the country.

Masari said that the lawmakers must always remember to protect the interest of the people who elected them into office and enact laws that would enhance the development of these people.

Masari who was the chairman of the occasion accompanied by the House Leader, Alhaji Abdul Ningi, urged the states' lawmakers to stand up to the challenge of protecting not only the interest of the North but also ensure that unity and stability of the country is not compromised.

Corruption *Cont. from pg. 1*

"whether you are right wing or left wing, is to be a populist, to be able to reach out to the ordinary people, which is not being done in Nigeria."

He commended the courage of the chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, and the Director General of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration (NAFDAC), Prof. Dora Akunyili, at tackling corruption, noting though, that they lack the institutional framework, "the kind of legal framework," necessary to clean up Nigeria of corrupt practices.

"Obasanjo is doing something, but it's like he has come across a swamp. It's like he has come across a cesspool where he uses a teaspoon to evacuate the water," which, Dr. Wilmot observed, is not a sufficient effort at working on the pool.

"Okay, he locked up the governor of Bayelsa, what about the other 35 governors?" Name one governor that you know is clean.

I can tell you Aminu Kano was clean. I can tell you Sardauna was clean. I can tell you Tafawa Balewa was clean. Tell me one governor that is clean and show me the research you have made to make sure that he doesn't have a house in Belgrade and other European cities."

Dr. Wilmot reprimanded the leaders of the country for inviting foreign investors while laundering money out of the country and investing it in other countries.

"It doesn't make any sense to go to a foreigner and say, 'look! Put money in Nigeria when the Nigerian leaders are putting money into those countries. They are investing there. They are the foreign investors there. Each time you buy a house for five million pounds in Britain, you are investing in Britain. When you buy shares in Britain, you are investing in Britain. So, the priority of many of your Nigerian leaders is Britain or America or wherever."

He said that from 1970 to date, Nigeria had earned approximately 300 billion pounds, which, according to him, should have been sufficient to provide the best infrastructural facilities in all the states of the country because foreigners cannot invest in the country without the proper infrastructure.

Dr. Wilmot said the challenge before Nigerians now was to vote in honest and patriotic leaders.

"If anyone comes and says to you power shift to the North, stone him, or that the Yoruba's should have another term, stone him or that it is the turn of the Ibo's stone him," he said.

Commission (EFCC), request for an interim order freezing the accounts of the state pending the conclusion of its investigation into allegation of money laundering against Governor Josfaa Dariye. Plateau State government however, filed an application challenging the interim order which it said has made life tortuous for citizens of the state.

But while ruling on the matter yesterday, Justice Shuaibu said he is vacating the order since its purpose has duly been served, adding that the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), has concluded its investigations.

"The purpose for which the order was made was to conclude investigation of criminal acts against the Plateau state government and some officials in the govern-

ment. And if the purpose of the order has been achieved, the court has inherent jurisdiction to vacate such. I therefore discharge the order," the judge said.

Justice Shuaibu further explained that the order to freeze the accounts of the Plateau State government is neither a nullity nor invalid, stressing that it was rather made in strict compliance with the prevailing laws of the land.

According to him, the EFCC Act and even the 1999 constitution empowers the court to temporarily freeze or confiscate a person's property pending the conclusion of criminal investigations even when such an individual is not party to the case.

The judge, however, said it was untrue that the defen-

derians not to panic over the recent outbreak of bird flu in Zaria and Jaji in Kaduna State, pointing out that the risk to humans is oaw.

He explained that there is no single incident of human infection in the country so far adding that, "eating well cooked poultry meat has never been reported to pose any danger to humans and as such, there is no cause for alarm."

Ibrahim who said NEMA and military officials supervised the destruction of the birds at Sambawa Farms and

its closure, said symptoms that could occur in infected persons include fever, cough, sore throat and muscle aches, eye infections, pneumonia and acute respiratory distress.

Sambawa farms officially under quarantine is now a no-go area for the public and the farm officials until further notice. All the international and local media that thronged the farm yesterday were met by armed military and police personnel who politely turned them away.

Meanwhile, NEMA in a press statement signed by its information officer, Malam Ibrahim Farinloye advised Ni-

gerians not to panic over the recent outbreak of bird flu in Zaria and Jaji in Kaduna State, pointing out that the risk to humans is oaw.

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Court *Cont. from pg. 1*

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Bird flu *Cont. from pg. 1*

"(U.N.) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), inspectors are already in Kaduna, Kano and Jos," said an official of the World Health Organization in the Nigerian capital, Abuja.

"They want to trace people who have had contacts with sick chickens and send out simple messages that there should be no human-bird contact," she added.

Meanwhile, residents of the state have spoken of their intention to stop eating chicken and eggs for now until the danger posed by the announcement of the dreaded bird flu in the country clears.

A housewife, Nimota said with the confirmed outbreak of the disease, she must change the regular food timetable of her household until further notice.

Investigations in major markets in the state revealed that the elites who are the major patrons of the chicken delicacy have completely boycotted the product for fear of contracting the bird flu disease.

Reacting to the spread of the disease, Lagos State House of Assembly has urged the federal government to step up efforts to combat the spread of the bird flu disease to other sates of the country, especially Lagos.

The resolution of the House follows the adoption of the motion moved by Mr. Musliu Folami (Ibeju Lekki II) asking the federal government to ensure the safety of chickens and fowls imported into the country before they get to various homes.

Members who spoke on the matter, agreed that bird flu is a deadly disease that must not be allowed to spread.

International experts arrived in three Nigerian states hit by the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus yesterday as authorities tried to persuade people to avoid contact with sick birds.

Thousands of chickens have died in northern Nigeria over the past few weeks and the Paris-based World Organization for Animal Health confirmed on Wednesday that the deadly H5N1 strain has arrived Africa for the first time.

The Super Eagles yesterday finished in third place at the African Nations Cup after Garba Lawal struck 11 minutes from time to earn a 1-0 win over Senegal in the playoff match.

Midfielder, Lawal stole in at the far post to convert a cross from John Utaka to which Senegal goalkeeper, Pape Mamadou Diouf, could only get a slight touch.

A full-strength Eagles missed a host of chances against Senegal who fielded several players who had not featured earlier in the tournament.

Obafemi Martins squandered the best opportunity after another centre from Utaka in the 66th minute and defender, Joseph Yobo should have done better with a close-range opening.

Nigeria also hit the crossbar with a rasping early free kick from defender, Taye Taiwo while Diouf made a good stop to deny teenage striker, Obinna Nsofor.

Senegal came closest to a goal in the 25th minute when Guiranne Ndaw's cross brushed the bar.

Souleymane Camara gave

NATIONS CUP

Lawal's goal gives Nigeria bronze

By Ismaila Umaru Lere,
Assistant Editor

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Souleymane Camara gave

Nigeria a scare 10 minutes before the interval when his angled effort narrowly missed the target while Diomansy Kamara was a constant menace with his darting runs into the penalty area.

The game marked the final international appearance for Eagles captain Austin Jay-Jay Okocha.

Okocha who missed much of the tournament through injury, was taken off to muted applause midway through the second half.

The Eagles have now finished third at three successive Nations Cup.

ANPP trustees disown factions

By Emmanuel Bello,
Political Editor

The All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), Board of Trustees has written the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), asking it not to recognize factions of the party and to ignore any communication from them.

The letter written by the acting chairman of the Board of Trustees, Chief Edwin Ume-Ezeoke and addressed to the INEC chairman, Prof. Maurice Iwu, said in spite of the recent wrangling within the party, the ANPP's Board of Trustees is still viable.

"The Board of Trustees is therefore soliciting your support to ignore any communication to you by any of the feuding parties with regards to any decision taken by any

of them.

"May I refer to my letter No. ANPP/BOT/08 of November 29, 2004, on the above subject matter and to reassure you that the Board of Trustees of the party is alive to its responsibilities as provided for under Article 13, paragraph 4 II, IV and V of our constitution, and to state that efforts are being put to bear on the feuding parties to reach an amicable resolution of the current crisis.

"Towards this end, the Board of Trustees is requesting for your understanding and support in its efforts to find a lasting solution to the lingering problem," the letter

added.

ANPP Deputy National Chairman, Lt. Gen. Jeremiah T. Useni (rtd), Wednesday held a press conference in which he said the National Chairman of ANPP, Chief Etiebet was running the party as his personal estate and was an agent of the ruling PDP.

But in a quick reaction, the ANPP chairman dismissed General Useni as a joker and that he remains the party leader.

The squabble in the party is said to be a fall-out of the alleged third term plot President Obasanjo.

Sources say ANPP is torn between elements who favour the plot and those

News

Why I opened up -Dariye -He lied -Mantu

Governor Joshua Dariye of Plateau State said he decided to open up over allegations of having embezzled N1 billion ecological funds meant for the state because he wanted the truth to be known.

Chief Dariye had on Wednesday revealed how the ecological fund meant for the state was on the directives of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), expended on the 2003 campaign of President Olusegun Obasanjo and other party members.

The governor said though the revelation is contrary to his oath of office, it was premised on the persistent claims and counter claims that he had not only embezzled the money but has laundered it.

He stressed that anything built on the foundation of falsehood was bound to fail as according to him, God knows what instructions he was given to disburse the balance of the N1.2 billion he has been accused of embezzling.

Gov. Dariye also disclosed that N800 million of the over N1 billion ecological fund was meant for the state while the remaining amount went to service the political machinery as the South-West got N100 million, North East N100m, and Senator Nasiru Mantu representing the PDP, Plateau Central, got N10 million among others.

Dariye asserted that his administration will not succumb to clandestine and vindictive moves by some politicians to throw the state into bondage and stressed that he would not be cowed despite molestations, persecution and siege laid on the state.

But commenting on the issue, the Director League for Human Rights, Mr. Nankim Bagudu, said the fact that Governor Dariye admitted that the money meant for ecological purposes in the state was diverted, he

From Rakiya Mohammed, & Isa Sanusi

should resign from his office.

"PDP is not Plateau state, that cannot justification file. It is time for him to humbly resign having admitted that he diverted the money," the human right activist added.

The Deputy Senate President, Alhaji Ibrahim Mantu, has described as a blatant lie, the claim made by Governor Joshua Dariye that he got N10 million from the ecological funds. Mantu also challenged Dariye to

produce evidence that will prove his claims.

A statement signed by Mantu's Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Sylvanus Naang, described the embattled governor as a sinking man who could not account for money he has diverted into a private account.

"The interesting question one would ask is how prudent and financially disciplined is Governor Dariye that he could keep this amount somewhere since 2001 only to disburse it for President Obasanjo campaign in 2003?"

NCAA grounds Kings, Sudan Airlines

The Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), has grounded the operations of Kings Airlines by suspending its Air Operators Certificate (AOC), pending the outcome of investigations by the Authority.

The Authority has also grounded a Boeing747-100 aircraft marked 5U-ACF, belonging to Sudan Airways because of safety lapses.

The Media Assistant to the NCAA Director-General, Sam Adurogboye, who confirmed the development to newsmen in Lagos yesterday, said it came to the notice of the Authority that two of the management staff of Kings Airlines as detailed in chapter 1.2 of their approved maintenance management exposition are no longer with the airline.

According to him, the Quality Assurance Manager and Chief Engineer of King Airline are no longer serving the airline in any capacity, saying this amount to

From Shakirat Abdulmajeed, Correspondent Lagos.

a breach of the requirements of the Civil Aviation Air Navigation Regulations, part 9.

Adurogboye stated further that the procedure for the reporting of failures, malfunctions and defects in accordance with Part 5 of the Air Navigation Regulation (ANR), have also been violated.

He explained that the aircraft belonging to Sudan Airways was grounded following the rejection of the said aircraft for Hajj and Christian pilgrimages this year, adding that the NCAA declared the aircraft grounded until the safety lapses are rectified.

It could be recalled that the Chief Engineer of Kings Airlines, Ashiobi Obed, on Wednesday, alleged assault on him by the chairman of the airline, Senator Musa Adede, which resulted in a deep cut on the left palm of the engineer.

...We didnt touch Plateau funds -PDP

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), yesterday faulted the claim, by Governor of Plateau State, Chief Joshua Dariye, that he funded the state chapter of the party during the 2003 elections to the tune of N800 million, saying there was no record in the national headquarters of the party showing any such returns.

Dariye had Wednesday announced the formula for the sharing of the N1.6 billion ecological fund meant for the state, alleging that he expended N800 million on the state chapter of the PDP on the directives of the PDP government. He also said that he gave N100 million to the Southwest PDP, another N100 million to North East PDP and N10 million to the Deputy Senate President, Alhaji Ibrahim Mantu.

But the national publicity secretary of the party, Mr. John Odey, said in a statement issued in Abuja, that "the claim by Governor Dariye that he funded the Plateau State chapter of the PDP to the tune of N800 million is laughable. The records in our headquarters till date do not show any such returns by the then state chairman, Alhaji Habu Shindai".

Sufuyan Ojeifo (Special Correspondent)

statement, said that "following the wide publicity given to the spurious and mischievous allegations by the Governor of Plateau State, Chief Joshua Dariye explaining the disappearance of the Plateau state ecological fund in the media, the Peoples Democratic Party wishes to state as follows:

"The allegations are not only false and baseless, representing the gasps of a drowning politician, but also an afterthought aimed at blackmailing the federal government.

"Just as we condemn the governor for bad faith exhibited in his allegations, we urge the Plateau State House of Assembly and the law enforcement agencies to take a cue from the barefaced admission of guilt in his statement that he indeed utilised funds meant for the state for other purposes".

Odey said that the state legislature should take note of this admission of guilt and act accordingly.

According to him, "For the avoidance of any doubt and to dispel any negative thoughts

that may arise from the governor's diatribes, we wish to categorically state that the PDP does not and will never divert government funds for electioneering or any other purposes whatsoever. Such practice is not only illegal and unethical, but also an abuse of office.

"The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) identified N100 million in the course of their investigations, although there is no evidence of the sum being paid to the PDP. The investigations by the EFCC traced the said amount which was promptly refunded to the Plateau government through the EFCC. The Vice President, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, is fully aware of the refund".

But a statement issued by an aide of the vice president, Garba Shehu, said: It is true that Governor Dariye donated N100 million to the Obasanjo/Atiku Campaign and that when EFCC was investigating Dariye, they stumbled on this donation and they asked that the money be refunded. The money has since been refunded. And to the question a it was Atiku who refunded the money our answer is that whoever wants to know should go and ask the EFCC. Nobody should damp this on us".

Kano state governor, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau, has described the banning of *Hisbah Guards* as unconstitutional even as he stressed that the Sharia implementation body (*Hisbah*) will continue operating in the state.

In a swift reaction to the announcement by the Inspector-General of Police, Sunday Ehindero, banning the *Hisbah guards* yesterday, Governor Shekarau challenged the federal government to take the matter to court.

"We have heard the Inspector General of Police's announcement but to us, we have followed constitutional due process before *Hisbah* was established and the law that constitutionally gave us right to form *Hisbah* is still in existence and therefore, *Hisbah* will continue operating in the state," he said.

Governor Shekarau also emphasised that, "in a democratic regime, if any Government or individual felt that a particular law which was constitutionally established was wrongly formulated, such government or individual has only two alternatives: that is either go to court to challenge it or through the Assembly.

Shekarau therefore said as far as Kano state government was concerned the Inspector-General's announcement is unconstitutional and unacceptable and therefore, the state government will not obey it.

He therefore charged the police and other security agencies in the state to continue adhering to any law established constitutionally at all levels.

You can't ban Hisbah -Shekarau tells IG

By Yusha'u Adamu Ibrahim, Kano & Shehu Abubakar Abuja

adding that Kano state government will continue in its efforts to ensure the full implementation of the Sharia legal system in the state.

Shekarau who called for calm, stated that government will follow due process in the pursuit of its constitutional rights. He said the people of Kano state have chosen the Sharia legal system to run their affairs and it is therefore imperative on the state government to ensure it since it does not contradict the nation's constitution.

The governor who also assured that government will follow due process to return the command of *Hisbah*, warned that the government and the people of Kano state are fully aware that some undesirable element who are always against the progress of the state.

Meanwhile, earlier before the governor's reaction in a live broadcast, the state's *Hisbah* commandant, Sheikh Yahaya Faruk Chedi and his deputy were arrested by the police.

An impeccable source at the state's police command who confirmed the arrest, said that the two have already been taken to Abuja for questioning.

Reacting to the arrests, the state governor, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau, said that the duo are

employers of the state government whose consent the federal government adding that their arrests is illegal.

Daily Trust however learnt that the banning of the *Hisbah* may not be unconnected with statement made by the former Kano state governor, Alhaji Musa Kwankwaso which compared the *Hisbah* guards to the dreaded Odua Peoples Congress (OPC).

Daily Trust correspondent who visited the *Hisbah* headquarters along Sharada, Kano road discovered that activities of the organisation continued as usual.

However, when contacted for comments, the Force Public Relations Officer (FPRO), Mr. Haz Iwendi, a deputy commissioner of police, confirmed the arrest, adding "the clampdown on all illegal operators of such outfits, has just started," he said.

He explained that Inspector-General of Police, Sunday Ehindero, had earlier warned that the force will not tolerate the existence of groups like the *Hisbah* and Bakassi boys, as according to him, their operation and activities are unconstitutional.

He did not however comment on the outlawed Yoruba militia group, the Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC), or give the number of people arrested so far.

In tomorrow's



If I worked for CIA, I would have been its director -Patrick Wilmot

Day-old baby strangled in Kano

Ten-year-old boy loses eyes to ritualist

Alleged treasonable statement I have no apologies--Malu

NEWS

Cartoon: Chief Imam urges police to beef up security in Abuja

By Shehu Abubakar,
Reporter

The Chief Imam of the Abuja National Mosque, Sheikh (Dr.) Musa Muhammad, has urged the territory's police command to beef up security in Abuja to forestall the possibility of any demonstrations in the FCT.

The Chief Imam who made the remarks at an emergency meeting of religious leaders summoned by the FCT police commissioner, Mr. Lawrence Alobi, in his office yesterday, said no knowledgeable Muslim will associate himself with any form of demonstration that will lead to

unrest.

Speaking against the backdrop of fear of a demonstration by the Muslim community in the FCT today (Friday) over the blasphemous cartoon published by a newspaper in Denmark, Sheikh Muhammad said as far as he was concerned, "there was no plan by the Muslim in Abuja to demonstrate."

"I have never encouraged crises. I do not support it and I will not support it this time around.

To the best of my knowledge, nobody is planning any demonstration in Abuja. And if I hear anything, I will alert the police. You should also beef up security in Abuja and send plainclothes Muslim policemen to pray with us so that they can counter anything that may arise, he suggested.

He commended the Christian community for disassociating itself from the controversial Danish cartoon, adding, "I read the statements of CAN disassociating itself in the newspapers. That is a good development. That alone is enough evidence that the Christians around us do not support the idea of the cartoon. Then who are we demonstrating against and for what?"

"If I had fore-knowledge that the people of Kano were planning that demonstration, I would have cautioned them and advised them against it. Demonstration in this case is an unnecessary measure.

We don't need it because that is not the best way to handle the matter. The Muslims in the FCT have not planned any demonstrations and will not plan any one on this matter," he assured.

On his part, the national president of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) represented by the national administrative officer, Mr Eugene Okhueigbe, commended the peace existing in the country between Muslims and Christians he urged the two groups to maintain the relationship.

Speaking earlier, the FCT police commissioner, Mr Lawrence Alobi, had said the two religious leaders should do everything to ensure that their followers remain law abiding.

He said if any group feels offended by the action of another country, it should channel its grievances through the Nigerian government who will handle the matter diplomatically.



L-R: Mr. Eugene Okhueigbe, CAN National Admin Officer; CP FCT police command, Mr. Lawrence Alobi and Chief Imam of the National Mosque, Abuja, Sheikh (Dr.) Musa Muhammad during an emergency security meeting between the top officials of the FCT police command and religious leaders...yesterday
Pix: Shehu Abubakar

We are not sitting on reform bills, Senate replies Obasanjo

By Habeeb I. Pindiga,
Assistant Political Editor

The Senate yesterday faulted President Olusegun Obasanjo's demand for accelerated work on 24 reform bills, saying the lawmakers were not deliberately dawdling on the legislations as imputed. Obasanjo had on Tuesday written the Senate, querying the delay in passing the 24 bills crucial to his reform agenda.

But the Senate yesterday said of the 24 bills, one was withdrawn by the executive, four have been passed, 12 referred to committees while two have not been presented.

Explaining this, Leader of the

Senate, Dr Dalhatu Tafida, said the bills passed were the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission Bills, Privatisation and the Commercialisation Bill, the Nigeria Geological Survey Agency Bill and the Nigeria deposit Insurance Corporation Bill. The National Centre for Agricultural Mechanisation Bill has not been "officially" presented to the senate, the leader said.

Tafida added that the Education Tax Bill has been withdrawn by the president.

Senate orders release of N27bn oil revenue

The Senate yesterday asked President Olusegun Obasanjo to order the release of N27 billion oil revenue withheld by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC).

The upper chamber also instructed its committee on petroleum to open probe into the activities of the NNPC regarding collection and remittance of oil revenue.

The twin resolution was adopted yesterday after a marathon session with six key players in the management of the nation's oil revenue.

These who briefed the senate on the withheld funds controversy were Minister of State for Finance, Mrs Nenadi Usman, Minister of State for Petroleum, Dr. Edmund Daukoru; Chairman of the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC), Engr. Hamman Tukur; Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Prof. Charles Soludo; Group Managing Director of the NNPC, Engr. Funsho Kupolokun; and the Accountant General of the Federation, Alhaji Ibrahim Dankwambo.

The officials were summoned to explain their roles in the circumstances that led to the non-remittance of the N27 billion to the federation account by the NNPC.

In his submission, Soludo who parried most of the question from Senators, admitted that the domestic excess crude account has monies lodged.

On the basis of this, the senate asked the president to order the controversial shortfall released.

Tracing the beginning of the controversy, Tukur said NNPC's refusal to remit N27 billion had stalemated the federation account allocation committee (FAAC).

He said based on constitu-

tional provisions, NNPC has no powers to deduct funds accruable to the federation account under whatever circumstances.

But Kupolokun insisted that the NNPC was not holding onto any money as the shortfall arose from subsidy on domestic oil sales.

"When you reimburse us for the shortfall, pay is what the system costs. I have no problem, I'll remit everything into the federation account," Kupolokun said.

On her part when asked whether the excess crude funds could be used to fill up the gap, Mrs. Usman said the amount standing was appropriated by Obasanjo for power plants in the Niger-Delta and debt buy-back. However, Tukur said this was unconstitutional as an existing court ruling had barred Obasanjo and state governors from using the federation account funds.

"The federation account is a zero account. Its for disbursement of funds only. There's nothing called excess account in the constitution. The CBN governor has said money is there, take it," he said.

Before the senate adopted its resolutions, Senators criticised the NNPC for operating without a budget and for slashing public funds unduly.

Senator Dalhatu Tafida moved a motion for the release of the withheld funds and a unanimous vote followed.

Trouble started late last year when the FAAC discovered N67 billion shortfall in oil revenue for December 2005 due for sharing to the three tiers in January.

Members of the committee protested, leading the NNPC to release N40 billion in two instalments.

According to Tukur, states have not collected their shares, insisting on the release of the N27 billion balance.

Jigawa releases N22m for renovation of school

The Jigawa state government has released N22 million for the renovation and upgrading of the state's School of Health Technology, Jahun.

Birmiwa said the fund will be used to renovate the student's hostel and purchase of furniture, stressing that part of the money will also be used for the modern laboratory equipment and facilities that will facilitate research work by the students and lecturers in the school.

He therefore called the students to be serious in the pursue of their academic pro-

grammes as they will be useful in the enlightenment of the public on the importance of environmental sanitation exercise.

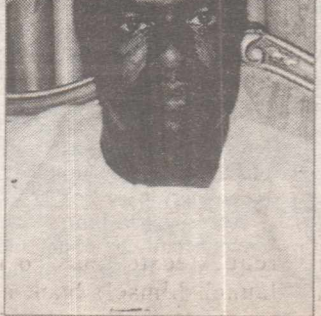
The commissioner said that students will be drafted to eleven villages chosen for the pilot programmes, adding that those villages identified as vulnerable in untidiness and poor cleanliness.

According to him, w the names of the six out of the eleven villages are Garado, Harbo, Harbo Sabuwa, Tshuwa, Dvjo and Nalunce where the will commence programme.

In his remarks, the principal of the school, Alhaji Tijani Mohammed, commended the state government for their quick intervention to provide water and a standard laboratory for the school and expressed the hope that the gesture will continue.

In a paper titled: "Environmental Sanitation, A Key to the Success of Malaria Control Programme" delivered by the Director of Environmental Health and Sanitation Services, Alhaji Haruna Usman Suleiman lamented that most states in Nigeria are paradise to mosquitoes due to our poor attitude of indiscriminate and improper refuse collection and disposal methods, taboos, behaviours and habits.

He also faulted the three tiers of government for lack of proper, efficient and effective information, education and communication on environmental sanitation policies and policy guidelines, action plan implementation, supervision, monitoring, evaluation as well as enforcement strategies.



Gov Turaki of Jigawa

Fund diversion: LG chairmen escape assault

From Hassan Karofi,
Correspondent (Dutse)

Six local government council chairmen in Jigawa state escaped being lynched by their supporters, while several others were beaten to comma for alleged diversion of participatory management expenditure funds released for developmental projects.

The incident occurred at the Dutse monument during the official declaration of polling units projects executed in all the 3,370 wards of councilors through the funds monthly disbursed by the state government.

According to *Daily Trust* reports, the state government had organised the official declaration of the state participatory scheme popularly known as 'Yan Goma' after series of complaints were received from different quarters alleging diversion of the funds by local council chairmen.

Daily Trust reports that already, many local government chairmen have been dragged to court for alleged

siphoning of the participatory fund which includes the chairmen of Hadejia and Kafin Hausa local governemnts.

The council chairmen who escaped lynching from their supporters include that of Buji, Kiyawa, Hadejia, Auyo, Kafin Hausa and Gume for their alleged siphoning of public funds.

A visit to the venue of the event by *Daily Trust* showed that only the chairman of Dutse local government, Alhaji Bala Ibrahim Yargaba, was present at the place exchanging pleasant words with his electorates, while many of the chairmen shunned the occasion for fear of embarrassment from their supporters.

According to one of the ANPP supporters who spoke on condition of anonymity, "we are really disappointed with the way and manner our chairmen divert our funds meant for development

projects. Whenever they collect the money, they only share it among themselves and leave us in a dilemma," he said.

It was gathered that the action of the ANPP supporters might not be unconnected with the recent comments made by the state government that the electorates should take legal action against any council chairman who refuses to live up to expectations through diversion of their funds.

News Focus

ANPP: The plots, the agenda, the crises

Today, here in the nation's capital of Abuja, the entire leadership of the opposition All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), will converge at the party's new national secretariat at Bassan plaza in the Central Area of the city for a meeting of the National Executive Committee (NEC). This is the first meeting that the NEC would hold this year. An official of the party told *Daily Trust* yesterday that the meeting will deliberate "current political developments" in the country with a view to taking positions that would be seen as "ANPP's positions on them". Besides, it would also review the goings-on within the party and decide on the next steps to take. It is also no news that the meeting will respond effectively to the fresh crisis that has hit the party with stakeholders' group led by Deputy National Chairman (North), Lt. General Jeremiah Useni, announcing on Wednesday the suspension of national chairman, Chief Don Obot Etiebet from office.

The meeting was summoned by the national secretary of the party, Alhaji Sani D. Et-Katuzu, at the instance of the national chairman, Chief Don Obot Etiebet. Analysts contend that against the backdrop of the lingering agitation in the polity over the speculated third term agenda and the planned constitutional amendment that is precedent to it, the meeting was long overdue. But added to that, the Useni group alleged that Etiebet's leadership deliberately refused to call meetings of the NEC. There were indications that internal maneuvers within the party for strategic control have conspired with other considerations to stall the regular meetings of the NEC. Etiebet was said to be afraid of being arm-twisted. Specifically, there had been moves to wrest the leadership of the party from Etiebet by the other camp being coordinated by Useni and Sokoto state governor, Alhaji Attahiru Bafarawa.

Etiebet has been in the eye of the storm over alleged maladministration and financial improprieties, which the Useni group also listed among its observations last Wednesday. He was to have been removed from office. But, Etiebet survived the gritty battle by a combination of his ruggedness and a deft political concert with some other governors of the party, namely Modu Ali Sherrif of Borno State, Bukar Abba Ibrahim of Yobe, Ibrahim Shekarau of Kano state, Adamu Aliero of Kebbi state and Samia Turaki of Jigawa state, who insisted that the party could not afford a leadership change at this point.

By Sufuyan Ojeifo (Special Correspondent)

and that even if at all there was a need for that, it would not be at the whims and caprices of Bafarawa who has carried himself as the leader of the party. Etiebet declared last Wednesday that his suspension was unconstitutional and not binding. He said that there was no organ like stakeholders known to the party's constitution, insisting that to that extent, it has no *locus standi* and its resolution was null and void.

On reflection, the positive influence of retired General Muhammadu Buhari, whose case against President Olusegun Obasanjo, was still in court then, had saved Etiebet from being guillotined. Will he survive this fresh onslaught? Those who have worked for the salvation of Etiebet then had alleged that Bafarawa wanted to take over the party for a hidden political agenda. For instance, deputy national welfare officer of the party, Alhaji Mohammed Murtala, had alleged in the thick of the fight to remove Etiebet, that Bafarawa was planning to seize the party platform and elect a former military President, General Ibrahim Babangida to advance his 2007 presidential aspiration. There were also suggestions in circles that Bafarawa might be doing that for his own presidential ambition.

The NEC meeting, which will be presided over by Etiebet, will significantly provide a veritable platform for all issues-including the avalanche of problems within the party- to be tackled once and for all. And the issues are many. They range from the leadership tussle between Etiebet and Bafarawa, whose mission is to get Etiebet out as national chairman, through the problems being experienced by some of the state governors of the party, to the national level where the speculated third term agenda has assumed the front-burner of political discourse. In fact, the NEC meeting was originally slated to hold in Dutse, the Jigawa state capital, at the request of Governor Turaki.

But some elements in the party in the State had kicked against it on the grounds that the governor had, as alleged by them, quietly left the ANPP for the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), before the PDP's recent membership revalidation. They claimed that Turaki quietly found his way back into the ANPP having lost to Alhaji Sule Lamido's group his bid to control the PDP machinery in the state. Their contention was that Turaki wanted to use the NEC meeting, which he requested to host, to relaunch himself back and



Chief Don Obot Etiebet

consolidate his leadership of the party in the state. A heavyweight of allegations bordering on anti-party activities was slammed on him, prompting the party's national leadership guard to dispatch a fact-finding team to investigate the matter and ascertain the veracity of the allegation.

But sources close to the party leadership said that there was no connection between the status or membership of Governor Turaki and the hosting of the NEC of the party, explaining that the hosting of the party's NEC meetings was thrown open at a meeting of the leadership for states to express their interest to host it. "It was at that meeting that Governor Turaki expressed interest to host. When somebody protested, the National Chairman said the decision was not final, that it was still open and that he expected any state that could finish perfecting arrangements in good time to host it. You would remember that we held one in Borno and we also held in Zamfara and now Jigawa governor has expressed his interest to host it", the source said.

It was not only Jigawa state that the leadership dispatched a fact-finding team. Another team of six members was dispatched to Sokoto state to investigate allegations of victimization levelled against Governor Bafarawa by his Deputy governor, Alhaji Aliyu Wamako.

The team was headed by Rear Admiral Lanre Amusu (retd).

Etiebet said in the January 27, 2006, letter that the move was consequent upon the complaints by the Deputy

members of the party in the state. According to him, "I have received complaints by your deputy, His Excellency, Alhaji Aliyu M. Wamako, on your attempts to use the party machinery in the State to expel him from the party and to victimise him, which have brought about activities and conducts embarrassing to the party, and likely to bring the party in the state into hatred, contempt, ridicule or disrepute, as complained about by some other concerned members of the party in the state".

"Following the complaints and petitions, I am constrained by the powers and functions conferred on me by the party's constitution, especially Article 16.1 (1), (11) and (V11) to send a fact-finding committee to the State's Chapter of the party to investigate and ascertain the veracity of the allegations by both the Deputy Governor and the concerned members of the party and to hear from you on the issues. The fact-finding committee's report will help the party's leadership make necessary recommendations to the National Executive Committee (NEC), of the party for appropriate action to arrest the situation and save the state chapter of our great party from further crisis".

Etiebet, in the two-page letter, copies of which were sent to the Deputy National Chairman, Useni, Sokoto State Chairman of the party, Engr. Mohammed Aliyu Tori, the state's Commissioner of Police and the State's Director of SSS, among others, had called for the cooperation of the State Governor to ensure the safety and security of the fact-finding committee members.

Etiebet said that the move was consequent upon the complaints by the Deputy

to him within the next one week. The deadline expired on January 29, 2006. *Daily Trust* gathered that the report has since been submitted in accordance with the directive. It was learnt that the fresh move against Etiebet was aimed at frustrating the presentation of and deliberation on the committee's report. Etiebet had said in the letter that, "because of the urgency and importance concerning the issue and the state of the party in the State, you are to submit your report within seven days from 22nd January, 2006, to enable the forthcoming National Executive Committee of our great party take necessary and appropriate action to arrest the situation and save the state chapter of our great party there from further crisis".

It was gathered that the Jigawa and Sokoto problems would engage the attention of the NEC meeting, which will be attended by the seven governors of the party from Sokoto, Zamfara, Kano, Jigawa, Borno, Yobe and Kebbi states. The matters have a place on the agenda and there are feelers that Etiebet and his loyalists might sway the NEC to indict and possibly sanction Bafarawa and Useni who have engaged in a smear campaign against him (national chairman). As for Jigawa state governor, there are feelers that he might come out clean because there was, as learnt, no evidence to prove that he left the party for the PDP, which allegation was the linchpin of the opposition elements. Besides, he is said to enjoy the support of Etiebet both of whom are said to be quietly syndicating for Obasanjo's third term gambit.

Besides, *Daily Trust* gathered that Etiebet himself would also need to contend with plots to remove him. A source in the party hinted that there have been arrangements to put in place a Caretaker Committee in March this year that will pilot the affairs of the party till the national convention and presidential primaries of the party. This is what the Bafarawa and Useni groups are working at. If this is achieved in March, it would be the second time the party would do that. It did that when Alhaji Yusuf Ali stepped down as National Chairman. A caretaker committee headed by Bafarawa was constituted. It was the committee that conducted the presidential primaries in which Etiebet emerged as national chairman and retired General Buhari, as presidential candidate of the party for the 2003 election.

Although it was learnt that Bafarawa played a key role in the emergence of Etiebet as national chairman, internal machinations for the control of the party's machi-

nery have positioned Bafarawa as the arrowhead of the opposition to Etiebet. In fact, if Bafarawa attends the NEC meeting, as indications say he might not, then Etiebet will have to be deft in the handling of the proceedings lest the table is turned against him. But if he does not, Etiebet as expected, would be ruthless in "dealing" with the other camp. It was gathered that Etiebet has been fighting to preserve his position, which tenure expires December this year. He does not favour the appointment of a caretaker committee when the tenure of his leadership has not lapsed. In fact, there are feelers that he is even angling for a second term. But for strategic political reasons bordering on the plot for the 2007 presidency and the promotion of some political interest, the Bafarawa camp believes that a caretaker committee, with Etiebet out of the way, will indeed be salutary to the agenda. This is what the Bafarawa/Useni camp is said to be working at.

With this plethora of items on the meeting's agenda, the haze of fear and anxieties have thickened. But perhaps the most significant item will be the issue of the speculated third term of which Etiebet's leadership has not proved itself as the drum major of the opposition to the ruling PDP. While the ANPP legislators are said to have distinguished themselves in the opposition to the third term gambit in the domain of constitution amendment, many of the party governors have been acting as collaborators with the PDP federal government in the promotion of the agenda while the Etiebet leadership has, as contended by analysts, been docile.

There were insinuations in circles that Etiebet is more PDP than ANPP. The Useni group has also alleged so. There are indications in political circles that the PDP government might have some hold on Etiebet, thus prompting him to be timid in condemning the third term gambit. Leaders of the ANPP are expected to tell one another the home truth at the NEC meeting, regardless of the moves or infractions by the Useni group. They will, as gathered, decide whether to save the party or bury it in the weeks ahead. This is an item on the agenda, according to a source. If they decide to save the party, the meeting will have to be decisive in its resolutions. The leadership will have to act responsively in the true tradition of opposition parties; otherwise the ANPP may be quitting the stage for the emergent parties, which are ready to play the game in accordance with the traditional expectations of the ruling party and the governed.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Security guard arrested for illegal possession of firearms

A 60-year-old security guard, Papa Elu, is being detained by the police in Port Harcourt after he was arrested for alleged unlawful possession of firearms.

The police said the man was in possession of a locally made double barrel short gun, two live cartridges and two knives. Papa Elu is a security guard in an uncompleted petrol station at Igwuruta, airport road, Port Harcourt. He also resides in the place. The police public relations officer in the state, DSP Ireju Barasua, said that the matter is being investigated to determine the source, usage and functions of the firearm. The airport/ Igwuruta division of the Rivers State police command is handling the matter.

In a related development, a man has foiled an armed robbery attempt at Gambia street in Mile one area of Port Harcourt when he pretended to be looking for money for two suspected thieves and suddenly turned around to grab one of them.

Police in Port Harcourt said the man, on grabbing the suspect, began to scream, inviting people to help him arrest the robber. *Daily Trust* gathered that the one that was grabbed was the one

From Ikenna Emeka Okpani, Bureau Chief, Port Harcourt

holding the gun. Out of fear, his accomplice escaped abandoning his colleague in the firm grip of the man.

Neighbours who quickly arrived the scene grabbed the robber and reportedly beat him before he was handed over to the Mile one police station.

Before then, the suspects were said to have robbed some people of N15,000 and two Samsung handsets as they were moving from room to room. The one that escaped ran away with part of the loot.

Neighbours said the suspects entered the compound at about 11.00pm and started going from room to room.

It was when they entered the man's house that he summoned courage and grabbed the one with the gun. The man's wife, our reporter, gathered, is a nursing mother and had quickly emptied the content her bag to the thieves.

The one with the gun asked her to show them where she hid some of the money. It was while he was trying to lead the woman away that the husband grabbed him. Police said the suspect will soon appear in Court.



Suspected armed robbers paraded by FCT police command, Abuja...recently.

Four civil servants docked for fraud

By Ruby Rabin, Senior Reporter

Adizua Ijoma 42, Salako Adewale, 29, Apagu Megudu Gadzama, 41 and Olorokor U. John are standing trial on a three count charge of forgery, conspiracy and theft to which they pleaded not guilty.

According to the police

report made available to *Daily Trust*, the first accused person, Ernest Adizua Ijoma, a staff of the National Industrial Court (NIC), conspired with the three other accused persons who are staff of the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) now Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), to defraud the NIC of (N1,699,745,27).

The report alleged that the suspects converted various drafts purchased by the NIC for the payment of its electrical bills to their private use.

The report stated that the four run out of luck when NEPA cut off electricity supply to the house of the NIC Chief Registrar, Mrs. O. A. Shogbola, and that the light was not restored even when N50,000 was paid through the first accused, Mr. Ernest Adizua whose schedule it was to ensure payments of the court's bills.

The report added that this compelled the court to pay another N20,000 before the electricity supply was restored and so as a result of that experience, a committee was set up to examine the payments of the NEPA bills by NIC since 2002 which led to some shocking discover-

ies'.

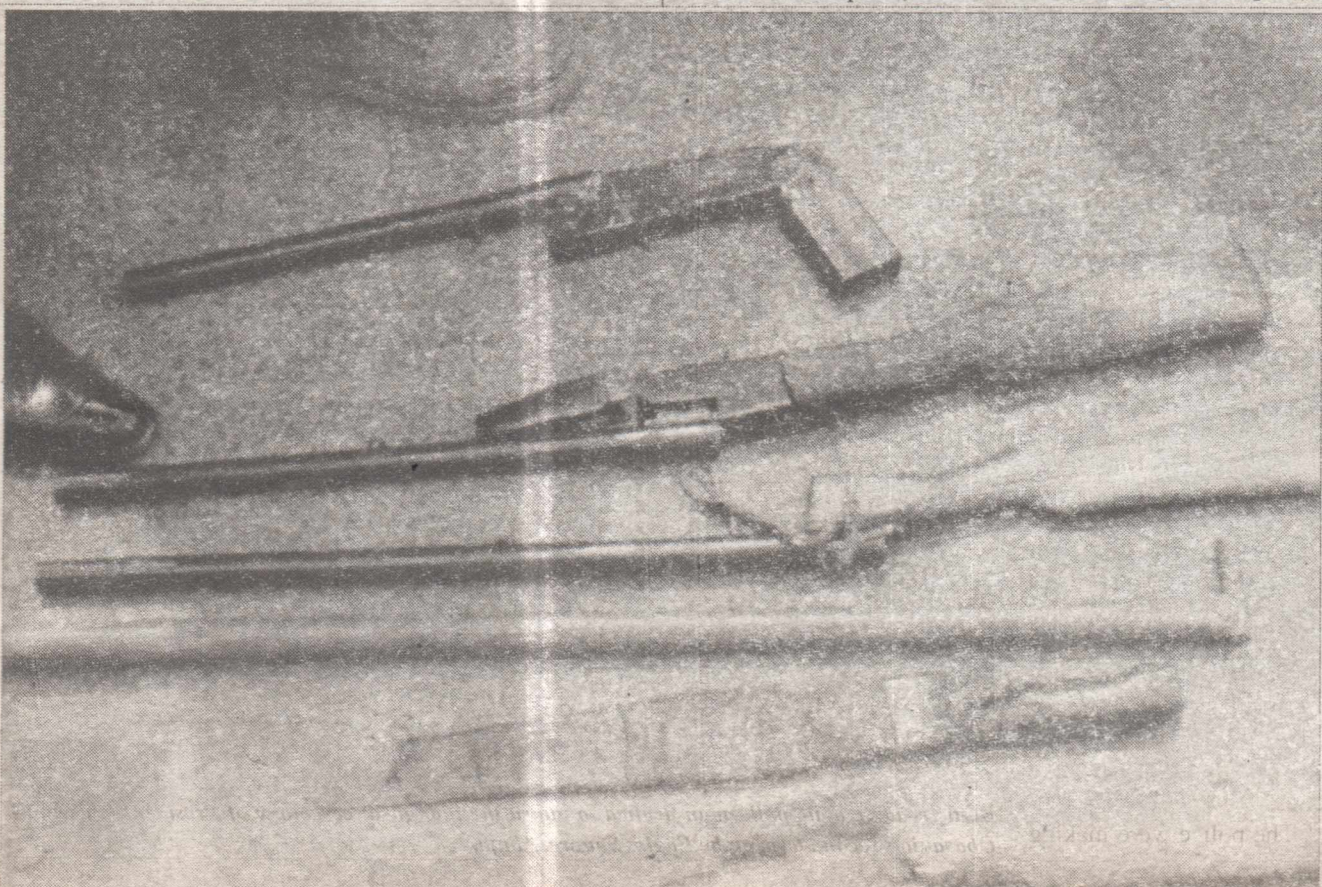
'The bank drafts purchased and issued to Mr. Ernest to pay electricity consumption bills were manipulated and payments not made as in some cases the suspects made paltry cash payments to avoid disconnections in order to conceal their activities', the report revealed.

At the last adjourned date, counsel to the accused persons raised an objection to the hearing of the case.

He told the court to make an order asking the prosecution counsel, DSP Ibrahim Bako, to make available statements of all witnesses, also make available the list of witnesses as well as the list of exhibits they intend to submit.

In response, the prosecuting police officer, DSP Ibrahim Bako, said that such an application is not applicable to the chief magistrate court, citing section 188 of the criminal procedure code (CPC), adding that the magistrate court is a court of summary jurisdiction, where the rules of the evidence act is not applied strictly.

Chief Magistrate Usman Shaibu adjourned the case to February 17, to rule on the application.



Some of the weapons recovered by the police from suspected robbers in Lagos.

Pix: Oladipupo Odunewu.

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

NDA Major dupes Kano vehicle dealer

From Musa Umar Kazaure, Regional Editor, Kano

A Kano-based vehicle dealer, Alhaji Salisu Ahmed, has dragged a Nigerian Army Major, Sama'ila Dadinkowa, before a Kano high court for breach of contract.

The 43-year-old vehicle dealer claims that three years ago, Major Sama'ila Dadinkowa, then serving in Bauchi Armoured School, purchased a vehicle from him in Kano through his friend.

He stated that the cost of the car was N270,000 while the Corporal friend of the major only brought a deposit of N70,000 with a promise to pay the balance when the Major accepts the car. The actual owner of the car insisted that N100,000 must be paid as deposit before the car can be taken to Bauchi for the Major's inspection," he said.

On reaching Bauchi, he said, the Major tested the car and found it okay but asked to be given a week to come up with the balance. Alhaji Salisu said when he returned to Bauchi on the promised day, he was told that the Major has returned to his base in NDA, Kaduna after completing his course.

All efforts to get the balance from the Major, he said, proved abortive while the owner of the car forced him to sell his house to pay the balance.

Attempts through the courts to get the Major to pay him his balance failed as the military officer kept avoiding the court for no reason.

Meanwhile Major Sama'ila Dadinkowa has been ordered by a Kano High Court Judge to appear before it on March 7, 2006, following his failure to appear before the court on several occasions.

Man, 70, others arrested over Indian hemp

A 70-year-old man, Buhari Labaran and nine others were arrested Wednesday in Katsina metropolis for allegedly being in possession of 200kgs of Indian hemp.

The Katsina state NDLEA Assistant Commander, Alhaji Lawal Hamisu, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), that the suspects, including peddlers and addicts, were arrested at Farinyaro area of the town. He said that the arrest was sequel to the surveillance mounted by NDLEA operatives in the area.



Suspects charged with various offences ranging from armed robbery to theft being paraded by the police in FCT...recently.

Pix: Shehu Abubakar.

Taraba police arrest blind gang leader, 45 other robbery suspects

A blind robbery gang leader and 45 other robbery suspects have been arrested by the Taraba state police command.

The state's Commissioner of Police, Mr Greg Anyating, told newsmen on Wednesday in Jalingo that the men had been terrorising people in the state.

He said the suspects who were caught with arms and ammunition, have made confessional statements regarding their activities adding that the arrest followed intensive patrols, surveillance and raids on the hideouts of criminals, some of whom were nabbed with hard drugs.

The police boss said that most of the suspects are former political thugs who have been abandoned by their masters.

Some of the politicians in

the state, he disclosed, had been thronging the command to seek the release of the suspects.

Anyating said he has raised the issue at a recent

state Security Council meeting, adding that the state government felt bad about the development and insisted that justice must prevail, no matter the status of those involved.

He also expressed concern over the lack of communication equipment in the

command, noting that the situation has compelled the command to resort to the use of cell phones.

Anyating also blamed the inability of the police to respond promptly to distress calls to the poor condition of roads in the state capital.

Retired school principal killed, dumped in car

A 65-year-old retired college principal, Miss Susan Obi, was yesterday found dead in her car at her residence on Independence Layout, Enugu.

A family source told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), that the late Obi who lived alone in her apartment, was allegedly killed by unknown assailants who tied her legs and dumped her in her Toyota Camry car.

The source said that the deceased was on her way to attend the Morning Mass, as her Holy Bible lay beside her lifeless body at about 6.00 a.m. The source said that Obi's assailants removed the car radio while the keys to her apartment were not found on her.

A NAN correspondent who visited the scene, reports that the gates to the premises were opened, while policemen and sympathisers were seen discussing in hush tones.

The police were making

arrangements to move the body to the mortuary.

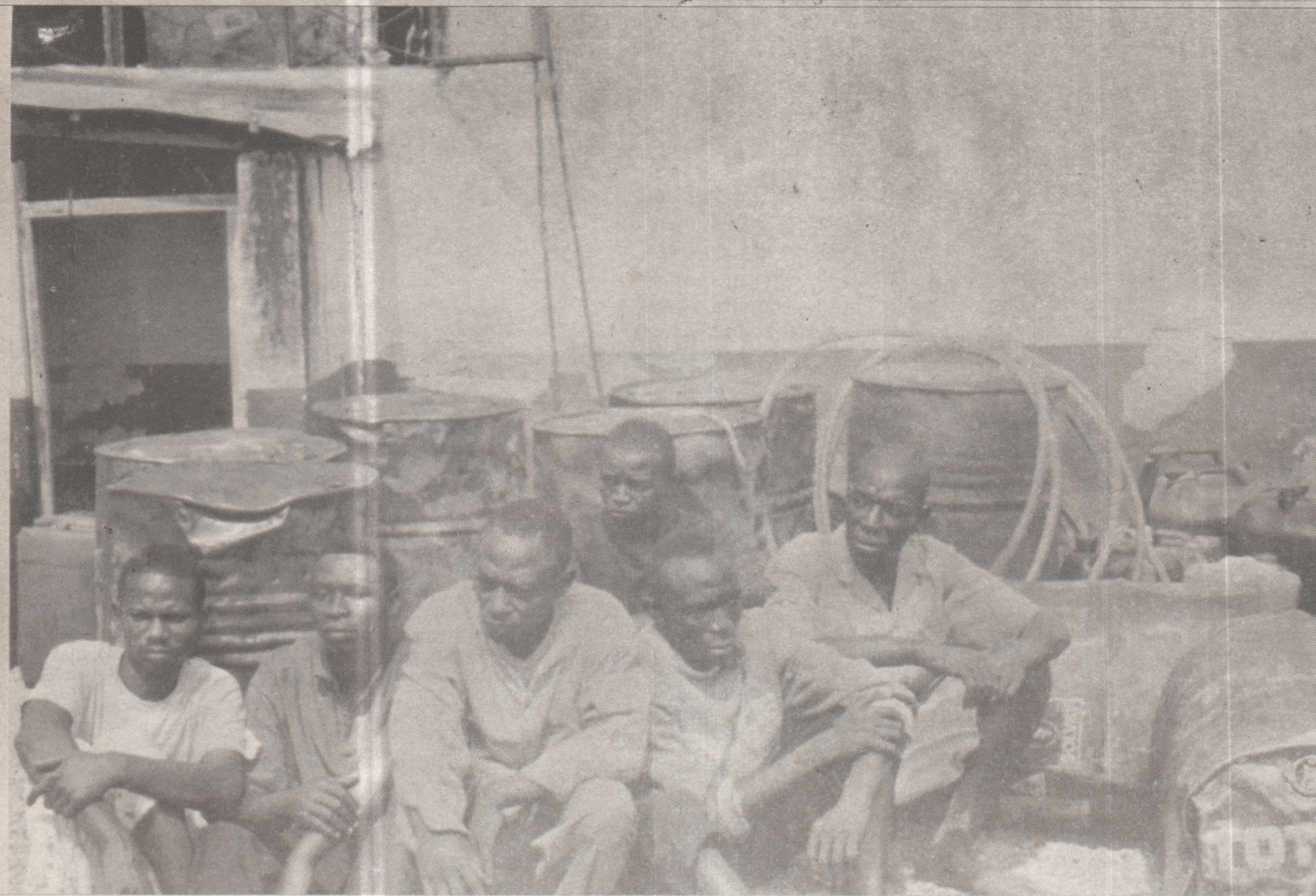
A police officer told NAN that investigations are on to

unravel the cause of the death of the former principal.



Battle ready mobile policeman drafted to guard the inaugural ceremony of President Olusegun Obasanjo's second term at the Eagles Square, Abuja.

CRIME & PUNISHMENT



The suspected vandals and the allegedly stolen products

Two

arraigned for impersonation

Two persons who impersonated as journalists to dupe unsuspecting members of the public were on Wednesday arraigned before a Chief Magistrate's court in Kaduna.

The accused, 40-year-old Ubale YaKubu and Abbas Mohammed of various addresses had obtained money from a top civil servant under the pretext of being reporters from the Kaduna state Media Corporation (KSMC).

According to the police prosecutor, Inspector Orpin Aveve, an editor with the KSMC, Mr Ibrahim Bongus, reported the matter at the state police Headquarters, Kaduna.

He said that the police arrested the suspects following a tip-off from the top civil servant whom they allegedly duped.

The trial magistrate, Malam Nasir Idris, ordered the accused to be remanded in prison custody pending the conclusion of police investigation.

The accused had earlier pleaded not guilty to the two-count charge.

Charlie Boy docked for intimidation, bribery

The President of the Performing Musician Association of Nigeria (PMAN), Mr. Charlie Oputa Aka Charlie boy, was yesterday docked at an Abuja chief Magistrate Court for criminal intimidation, recurring gratification and conduct likely to cause breach to public peace.

Police prosecutor, Mr. Ibrahim Bako, said the PMAN President is facing prosecution based on a complaint by Mr. FBO Osimegwu, the Managing Director of Nigeria Breweries Plc, alleging that Charlie boy had threatened his life and

By Benjamin Auta,
Reporter

that of his staff.

The Prosecutor, also alleged that Charlie boy caused the destruction of star Mega Jam Musical concert organized by Nigeria Breweries Plc in Major cities in the country due to the non payment of the sum of N20,000,000 as bribe as a result of which there were series of fight at the venues.

Bello, further said that due to the non payment of the alleged N20,000,000 bribe, Charlie boy allegedly threatened and intimidated the Nigeria Breweries plc

managing Director and his staff in manner that could have caused the breach of public peace contrary to section 116, 113 and 397 of the penal code.

However, the accused pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The defense counsel, Okechukwu Ajunwa, however asked the court to grant the accused person bail on self recognition.

While giving her ruling on bail senior magistrate, Hafsat Soso, granted the accused bail in the sum of N2m with two sureties who must be civil servants on grade level 15.

She however denied the accused bail on self

recognition as she adjourned the matter to March 9, 2006.

Pipeline vandals economic saboteurs - Civil defence boss

Kayode Ajibola,
Correspondent Abeokuta

The Commandant General, Nigeria security and civil defence corps, Dr. Ade Abolurin has described pipeline vandals in the country as economic saboteurs.

Dr. Abolurin, stated this while reacting to the arrest

of eight suspected pipeline vandals in Sagamu, Ogun State yesterday. He appealed to Nigerians to assist the corps in getting to the root of the activities of the vandals.

He said that about 150 suspected vandals were arrested last year by the joint Anti-vandalisation team of Nigeria security and civil defence corps and the Nigeria police.

Dr. Abolurin who challenged the Ogun State Command of the corps to fish out vandals of government property in all nook and crannies of the state, expressed optimism that the number of vandals to be arrested this year will be more than 150 suspected vandal arrested last year.

The commandant general said various strategies have been adopted by his men to

track down suspected vandals in the country.

Names of the eight suspected vandals arrested at Sagamu are, Sotimeyin Olusegun, Mufu Lawal, Oludele David, Olu Adekoya, Kolawole Oladipupo, Albert A. Adeboye, Adeboye Tunde and Kehinde Oremade.

Items recovered from them include, one single barrel gun, charms, shovels, Sledge Harmer, irrench, hose, hammar, drilling machine, Adjustable Spanner, one Suzuki, motor vehicle with registration number DT 392 AKD, one blue Mezedez Benz car with reg. No BT 837 EKY and a Peugeot 505 GR with Reg. No. AE 449 JGB.

Meanwhile, the Ogun State Commandant, Nigeria civil defence security corps (NCDSC) Mrs. Margeret Odekeye has declared war against pipeline vandals in the state.

Taraba police indicts politicians over crime surge

From Ado Adamu,
Correspondent Jalingo

The Taraba State police Command has attributed the increasing rate of crimes in the state to politicians who always stand by suspected criminals when ever they are nabbed by the police.

The State Commissioner of police, Mr. Greg Anyating, who was speaking to news men in Jalingo on Wednesday hinted that the Police are no longer allowed to deal with issues particularly robbery cases according to the provision of the law because of the pressure that used to follow

any arrest of suspected gangs of criminals by politicians, mostly top government functionaries.

Greg said most of those arrested by the police in connection with robbery cases have been found to be political thugs belonging to one politician or another or must have been recruited and armed by politicians during electioneering campaign and later dumped.

The commissioner complained that the constant interference by these heavy

weight politicians is seriously undermining the criminal justice system.

The police boss said that at present at the state police headquarter alone, there are 46 suspected armed robbers most of whom have already confessed belonging to one political thug group or another.

According to the police commissioner, another problem that hinders the police from promptly responding to distress calls during robbery operation in the state capital is the unplanned nature of the State Capital that makes some residents very difficult to reach.

Mr. Greg also called on top government officials, in the state to be security

conscious because luckily, he noted that the robbers have focused on government functionaries, recalling recent attack on Mr. Timon Maisamari Munga the state UBE coordinator, and Mr. Jonathan Tijos an accountant with the state sub-treasury.

The Commissioner assured that, despite the hurdles, the police in the state are leaving no stone unturned in fighting the men of the underworld. He disclosed that they have introduced routine raiding of suspected criminal hideouts.

He called on politicians to stop mounting undue pressure on the police but rather join hands with them to get the society rid of criminals.

Opinion

Agunloye, e-government and transparency

By Emeka Nwankpa

A few days ago, I got an e-mail from my secondary school classmate, Mr Tunji Ojelade (alias *Ogbeni Oja* as we used to call him) from Accra, Ghana where he and his family have obviously settled for good since their relocation almost six years ago. He is a prominent player in that country's Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In his long e-mail, he displayed his fascination for the new Nigerian eGovernment initiative. He had attended barely one week ago the 4th ICT for Government Conference of the Accra International Conference Centre where the former Power & Steel Minister, Dr Olu Agunloye presented a paper on the National eGovernment Strategies (NeGst) and good governance which according to him was widely adjudged as brilliant and particularly stimulating.

My friend's fascination arose not just from his long admiration for Agunloye, the

cerebral ex-boss of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) but that his country is now eGovernment compliant, placing it in the league of progressive nations. I was deeply touched by his patriotism.

My attempt in this piece, therefore, is to highlight the features of this initiative which have started gaining ground beyond the shores of this country. It is also an attempt to appraise the key benefits of the project with a view to addressing the inherent potentials for good governance in the nation's current democratic dispensation at all tiers.

Let me hasten to state that the rather novel approach to implementing the project in the country which is envisaged as a Public Private Partnership (PPP) is set against the vision of the federal government in the institutionalisation of effi-

ciency, transparency and accountability for good governance.

This is however not the end of the story. It is also meant to avail private financiers of the opportunity of extracting commerce from the implementation of the eGovernment project. In other words, it is to generate for the private sector a return on their investment.

The project is practically anchored on the Information and Communication Technology Strategies (ICT), an area which has received a tremendous boost by the federal government notably the promulgation of the National IT Policy in March 2001, the establishment of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) in March 2002 and the eventual launching of the National eGovernment Strategies in March 2004.

As a responsible and responsive member of the world community, Nigeria has practically demonstrated a deep appreciation of ICT tools not only for developing science and technology but as veritable means of delivering on the socio-economic development priorities such as health, education, agriculture, rural development, employment generation and strong result-oriented monitoring of government projects and programmes.

The ultimate goal of eGovernment which is good governance starts with the employment of information and

communication technologies in improving the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of government. It also runs through integrating government ministries and all tiers of government complemented by interaction with citizens, businesses and organisations.

The new Nigerian eGovernment Initiative is based on the PPP model in accordance with the Nigerian National Policy for Information Technology which was recommended by the Geneva-based World Summit on Information Society in December 2003. It has been adopted as a major thrust of the economic reform agenda of the federal government encapsulated in the National Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS).

The initiative aims at nurturing and growing the private sector thereby utilising its drive, skill and funds appropriately in ensuring sustainable economic development. It is envisaged that the project will be replicated in the Federal Capital Territory and state levels respectively as the FCT Empowerment and Development Strategy, FEEDS and State Empowerment and Development Strategy, SEEDS.

Conceived as a tripartite joint venture comprising the federal government (represented by NITDA), a parastatal of the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology on one part, strategic partners on the second part and financial investors on the third part, the PPP partnership emerged as a

Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) which was registered by the Corporate Affairs Commission as NeGst to design and implement eGovernment programmes in the country.

Contemplating the debilitating effects of the dearth of accurate data, sub-standard databases, unreliable database, disjointed operations, low level computerisations and non-compliance with acceptable standards on national growth is to properly appreciate the urgent needs of employing a functional eGovernment platform.

On the platform is a tripartite arrangement of three prominent players - the government, private sector and the citizen. The main objective of the strategy is to create people empowerment through aligning NeGst's objectives with the NEEDS, that is the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and Millennium Development Goals, MDG at the local, regional and global levels respectively.

The NITDA-NeGst eGovernment project is situated within the bigger scope of integrated data for information and decision management. Within the Nigerian context, the specific and general eGovernment obligations have recognised existing networks such as that of the Federal Capital Territory (FCTNet), Public Service Network (PSNet) Integrated Fiscal and Economic Management Information System (IFEMIS) capable of allowing access and collaboration by local and international

groups.

It is pleasing to note at this juncture that the eGovernment initiative as is being pursued by Dr Olu Agunloye, the NeGst's pioneer Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer and his team of young, skilful and committed professionals, have finalised practical engagements with certain key public agencies whose activities are citizen-centred.

For example, Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), for online registration of estimated 5.4 million customers and migration of an estimated 10.6 million consumers to customer status; Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN) for online registration of estimated 1.0 million professional teachers; DNCR National ID card data and IDIMAS (Integrated Digital Identity Management System) along with Police, NSA, SSS, Justice departments.

Others are the activation of NITDA's PSNet and application of its Mobile Internet units, the eTrade for SMEDAN/NDE/NDDC, eExamination for NUC and ePolice for Nigeria Police and emigration for Nigeria Immigration Service, eSchool for States and Integrated Emergency Management Systems.

In conclusion, it is now up to the federal government, the stakeholders and all well-meaning citizens to ensure that the on-going silent eGovernment revolution is warmly embraced and vigorously pursued for good governance in the land.

Emeka Nwankpa is an Abuja-based journalist.

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Contd. from Page Back Page

done, no doubt, Rushdie's *fatwa* wouldn't have been the first. Nonetheless, the Vatican condemned *The Satanic Verses*. And many other Church dignitaries offered support. Cardinal Decourtray, head of the French Episcopal congregation, spoke of his pain at this "insult to God", while New York's Cardinal O'Connor stated it would be a very stupid act to waste valuable time to read Rushdie's book and he said it was important to "let Muslims know we disapprove of attacks on their religion."

It was the same with all truly religious people of all traditions. Orthodox Rabbi Avraham Ravitz, leader of Degel Hatorah in Jerusalem, declared that the world should stop making a saint of Rushdie, for his dragging the prophet and his wives through the mud in the novel would hurt the feelings of millions of Muslims.

This, of course, was something that should be seized to build a united worldwide brotherhood of believers against the onslaught of a secularism that has put all believers in God on the spot. In a recent rejoinder to an article by Salman Rushdie in *The Times* of London, I said that it was in the question of the freedom of expression that

Blasphemy: A new defining moment

Islam and the West will never find common ground. Perhaps it bears repeating.

What I said then was: "But it is on the question of the freedom of expression that the West and Islam will never find an acceptable, mutually satisfying common ground. After having invaded every sanctity, the only area that remains unconquered by the West is the prestige of Islam's divine personalities. If Rushdie's attacks on the Holy Prophet [SAW] had not been effectively challenged by Imam Khomeini [*quddisa sirruh al-sharif*], the name of Muhammad [SAW] would have been reduced to the status to which the prophets of Israel had been reduced by Christendom. Any fool can insult them anyway and go scot-free. And in his desire to see this come about, Rushdie wanted Islam to be revised."

"But it is not a revised or reformed Islam that the corporate West desires. What it wants is a world without religion, a world devoid of divine values and [the existence of] the school of thought based on the type of independence that issues from them. What it really wants is a world

steeped in a thoroughly secularised version of religion, the type that will not challenge Western cultural and economic hegemony over the world."

Many people in the West are painfully aware of the lack of the spiritual dimension and have postulated an inevitable catastrophe on account of that. In 2001, barely a month after 9-11, Robert Royal, president of the US-based The Faith & Reason Institute said in a lecture:

"The democracies, for all their current cultural decay and uncertainty of purpose, are necessarily doomed to perish. But the problems that they show all around the world should lead us to rethink the anthropology that undergirds democratic regimes. The older view of man, the anthropology of the democratic citizen, entailed seeing him as created in God's image. From that flowed his rights and dignity. Questions of establishment and discrimination, of course, need to be considered carefully, but so does the possibility that democracy absent some spiritual dimension is incoherent."

"In that perspective, let

me close with a remark by Vaclav Havel, the astute Czech writer and dissident who became president of the Czech Republic after the fall of Communism. Havel has noted that not only America, but all the democracies are suffering from a malaise. And the solution he proposes goes to the heart of the argument about the Old West's importance to the New West that I have been making here: "Wherein lies that forgotten dimension of democracy that could give it universal resonance? I am deeply convinced that it lies in that spiritual dimension that connects all cultures and in fact all humanity. If democracy is not only to survive but to expand successfully and resolve those conflicts of cultures, then, in my opinion, it must rediscover and renew its own transcendental origins."

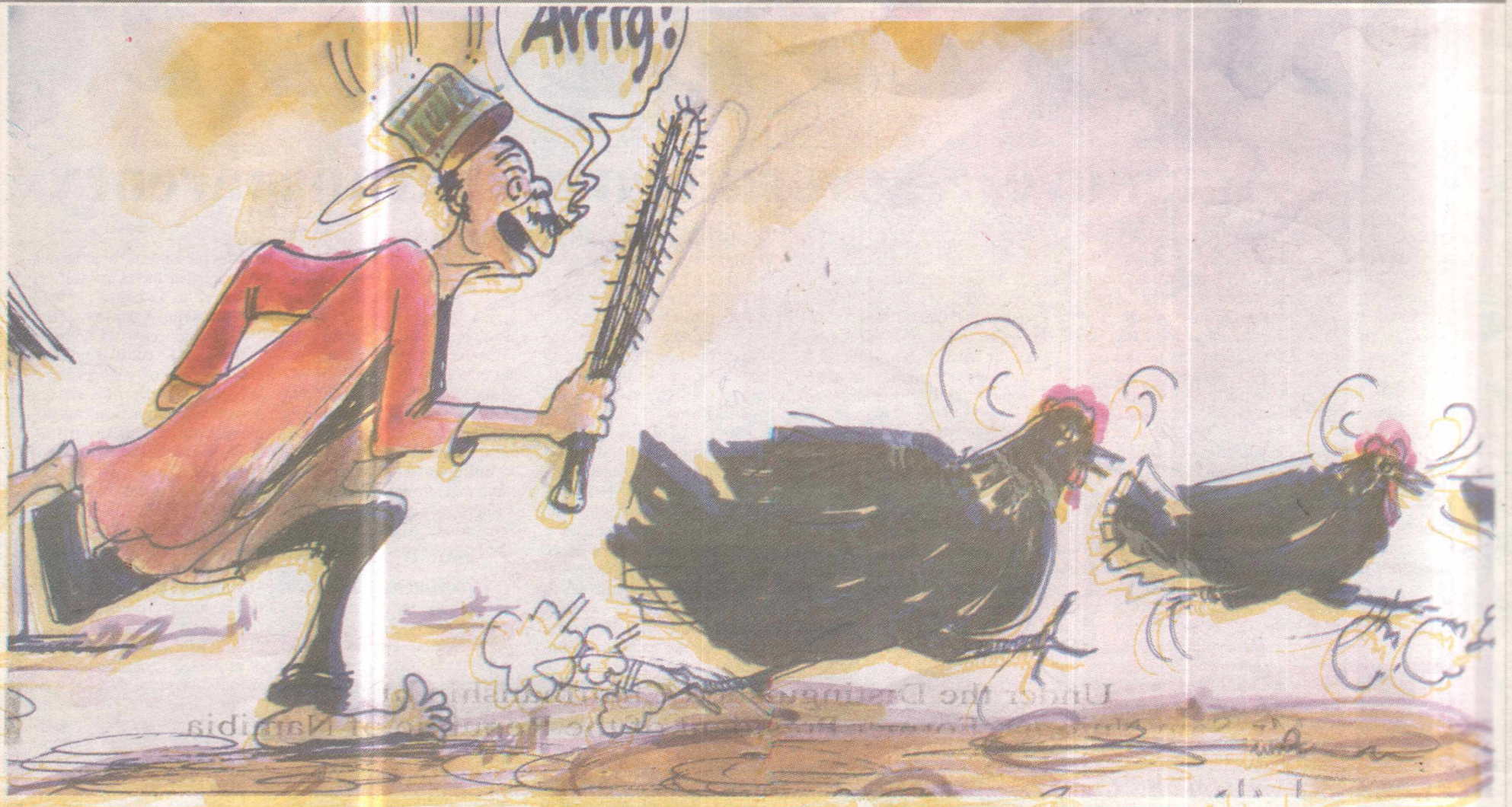
But a world that has placed the cult of consumerism above spiritualism is unlikely to adopt or agree to this logic, or even care if, by any chance, it does. In this, it is Muslim societies that must provide the leadership to a world that has been in spiritual coma since the West took the ascendancy.

And like the independence struggles of the early 20th Century, nations must rise up to wrest their spiritual independence from the West.

What is needed today therefore is more than the mere support of organised Christianity. What Muslims need in the fight to re-establish the divine as part of everyday life is for Christians to rise up in defence of their religion from the cultural assault of this dredge from the West.

"What I said then was: "But it is on the question of the freedom of expression that the West and Islam will never find an acceptable, mutually satisfying common ground. After having invaded every sanctity, the only area that remains unconquered by the West is the prestige of Islam's divine personalities. If Rushdie's attacks on the Holy Prophet [SAW] had not been effectively challenged by Imam Khomeini [*quddisa sirruh al-sharif*] the name of Muhammad [SAW] would have been reduced to the status to which the prophets of Israel had been reduced by Christendom. Any fool can insult them any day" and go scot-free. And in his desire to see this come about, Rushdie wanted Islam to be revised."

Christians, Jews and Muslims must disregard these Godless secular powers and align themselves in a new brotherhood capable of wresting control of the world from them and handing back to God. In other words, those who believe in God must create [or recreate] a world in which those who don't believe in Him dare not blaspheme His religion or insult those whom He had sent.



YOUR LETTERS

I wish to refer to a publication in the *Daily Sun* newspaper of 25th January, 2006 on the above caption credited to IBB by a campaign group known as Women and Association Network for IBB which

Re: 2007: Bisi Abiola mobilises women for Babangida

is being spearheaded by one Bisi Abiola, the association's National Trustees and Director.

To start with, let me refer to IBB who is widely known as Nigeria's Maradona as a self-

centred man. What Nigerians have failed to do is to give appropriate interpretation to the

meaning and motive of Maradona of Argentina. The original Maradona fought and almost died on the football pitch for the love of his dear country.

On the contrary, Nigeria's Maradona played the ball in his own pocket and did not even allow Nigerians to see the ball. What I mean here is that Maradona of Argentina was crediting Argentina and debiting his energy but Nigeria's Maradona was only crediting himself.

Thanks to Baba for restoring the image of Nigeria in the face of the world. In fact, I have never thought of having a single Nigerian who will support IBB in his presidential bid. What an abuser of public opinion.

This inhuman group called Women and Association Network for IBB should better think twice. The problem with Nigerians is, if I can get, let the rest go to hell. I am sure people like Bisi Abiola benefited immensely during IBB's terrible regime, and have exhausted what they amassed for themselves, that is why they are trying to create that same opportunity again. Let me say that we women in the North, minus Niger State are saying a capital NO to your selfish venture.

Bisi, answer these questions for Nigerians: where were you when we were all sapped in Nigeria? Where were you when we and our husbands were trekking five kilometres into the bush to fetch firewood? Where were you when kerosene was sold at N1,000 per gallon? Where were you when a measure of grains was sold at N1,100? The questions are endless, but I will still be grateful if you could answer the few ones put across for Nigeria's plan-

ning purposes.

The question that baffles me most and which I have failed to receive an answer to is, why did IBB announce the June 12, 2003 election when it was to be a free and fair election? This clearly shows that IBB is not a lover of democracy.

And why is he trying to rule under a democratic government? What didn't Nigerians do to fix Abiola to power that he now wants them to do to return him to power? Or, what did IBB forget in Aso Rock that he wants to go back and pick? I beg Nigerians in the name of God to learn to have pity on masses like myself.

We have been rescued by Baba and we don't want to go back into the abyss any longer. Women in the South and Niger State can go ahead to plan for his return while we in the North will be busy praying for the continued silence of that man.

If God answers the prayers of the downtrodden, then I implore Nigerians to keep on praying and likewise I assure them that IBB will never smell Aso Rock again till eternity. So, the issue of IBB returning to power has been nipped in the bud.

For all right-thinking Nigerians, the rightful reliever of Baba has not emerged and let's pray to God for the person to show up. And if in this part of the country have made Baba Life President, it is because we will never get ourselves immersed into the politics of religion any longer when we are always trampled upon when those people get to power. Mrs. Fatuma Jida, No. 118, Wunti Street, Bauchi.

Celebrating Valentine's day

Children were in the prison, wrote love letters and threw them into his cell. The event took place in February and this is why people exchange love messages on Valentine's Day.

When the Romans conquered British in about A.D. 43, there was admixture of culture, but the English people refused to promote the Lupercalia because it was seen as a paganistic festival. However, they revered Saint Valentine whom Claudius II imprisoned. Also, an English poet called Geoffrey Chaucer, said that birds began to pair off or choose their mates in the spring, which was February. It was assumed that the special days for mating or pairing, was February 14-15. It is only love that can lead to mating or parenting.

When Flavius in the play said to Marullus, his fellow Roman, "go you down that way towards the Capitol. This way will I disrobe the images, if you do find them deck with ceremonies," Marullus replied, "May we do so? You know it is the feast of Lupeccal."

In the same book, Caesar's wife called Calpurnia had no child. Therefore, during the festival, Caesar said to Antonius "forget not in your speed (race) to touch Calpurnia, for our elders say, the barren touch in this holy chase, shake off their sterile curse."

Another concept of the Valentine is associated with Saint Valentine, one of the legendary martyrs in Rome who loved children, but he refused to worship the Roman gods. Therefore, Emperor Claudius II who was in power in A.D. 200 ar-

Events that helped in the preservation of the Valentine Day started in 1415, when Charles Duke of Orleans, France, was captured by the British in the Battle of Agincourt. They took him to England and put him in the prison. On February 15, he sent love letters to his wife. Too, in early morning of February 15, each year, unmarried English women looked through the window to see men who will marry them. They desired that the first man they see should marry them. William Shakespeare captured the scene in his book titled *Hamelet*. He said that Ophelia, a woman in the play sings "good morrow, it's St. Valentine's Day. All in morning betime. And I a maid at your window, to be your Valentine." In 1700s, English women wrote men's name on scraps of papers, rolled each in a little piece

of clay and dropped them into water. The first paper that arose to the surface had name of a woman's true lover. As a result of mercantilism, colonialism and expansion of the West, the Europeans transferred the concept of Valentine's Day to other parts of the world and we copied without questioning. That is part of the colonial mentality that is still with us up to this day. The English in order to package the observance of February 15 as lovers' day, suppressed the concept of Lupercalia, which was held on the said day. They chose Valentine whom they revered as a name for the day and anchored the belief on what Chaucer, their own poet said: *Abraham Idika is with the Education Unit, Nigeria Police, c/o Police Secondary School, Calabar.*

Kudos, Gov. Ibrahim Idris

I wish to use this medium to express my view and commendation to Governor Ibrahim Idris, the executive governor of Kogi State for the award of the construction of the new General Hospital in Lokoja, Kogi State.

As an indigene of Lokoja, the capital of Kogi State, we are indeed very grateful to his excellency for conceding and initiating the award of the contract for constructing the new General Hospital building complex in Lokoja.

This laudable project is about 90 per cent completed, and when commissioned, it would improve healthcare delivery to

the indigenes of Kogi State in no small measure. It would complement the efforts of the Federal Medical Centre, which are inadequate for providing primary healthcare for the people.

As such, it would also help to campaign for the eradication of the HIV/AIDS scourge endemic among the populace. It would also cater for the less-privileged to foot their medical bills.

I would like to draw the attention of his excellency, the governor of Kogi State that if the hospital project is completed and commissioned, there is need for the state's Ministry of Health through hospital management projects to design good mainte-

nance programmes for facility management of the building and design an annual maintenance budget on an annual basis, sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a reputable facility maintenance consultant to maintain the facilities of the building, equipment, etc.

This would go a long way for the government to deliver primary healthcare services to the doorsteps of the people.

Long live, Governor Ibrahim Idris!! Long live people of Lokoja!! Long live people of Kogi State!!!

Abdulazeez. Suleman wrote in from 27, Tunis Street, Wuse Zone 6, Abuja.

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Mother of the Day:

- Her Excellency, Hajiya (Mrs) Ajoke Muhammed

Date: 13th February, 2006.

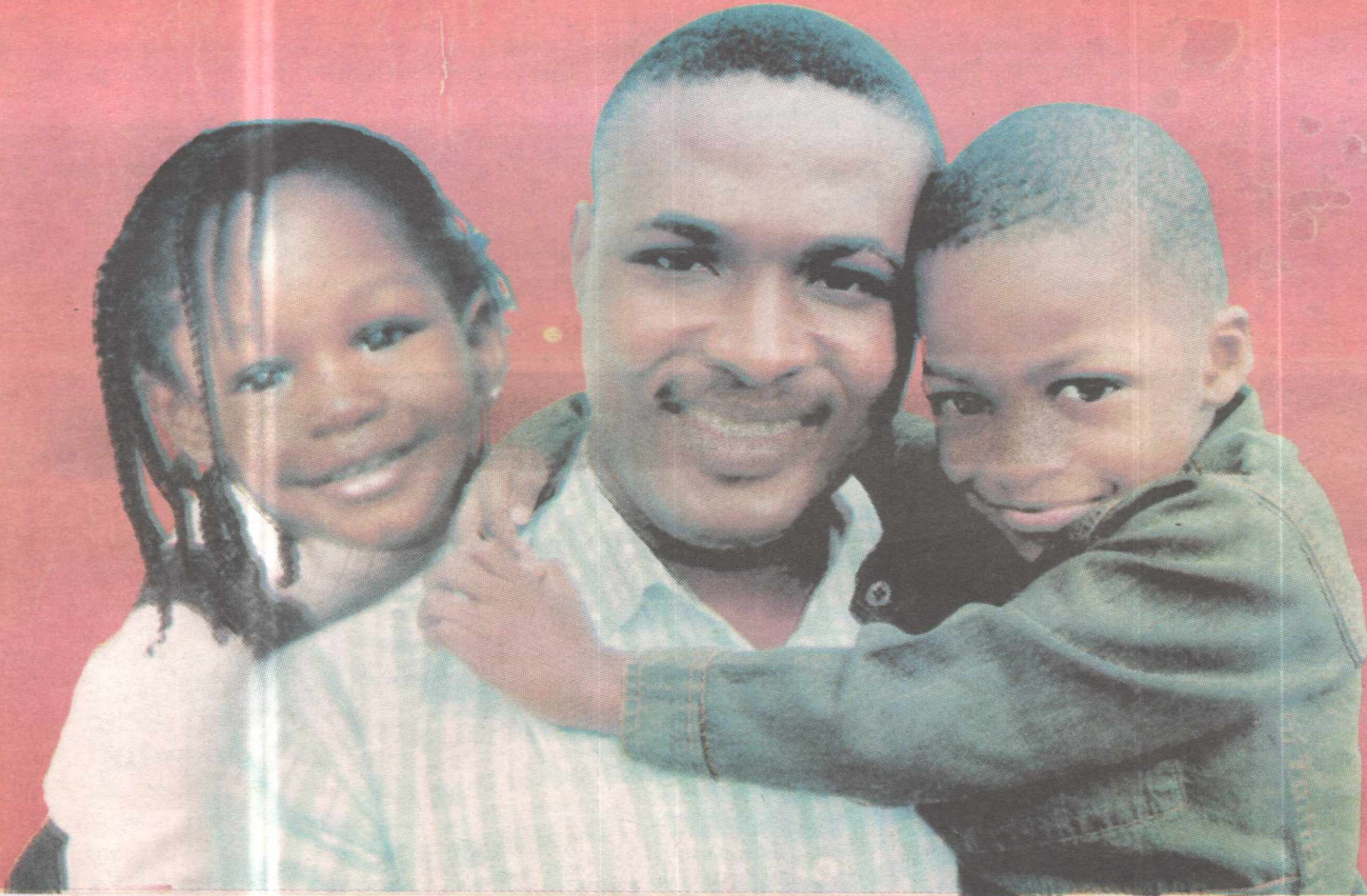
Time: 10.00 am. Guests are to be seated by 9:00 am

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World Report

Pakistan attack

death toll rises to 22

At least 22 people have been killed and more than 50 wounded in an attack on a Shiite procession and resulting riots in northwestern Pakistan, the local mayor told AFP.

"We have a confirmed death toll of 22 and it is likely to go up. More than 50 were wounded," Ghaniur Rehman, the mayor of Hangu town told AFP after Thursday's blast which targeted Shiites marking the holy Ashura festival.

Some of the dead included Sunnis killed in subsequent gunfire but the precise tally was not known, Rehman said.

"We have reports that some bodies are still lying in

the streets and because of the violence and bad security situation they cannot be removed," the mayor added.

"The army has reached the town and some order is now restored but it is still a very bad situation in some parts of the city."

Shiite mobs were blocking police vehicles, paramilitary trucks and ambulances at Ustarzai, about 25 kilometres (15 miles) east of Hangu, witnesses said. The protesters also torched some passing vehicles.

The army units that reached Hangu had come from another direction, officials said.

High security in Iraq for Ashura

Strict security measures have been imposed in Iraq to prevent insurgent attacks during the major Shia religious festival of Ashura.

Roads have been closed to vehicles and checkpoints set up in Baghdad and the shrine city of Karbala in central Iraq.

In 2004, 170 people were killed in co-ordinated attacks during Ashura. Despite the restrictions, millions of pilgrims are expected to take part in ceremonies commemorating the martyrdom of the Imam Hussein.

Falling on the 10th of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic lunar calendar, Shia Muslims mark the death of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson at Karbala with mourning rituals and plays re-enacting the martyrdom.

Men and women dress in black and parade through the streets slapping their chests and chanting.

Some Shia orders flagellate themselves with chains and blades to emulate Hussein's suffering - though this is frowned upon by others.

The US ambassador in Iraq, Zalmay Khalilzad, called on Iraqis to unite ahead of the festival. "All Iraqis, regardless of their religion or sect, should unite after decades of oppression in the common purpose of national renewal," he said.

Approximately 8,000 security personnel, including 2,000 undercover officers, have been deployed to protect the pilgrims in Karbala.

Checkpoints have also been set up to search pilgrims before they can enter the Imam Hussein shrine, and hotels have been searched for explosives.

In Baghdad, police closed main roads in the mainly Shia district of Kadhimiya.

Almost 1,000 people died during the last major Shia festival in August when a stampede was triggered on a bridge by rumours that suicide bombers were preparing to blow themselves up.

The leader of one of Iraq's two main Shia parties, Abd al-Aziz al-Hakim, has called for Iraq's "faithful security forces" to combat such attacks, but with "more consideration for human rights" and respect for Iraq's new constitution.

Mr Hakim said Iraqis needed to work together to "rescue our country" and enable "multinational forces to return to their countries."



Yuval Diskin is concerned Iraq's instability could spread west



The Egyptian mission in Gaza City is heavily guarded

Israel 'regrets Saddam overthrow'

The head of Israel's domestic security agency, Shin Bet, has said his country may come to regret the overthrow of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Yuval Diskin said a strong dictatorship would be preferable to the present "chaos" in Iraq, in a speech to teenage Jewish settlers in the West Bank. He also said the Israeli security services and judiciary treated Arabs and Jewish suspects differently. A Shin Bet veteran, Mr Diskin took over

as Shin Bet's chief in May.

When you dismantle a system in which there is a despot who controls his people by force, you have chaos. I'm not sure we won't miss Saddam. His speech to the students at the Eli settlement as they prepared for military service was secretly recorded and broadcast on Israeli TV.

When asked about the growing destabilisation of Iraq, Mr Diskin said Israel might come to rue its decision to support the US-led invasion in 2003.

"When you dismantle a system in which there is a despot who controls his people by force, you have chaos," he said. "I'm not sure we won't miss Saddam."

The security chief was also asked to compare the treatment of Jews and non-Jews by Israel's security and judicial establishments.

"I do not see equality in the way the system handles them when they are guilty of the same type of offence," he said. "If I had arrested a terrorist from Nablus and Eden Nathan Zaada [an Israeli army deserter who shot dead four Israeli Arabs on a bus in August], they wouldn't have received similar treatment in interrogation or court."

Mr Diskin also said he thought Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had made a mistake when he withdrew the Israeli army from the Gaza Strip last year without ensuring the Palestinian Authority could fill the

security vacuum.

"From a security perspective, I am opposed to handing over territories to the Palestinians unless we know there are officials there who will take control and commit themselves to upholding the law," he said.

"If there are no such officials, then I am against handing over territories to Palestinian control."

But Mr Diskin criticised militant Israelis who have used violence to oppose further withdrawals from the West Bank.

Egyptian diplomat kidnapped in Gaza

An Egyptian diplomat has been abducted by Palestinian gunmen in Gaza City, reports say. According to the reports, the diplomat was on his way to his office when masked gunmen surrounded his car and forced him into another vehicle.

Foreigners are frequently kidnapped by gunmen in Gaza, a mark of the area's instability and lawlessness.

Generally, the hostages are held for a short time to press the authorities for money, jobs or prisoner releases. The Egyptian representative's office in Gaza identified the diplomat as Hussam al-Mawsili, who serves as military attache.

Witnesses said the gunmen forced Mr Mawsili's car to stop by shooting at its tyres and bonnet.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said he had instructed security services to act "immediately to arrest those responsible and bring them to justice". "We will not allow anyone to damage brotherly relations between Palestine and Egypt," he said.

the Rimal district in the centre of Gaza City, about 200 metres from his office, which is heavily guarded.

Police erected barricades along Gaza's main thoroughfares and searched cars for Mr Mawsili - the first diplomat to be seized in the spate of kidnappings.

Egyptian officials have been operating in Gaza Strip for several months with the aim of reorganising Palestinian security forces following Israel's withdrawal last year. Egypt generally has good relations with armed factions in the Palestinian territories.

There has been an escalation of tension among groups loyal to the mainstream Fatah faction after the victory of the Islamic resistance movement Hamas in recent parliamentary elections. A Hamas spokesman has also condemned the kidnapping.

"Those who carry out such acts are seeking to hurt our people and damage distinguished relations that link the Egyptian and Palestinian people," Sami Abu Zubri told AFP.



CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION

(Established Under the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1, 1990)

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF COTEA INTERNATIONAL NIGERIA LIMITED - RC: 453423

Pursuant to the powers vested in the Commission under Section 213 (2) of the Companies and Allied Matter Act, 1990, NOTICE is hereby given that the First Annual General Meeting of COTEA INTERNATIONAL NIGERIA LIMITED will be held on Tuesday 14 March, 2006 at 11:00am at the Board Room, Corporate Affairs Commission, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja, to transact the following business:

A. ORDINARY BUSINESS:

1. To receive the Report of the Directors, the un-audited Balance Sheet and the Profit and loss Account of the Company for the year ended 31st December, 2004.
2. To declare a dividend.
3. To elect/re-elect Directors
4. To fix the remuneration of Directors.
5. To appoint Akintola Williams Delloite as Auditors of the Company.
6. To allow Directors to fix the remuneration of Auditors.

B. SPECIAL BUSINESS;

7. To instruct the Directors to make calls on the Company's capital.

Dated this 8th day of February, 2006.

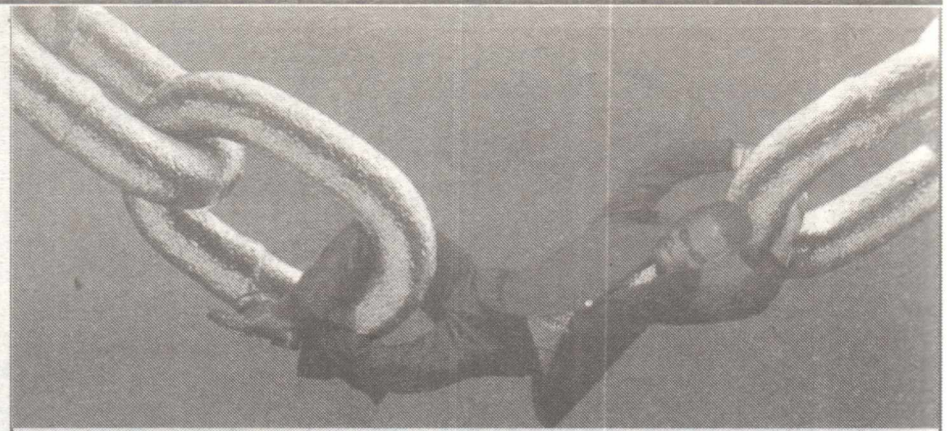
Signed:

Bello Mahmud
 Director Compliance
 For: Registrar-General

NOTES:

PROXY

A member of the company entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of him. A proxy need not be a member of the company. Proxy form can be obtained from the office of Director (Compliance) Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja and if it is to be valid for the purposes of the meeting it must be stamped by the Commissioner of Stamp Duties and deposited at the office of Director (Compliance), Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565 Ndola square, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja not less than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting.



Be our Big Link as Lubricant Distributor

Shell Nigeria Oil Products (SNOP) is a 100% Shell owned downstream oil marketing company in Nigeria.

SNOP is in the process of expanding its business operations in Nigeria to the automotive and commercial lubricant markets. Our range of products are: Shell Helix, Shell Rimula, Spirax and Alvania all of which are acclaimed market leaders.

Towards achieving our market drive, we consequently request competent and reputable organization/individuals to act as distributor for our line of lubricants. These organizations/individuals will also be required to develop strong resellers network.

Requirements:

- ◆ The company profile including certificate of incorporation, and company financial details for the last three years.
- ◆ Description of distribution infrastructures currently owned.
- ◆ A brief on the companies proposed strategies for market penetration and growth.
- ◆ Details of current complementary activities compatible with our business.

Interested distributors application submission should be made within 14 days and addressed to:

The Lubricants Manager
 Shell Nigeria Oil Products Limited
 Freeman House, 21/22 Marina, Lagos
 Under the reference: "Lubricants Distributor"

Prospective distributor must apply for the contemplated services under the distributors company name. Failure of a distributor to follow the instruction above or to provide any of the listed documents will automatically result in disqualification. Notwithstanding, the submission of the requested information to SNOP, SNOP shall not be obligated to issue any contract or award of any form. SNOP shall not make any form of payment for submission in response to this notice.

Shell Nigeria Oil Products

Freeman House, 21/22 Marina, P.M.B. 2418, Lagos, Nigeria
 Tel: +234 (0)1 260 1600 919 lines; Fax: 234 (0)1 263 6250



Trust International

Odd World



Indian "dabbawallahs" or "lunch-runners" push their cart laden with food through the streets of Mumbai, February 2004. Two of Mumbai's "lunch-runners", who help feed hundreds of thousands of workers every day, will teach management techniques to steel executives in India.

Woman accused of mailing condom explosives

A former strip club waitress mailed condoms filled with a potentially explosive mixture to a television station, strip clubs and other places, saying she was tired of being mistreated by men, according to court documents.

In FBI documents unsealed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Boston, Kimberly Lynn Dasilva, 40, said she "couldn't take it anymore."

None of the condoms exploded. They each contained a mixture of drain-cleaning detergent and gasoline, which could explode when combined,

authorities said. Dasilva told investigators she did not think they would explode.

On Sept. 21, a suspicious package arrived at the Bridgewater State College admissions office, according to two FBI affidavits. When it was discovered that fluid had leaked from the package, the building was evacuated and the State Police Bomb Squad was called in. A note inside the package said "Boom."

Five more packages containing condoms filled with Drano and gasoline were found the next day at the Brockton postal annex, according to the FBI

affidavits. They were addressed to Boston television station WFXT, Boston radio station WXKS-FM, the Outlaws motorcycle club in Taunton, and two strip clubs — Alex's in Stoughton and The Foxy Lady in Brockton.

Dasilva, a single mother of two teenagers who used to work at Alex's and The Foxy Lady, was arrested Friday night after FBI agents and state police troopers raided her home and found letters hidden in the ceiling tiles of her bedroom that allegedly linked her to the mailings.

On Monday, U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert B.

Collings released her on a \$10,000 unsecured bond and scheduled a hearing in the case for Feb. 23.

When contacted by The Boston Globe on Tuesday, Dasilva referred questions to her lawyer, who had no comment.

Long strange non-trip for woman, two dogs

Debra Schwarz and her two dogs are taking the long way home. The really long way. The three are stranded in Eugene, with no available transportation.

So Schwarz, 46, has decided to walk home to Wichita Falls, Texas, pulling a large cart she built herself and covered with handwritten tirades against people she believes have done her wrong.

The only problem is, she hasn't gotten very far. Every time she hits the road, the police stop her.

Her 4-foot-wide, 7-foot-long cart is a traffic hazard, police said, and puts Schwarz and her dogs, Lucky and Junior, at risk of being hit by a car.

Police in Eugene and Springfield have escorted her off local highways at least three times in the past month after drivers complained that they couldn't get around her.

The police have been kind, towing her cart to nearby churches and letting her camp out until she can get back to her motor home, parked with permission at a business north of Eugene.

And her lawyer and others have offered to buy her a bus ticket from here to Texas.

But Schwarz refuses to abandon her beloved dogs, and so far no one has agreed to take them on until she can

return to Oregon in April for a court appearance.

"She's mostly just desperate," her Eugene attorney, Brian Cox, said. "She's a woman whose life has devolved to this point. It's really a sad story."

Schwarz and her late husband, Norris Schwarz, supported themselves in part by selling wrought-iron Christmas ornaments around the country. Each fall, they drove their motor home and a trailer full of goods to a different city and set up shop on open lots. On her way through Oregon in 2000, Schwarz got a \$350 traffic ticket for failing to obey a traffic signal while driving in Lake County. Annoyed, she tucked human feces into the envelope with the money order she sent to the Lake County Courthouse.

Schwarz was convicted of obstructing government administration, criminal mischief and disorderly conduct. A judge sentenced her to a year of probation, which she violated when she refused to pay a fine. As a result, she served six months in the Lake County Jail last year.

While she went to jail, her 82-year-old husband was stranded in Lake County. Police found him disoriented and sleeping in a pickup truck.

As a result, she was charged with felony criminal mistreatment. She is scheduled for trial in April.

Her husband's adult children eventually took him back to Texas. He died of a heart attack while his wife was in jail.

After her release from jail in October, Schwarz got a lift from a friend to Eugene, but has since been trying to get home to settle her husband's estate.

She refuses to pay a fine that would restore her driver's license, so she can't drive her motor home back to Texas. She says she can't take a bus, train or airplane because of her dogs.

She spent a month building her cart, which she pulls along by a metal bar at her waist. She attached flashlights to the rear, added a reflective triangle and scrawled "caution" in big, black letters on the back.

Police and her attorney have convinced her, for now, that walking home in winter might not be the best idea. Down to her last \$10, she is hoping someone will volunteer to baby sit Lucky and Junior until she returns for trial. Or maybe she can hitch a ride with a trucker.

If nothing else comes through, she said she'll make the cart smaller and try walking out of town again.

House burns while man makes a food run

A man who went out for a few minutes to buy food came back to find his Northwest Washington house ablaze Wednesday. "A lady in the next block said, 'Is that your house?' I said, 'I hope not.' Up to that point I wasn't even sure," said Joe Howard.

The fire was so intense, and the building so unstable, that firefighters had to evacuate and resorted to battling the flames from outside, District of Columbia

Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department spokesman Alan Etter said sections of the home were falling apart. Neither Howard nor any firefighters were hurt.

The cause of the fire was not known, and it was unclear if it would ever be found.

"Fire investigators will go in after it's determined safe to go in. And it may be that they never go in to investigate. We've had situations like this before where the building is so

unsafe that we're not going to put a fire investigator in there to get hurt," Etter said.

Family claims soup contained a dead mouse

A woman claims that her 89-year-old mother spooned a dead mouse into her mouth from a bowl of Campbell's bean with bacon soup.

A Campbell Soup Co. spokesman said Wednesday that the company would like to examine the can and its contents, which the family

says it stored in a freezer, along with the mouse.

Company spokesman John Faulkner said it's unlikely a mouse got into the can during manufacturing. Production is closely monitored at the Maxton, N.C., plant where the soup was made, he said.

Authorities said the Jan.

Parents protest child's spelling bee loss

Mulvenon likens it to a referee's call in an NFL game. The protest has to come before the next play starts.

Sara says she'd just like another chance, since it's her last spelling bee.

Her mother Cindy calls herself a "momma bear with her bear claws out" and is ready to go to court. Mulvenon hopes everybody can sit down together and work something out.

He says defending a lawsuit over a spelling bee isn't a good way to spend school district money.

Her parents are furious, but organizers say they had to protest the call immediately. Sara's mom said they waited until the bee was over to avoid interrupting it. School spokesman Steve

26 incident in Erwin, about 250 miles east of Nashville, has been reported to the federal Agriculture Department for investigation. Phyllis Ingram said she believes the mouse allegedly found by her mother, Pearl Parkey, was in the can and could not have gotten into the pot of soup any other way.

UNIVERSITY OF JOS, JOS OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

(Internal and External Advertisement)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE POST OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

The general academic community is hereby notified that the post of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jos is going to be vacant. In accordance with the provisions of the Universities (Miscellaneous) Decree (now Act) No. 11 of 1993 (Amended by Decree (now Act) No. 25 of 1996) the Governing Council of the University of Jos wishes to commence the process of filling the vacancy. The Governing Council has therefore directed that applications be invited from distinguished academics with vast experience of research, teaching, University administration and management for not less than ten (10) years.

Applicants should be versatile Professors of proven integrity with ability to attract and network for goodwill and funds for the University. There must also be evidence of broad exposure and community service.

Salary and Conditions of Service

These are as applicable to the post of Vice-Chancellor in all Nigerian Federal Universities, and as determined by the Government from time to time.

Method of Application

Interested candidates are required to submit thirty (30) copies each of their application letter and comprehensive curriculum vitae in an envelope marked "Application for the post of Vice-Chancellor" - to reach:

The Registrar and Secretary to Council
University of Jos
P.M.B. 2084
Jos, Nigeria.

Not later than Six (6) weeks from the date of this Publication.

Referees' Reports

Each candidate should include names and addresses of three Referees in his/her application, at least one of whom should be able to attest to the applicant's academic, professional and managerial achievements and abilities. The Referees should also be able to attest to the applicant's moral character and uprightness; maturity and ability to relate effectively with the University community and the general public, as well as his/her other leadership qualities.

Applicants should inform their Referees to send their reports direct to the Registrar under confidential cover not later than the above closing date. The envelope should be marked "Application for the post of Vice-Chancellor"

Interview

Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview at a later date.

Signed:

Z. D. Galam

Registrar and Secretary to Council

Note: This advert is also posted on the University Website: www.Unijos.edu.ng

FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL), GUSAU P.M.B. 1088, GUSAU, ZAMFARA STATE.

VACANCIES

(INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT)

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the following posts in Federal College of Education (Technical), Gusau, Zamfara State.

1. BURSAR -HATISS 14

DUTIES:

(a) The Bursar is a Principal Officer of the College responsible for planning, organizing, directing and coordinating the operation of the financial system of the college.

(b) He is responsible to the Provost.

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

Candidates should possess a good degree in Accountancy or Finance from a recognized institution of higher learning or equivalent professional Accountancy qualification with at least 18 years post qualification cognate experience plus registration with a recognized professional accounting body.

2. CHIEF ACCOUNTANT -HATISS 13

DUTIES:

(a) The Chief Accountant assists the Bursar in planning, organizing, directing and coordinating the financial system of the College.

(b) He assists the Bursar in the administration of the staff of Bursary.

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

Candidates should possess a good honours degree or HND in Accountancy or Finance from a recognized institution of higher learning or equivalent professional Accountancy qualification(s) with at least, 15 years post qualification cognate experience, plus Registration with a recognized professional accounting body.

3. ASSISTANT CHIEF ACCOUNTANT -HATISS 12

DUTIES:

(a) The Assistant Chief Accountant performs the duties of Principal Accountant at a higher level of responsibility.

(b) Co-ordinating accounting activities in related divisions of the Bursary.

(c) Carrying out any other duties assigned by Bursar.

(d) Assisting with the administration of the department, including the training, supervision and guiding of subordinate staff.

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE:

Candidates should possess a good honours degree or HND in Accountancy or Finance from a recognized institution of higher learning or equivalent professional Accountancy qualification(s) plus, at least, 12 years post qualification cognate experience.

4. COLLEGE LIBRARIAN -HATISS 14

DUTIES

The Librarian is a Principal Officer of the College responsible for:

(a) Training overall library policy, personal contacts and liaison with departments.

(b) Preparation of Library budgets.

(c) Responsible to the Provost for the smooth running of the College Library e.g. attending Academic Board meeting etc.

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

Candidates should possess a Master of Library studies with 15 years cognate experience or a good degree plus 18 years cognate experience or professional Library qualification with 17th years post qualification experience. In addition, candidates must have the required academic publications.

5. CHIEF LIBRARIAN - HATISS 13

DUTIES

(a) General supervision of staff, stock and readers.

(b) Serves as link -man between library staff and college Librarian.

(c) In charge of day to day management of the library; staff selection, staff training and book selection.

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

Candidates should possess M.L.S. with 12 years experience or B.L.S with 15 years or degree plus post - graduate qualification in Library studies with 14 years experience.

6. ASSISTANT CHIEF LIBRARIAN - HATISS 12

DUTIES

(a) Assisting in staff selection, training on library instruction, publication and book selection.

(b) Responsible for acquisition of materials and stock, studio-visual aids etc.

(c) Performing other duties that may be assigned by the Chief Librarian.

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

Candidates should possess good honours Degree or its equivalent from recognized institution of higher learning plus 12 years of cognate experience or possess M.L.S. with 9 years cognate experience.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT AND OTHER CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR BURSAR AND COLLEGE LIBRARIAN

(a) Salary range HATISS 14 per Annum and other fringe benefits applicable to the posts of Bursar and College Librarian in the Federal College of Education system. Entry point depends on cognate experience.

(b) The tenure of office for each shall be for a period of five years effective from the date of assumption and may be renewed for further term of five years and no more.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Interested candidates should forward 15 copies of their type written application and curriculum vitae (attaching photocopies of relevant credentials). Candidates are advised to request three of their referees to forward their reports on them under confidential cover to:

THE REGISTRAR, FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL)
P.M.B. 1088, GUSAU, ZAMFARA STATE

All applications and reference report on the candidates should reach the Registrar not later than 4 weeks from the date of this publication.

SIGNED: REGISTRAR

Business Trust

Currencies

West African Unit of Account

Country	N Equivalent
The Gambia	6.0329
Ghana	0.0143
Guinea	0.0588
Liberia	1.3633
S/Leone	5,563.84
Nigeria	192.48

Parallel Market

	Average
Dollar	144 145
Pounds	261 175

2005 BID ROUND

FG to refund N10.6 bn signature bonuses to defaulters

By Hamisu Muhammad, Business Reporter

About \$83 million (N10.6 billion) will be refunded to the oil companies which could not make complete payment of their signature bonuses as at Wednesday, minister of state for petroleum resources, Dr. Edmund Daukoru has said.

Speaking at the close out ceremony of the 2005 bid round held at Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) headquarters in Abuja, on Wednesday, Daukoru said only 25 out of 44 awards were made during the bid round in August, 2005 and only 25 firms paid fully.

He said there are 18 firms which may likely cross the line and 8 other companies are yet to present themselves.

The minister said about 1 billion dollars has been realized as signature bonuses, stressing that only those who are able to pay all are should get the oil blocks.

"We are sorry to disappoint firms which made partial payment but couldn't complete till now," said Daukoru.

Earlier, reading the review of the 2005 bid round, the Ambassador of Norway to Nigeria Mr. Tore Nedrebo, who represented the chairman of the review panel, Mr. Willy H. Olsen said out of the 200 questionnaires sent to companies to partake in the bid round, 35 responses have been received by the panel.

He said majority of the companies have expressed positive response and saw the bid round as a step in the right direction.



The chief executive officer of NICON Insurance Plc, Barrister Ibrahim Jimoh (left), with the minister of Housing and Environment, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko, during a courtesy visit to NICON...recently.

ITF, states to train Niger Delta youths

By Anas Galadima

The Federal Government has given approval for the training of youths in the Niger Delta by the Industrial Training Fund to engage them in useful ventures.

The director general of the Fund, Prof Olu Akerejola who disclosed this in Abuja yesterday after receiving an award from the Nigeria Union of Journalists said government had already approved a budget for the training which would be carried out in conjunction with the states in the Niger Delta region.

Akerejola said the youths would be trained in vocational skills in oil and gas and computer among other things. He said the Fund would fulfill the mandate, adding that it had successfully trained 81,000 people every year just as many companies regularly tap from its resources.

Integration hitches stall bank operations

By Austine Odo, Business Editor

Customers of bank groups which recently merged to comply with the CBN's consolidation requirement are not finding it easy with the banks' integration processes, *Business Trust* findings have shown.

Business Trust reported yesterday that bank customers in Kaduna have had great difficulty accessing their accounts, including a widow who complained to our correspondent at a branch of the UBA/STB that she and her three children were starving to death as a result of her inability to withdraw money from her account.

It was also discovered in Abuja on Wednesday and yesterday that the problem exists in many branches of the newly merged banks where customers are already regretting too much dependence in the banking system as a method of keeping their money. Several branches of UBA/STB and Platinum Habib in Abuja showed evidence of the integration problem.

At the Wuse Zone 4 (Russel Plaza) branch of the UBA/STB, *Business Trust* noticed a great deal of confusion among customers who went to make transactions early Thursday. The problem concerned mainly difficulties in accounts verification and network delays leading to long queues and disenchantment among customers.

A furious customer, one Alhaji A. Malumfashi told *Business Trust* that he could not access his money because the bank workers could not just verify a signature on the cheque he tendered.

"I spent over one hour forty five minutes waiting for them to verify this signature, and they have not verified it, and I cannot get my money, if this is how the consolidation thing will make things difficult I think they better address it now," he said as he left the bank in anger.

Business Trust observed that after tendering his cheque, the customer waited for about an hour and later went to the cashier who referred him to the manager. The manager assured him of payment but 45 months later, he was told that the signature had not been verified. Another customer, one Jarfet Obi told *Business Trust* that she was at the bank for about one hour 20 minutes but was told that there was network problem so she couldn't get her money.

At the Platinum Habib Bank in Wuse Zone one, similar complaints were raised by customers, just as in the Area 3 branch of UBA/STB. At Habib Bank in Wuse Zone 1, the problem was so bad on Wednesday that workers who were to take their salaries from the Bank almost rioted.

At a point, the manager came out to tell them that

Habib Bank would pay only on its own cheques.

Workers who offered explanation said it was simply due to network integration which according to them, would soon be sorted out.

"You are talking about several thousands of accounts involving a very great number of branches, but our head office people in Lagos will offer better explanations," an officer at the UBA/STB office in Area 3 told *Business Trust*. The number supplied to contact the Lagos office could not be reached before press time.

Integration problem is one of the challenges envis-

aged in the sector at the post consolidation era. The director, field examination department of the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC), Mr. S. O. Alashi said while addressing newsmen in Calabar recently that apart from banking integration, post consolidation banking in Nigeria would experience other challenges as banks become large and more sophisticated.

These challenges include; supervisory, lack of transparency in financial reporting, frauds, implementation of the new capital accord, globalization and legal constraints.

CAC sacks 100 over fraud

About 100 employees of the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) had been dismissed due to some fraudulent acts involving company registration, the registrar general of the CAC, Mallam Ahmed Almustapha has said.

The registrar-general who was briefing newsmen on the introduction of the new e-payment card by the commission in Abuja on Wednesday said "last week alone, the Commission sent out about 13 workers as a result of such acts."

Business Trust learnt that some staff of the Commission

were involved in registering companies with fake records to escape the normal procedures of company registration.

Almustapha said disciplinary action is a continuous process, as the management was always concerned with issues that turn down the image of the Commission.

He said the introduction of e-payment card will provide customers with a flexible, secure and simple means of payment for the commission's services through the internet, stressing that for the foreign based customers the system will accept payments via credit cards such as Master Card or Visa Card.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Dollar	131.86	132.86
Pounds	239.27	241.09
EURO	164.42	165.66
YEN	1.20	1.21
WAUA	193.58	195.04
RIYAL	35.15	35.42
CFA	0.240	0.250
Rand	20.54	21.55
S/Dollar	8.00	9.52
Yuan	16.00	17.00

Management Tips

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INSIDE How to start and sustain your business

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Stock market report...Page 3

SIGNED: REGISTRAR



**KEBBI STATE TENDERS BOARD
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
BIRNIN KEBBI**

**INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF
KEBBI STATE UNIVERSITY (PHASE I)**

This is to announce to the general public that the Kebbi State Government has decided to establish a State University and that the following structures will be constructed:-

- i. 2Nos Faculties i.e Faculty of Science and Information Technology.
- ii. Administrative block
- iii. Hostel block
- iv. Cafeteria.
- v. Library block
- vi. Civil and Ancillary works.

Interested and reputable Contractors are invited to bid for these structures. Bid Documents will be obtain from the Secretary, Kebbi State Tenders Board, Cabinet Office B/Kebbi as from Monday, 13th February, 2006.

All interested bidders will be required to pay a non-refundable Tenders Registration and Processing fees.

The Bids Document should be returned to the Secretary on or before 21st February, 2006.

For further inquires call the following phone numbers.

08030534448

08053225598

Thank you

Signed:

**ABDULLAHI T. YELDU
SECRETARY**

VACANCY! VACANCY!! VACANCY!!!

A newspaper company with its headquarters in Abuja requires applications from suitable and qualified candidates to fill the following vacancies.

(1) **MARKETING EXECUTIVES**

Location: Abuja, Lagos, Ibadan and Port Harcourt

Qualifications: The duties and responsibilities of the Marketing Executives will be to expand readership of the newspaper in their zones and report daily activities of their operation to the Marketing Manager in Abuja. The qualifications required for the job are as follows:

- B.Sc/HND in Economics, Business Admin, Marketing or related field obtained from a reputable University/Polytechnic
- Honesty, dedication to duty and readiness to work at any location in Nigeria at all times.
- At least 3 years post-qualification experience preferably acquired from Newspaper Company.
- Candidates with a Second Class Upper Division degree will have an upper hand in the final selection.
- Residency and good knowledge of Abuja, Lagos, Port Harcourt and Ibadan metropolis will be an added advantage.

(2) **ADVERT EXECUTIVES**

Location: Kano, Lagos, Port Harcourt and Abuja.

Duties:

Successful candidates are expected to deepen the existing advert market and source new clientele for patronage.

Qualifications:

- Same qualifications as above.
- In addition to (1) above candidates who have obtained an MBA or minimum of 5 years requisite experience will be given first consideration.
- Successful candidates must be aggressive, smart, honest and be willing to meet expected sales targets.

(3) **ADVERT CANVASSERS**

Location: Kaduna, Kano, Maiduguri, Sokoto, Lagos and Port Harcourt.

Duties:

Advert Canvassers and Freelancers are required to secure new advertisements for the newspaper.

Qualifications:

B.Sc. graduate or OND/NCE with minimum of 2 years experience may apply for this position.

Remuneration:

The remuneration for the positions of Advert Executives and Canvassers are very generous. They include very competitive salary and bonuses. They also include good commissions that are promptly paid to deserving earners.

Method of Application:

Interested candidates should send in their applications with CV's and relevant credentials as well as daytime contact telephone numbers within 2 weeks from the date of this advertisement to:-

**The Advertiser
P.O. Box 6873
Wuse Zone 3,
Abuja.**

NB: Candidates for the post of Advert Canvassers outside Abuja can personally submit their applications to the Bureau Chiefs and Regional Editors of the Daily Trust offices in Kaduna, Kano, Maiduguri, Sokoto, Jos, Lagos and Port Harcourt.

BUSINESS TRUST

Management Tips

Starting and successfully sustaining your business

A panel of experts on small business answer questions from BBC News Online readers on growing their company without losing control, agonising over funding, or designing a killer marketing campaign.

David Wilkinson, partner at Ernst & Young, discusses starting a new business with venture capital

Liz Barclay, presenter of Radio 4's *You and Yours*, talks about approaching potential customers and running a property business

Nigel Nicholson, Professor, London Business School, comments on attracting high-profile execs to your business and risking everything

Peter Ibbetson, head of NatWest Business Banking, on finding funding for patents and the best time to approach financiers

QUESTION

Sokratis Papafloreatos, UK

What is the best way to get the capital to start your business? What guarantees do you have when presenting the idea to venture capitalists or business angels, that they won't steal it?

ANSWER

David Wilkinson, partner, Ernst & Young

Most entrepreneurs start out using their own resources, as well as reaching out to friends and family, and avoid giving away equity too early.

The first step is to define how much capital is needed to reach your business objectives and to determine what kind of returns to expect if you reach those objectives.

If you are then able to demonstrate an attractive rate of return, then it is sensible to speak to an advisor to discuss which route of funding is most appropriate, as there are pros and cons to all of the most popular sources.

QUESTION

John Chambers, UK

Is it best to approach businesses direct or to send a letter of introduction to the business and then follow-up?

ANSWER



Good packaging often helps to sustain business

Liz Barclay, presenter of Radio 4's *You and Yours*

I don't think there's a right way and a wrong way. It depends a lot on the business you're in.

Some people like the direct approach - no letters to read and a 'yes' or a 'no' answer. Others prefer the letter of introduction so at least they have some idea of whether or not they want to meet the person before the call comes through.

QUESTION

Atit Patel, UK

I would like to attract high-profile executive to join my company's board. I run a start-up business with plans to expand through equity investment.

What is the best way or a proper way of attracting somebody like Hans Snook, the ex-Orange chief executive, as chairman?

ANSWER

Professor Nigel Nicholson, London Business School

There are two ingredi-

ents. One is the prospects of the business, and the sense that the individual can join in the knowledge that a) they will make a difference and b) that there will be a success trajectory.

and unregrettable futures, and people who ventured everything and lost it all.

My sense is that you're going to do this anyway, so the question is really what can you do to avoid the worst

contingency plans that limit your exposure if it fails? More importantly perhaps, do you have the emotional resilience and open-minded pragmatism to hold your nerve when you need to and to change your mind when you need to? Can you learn from failures the lessons that bring success?

Ultimately it's about you and your personal resources. The two pieces of advice I have to offer are as follows.

One, is master the art of decentring. Figure out what other people - your partners, customers etc. are thinking and feeling, and keep one step ahead of them.

Two, keep a flat-book mentality. This is what finance traders are supposed to do - take each trade as if they were cash neutral, i.e. not having won or lost previously. Take each day as the first day of the rest of your life. Enjoy! Good luck. May the force be with you!

QUESTION

David Swaddle, England

I am planning on starting a small business in the next

month. If things go according to plan, then I will need money to expand it in a year's time. Is it best to contact potential financiers now, and let them watch the progress, or should I wait until I am nearer to needing the money?

ANSWER

Peter Ibbetson, head of NatWest Business Banking

As a new business I would recommend that you prepare for the unexpected - many small businesses find that their envisaged path takes a number of twists and turns in the early days.

This is why planning is crucial. It allows you to re-focus on your original objectives and helps you to consider if you need to alter your plans. The more flexible you can be, the easier it is for you to adjust your business.

Be sure to work closely with your business manager and accountant who will help you identify at what stage you will require any additional finance and the type of finance appropriate to meet the business needs.

possible downside scenario.

Have you thought through the angles of your business model and possible hidden snares? Do you have

Two is the culture of the firm and the group. Much of this rests on personal relationships and chemistry. You have to show yourselves as people with open minds, receptive to the ideas of independent voices in the boardroom.

Together these two ingredients mean that the experience will be positive in its outcomes and enjoyable in the experience.

QUESTION

Tony Rucinski, Wales

I've got a secure job, a young family and a mortgage. Am I completely mad to think about borrowing to buy a group of self-catering cottages and run it as a family business - giving up all I have and risking everything?

ANSWER

Professor Nigel Nicholson, London Business School

If you are mad, then you join a big club with quite a mixed bag of members: ranging from people who took big risks and built unforgettable

VACANCIES IN A COMMUNITY

A young and dynamic community bank in Abuja is repositioning itself towards the achievement of government's new microfinance policy. As a result, the bank urgently requires the services of suitable candidates to fill strategic positions in the Management Team of the bank.

POSITIONS & QUALIFICATIONS:

Manager/CEO

The candidate shall have the ability to lead and motivate the staff towards the successful attainment of the bank's goals, and is expected to hold a good honours degree in Finance, Banking, Economics, Accounting or related discipline. In addition, the candidate should possess a minimum of seven years cognate post qualification experience in the banking sector with a minimum of 3 years in a management position. Relevant professional qualification such as ICAN will be an added advantage.

Head, Banking Operations

The candidate shall be a holder of first degree/HND in Economics, Accounting, Banking or related discipline with a minimum of 5 years post qualification working experience in related sector of which 2 years will be in a management position. A relevant professional qualification will be an added advantage. In addition to his day-to-day functions, the candidate shall be responsible for interpreting and ensuring compliance with relevant regulatory/government guidelines.

Head, Inspection/Internal Audit

The Internal Auditor shall supervise the implementation of the bank's operational manual and ensure compliance with all relevant policies and regulations. The incumbent must possess a good first degree/HND in Accounting, Banking or any related discipline. The candidate must have 5 years cognate experience in a relevant institution and shall report directly to the Board. Membership in a recognized professional body will be an advantage.

METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Application, detailing each candidate's skills for the preferred post, Curriculum Vitae duly signed and indicating age, place and date of birth; photocopies of credentials; names and contact addresses (including e-mail and telephone [GSM] numbers) of two reputable referees should be submitted within one week of this advertisement to:

The Advertiser,
Ground Floor,
ENTERPRISE PLAZA,
3rd Avenue,
Gwarinpa Housing Estate,
Gwarinpa, Abuja.

As a new business I would recommend that you prepare for the unexpected - many small businesses find that their envisaged path takes a number of twists and turns in the early days. This is why planning is crucial. It allows you to re-focus on your original objectives and helps you to consider if you need to alter your plans. The more flexible you can be, the easier it is for you to adjust your business.



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m Cubed has tested experience in Pension Fund Management, managing N917 billion in assets and administering N1,280 trillion. The company brings its asset management, technical, IT and professional expertise to bear on First Alliance.

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First Alliance Pension and Benefits Limited is a licensed pension fund administrator under the Pension Act, 2004. It is a subsidiary of First Alliance Pension and Benefits Limited. The company is committed to providing professional and efficient pension services to its clients. The company's services include pension fund administration, investment management, and actuarial services. The company is a member of the Pension Fund Administration Board (PFAB) and the Pension Fund Association of Nigeria (PFAN). The company is also a member of the International Pension Association (IPA) and the International Association of Pension Fund Administrators (IAPFA).

Business Trust

1ST-TIER SECURITIES

THE NIGERIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

REPORT AS AT THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2006

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares
ADSWITCH PLC.	2	1.35	20,000	27,000.00
CUTIX PLC	3	2.73	7,900	21,567.00
Sector Totals	5		27,900	48,567.00
AGRICULTURE/AGRO-ALLIED				
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC.	1	1.56	1,000	1,560.00
THE OKOMU OIL PALM COMPANY PLC	3	17.00	8,780	149,260.00
PRESCO PLC.	15	10.50	308,050	3,227,775.00
Sector Totals	19		317,830	3,378,595.00
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DUNLOP NIGERIA PLC.	20	2.58	120,497	304,994.52
R. T. BRISCOE PLC.	17	5.50	111,581	615,691.32
Sector Totals	37		232,078	920,685.84
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	126	2.67	3,633,788	9,743,247.79
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC.	13	9.10	43,248	393,556.80
DIAMOND BANK PLC	2	7.75	2,000	15,500.00
EIB INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC.	1	2.26	445	1,005.70
FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	1	5.11	1,000	5,110.00
FIDELITY BANK PLC	3	2.93	800,000	2,344,000.00
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC.	558	33.69	3,672,171	123,840,174.70
GTBANK PLC.	263	13.75	4,187,592	57,164,704.19
INVESTMENT BANKING	8	4.57	5,278,155	24,121,168.35
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC.	205	9.75	7,680,685	75,471,840.94
NAL BANK PLC.	1	2.80	514	1,439.20
OCEANIC BANK PLC	110	5.85	22,917,228	132,151,149.67
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC.	142	12.00	1,899,200	23,048,404.79
UNION BANK NIGERIA PLC.	111	25.48	13,354,512	340,272,965.76
UNIVERSAL TRUST BANK PLC	1	0.58	25,000	14,500.00
WEMA BANK PLC.	81	3.74	212,371	794,267.54
ZENITH BANK PLC	12	19.64	46,112	905,639.68
Sector Totals	1,638		63,754,021	790,288,675.11
BREWERIES				
CHAMPION BREWERIES PLC.	5	2.01	41,552	81,130.88
GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC.	91	100.93	239,610	24,230,564.65
NIGERIAN BREWERIES PLC.	395	36.40	2,045,746	74,169,025.91
Sector Totals	491		2,326,908	98,480,721.44
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC.	80	34.26	549,942	18,980,756.69
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC.	5	6.50	9,065	58,922.50
CEMENT COMPANY OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	11	7.19	123,850	871,366.50
WEST AFRICAN PORTLAND CEMENT CO. PLC.	147	17.98	3,004,921	54,121,709.73
Sector Totals	243		3,687,778	74,032,755.42
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS PLC.	26	4.07	245,945	996,964.99
CAP PLC.	10	9.00	98,695	862,699.25
D. N. MEYER PLC.	22	2.92	196,179	594,313.24
NIGERIA-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC.	8	4.25	24,537	104,936.16
Sector Totals	66		565,356	2,558,913.64
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS NIGERIA PLC.	11	1.20	229,260	266,112.00
C F A O NIGERIA PLC.	20	3.60	75,219	279,056.46
JOHN HOLT PLC.	2	1.47	650	955.50
P. Z. INDUSTRIES PLC.	39	16.20	85,291	1,381,714.20
U.A.C.NIGERIA PLC.	128	16.41	1,281,640	21,052,986.74
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	148	19.52	733,096	14,612,386.25
U.T.C. NIGERIA PLC.	1	0.74	118	87.32
Sector Totals	349		2,405,274	37,593,298.47
CONSTRUCTION				
CAPALBETO	2	13.30	700	9,310.00
COSTAIN (W.A.) PLC.	4	1.09	8,160	8,604.40
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC.	6	22.15	3,560	78,854.00
Sector Totals	12		12,420	96,768.40
FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING COMPANY PLC	25	26.90	30,692	837,111.40
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC.	114	67.00	399,554	26,685,793.97
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC.	77	26.00	495,039	12,687,706.82
NIGERIA BOTTLING COMPANY PLC.	104	65.94	443,967	28,840,637.90
NESTLE FOODS NIGERIA PLC.	59	190.50	49,196	9,351,878.22
NORTHERN NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC.	6	15.21	36,960	563,090.00
Sector Totals	385		1,455,408	78,966,218.31
FOOTWEAR				
FOOTWEAR & ACCESSORIES MAN. PLC.	4	0.30	10,597	3,179.10
LENNARDS (NIGERIA) PLC.	5	0.63	6,600	4,158.00
Sector Totals	9		17,197	7,337.10
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	10	2.60	155,755	401,333.00
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIGERIA PLC	38	10.26	678,568	6,891,790.03
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	3	5.36	205,342	1,100,633.12
Sector Totals	51		1,039,665	8,393,756.15
INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS				
B.O.C. GASES PLC	6	2.95	46,080	136,236.00
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIGERIA PLC.	4	0.67	26,967	18,106.89
LIZ-OLOFIN AND COMPANY PLC.	1	0.64	1,500	960.00
VITAFAM NIGERIA PLC.	105	4.95	1,352,185	6,644,622.72
VONO PRODUCTS PLC.	7	1.09	15,000	16,350.00
Sector Totals	123		1,441,732	6,816,275.61
INSURANCE				
AICO INSURANCE PLC.	2	2.39	5,389	12,879.71
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC.	9	1.42	94,464	136,203.98
CRUSADER INSURANCE PLC.	1	1.68	200	336.00
LAW UNION AND ROCK INSURANCE PLC.	2	1.00	1,700	1,700.00
N.E.M. INSURANCE CO. (NIG.) PLC.	1	0.58	10,000	5,800.00
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	11	2.68	262,811	700,959.65
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	2	2.52	100,000	252,000.00
ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE PLC.	4	2.79	31,302	88,220.61
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE	2	1.17	74,625	87,311.25
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	14	1.24	648,572	795,925.92
WEST AFRICAN PROV. INS. COY. PLC.	12	3.30	225,571	733,684.03
Sector Totals	60		1,454,634	2,815,021.15
MACHINERY(MARKETING)				
BLACKWOOD HODGE (NIGERIA) PLC	1	0.56	135	75.60
Sector Totals	1		135	75.60
MANAGED FUNDS				
C & I LEASING PLC	5	1.26	35,657	44,777.82
Sector Totals	5		35,657	44,777.82
MARITIME				
JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERVICES PLC	5	1.80	204,000	376,200.00
Sector Totals	5		204,000	376,200.00
PETROLEUM(MARKETING)				
AFROIL PLC.	2	0.50	5,200	2,600.00
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	107	42.40	801,978	33,114,959.45
CONOIL PLC	76	90.00	28,148	2,511,043.45
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	17	2.69	670,820	1,762,874.93
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	33	160.50	17,623	2,824,057.50
OANDO PLC	136	91.00	186,287	16,901,605.20
TEXACO (NIGERIA) PLC.	28	410.50	15,677	1,736,315.40
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	26	190.00	25,485	4,822,976.55
Sector Totals	425		1,751,218	63,676,432.48
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC.	1	1.57	700	1,099.00
Sector Totals	1		700	1,099.00
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PLC.	32	9.30	286,754	2,684,868.83
Sector Totals	32		286,754	2,684,868.83
TEXTILES				
AFPRINT NIGERIA PLC.	1	0.40	14,355	5,742.00
UNITED NIGERIA TEXTILES PLC.	6	2.00	179,701	359,287.30
Sector Totals	7		194,056	365,029.30
Overall Totals	3,964		81,210,721	1,171,546,071.67

TOP 10 TRADES AS AT YESTERDAY			
SYMBOL	VOLUME	VALUE	TRADES
UBA	1,899,200.00	23,048,404.79	142
NB	2,045,746.00	74,169,025.91	395
WAPCO	3,004,921.00	54,121,709.73	147
ACCESS	3,633,788.00	9,743,247.79	126
FIRSTBANK	3,672,171.00	123,840,174.70	558
GUARANTY	4,187,592.00	57,164,704.19	263
IBTC	5,278,155.00	24,121,168.35	8
INTERCONT	7,680,685.00	75,471,840.94	205
UBN	13,354,512.00	340,272,965.76	111
OCEANIC	22,917,228.00	132,151,149.67	110

TOP 10 GAINERS			
SYMBOL	LASTCLOSE	YESTERDAY'SCLOSE	CHANGE
NBC	62.80	65.94	+3.14
TOTAL	188.00	190.00	+2.00
FLOURMILL	25.49	26.00	+0.51
CCNN	6.85	7.19	+0.34
AP	42.10	42.40	+0.30
FIRSTBANK	33.40	33.69	+0.29
GUARANTY	13.53	13.75	+0.22
BERGER	3.89	4.07	+0.18
OCEANIC	5.72	5.85	+0.13
ETERNAOIL	2.57	2.69	+0.12

TOP 10 LOSERS			
SYMBOL	LASTCLOSE	YESTERDAY'SCLOSE	CHANGE
MOBIL	161.99	160.50	-1.49
NNFM	16.00	15.21	-0.79
ZUP	27.58	26.90	-0.68
OANDO	91.50	91.00	-0.50
TEXACO	111.00	110.50	-0.50
PRESCO	10.85	10.50	-0.35
RTBRISCOE	5.76	5.50	-0.26
ASHAKACEM	34.50	34.26	-0.24
UNILEVER	19.75	19.52	-0.23
DNMEYER	3.07	2.92	-0.15

Index, market capitalisation up at Exchange

Investors interest on listed equities on the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) stabilised Wednesday as the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) said the operating banks are under capitalised for the economy.

At the end of the transactions, the cumulative average net worth of investors appreciated by 0.2 per cent. The market capitalisation also grew by N6 billion to close at N2.569 trillion, up from N2.563 trillion recorded on Tuesday.

The all-share index appreciated by 56.45 points to close at N23,794.02 points compared 23,737.37 points achieved on Feb. 7.

Mobil oil led the price gainers' chart, chalking N5.99 to close at N161.99 per share.

Total share price also appreciated by N5 to close at N188 while Cadbury gained N1.50 to close at N67 per share.

On the other hand, Nestle led the price losers chart shedding N8 to close at N190.50 per share.

African Petroleum (AP) lost 53k to close at N42.10 per share while First Bank share price dipped by 42k to close at N33.40.

An analysis of the market showed that the Banking sub-sector remained the toast of investors with 79.25 million shares worth N1.31 billion traded in 1,506 deals.

A further breakdown showed that Union Bank accounted for the bulk of the transactions with 36.37 million shares valued at N926.76 million in 78 deals.

The Building Materials sub-sector followed with 3.11 million shares valued at N59.80 million in 273 deals while the Industrial/Domestic Product sub-sector accounted for N13.02 million staked on 2.79 million shares in 140 deals.

In all, investors bought 96.39 million shares worth N2.67 billion in 3,697 deals.

Enugu farmers receive 100 metric tonnes of fertiliser

The Enugu state government has received about 100 metric tonnes of fertiliser from federal government for farmers in the state to check soil acidity.

The Programme Manager of the state Agricultural Development Programme (ENADEP), Mr Onyema Nwodo, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Wednesday in Enugu that the fertiliser would be given free to farmers.

He said that the commodity would be distributed at the three zones in the state to minimise cost for the farmers.

Nwodo said that extension staff of the programme would also assist farmers to ensure proper application of the fertiliser and other farm chemicals.

He said his organisation had enough improved cassava cuttings, miniset yam seedlings, rice and other grains for all the farmers in the state.

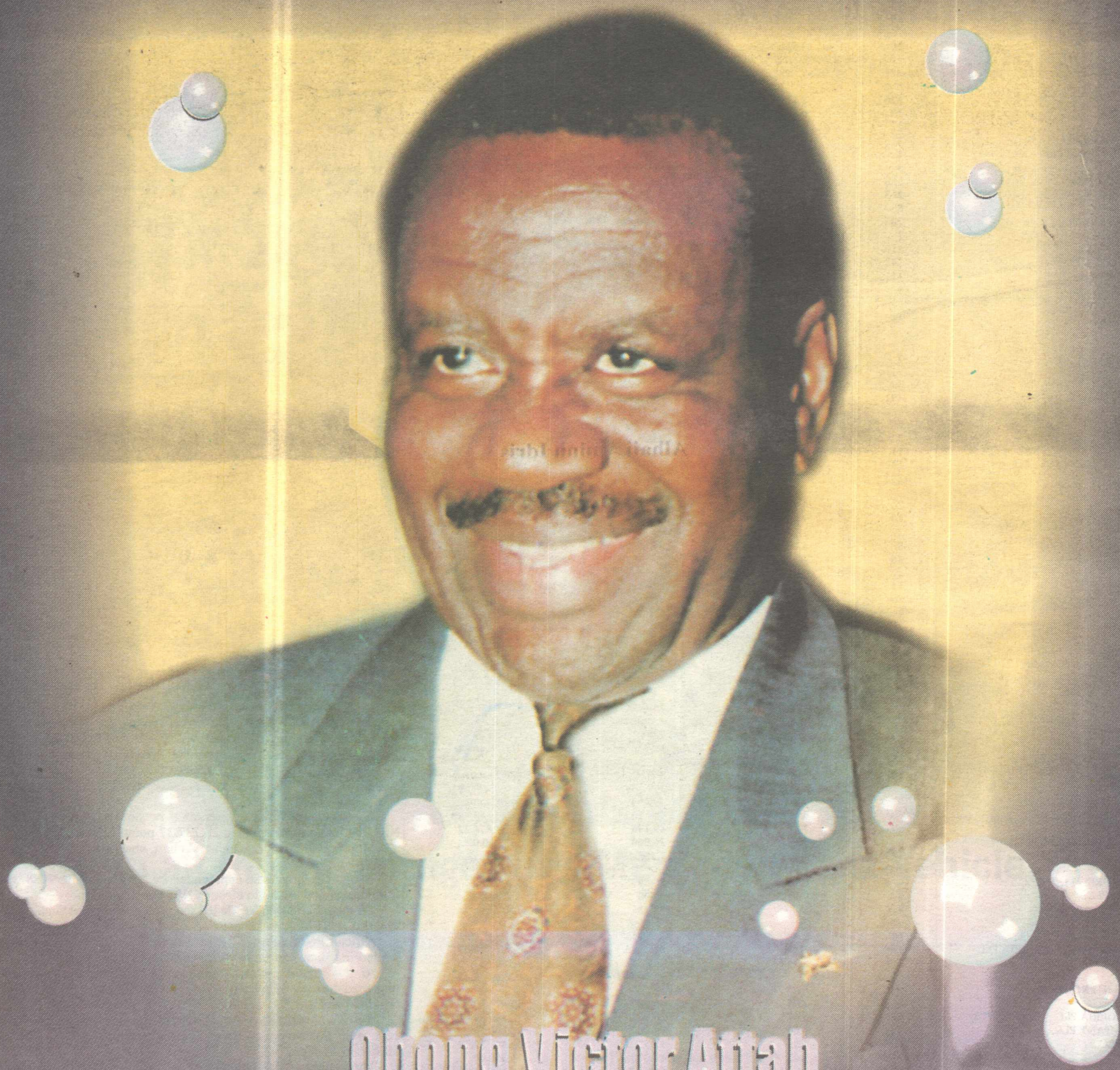
The manager said that cocoa-yam and sweet potatoes were among crops that ENADEP was encouraging farmers to increase their production. On the high cost of garri in markets in the state, the manager said that it was due to the diverse use of cassava.

Nwodo said that ENADEP was doing everything possible to encourage farmers to produce more cassava to sustain the multiple use of the crops to beat the July deadline set by the federal government for 10 per cent composite cassava flour for bread making.

He said that his programme had an understanding with major farmers to produce seedlings to boost crop production in the area.

Nwodo, however, advised farmers to pool their resources together to enable them to benefit from the state's tractor hire service, and urged them to avoid planting over-stored grains.

CONGRATULATIONS



Obong Victor Attah
Governor, Akwa Ibom State

We the members of the Arewa Youths Consultative Forum, congratulate you, Obong Victor Attah, Governor of Akwa Ibom State for the award by the Nigeria Union of Journalists, NUJ, as Best Governor in Nigeria in Infrastructural, Information and Communication Technology development.

We are proud of your sterling leadership qualities, especially your selfless dedication to the unity of Nigeria and the eradication of poverty.

Congratulations our great detribalised leader.

Alhaji Lawal Ismaila

President, Arewa Youths Consultative Forum

The Challenge

Globacom's landmark entry into the telecommunications Industry, August 23 2003, expectedly raised the value proposition in the sector for Nigerians. As a Nigerian icon, built on a patriotic platform, the Second National Operator's (SNO) wide and immediate acceptance compels a commensurate Social Responsibility profile. The expectation placed a huge challenge on the network and this, it has confronted frontally and in the most patriotic ways. Globacom's zeal in national development finds fulfillment in major areas of our National Life: sports and youth empowerment through

rare in GSM technology for a network to launch with Per Second Billing but Globacom smashed this convention because of its passion for Nigerians.

Any network operating on the Per Minute Billing Platform stands a better chance of making more returns on investment than a network operating on the Per Second Billing Platform.

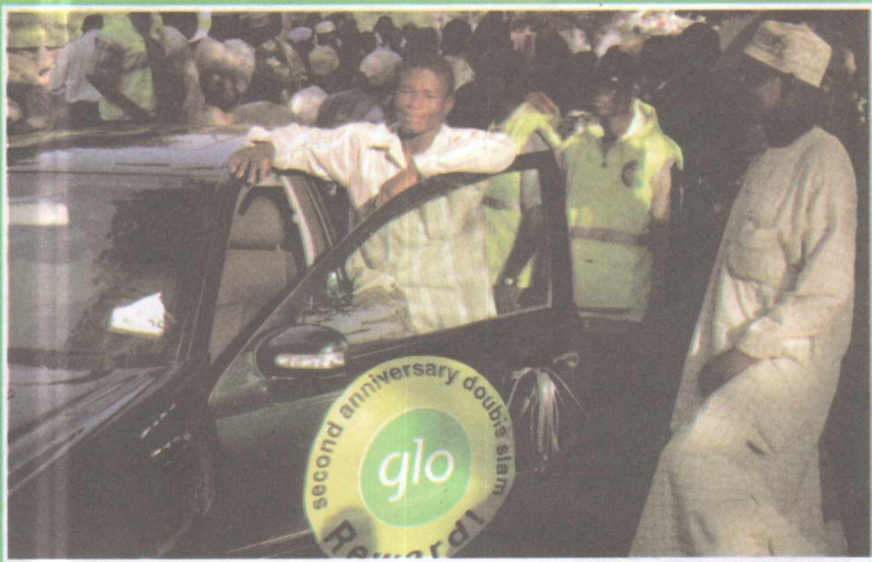
But Globacom chose to make more returns on its goodwill with subscribers and the generality of Nigerians than an immediate return on investment. It knew that by choosing the Per Minute Billing option, it would make more money from subscribers on dropped

Globacom going places, transforming lives.

job creation. The network's foray into sports sponsorship, for instance, is predicated on its unifying role, and the focus on soccer, in particular, stems from the passion with which the beautiful game is followed by Nigerians. The relentless collaboration with government in the quest for economic emancipation and job creation is contingent on the vision of the founders of the business, to empower Nigerians through the provision of world class telephony.

Per Second Billing ●●●

Globacom's first Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, stemmed from the platform on which it launched its operations. It is



Many Nigerians like Mr. Ularam Moses, winner of this brand new Benz E-240 have climbed the social ladder courtesy of Globacom's world class telecommunication services and life transforming promotions.

calls and any calls exceeding the projection of the subscriber, even by a split second, yet it chose a billing platform that deprived it the opportunity of making maximum return on investment but brought maximum smile to the faces of the people.

By this singular act, the plan by other networks to delay the introduction of Per Second Billing until 2007 was shelved and many GSM subscribers in the country across the networks are now

enjoying the facility. As a result, Globacom is regarded by Nigerians as the pro-people telecommunication company; the network that liberated the people. What Globacom lost in revenue to the sacrifice of launching with Per Second Billing, it has made in stupendous goodwill across the nation. It has validated the wise-crack that a good name is better than gold and silver.

Building Africa's biggest and best network.

glo with pride

Poverty Alleviation ●●●

Economic empowerment is a major challenge in Nigeria today.

Unemployment rate, especially among the youths, has continued to rise despite several palliative measures.

The precarious unemployment situation has attracted the attention of the network, necessitating the development of a poverty alleviation scheme.

Globacom initiated an involving partnership with the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), to help unemployed youths establish call centres, thereby providing economic freedom



President Olusegun Obasanjo receiving a telephone directory from Dr. Mike Adenuga Jnr during the launch of Globacom joint communication initiative with the Federal Government at Aso Rock.

year, witnessed the distribution of 4,000 Handsets and Lines; Tables, Parasols, Chairs and Jackets. The initiative, which objective is to empower Nigerians and help them become self reliant, cost the partners N160 million. The effort is complemented by another partnership with Shell Petroleum Development Corporation (SPDC), to assist unemployed youths of the oil producing Niger

Delta Region to set up their own businesses. And only recently, Globacom initiated a communication partnership with the federal and state governments through the provision of Free Glo Access SIMs and Official Telephone Directories. The idea is to make telecommunication amongst all tiers of government easier, quicken the pace of development and assist Nigerians in the challenge to hold their representatives accountable through defined and effective communication. Already, the Presidency, federal ministries and parastatals and the governments of Bauchi, Kwara, Ogun, Osun and Imo states have benefitted from the revolutionary package with the other states eagerly waiting for their turns.



Deputy Governor of Borno State presenting a Globacom call centre package to one of the state beneficiaries.

to Nigerians. The pilot scheme involved the distribution of handsets, tables, chairs and parasols to 500 unemployed youths and this has been extended to more beneficiaries. Ultimately, the beneficiaries will be transformed to operators of mini business centers that will offer telephone, fax and internet services. Several state governments including Kwara, Osun, Ogun, Imo, Bauchi, Borno and Niger have also embarked on the scheme in partnership with Globacom in which thousands of call centre packages are provided for unemployed youths to start their own businesses.

Youth Development ●●●

The future of any nation rests on its youths; tested, groomed and imbued with leadership qualities. Nations make conscious efforts to build such a formidable team through organized competition with focus on youth development. The annual Nigerian Institute of



Immediate past President of NIM, Chief Aimiwun appreciating Globacom's support for the NIM Young Managers' Competition.

Management (NIM) competition for young managers in Nigeria is one of such. With proven record of past products in leadership positions, it remains a foremost platform for management development. It was this competition that threw up great minds like the Managing Director of Nigerian Breweries, Eze Festus

NDDC/SPDC ●●●

There has also been a major partnership with the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) toward the eradication of poverty in the region. The programme, named Self Employment Business Support, has provided employment opportunities for youths in the region by helping them to establish their own commercial phone centres. The first phase of the programme last

Building Africa's biggest and best network.

Odimegwu. This brilliant scheme had been in the cooler for years until Globacom stepped in to revive it in 2004. At that event, sponsored by the network, the star winner went home with a brand new Honda Civic car. The aim was to encourage the espousal of intellectual ideas germane to national development and promote healthy rivalry for excellence among Nigerian youths.

Cultural Revival ●●●

Nigeria's rich culture, once celebrated across the globe, is in dire need of a revival. Years of slavery, colonial rule and neglect have largely eroded the content and richness of the nation's diverse culture.



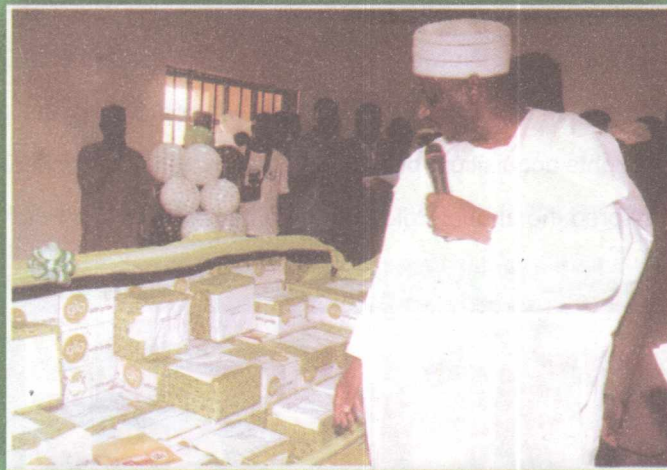
Globacom's ED, Mr. Adewale Sangowawa (left) presenting the sponsorship cheque to the organizers of the 2005 Awankere festival.

At launch, this challenge was another critical area of concern to the company. This becomes even more compelling in light of the network's patriotic proposition, hence the frontline role in the move for national cultural renaissance.

This desire found appropriate window in the 2005 Awankere Festival, an annual celebration of love, peace and togetherness among the Itshekiris and the 2006 Ojude Oba Festival, an annual cultural and spiritual celebration of the values of the Ijebus. As the official sponsor, Globacom's indelible prints on the ceremonies added class and colour and brought the unifying festivals to national consciousness.

National Political Reform Conference ●●●

The issue of a political conference where all the various nationalities across the country will discuss fundamental issues affecting the nation has been on the front burner of national discourse for ages. Early last year, the Federal Government Convened a National Political Reform Conference with representatives of all zones and strata of the society in attendance. Being a proudly Nigerian network, Globacom availed all the delegates to the conference and the secretariat of its world



Gov. Adamu Muazu of Bauchi State showering encomiums on Globacom during the presentation of free access SIMs to the entire state workforce.

class telecommunication service by providing each of them with its SIMs and state-of-the-art handsets. Globacom also produced a directory containing the names and telephone numbers of all the delegates, thereby making communication among the delegates/secretariat very convenient. It was a prompt response to an urgent national need. It was also a gesture that opened a channel of communication between the delegates and the people.

Sports ●●●

To date, Globacom has committed almost two billion naira to sports alone, touching, in the process, scores of Nigerian sportsmen and women and bringing to fruition, the desired improvement in the sector.

Beginning with the exclusive partnership with the organizing committee of the 8th All Africa Games, (COJA) hosted by Nigeria in 2003, Globacom committed over 100 million naira in cash and over 400 million in equipment and infrastructure to the games. That Gesture provided a prestigious telecom platform for Nigeria at the biennial event. The athletes received various cash rewards in addition to other valuable Globacom products.

Globacom's support for sports has also been extended to Golf,



Globacom COO, Mr. Mohammed Jameel with the players and management of Enyimba FC of Aba during a thank you visit to Globacom.

Polo and Squash. The Network teamed up with Ikoyi Club 1938 for the 2004 Nigerian Golf Cup. The effort cost the company over N30 million on rights acquisition, prizes and other materials. Globacom also sponsored the annual Polo tournament at the Kaduna Polo



Nigerian soccer stars Osaze, Aiyegbeni, Coach Chuckwu, Aghahowa and Utaka, all Glo ambassadors, savouring a Glo moment.

Club, which took the game to a new height. And only recently, the company sponsored the weekly Happy Hour at Apapa Boat Club and the Hobie Nationals boat race at the Lagos Yacht Club. The biggest beneficiary of the company's sponsorship activities is soccer. In the last two years, over eight hundred million naira has been committed to the game in cash and other resource items. To demonstrate its reputation as the biggest supporter of the game, the local league is christened Globacom Premier League after the company won the bid for sponsorship in 2002.

Winners and indeed outstanding players and officials in the 2004 Premier League, were honored and generously rewarded in a ceremony witnessed by African football bigwigs, including CAF President, Issa Hayatou.

Globacom is also the official sponsor and partner of the Super Eagles. Significantly, no fewer than five members of the elite team are ambassadors of the network. And more recently, the company hosted the victorious Flying Eagles to a reception in Lagos after



A student of Nnamdi Azikwe University, Awka receiving a colour TV set from a Globacom official as part of the company's initiative to encourage the youth.

their successful outing in Holland. Apart from cash donations totaling over N13 million, the company also presented the players and their handlers with state-of-the art phones and credit facilities. The Football Supporters Club too has benefitted from Globacom's generosity, with cash support in excess of N26 million naira. Instructively, the club which has just received another N10 million will be in Egypt to back our national team to the hilt in the quest for another continental glory.

Nigerian football clubs have also benefited from this unprecedented gesture. CAF League Champion, Enyimba Football Club of Aba for instance was highly supported in the continental exploits with N100 million partnership deal in 2004 among other provisions. The club received additional N100 million in 2005.



Alhaji Aminu Ado Bayero, son of Emir of Kano, with some beneficiaries of the Glo Millionaire promo. Forty Nigerians became millionaires in the promo.

CHOGM ●●●

In December 2003, barely 3 months after launch, and on the heels of the partnership with COJA, Globacom demonstrated its desire to improve the nation's image by providing SIM cards, handsets, subsidized airtime and stationery for the participants and visitors to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Abuja. The patriotic gesture by the company was a major image prop for the country during and after the meeting.

Clearly, Globacom is up to its responsibilities as the foremost network in Nigeria. It has, in just two years, established an enviable pedigree in corporate philanthropy. Given its demonstrable responsiveness and scope of deployment, Globacom has indeed carved a niche for itself as an organisation that is not only desirous of making quality telecommunication services available and affordable but one that also identifies with the people on issues of significant importance.

Building Africa's biggest and best network.



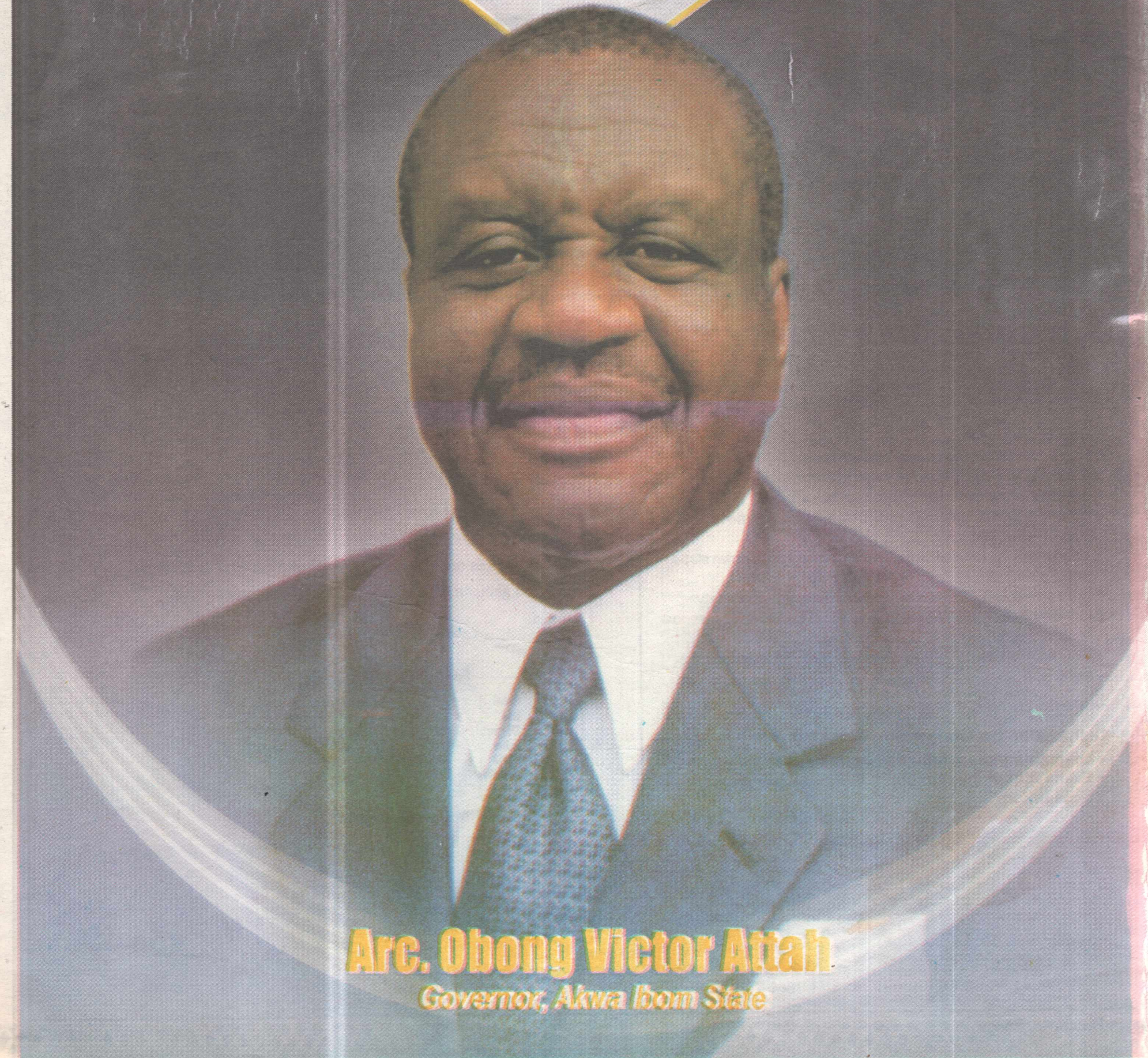
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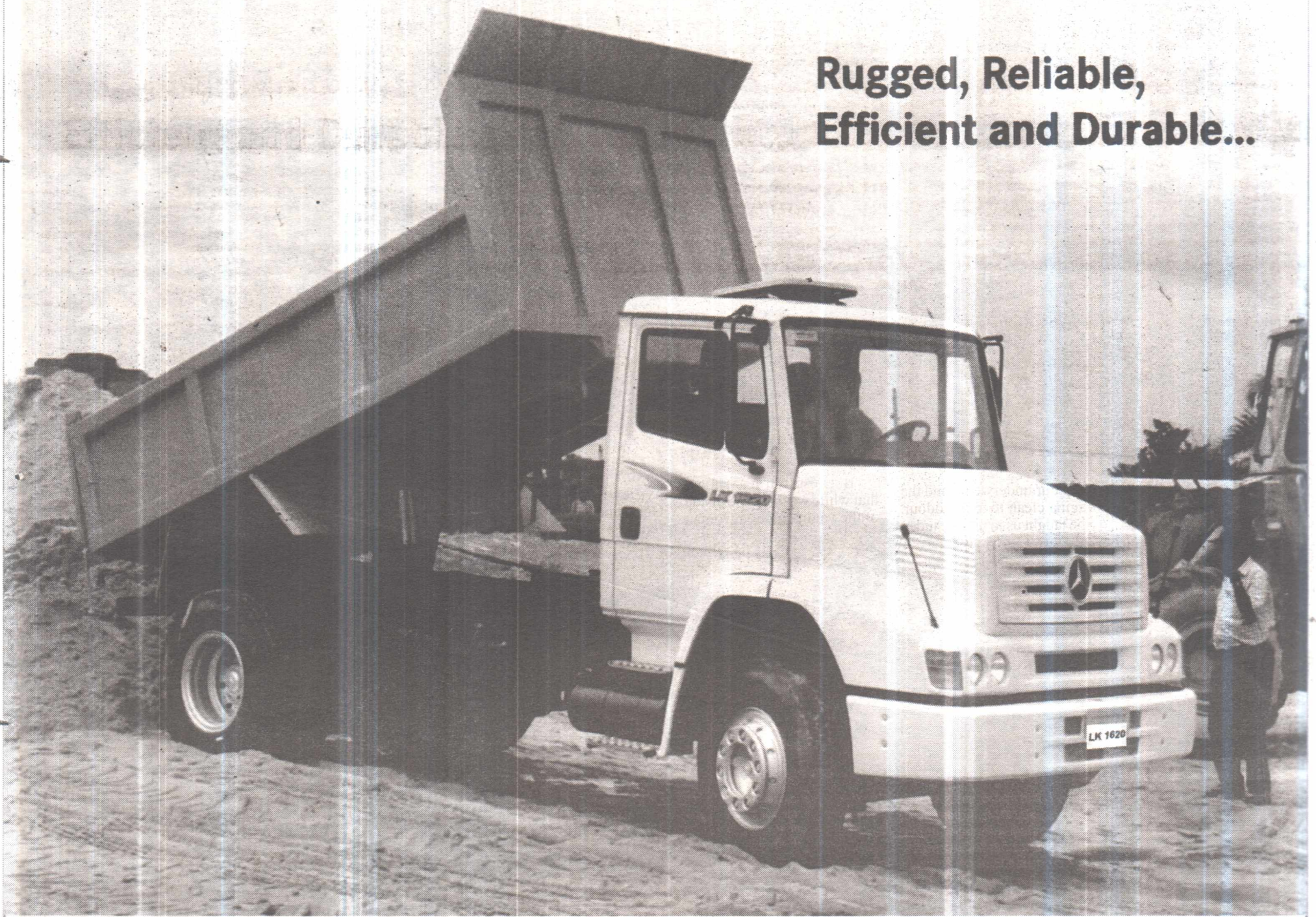
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THE HOMIE FRONT

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Vaginal washing could increase HIV risk — Study

By Elvina Nawaguna
Kampala

During my primary school days, our senior woman used to emphasise the need to keep our underwears and the vagina clean to avoid odour. She taught us to use the index finger to clean inside our vaginas. Three decades today, I still use my index finger to clean the inside of my vagina," says Eunice, a communications officer in an international organisation in Kampala.

Out of 12 women picked randomly on the streets of Kampala, seven said they stick a finger deep into their vagina to clean it. The other five only clean the outer areas. One woman said, "As a married woman, I have to use my finger to clean up, otherwise the man's semen will remain inside you after sex, giving off a foul smell."

Another woman said she uses her finger, especially during and after her menstrual periods, to rinse away any remaining menstrual blood.

But research has shown that while washing the inside of the vagina gives a woman a feeling that she is clean, the practice exposes her to a high risk of HIV. A 10-year study carried out on 1,270 women in Kenya revealed that washing the inside of the vagina puts the women at risk. The research Vaginal Washing and Increased Risk of HIV-1 among African Women revealed that women who carry out internal vaginal washing are three times more likely to get HIV than those who do not. The study also found out that those who use detergents and soap are at a higher risk. An article published in The Daily Nation, January 19, quotes Dr Scott McClelland, the leader of the research team, saying the practice of vaginal cleaning is very prevalent in Africa.

McClelland says in some

instances, women use strong antiseptics while others use herbs.

Some cultures in Uganda emphasise the personal hygiene among women. Geraldine Kawuma, a retired teacher and premarital counsellor for girls and women, says girls among the Banyankole are taught to use certain herbs called Kamunye and Bombo to clean up to avoid bad odour. Kawuma says this culture is spreading among Baganda. She says the practice is taught by the girl's paternal aunt and by matrons in boarding schools. "We don't encourage use of perfumed soap. We recommend washing soap, not blue washing soap because this one has a lot of acid," Kawuma says.

Nine hundred ninety-nine of the women studied in Kenya said they were using their fingers to wash the inside of their vagina. In The Daily Nation article, however, Prof. Elizabeth Nguni of University of

Nairobi, warns that the practice could increase susceptibility to HIV by stripping away the vagina's natural protection against infection and making it easier for the virus to enter cells.

Dr Kaddu Stephen, a gynaecologist at Kadic Clinic, Nakulabye, says soap and detergent cause irritations to the skin in the vagina and can cause abnormal discharge. Soap and detergents also increase the risk of thrush.

Vaginal douche, the process of rinsing or cleaning the vagina by forcing water or another solution into the vaginal cavity to flush away vaginal discharge or other contents, is also creeping in among women. However, douching changes the delicate chemical balance of the vagina and can make a woman more susceptible to infections such as bacterial vaginosis, pelvic inflammatory disease, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, Sawant Sangeeta of

Microbicide Development Programme says. Douching can introduce new bacteria into the vagina which can spread up through the cervix, uterus and fallopian tubes.

The vagina cleans itself naturally with its own mucous secretions. When bathing or showering, the woman is advised to use warm water and gentle unscented soap to cleanse the outer areas of the vagina. There is no need for any special cleaning even during periods.

The Kenyan research concluded that in populations where vaginal washing is common, this practice may be an important factor promoting the spread of HIV. The research recommends that intervention strategies aimed at modifying intravaginal practices should be evaluated as a possible female-controlled HIV prevention strategy. Courtesy allAfrica.com



Women should avoid anything that will make them susceptible to HIV/AIDS

THE HOME FRONT

Why do men regard all women as prostitutes?

I wonder what is wrong with some of these 'gentlemen' in Abuja, who strangely think that all the ladies in Abuja are the same.

I have experienced so many things in the hands of Abuja youths, on account of their peculiar views and attitudes towards ladies. They always think that all the ladies in Abuja are prostitutes, and this is a strange and unfair attitude.

When I was living in Garki II, by the Cornershop, there was a day I closed late from work. That day I closed around 10:30pm, I was afraid of going to the park to board a public taxi, and I did not have enough money to take a drop back home, so I had to board an *okada* to my destination.

On getting there, it was almost 11:30pm. So immediately I got down from the *okada*, another *okada* rider was inquiring of me calling "going! going!!" in the usual *okada* riders' language. I turned back and told the man that "As you can see I'm just coming back from work, so you don't expect me to go back to town again." As if he was waiting for me to finish my statement, he said: "Look at you *ashawo* (prostitute), na who you think say you be, na so dem go, dey go do their *ashawo* work, come dey pretend say dem-dey go work for office." I was so angry that I didn't even know what to say to the man, and that night I decided to move out of that area to another suburb of Abuja.

Then, there was a day I closed from the office at about 9:00pm, I couldn't get an *okada* in front of the office, located at Lusaka Street, Zone 6, so I had to trek down the road before I could get an *okada* that would take me to the bus stop. Before I could get one, a guy at the third building to my office, was calling: "sss! sss!!" the way such men call ladies. I didn't answer him, because I have made it a policy not to answer such calls, whether I know the person or not.

So, immediately I stopped an *okada*, this guy rushed to where I was negotiating with the *okada* man, and was telling me that: "You, I have been calling you since, you didn't answer me, my name is Charles, and I'm living in that bungalow where I've been calling from." I just ignored him and told the *okada* man to take me to the park.

It was when he tried to touch my hand that I had to ask him: "Even if you are living in a bungalow, does that mean I must go out with you, or I must answer your calls? Do you think I am such a cheap girl, that because you are living in a bungalow I will fall for you? Who knows, maybe you are just a security man in that bungalow you claimed to be living in."

The guy was so ashamed of himself, that he left quietly. Then the *okada* man was asking me if I knew the guy somewhere before. I said, "I

By Shakirat Lola Jibril

have never met him before, though he claims to be living in that house, and that is the third building to my office." That was how I left the scene.

There was also a day I was going to Suleja to visit my elder sister. I entered a bus from Mabushi bus stop with other passengers in the bus. On our way even before we got to Zuba, which is far away from Suleja, the bus conductor was asking everybody to pay their fare. Though some of us that know all these conductors very well on account of their behaviour, paid our fare, and some other

All of a sudden, I didn't know what went wrong between a woman sitting next to me and the conductor, I just heard the conductor calling the woman names, he was saying: "Foolish woman, *ashawo*, make u na just look me o, because, if you look my face, ago talk to you the way your children no go like." The boy said. This woman became speechless because of the insult. She was sobbing, telling the boy that "whatever you said to me, so it is with your mother."

Some of the passengers and I were telling the boy, "this is an elderly woman, for God's sake, can't you at least

passengers, or else I will drop you off on the road and look for another conductor." That was when the boy checked himself and we continued our journey.

On Wednesday, February 1, 2006, I closed from the office at about 8:20pm. I went to Gwarinpa Park at Wuse market, to enter a taxi to Gwarinpa. I was lucky to be the first passenger in the next taxi that was loading. So I had to sit down in the front seat. Normally, the drivers used to carry one passenger in the front seat, and three others, at the back. So I was sitting down there when two guys came and entered the back seat. Two other guys came,

the other will sit in the back seat," he said. "Which girl are you talking about?" I asked. The next thing I heard from this guy was: "*Ashawo*, it's you I'm talking to, what can you do to me?" Before I knew what was happening, this guy had started pulling my hair, telling me that if not because of the driver, he would have carried me out of the car, and allowed his friend to come in.

I was forced to answer this guy, when he started calling me names: "For God sake, who are you," I asked. "I am God" the guy replied. I was just looking at him speechlessly, when the driver asked me to pay my fare.

God, he turned to his friend, and called out his name, telling him: "Look, don't try to toast this girl o, because she is a nuisance," and turned away. I was still sitting there shocked, wondering what I had done wrong to deserve this treatment from this guy. I didn't expect a man to behave in the manner he did.

I know, maybe mine is just a minor event, compared with what some other ladies have gone through in the hands of men in Abuja.

When I got to my office the following day, a colleague of mine was telling me her own experience in the hands of a policeman. She said, it was on the 30th of January, 2006, a day we closed very late from the office. This was between 11:30pm and midnight.

According to her, she was on her way to Karimo (a suburb of Abuja) where she lives, after one of the company cars had dropped her at Wuse bus stop. When she crossed to the other side, a policeman started shouting at her: "You no go go home, abi u wan go work by this time?" She said she was forced to shout back at the man: "Are you stupid? Can't you see that I'm just coming back from work, or who do you think you are talking to?" she said.

Then another policeman that had been watching what was going on, pleaded with her to please take things easy, and that she should not be angry. Then she left the place.

I am sure there are some other ladies out there that may have had had worse experiences, and may not have the opportunity to say it out.

So, I seize this opportunity to call on the youths in Abuja and the *okada* riders, even the policemen, to please stop harassing young ladies in Abuja.

All ladies should raise their voices against this ugly daily event.

Shakirat Jibril is a staff of Daily Trust.



Hajiya Amina Titi Abubakar (left) and Mrs. Iyabo Obasanjo Bello the Ogun State health commissioner during the solemnisation of marriage between former Miss Enitan Adebola Obasanjo and Terence Akolabi Adeleye held at the State House Abuja...recently. Pix: Joe Oroye

people said they wouldn't pay him until they get to where they are going. This is because, if the bus develops a problem on the road, they will not want to refund your money.

respect her the way you respect your mother, or don't you have a mother?"

So, the driver was asked to park the bus and caution the boy. The driver told him: "stop abusing my

but there was space for only one person.

One of their friends that came with them was telling them: "Let this girl in the front come down, so that one of you will enter the front, and

Had it been that I had dressed in a way that would make a man to think that I was not decent, it wouldn't have annoyed me, but the reverse was the case.

So, after he said he was

Noble bachelor who hates women

No one can tell the story of Lord Maurice Egerton of Tatton, than Robert Onyiego.

Egerton is famous for building a castle for a woman who refused to marry him, making him die a bachelor. And a tour of the expansive castle would be incomplete without Onyiego's captivating tale of the lone occupant of the 53-roomed house.

The 74-year-old man, now a tour guide at the Lord Egerton Castle in Ngata, worked for the late Egerton till his death on January 30, 1958. Carrying a big bunch of keys, Onyiego takes visitors around the castle, from room to room as he explains how Egerton led a quiet, lonely life after being rejected by the love of his life.

"He condemned himself

to loneliness and declared never to set his eyes on the female-kind that caused him too much pain and anguish," he said.

Vowing never to love another woman let alone marry, Egerton also put on the line the lineage of the Egerton of Tatton family, because he left no heir and the name became extinct.

Rejected by a woman

Egerton was the fourth baron and the last of the Egerton of Tatton family. He was born in 1874, came to Kenya in 1925 and settled on 21,000 acres of land at Ngata in Njoro, 14 kilometres South-East of Nakuru Town.

The front view of the castle that Egerton built. Pic by Lucas Thuo.

He put up a six-roomed house, where he lived before the construction of the

castle. Before he came to Kenya, he had declared his love for a woman and they had agreed to marry. "In 1938 he started the construction of the castle and brought 100 red Indians from America to do the job," Onyiego said.

During the early stages of the construction, he said, Lord Egerton's girlfriend came to visit.

"She did not enter the six-roomed house and the first thing she told him was that he was living in a small house, like a bird's nest. "She got into her car and drove back to the airport and went back to Britain and did not return. She later got married to another man," he said.

Egerton was heartbroken. Since that day, Onyiego said, he came up with four rules that were observed on the farm for many years.

"The first rule was that no woman was allowed in the castle's 100 acre compound," he said.

Workers had to lock up wives because he did not want to see the face of any other woman, Egerton even stopped going to church for fear that he would run into one.

"He lived on the farm most of the time and kept to himself. There was no female servant on the compound," he said.

He shunned women so much that he issued his workers with 14-day notices if he wanted to visit their camps - enough time for them to get women out of his way, Onyiego said.

"When he went away to the camps, men locked up their wives and daughters until he was through with the

visit," he said.

No servant dared mention the word wife or daughter near Lord Egerton.

"No one dared tell him family problems, especially concerning their wives as one risked being fired," he said.

The second rule was that no live chicken was to enter the compound. This was because his girlfriend had told him that he lived in a house that resembled a bird's nest.

He would, however, eat chicken meat and eggs, said Onyiego.

Egerton also passed a rule that no worker or manager was allowed to keep a dog.

The fourth rule: No Armed Forces officer was allowed on the farm while wearing uniform. He believed that officers scared his employees.

Culled from *allafrica.com*

THE HOME FRONT

FASHION AND STYLE

Maternity wardrobe

Every woman looks forward to having her first child, (and may be subsequent ones) but will become disconcerted when her flat stomach starts to expand and gradually she cannot wear her tight waisted dresses any longer.

By Safiye I. Dantiye, With agency reports

Therefore, what she needs now is a complete new wardrobe, especially if she is the type that doesn't like free flair dresses. So she might not have them in her wardrobe.

Use colour to your advantage

Colours like food affect our moods. A colour can make one confident; can simply put one in the right frame of mind, at the same time, can make one angry, moody, unresponsive, while a particular colour can bring out the best in you, this is why some people use same tone of colours in dressing, and have particular preference of certain colours in their choice of cars, furniture, accessories, and offices.

By Rakiya Momoh

other hand, makes one glamorous. Once you identify colours that makes you feel good inwardly, then you can extend them to other areas of your environment.

e. Wear colours that complement the person in you: Do you know that colours radiate your personality? After a while, certain colours tend to blend with your personality so much that when you don't wear them, you not only feel uncomfortable but also people close to you or around you wonders what has gone wrong with your appearance.

Colours improve your social wellbeing: Some colours cannot but make you feel cool, you get an instant uplift when you wear them, it sure gives you a feeling of satisfaction, it simply makes you to radiate.

In spite of the magic colours do to one and one's environment, combining colours is not an easy task for some people. There are a lot of people who don't really know how to combine colours, i.e. they lack good sense of colour combination, they really don't know what is primary and secondary colours. They just go ahead and combine so many colours in their outfit, at the end of it all, the person will look so clumsy, lousy and very disorganised. What people should realise is that, the way you combine the colours of your outfit, commands so much respect to you, it makes you stand out, look good and admirable.

To wrap up these secrets, it goes to show that colours are part and parcel of human existence, they affects every aspect of our life, that is why colours should not be muddled up (i.e. in case of rioting colours) all in the name of fashion.

Rakiya Momoh is a staff of Daily Trust Newspapers

Since it's difficult to predict how big you'll get; even previous pregnancies can only give a rough guide, this makes it hard to buy in advance of actual need. But however large you become, you'll certainly start needing something more 'roomy' from six months. And remember that clothes with the most 'space' will give you the most wear.

In any case, buying a new wardrobe is every woman's dream, but finding the right balance of comfort and chic when watching your waist and breasts expand during pregnancy can be tricky.

If you wear native cloths, your tailor can sew beautiful and fashionable maternity dresses that are very comfortable. Below are suggestions on what to wear.

Baggy tunic tops, sweaters and man-size T-shirts can be worn until the end of your pregnancy if you get them

large enough. Tracksuit bottoms -if the style is suitable, you can replace the elastic waistband with drawstring to make the most of the width.

Comfy leggings and cycle shorts -they won't stretch to infinity, though, so you may need to buy maternity versions eventually.

Stretchy and comfortable underwear -bring out the granny pants, or wear smaller pants under your bump.

Maternity bras -get measured at about seven months. Trousers can be fastened under your bump in the later months.

Floating dresses -those that flare out from under the bust. Make sure they're long, though, or you'll find the front hemling rises higher than the back.

Lace-up shoes -to allow for minor swelling due to fluid retention.



Trust Classified

PUBLIC NOTICE

KWANAR SINGER TRADERS WELFARE ASSOCIATION, KANO

This is to inform the General Public that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for Registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990, the Trustees are:

1. Aminu Ahmed Mai Turare
2. Salisu Musa Sambajo (M.F.R.)
3. Yusuf Abdullahi
4. Alin Baffa
5. Abdullahi Adamu Dangongola
6. Mudallabi Abdullahi
7. Sabiu Bako
8. Ali Yar Musa
9. Sharu Gambo
10. Danlami Alassan

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION

- To inculcate the spirit of unity among the members of the Association
- To develop and assist the skills of our Trade
- To encourage the spirit of peace and security in all places of our Trade

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

Saltee & Co.,
Solicitors and Advocates,
No. 61E Ado Bayero Road,
Kano.

THE HOME FRONT LIVING

Nigerians want continental foods but...

What motivates you to go into the fast food business?

I grew up eating oriental foods since I left Nigeria after my primary education for UK. All I was eating was such foods and by the time I came back to this country I discovered that there were no small joints where someone would go and eat this type of food with ease. I found out that if I wanted any type of food here in Nigeria it was very expensive. That is why I developed an interest to open such simple fast food joint

An encounter with Mrs. Toju Cole, 28, leaves an impression of a modern day assimilation of a different profession despite coming from another background. This is a woman that quit legal profession to devote all her energy in operating a fast food company. Mrs Cole started her carrier as a contract executive in a reputable software company called Red Hat in Guildford, United Kingdom and Suburban Telecom in Nigeria and now the chief executive officer of Chyna Spyce. In this interview she told Hamisu Muhammad what convinced her to take such decision.

Why did you choose the name Chyna Spyce and Chinese and Indian cuisine?
Chyna Spyce is a combination of Chinese and Indian cuisines. It is a takeout or sits in atmosphere.

prices and we realised that there are very little of such outfits in town that can give such satisfaction as the one you have.

Indian and he specialised in Indian and Singapore foods, he has also worked in Nigeria for some time.



Mrs Toju Cole

where you can enjoy variety of Chinese and Indian foods at a cheaper rate.

We offer our customers quality of five star cuisine restaurant meals at affordable

Do you think there are many people who like to eat such type of food in Nigeria?

Nigerians also like other type of foods but because it is expensive for them they find it difficult to patronise them but if not because of that we will see many Nigerians eating on a daily bases such Chinese and Indian foods. Something I discovered also is that the business has a huge opportunity, just in about a month and a half we received many customers from all part of the city.

You studied law and now you are into a fast food business. Where did you get the experience, especially in preparing Chinese and Indian foods which are not common in our society?

There are a lot of Chinese fast food and Indian in UK where I grew up and I used to patronise their foods, besides, I engaged professionals who assist me in managing the place. My manager Mr. Siraj Sheikh is

Who forms the bulk of your customers?

Mostly, Chinese and Indians with some few Nigerians. However, we do delivery to conferences and some embassies such as American Embassy, Indian Embassy, German Embassy and other organisations like Bureau of Public Enterprises and DFID.

What differentiates your fast food with the rest of such popular joints?

Affordability and efficiency are the key element of our success, within 10 to 15 minutes we serve you food and we also do home and office delivery. We also have lunch time special deals, birthday parties, business function and every other celebration in fact our food differentiates us from the rest of the fast food joints.

What specific type of dishes do you have?

For the Chinese foods we choose popular ones such as sweet corn soup, hot and sour soup, spring rolls, sweet and sour chicken, shredded beef and chyna spyce noodle.

And for Indian foods we pick house special chicken roll, beep somosa, fish kofta, tandoori chicken wingsa, ajwain fish tikka.

What is the staff strength of the organisation and how many branches do you have?

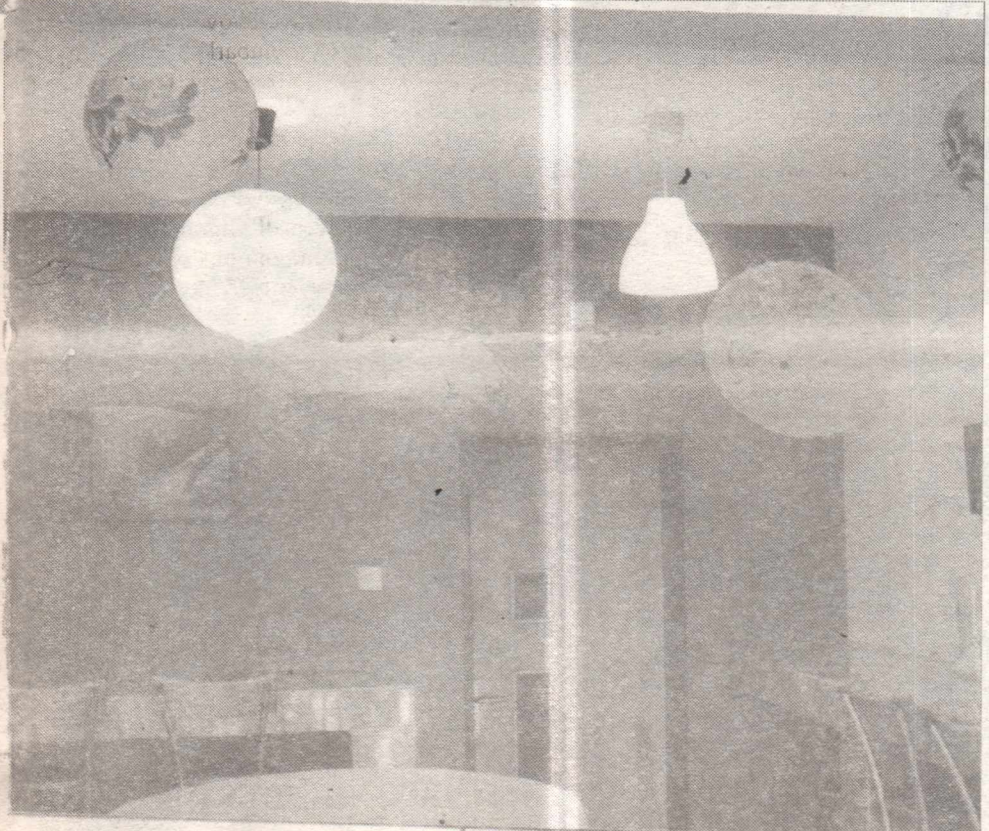
At the moment we have nine staff and this is the first office but we hope to open more before the year runs out.

What challenges do you face in running such business?

As we all know, light and water are not constant in our society, therefore we spend a lot to ensure adequate back up.

Where did you get the capital to start the business?

I have a supportive husband and parents who always see me through when I brought an idea like this.



Inner view of Chyna Spyce

Food: When it can be poisonous

By Ogundele Kamaruddeen O.

Human existence is partly sustained by food. In fact every living organism needs food to stay alive. Food is central to human development as the nutrients provided by food gives the human body the needed toxic for survival.

However central as food is to human existence, it could be sometimes poisonous depending on the composition and the preparation.

Food poisoning is a general term for health problems arising from eating contaminated food. Food may be contaminated by toxins such as the cyanide in cassava, environmental toxins, bacteria or viruses. There are certain mushrooms and seafood that are also poisonous.

Symptoms of food poisoning include: nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea. Cyanide in cassava is known to cause systemic poisons.

Sometimes food poisoning is called bacterial gastroenteritis or infections diarrhea. A lot of factors can increase the risk of food poisoning if not properly monitored, such as food preservation, food production/food preparation and food storage. Careless food handling during the trip from farm to table creates conditions for the growth of bacteria that make people sick. Vegetables that are eaten raw, such as lettuce, may be contaminated by bacteria in soil, water and dust during washing and packing.

Raw meat carry many food-borne bacterial diseases. Most especially raw poultry sold at retail where the farmer fails to observe ideal environmental sanitation and proper vaccination. Thorough cooking kills the bacteria and makes the food harmless. However, properly cooked food can become re-contaminated if it comes in contact with plates, cutting boards, counter tops, or utensils that were used with raw meat and not cleaned and sanitised.

Cooked foods can also be contaminated after cooking from bacteria in the environment and by bacteria carved by food handlers. It is estimated that 50% of healthy people have the bacteria staphylococcus aureus in their nasal passages and throat, and on their skin and hair. Hands must be washed thoroughly before touching food items, before eating and after eating. Bacteria flourish at room temperature, and will rapidly grow into quantities capable of making people sick.

Where less attention is paid to sanitation, water purification and good food handling, practices, increases the chances that a person will get food poisoning, people living in institutions such as nursing homes are also more likely to get food poisons.

Causes and symptoms: The symptoms of food poisoning occur because food-borne bacteria release toxins or poisons as a by product of their growth in the body. These toxins may cause inflammation and swelling of the stomach, small intestine or large intestine. The result is abdominal muscle cramping, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, and the chance of dehydration. The severity of symptoms depends on the type of bacteria, the amount consumed and the individual's general health and sensitivity to the bacterial toxin. Some of the causative organisms include salmonella, staphylococcus aureus, Esherichia Coli, Shigella, Clostridium botulinum etc.

Be careful of the bread you eat

Bread is a readily available food one could get around as it is commonly and largely demanded by consumers. It is a good source of energy as it is rich in carbohydrate. The fermentation it undergoes tends to reduce the carbohydrate level and improves the protein content.

Bread could be eaten with beans, fried eggs, boiled eggs, stews etc. This explains why it is always in demand. It is this challenge to meet up with demands that has also made some bakers to devise means of maximising their profits with very little input. Unfortunately, this is what is putting the lives of consumers at risk as some ignorant and self-centred bakers resolved to use flours that contain potassium bromated or as additives to improve cleavages of the dough and gives weight to the bread.

Potassium bromate is a deadly additives as it is carcinogenic (causes cancer), renal failure and hearing loss. It also reduces nutritional value of bakeries by decomposing vitamins A, B, B₂ and E, the main vitamins available in bread and other bakeries.

NAFDAC alerts the general public that FAO/WHO expert committee on food additives banned the use of potassium bromate as food additive both in flour milling and baking industry worldwide in 1992. And recently some bakeries were closed in connection with potassium bromate.

Bakers should discontinue the use of life-threatening chemical in their bakeries as any offenders liable to pay a fine of N100,000 with the option of not less than 2 yrs imprisonment if convicted.

As a consumer, make sure that you only buy bread with potassium bromite free level in order to avoid health risk.

Kamaruddeen O. writes from Abuja.

THE HOME FRONT

Nigeria, Switzerland, launch crusade against human trafficking

By Abubakar Haruna,
Reporter

In a bid to tackle the prevalence of human trafficking and child labour in the country, the office of the Special Assistant to the President on Human Trafficking and Child Labour, in collaboration with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, organised a two-day Anti-Human Trafficking Geo-political Zonal Workshop of North Central Zone of the country, which held on Monday and Tuesday, February 6 and 7 respectively.

The workshop had as its theme: "The Role of Partners/Agencies in Addressing Human Trafficking, Child and Forced Labour and in Promoting the Rights of a Child."

It aimed to, among other things, serve as a focal point for exchange of ideas, knowledge and information relating human trafficking and child forced labour; create local awareness on the issue of human trafficking, child and forced labour and the legislations; develop a regional plan of action against human trafficking, child labour which can be used as advocacy document to all stakeholders and, in particular, political leaders and share information about a protocol for the identification of trafficked victims.

It also received the attention of relevant stakeholders and participants from National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Person (NAPTIP), National poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), The Universal Basic Education Commission, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria, representatives of women and children civil society organisations and UN agencies.

Speaking during the workshop, the Special Assistant to the President on Human Trafficking and Child Labour, Mrs. Dayo Akinmoyo described human trafficking as a global issue that violates human right.

She said "it is a violation of human rights, this violation occurs during, prior to and often after the actual experience"

According to her, trafficking occurs when there is the concept of movement, using threat, force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, giving or receiving of payments.

She noted that traffickers prey on the most vulnerable in the society, people who have a form of disability or low literacy skills and educational levels.

In his goodwill message, the Ambassador of Switzerland to Nigeria Dr. Pierre Heig said "Switzerland bears a responsibility

without a demand in Europe and other rich countries for exotic sex or cheap products, the traffickers couldn't operate successfully"

He added "We regard international standardization of criminal codes and common understanding of the problem as of paramount importance for combating trafficking"

According to him, without an adequate protection of the victims there is no prosecution of traffickers, adding that an integrated approach is therefore needed to improve prevention, protection of victims, and law

workshop would encourage effective rehabilitation of victims and sourcing of funds for more rehabilitation centres in the country.

In her paper titled: "Human Trafficking, Child Abuse and Child Forced Labour, FCT Experience" the Secretary, FCT Social Development Secretariat, Ms. Bolanle A. Onagoruwa attributed poverty as one of the factors contributing to human trafficking and child labour in the society.

She stated "Poverty we all know is the bedrock of child forced labour, child abuse and trafficking. Although Nigeria is rich in natural and human

either by their parents or guardians, thereby suffering physical, sexual or emotional abuse.

She pointed out that they are also made to add to the income of the household by hawking, or by being house helps, adding that sometimes they are even pressured into sex to help pay for necessities that their families cannot afford.

Bolanle maintained that the FCT administration had taken steps to curb the menace through advocacy visits to six area councils and the fourteen chiefdoms in the FCT.

She also said that a child

National Planning Commission, believed that the problem of human trafficking, child and forced labour is not unique to Nigeria.

Dr. Ogbu stated that each year all over the world, an estimated six hundred to eight hundred thousand people, mostly women and children are trafficked or exploited.

In Nigeria, He also stated that at least two million children are suffering from severe exploitation and discrimination, adding that many of these children are trafficked and end up in homes as domestic servants and street children.

According to him, a study conducted in January 2005 by Public Enlightenment Projects, a local NGO showed that there are large numbers of working children in Nigeria, saying, that these porous borders have led to child trafficking from Niger Republic into Nigeria.

He explained that it is on the basis of these that the 15 members nations of ECOWAS recently adopted a political Declaration and Action Plan against trafficking in human beings, especially women and children.

He added that the action Plan commits ECOWAS countries to take immediate steps, such as launching public awareness campaigns to alert potential victims of methods used by traffickers, creating special police units to combat trafficking and training Police, Customs and Immigration Officials to arrest and prosecute traffickers as well as to protect the right of the victims.

He further stated that the plan urges the states to set

up direct communication among their borders agencies and expand efforts to collect and share data on trafficking.

In her paper titled "The Relation between issue of Human Trafficking/Child Labour and Migration/Humanitarian issues" The Special Assistant to the President on Migration and Humanitarian Affairs, Moremi Soyinka-Onijala, described human trafficking as a form of irregular migration that is illegal and unlawful all over the world.

She stated that according to the UN Population Division, as at the end of 2004, 175 million migrants exist globally, and almost half of them are women.

She further stated that the 2005 World Migration Report indicated that about 16.3 million are African of which 46.7% are women, adding that this is an increase from the figure of 12% African migrants in 1960.

She pointed out that President Obasanjo is aware that Child trafficking, as is trafficking in women, is a serious human rights issue but the problems of child abuse and neglect in Nigeria are deeply rooted in deepening poverty, unemployment, family disintegration and illiteracy.

To that effect, the federal introduced the National Economic Empowerment Strategy (NEEDS) to enhance the ability of its citizens to be economically self-sufficient.

She hoped that as the benefits of these programmes permeate to the grass roots, there would be a reduction in the numbers of adults and children involved in trafficking.

She further noted that Federal Government would soon embark on a series of consultative steps to develop a National Policy on Migration.

According to her, the policy will look into all the facets of Migration, issues of management of entry and stay into Nigeria, irregular migration, and National security.

She believed that a thorough migration policy must be put in place to prevent the obtaining of travel documents such as the ECOWAS Brown Card and the National Passport by proxy and without proper identification.

The participants agreed that human trafficking and child labour could be tackled through creation of employment opportunities, poverty eradication, ensuring passage and implementation of child rights, Conv

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"He added that the action Plan commits ECOWAS countries to take immediate steps, such as launching public awareness campaigns to alert potential victims of methods used by traffickers, creating special police units to combat trafficking and training Police, Customs and Immigration Officials to arrest and prosecute traffickers as well as to protect the right of the victims."

enforcement.

In a keynote address, the Governor of Kogi State, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris believed that trafficking in persons is internationally recognized as the third largest organized crime after arms and drugs trafficking.

Governor Idris who was represented by his Deputy, Mr. Phillip Salawu said his administration had embarked on a sensitization campaign to educate the people in the state about the importance of Child Right Act and negative impact of human trafficking.

He hoped that the

resources but about two-thirds of Nigerian people are poor, despite living in a country with vast potential wealth"

She added "Seven of every 10 Nigerians live on less than US\$1 a day. In 1980, an estimated 27 percent of Nigerians lived in poverty. By 1999, about 70 percent of the population had an income of less than US\$1 a day and the proportion has risen since then"

According to her, whatever the cause of poverty; children are often treated harshly or abused

hawking summit was organized to proffer solutions to the menace of child hawking and child labour in the society.

She insisted that the visits and the interactions had been rewarding because according to her cases of children that dropped out of schools and those that could not go at all were brought to the open.

Presenting his paper titled "Human Trafficking and Child Labour: The Big Fight Requiring Broad Coalition of Partners" Dr. Osita Ogbu, the Economic Adviser/Chief Executive Officer of the



From left to right, the special assistant to the president on human trafficking and child labour, Ekundayo Akinmoyo, the Deputy Governor of Kogi

THE HOME FRONT

LIVING

Senior bachelors' club

It is tough, this life of singleness and living without someone with whom the vow of fidelity has been taken. Those who view the life of a bachelor as one of going about enjoying oneself and not having cares, are living in a world of fantasy. We know this in our extraordinary club of young men determined to stay single.

By Emmanuel Bello

instance, Chucks wants to become the manager of his company, Larry hopes to run an engineering outfit someday. As for me, I have political ambition. We all believe in the single life and the non-attachment and freedom such a life affords us.

Larry's statement gave us a jolt. Normally we are happy with just having relationships and not thinking of 'settling down'. We scoff at the idea of marriage and often consider married people as being stuck up. Although, some of us still hold the hope that we could end up married someday, most of our club members were blissfully satisfied with the single life. So Larry's disclosure started a big argument. We asked him to leave our club and get settled.

"But I can't," he said, and added, "It is already too late for someone like myself, I am forty and still counting. I am confused as to the woman to even make my wife", he said.

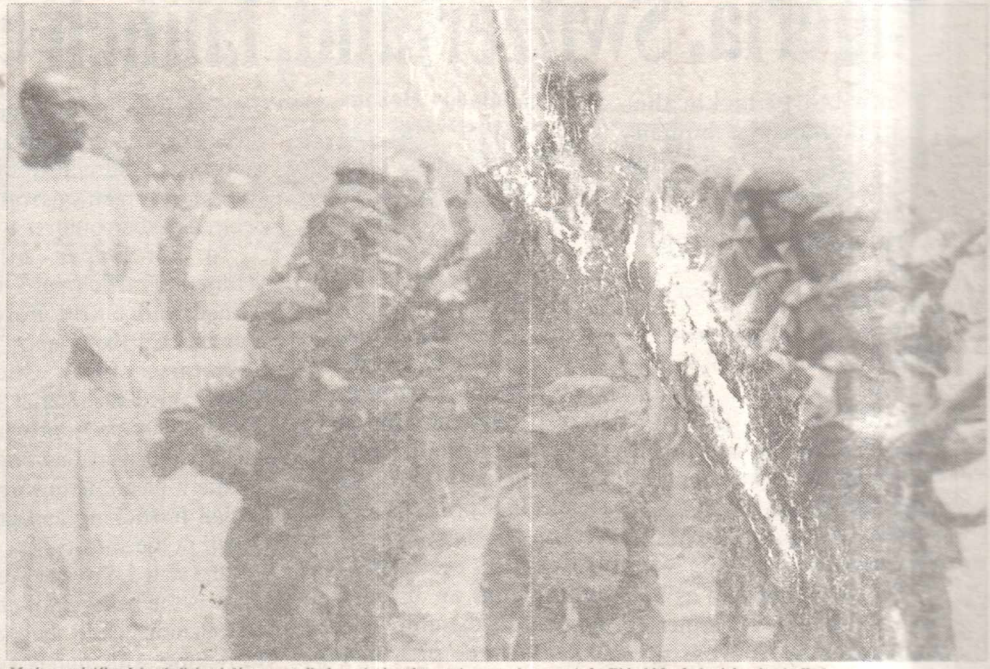
Larry's confusion is not his alone. Albert and Aliyu Koro (staunch members of our club) have a similar malady. Albert, a librarian in one of the colleges in Abuja, is running into forty and has remained single. His confusion lies basically with the difficulty in determining, in his words, "the size, colour, age, tribe religion, nationality, blood group, genotype, height, occupation, hobby and family background" of the woman to make his partner. "If I could only find a woman with 80% of my requirement", he once told us.

Koro's bewilderment stems from a theory he hold as sacred. "I've been told that the day I meet my wife I would know her," he told us. "But I have never seen such a person. I've never met someone who made me say, oh, that's the one," he added. Koro is a computer programmer and he is 36 years old.

My friend Chucks gave up on marriage last year when it became obvious to him, "I am not wired for matrimony." He explained. "I have looked inwards and I believe I would not make a good husband." Chucks, a product of a broken home, has vowed to stay single.

Tony, a hotelier, is also going to stay a bachelor for life. He is actually a divorcee. He once married an Epira lady and the union lasted for the most part of 2004.

"I was married for seven months and realized that it was not my thing. She left me for an independent marketer and I am happier for it" he told us.



Madrasatul Aliyu Islamic School, Nasarawa, Kaduna during the passing parade to mark the Eid-el Mautal celebration in Kaduna.

Being a bachelor is not easy and I can attest to this, having been one for years. It is a life full of adventures, pains, fears and worries. We worry about the future and with each passing day, we wonder what will become our fate. Sometimes, it goes to the realm of bewilderment, especially when you run into a former bachelor who has escaped from the club.

Club? Yes, for that is what we formed recently, myself and eleven guys. The youngest among us is twenty nine years old and his name is Segun. The oldest is Larry who will be forty eight on Valentine day, next week. Larry for no particular reason has refused to marry and this has caused his parents and siblings untold anguish. Popularly known as Uncle Larry (by the way, Larry is not even his real name, but his overalls and suspenders gave him the Larry King looks and the name stuck), he goes about catching his fun.

Recently he told me that life has been hell for him when we were sitting in our usual meeting point, somewhere in Abuja. "Emma, people look at me and think that I'm a carefree, happy individual. But it saddens me that I'm still single" he lamented.

Yusuf Adi, Samson Okoro and Gbenga Adams had arrived town and we meet every other day to review our lives, progress made and discuss issues from politics to sports. Our common bond is the fact that we are all unmarried and have no plans to do so in the near future. We also are hardworking young people with all sorts of ambitions. While, for

"Being a bachelor is not easy and I can attest to this, having been one for years. It is a life full of adventures, pains, fears and worries."

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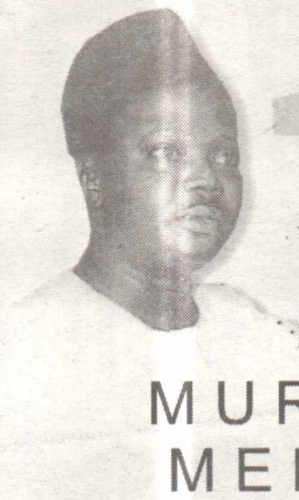
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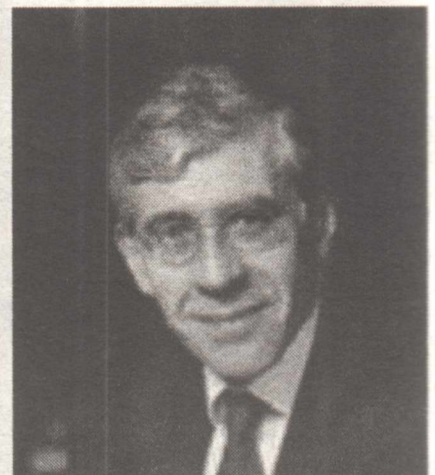
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JIGAWA'S KUDIN AKWATI

Grassroot participatory democracy

Of the 744 recognized local governments in Nigeria, only 27 local government areas of Jigawa State differ in their approach to grass root development. While chairmen, secretaries and treasurers continue to dictate who and what area gets what in terms of developmental projects in most local governments of the country, in Jigawa the people at the grass root determine what they want and execute such projects themselves without the interference of local government council officials.

The Polling Unit Development Area approach popularly known as *Kudin Akwati* among the ruralite has become a phenomenon in Jigawa State, and many state governors are said to have contacted Governor Ibrahim Saminu Turaki on the possibility of also introducing same in their states. According to Alhaji Lawal Roni, Secretary to Jigawa State Government, the state governor introduced the Polling Unit system of development to ensure funds allocated for development at the rural areas get to the actual people rather than some few individuals at the local government secretariat. The local governments, he said are not completely stripped of their responsibilities as the third tier of government. "They still perform their duties, they execute projects too that are bigger than those of the Poling Units, and they also have joint projects that they execute with the state government," he added.

Alhaji Lawal Roni maintained that the Polling Unit Development system is backed by law passed by the state House of Assembly and has been welcomed by the people in the rural areas as a veritable tool for their progress.

Under the Polling Unit Development System, each of the 3,764 Polling Units in the state is allocated N70,000 monthly for the execution of minor projects and community needs. Each polling station has a committee of 10 members comprising mainly community elders, religious leaders and political leaders of the community.

According to Malam Isa Muhamadu, who heads the Andaza Polling Unit Committee, the 10 selected members of the committee deliberate weekly on the problems and aspirations of the people of the area; and the problems are tabled down and later solved. "We, ourselves participate in the execution of such projects, like providing labourers, masons and carpenters to execute the projects. We have renovated our mosques, rehabilitated our

By Musa Kazaure & Ahmed Abubakar Correspondents (Dutse)

wells which is our only source of drinking water and have done so many things that affect our lives at the grass root. That is why we hail this Kudin Akwati system," he maintained.

Most of the testimonies from beneficiaries of the system in the rural areas tend to be positive in respect of continuing with the system because it has helped in solving minor rural community problems which hitherto had to wait for local government officials, who will take ages before solving them. There are rural communities in Yan Kwashi, Gwiwa, Roni, Dundubus, Ringim, Malamadori and Gumel areas that used the money allocated for the purchase of furniture in classrooms, renovation of Islamiyya schools, repairs of broken down hand pumps and tube wells as well as fencing of graveyards. According to one Malam Garba Yankwashi, "We have never felt the impact of government until this Akwati Money started coming to us. Our hand pump which has broken down for ages was repaired with the money and we assist families who have financial needs, or those women who are left behind by their husbands due to the harsh economic situation."

Last week was declared a time of stock-taking of the new participatory democracy system in Jigawa by the state governor, Ibrahim Saminu Turaki. For three days and nights over two million Jigawa indigenes converged in Dutse, the state capital, at the Monument Edifice to give account on how the monthly N70,000 given to each Polling Unit was spent to justify the initiative and purpose for which the system was meant for.

Alhaji Ibrahim Saminu Turaki was physically present at the Monument Edifice to listen to over 3,764 Polling Units reports from across the state, on how the money allocated to the units were spent.

All the Polling Units' delegates in the 27 local governments in the state gave summary accounts on how the monthly allocations was used in either helping the needy among other priorities or tackling immediate problems that are vital to immediate environment and communities.

Although most of the delegates told the governor that various projects that will impact positively on the lives of the people have been executed in their communities, but some people protested against some local government chairmen who they ac-



Gov. Saminu Turaki commissioning a community based project.

caused of directing the Polling Units money into private use.

Daily Trust investigations revealed that while some of the accounts announced to the governor on certain projects were actually true, most of the acclaimed projects were falsified as indicated by opposing voices from people in various Polling Units across the state who were present at the three day accounts-rendering-exercise in Dutse.

According to Shuaibu Inuwa Idris, a resident of Sabuwar Gwaram, under the Polling Unit, some of the projects executed within the area by the Polling Unit delegates are very vital to the lives of residents.

Shuaibu Inuwa told *Kano Trust* correspondent in Gwaram local government of the state that, "I can attest that various works were done in my area to alleviate our sufferings. I can even show you where they recently constructed a borehole just near our house and people have started using the water." He stated that apart from the construction of the borehole and some facelift done to mosques in the area, not much is being done to ensure security of lives and property which he said is among their major threat in the area.

He accused some of the polling delegates of not consulting the community members before embarking on any project that is meant for them as according to him, there were lots of misplaced priorities in the execution of certain works. "Governments intention with the Polling Unit

Development Areas is very good, but some of our people are abusing that good intention for their selfish gains," he added.

Kano Trust investigations in most of the local governments indicate that most of the problems with the utilization of the *Kudin Akwati* allocation are more rampant in the urban towns and villages than in the rural areas where they see the money as a vital tool to their development. According to a local government official who does not want to be quoted, most of the Polling Unit Committee members in the urban centres are either serving or retired civil servants who are desperately looking for their own share of the national cake, hence the tendency for them to abuse the money. He also disclosed that some local government chairmen usurp the work of polling stations within their areas by selecting projects in advance for them, and initiating the work.

Kano Trust investigations also revealed that the present system adopted by the Turaki administration which aimed at fostering closeness of the ruled and leaders in communities have also resulted in creating disharmony and suspicion between the people and the Polling Unit delegates in some areas, who are sometimes either accused of usurping the money meant for the polling unit or using the money on misplaced priorities. N20,000 of the N70,000 given to each Polling Unit is set aside for women development and empowerment

projects.

Malama Sadiya Umar, who hails from Dabaja Polling Unit under Gwaram local government, expressed dissatisfaction with way the money is being used which according to her, was not exactly how it should be as only a few women in the area are benefiting from it.

She said despite the N20,000 given to women polling delegates in the area, not much have been achieved as the money is only being used for assisting women that gave birth and those about to wed, as well as widows and women whose husband has absconded, living them behind with many children to feed.

But opponents of Governor Ibrahim Sami Turaki are not happy with the Polling Unit system because, according to them, it is just another means for the governor to siphon Jigawa's money into his white elephant projects. One of such opponents, Alhaji Yusuf Saidu Miga, who spoke recently during a condolence visit to the families of Late Ibrahim Usman Dabaja, chairman of Dabaja Polling Unit Committee, who lost his life in a scuffle over transportation money given to his delegates at the end of the three day gathering in Dutse, the entire Polling Unit system is designed to suit Governor Turaki's agenda to usurp public treasury and squander Jigawa's resources. He also chided the governor for organizing such a 'jamboree' which led to the death of Late Ibrahim Dabaja, adding that the compensation the gover-

nor offered to pay was not satisfactory.

The Secretary to Jigawa State Government, Alhaji Lawal Roni, told *Kano Trust* that while the people themselves participated in the actual determination, selection and execution of their projects, there is also a Supervisory Committee set by the state government to visit the projects sites and verify the claims of each polling station after a period of time. This, he said was to check abuses to the use of the fund and monitor the impact of the Polling Unit Development Association system.

On the death of Alhaji Ibrahim Dabaja, Alhaji Lawal Roni explained that he did not die because of his people's disaffection with the Polling Unit allocation to their area, rather it was as a result of a scuffle between the Late Dabaja and some of his delegates on the transportation money given them for their return after the meeting with the governor in Dutse. He added that the least the governor could do to his bereaved family was to offer compensation to ameliorate their suffering after the tragic loss, adding that the government has since sent a delegation to condole the family.

Alhaji Roni said because of the positive response of the rural people on the Polling Unit Development Areas, the government of Ibrahim Saminu Turaki will ensure its continuation if they stall the next government in Jigawa State.

EKO TRUST

Inside the ghetto barracks of Lagos

Both the rank and file of the Nigerian Police Force are saddled with the responsibility of protecting the lives and property of Nigerians. They keep awake when the rest of us had gone to bed. The irony of this fact is that while some of us civilians have comfortable place to rest our heads, it is not so with this set of Nigerians.

For a police officer who lives in a typical police barracks, 'going home' reminds him of the deprivation, poverty and the poor environmental situation that drive the whole country nuts. Recently, a senior police officer of the rank of Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP), posted to Lagos state command described the police barracks, Ijeh, as "fit for only dogs".

His words: "If I had stayed at that dump called 'Barracks' I would have been dead by now. The barracks is an epidemic waiting to break. It is only officers that do not like their lives and that of their families will agree to live in such place.

When our correspondent visited the Ikeja Police Barracks, he was confronted with a very pathetic condition where three families had to share a three bedroom flat.

A visit to the Queen Barracks, Apapa, Ije Police Barracks Obalende and Area 'C' Police Barracks, Surulere will expose the harsh and unpleasant conditions in these barracks. From the very entrance, you notice rejection, dejection, depression and deprivation.

There are dilapidated buildings, waterlogged compounds, overflowing sewage and sinking building blocks. You could almost hear a scream for renovation yet by some odd alchemy, ordinary officers scramble for allocation into these filthy quarters. Everywhere, human waste smell to high heavens, an indication that the toilets are not functioning well.

Roofs have caved in and

By Olumide Bajulaiye,
Correspondent (Lagos)

left to dangle without repairs. Movement in and out of the barracks is difficult due to flood, causing residents to remove their footwear before dipping their legs into the stinking waters.

As for Ijeh barracks, Obalende, which a former Inspector General of Police (IGP) claimed to have renovated in 2002 when the federal government released N500 million to the police for that purpose, one could hardly see any sign of renovation in recent time apart from the front row painted.

In the so-called 'police barracks' a constable who gets a space has N4000 deducted monthly from his less than N9,000 salary. He is only left with about N5,000 as net take home.

A visitor to these barracks could not but wonder why residents refused to do something about their situation. Most barracks residents, who spoke to our correspondent, said the problem was because of neglect by the police high command that had abandoned its responsibility, preferring to feed fat from the money allocated for that purpose.

According to them, since they were not housed in the barracks free of charge, the authorities concerned should clean up the place, repair the drainage and renovate the dilapidated structures. The residents said they had organised sanitation exercise, but because the systems in the barracks have collapsed, the impact of their cleanup could not be felt.

However, a senior police officer of the Police Provost Department at the force headquarters annex, Obalende who spoke with our correspondent under anonymity, indicted the department.

According to the officer, the provost's officers were supposed to visit these barracks from time to time to find



Sunday Ehindero, IGP

out if residents were managing the place well. In the case of any default, the department has the right to throw the occupant out of the barrack.

Nevertheless, such visits are not conducted and so people live the way it pleases them in the barracks.

He was of the opinion that if these checks on cleanliness are conducted on a regular basis, sanity would return to the barracks.

The dehumanisation faced by the defenders and enforcers of justice in the barracks must have a lot of psychological implications on their offsprings as most of them are exposed to social vices. Children of these law enforcement agents become armed robbers and the girls promiscuous because of poor environmental upbringing.

Our correspondent also gathered that apart from the N500 million released in 2002 for environmental face-lift, other monies have also been released for the same purpose, but the funds routinely get channeled elsewhere.

A wound up officer once asked. "How do you expect us to police the society effectively when hostility starts from within the institution it-

considered? People should not expect the police to be friendly because the policeman or woman does not see friendship or justice within his own set-up. We only exist, we don't live".

In the words of another frustrated police officer, "the best thing the federal government should do is to disband the Nigerian Police Force and invite policemen from developed countries to run our police system."

Others, who accused the police authorities of fund diversion, observed that rather than renovate the barracks, and boost the morale of officers and men, the senior officers responsible for that purpose build shops inside the barracks for their wives under the cover of Police Officers Wives Association (POWA).

Investigations by our correspondent revealed that some of the shops are allocated to outsiders at high rates.

Lack of maintenance of the barracks coupled with the

non-provision of uniforms, kits and furniture allowance may be responsible for the threat by junior police officers to go on strike in February. The action, they said, is to drive home their demands and get the command to pay attention to their age-long plight.

Investigations revealed that the Nigerian Police Force is the least equipped and most neglected of the security forces despite the crucial role they play in internal security. Policemen and women living in the barracks are pleading with the police authorities to come to their aid before the buildings fall on them.

Commenting on the matter, the Force Public Relations Officer (FPR), Mr. Haz Iwandi, a Deputy Commissioner of Police, said a lot is being done by the police high command to improve the conditions in the barracks.

He said contracts have been awarded for the renovation of barracks and the building of new ones.



ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF NIGERIA IN COLLABORATION WITH AFRICAN DISASTER FOUNDATION PRESENTS

A NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON SAFETY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT FOR ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

OVERVIEW

ALGON and the AFRICAN DISASTER FOUNDATION are organising this workshop in order to strengthen the capacity of all the Local Governments on Safety and Disaster Management, and position them to save lives and properties in their respective areas.

DATES AND VENUE:

- ZONE A:** 13th -15th February, 2006, @ Merit House, Maitama, Abuja.
For: FCT, Plateau, Nasarawa, Niger, Benue, Borno, Adamawa, Kogi, Bauchi and Gombe States.
- ZONE B:** 20th - 22nd February 2006, @ Lagos Airport Hotel, Lagos.
For: Lagos, Ogun, Ekiti, Osun, Ondo, Oyo, Edo and Kwara States.
- ZONE C:** 27th February-1st March 2006, @ Hamdala Hotel, Kaduna.
For: Sokoto, Zamfara, Kaduna, Katsina, Kano, Jigawa, Kebbi, Yobe and Taraba States.
- ZONE D:** 6th -8th March 2006 @ Delta-Hotel, G.R.A Port Harcourt.
For: Rivers, Bayelsa, Delta, Cross-Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Enugu, Anambra, Imo, Abia and Ebonyi States.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS: Local Government Chairmen, leaders of legislative Houses, Supervisory Councilors in Charge of works and Environment: Chairmen of House Committees on works and Environment, Directors of Personnel Management and Heads of Works and Environment Departments.

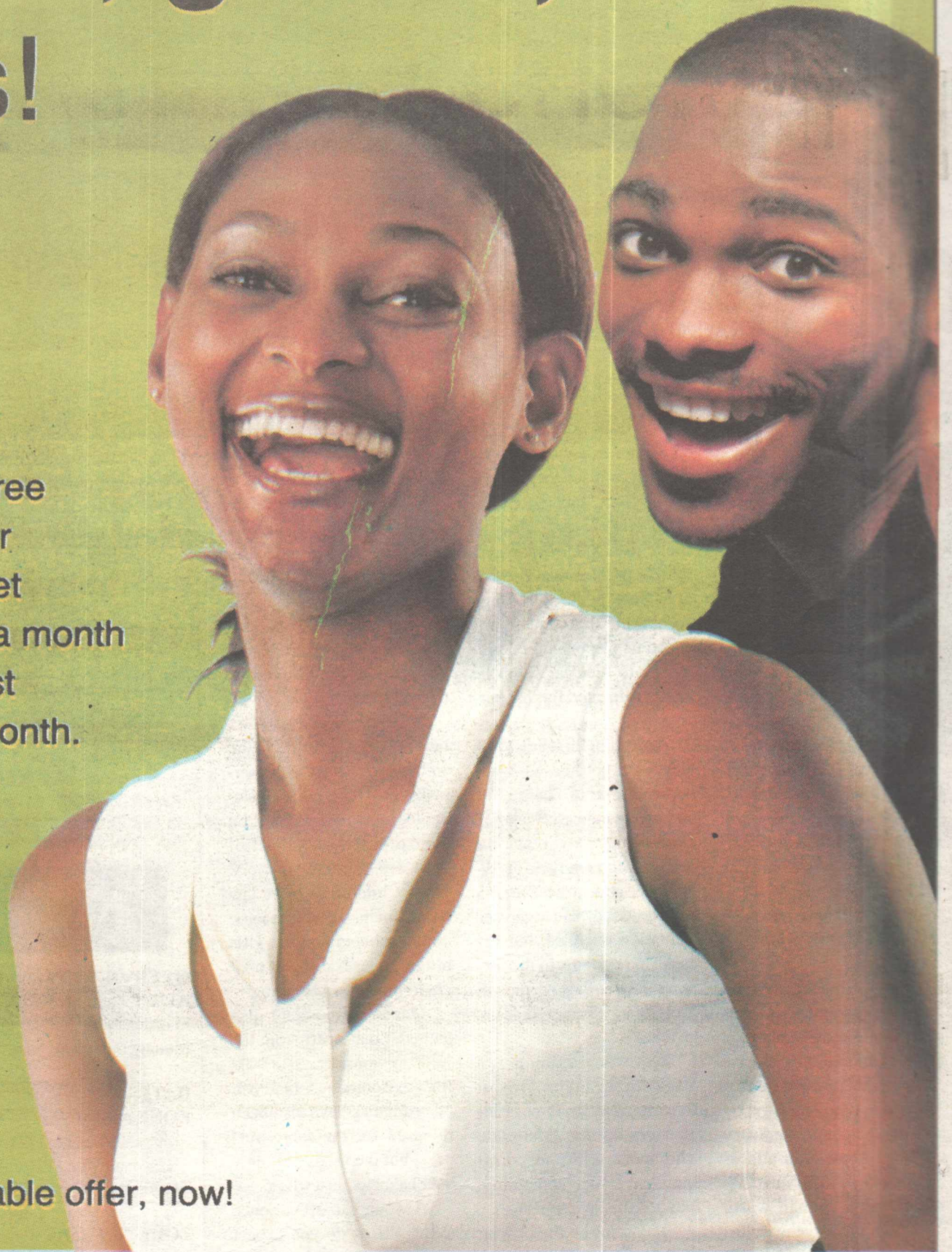
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The residents said they had organised sanitation exercise, but because the systems in the barracks have collapsed, the impact of their cleanup could not be felt.

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NEWS

UDUS M. S. S. condemn Danish cartoon

The Muslim Students Society of Nigeria, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto branch, has joined hundreds of thousands of Muslims across the world in condemning the Danish newspaper, which carried the cartoon of Prophet Muhammad.

At a press briefing addressed by the deputy Ameer, Abdullah Abdullah Raji, the M. S. S. described the cartoon as the highest assault to the personality of Prophet Muhammad.

Abdullahi Raji further explained that critical analyses of the cartoon did not only portray Prophet Muhammad as a terrorist but also it takes his esteemed spiritual reputation to the refuse dump.

The deputy Ameer also said it had now become evi-

From Sadeeq Aliyu,
Senior Reporter (Sokoto)

dent to all that the fierce media campaign against the Prophet is actually a single incident in a series of measures that have been practised on a wide scale by some people in the West whose influential positions cause their voices to be heard in the world media.

He said insulting Prophet Muhammad was synonymous to declaring war on Islam and Muslims and therefore, "it is imperative to state that whosoever by commission or omission insults any of our prophets has of course insulted the collective sensibility of the entire Muslim world, and as such we must react."

He added that as Muslims, "it is incumbent on us as a fundamental substance of faith, to love, respect, adore, dignify and revere the Prophet's integrity."

He posited that by implication, Islam has been disregarded, humiliated, discarded and rubbished to the least by the publication of this cartoon, and therefore "we must all rise in defence of Islam."

To this end, the M. S. S. called on the federal government of Nigeria to as a matter of urgency and national cohesion, close down the Nigerian embassy in Denmark and all other European countries whose newspapers reprinted the cartoon.

It also called on the Sultanate Council to condemn the sacrilegious act.

In its efforts to reduce the level of poverty among women and children, the Jigawa State government has begun the disbursement of over N180m goat rearing loans which targeted over N10,000 beneficiaries.

The loans, known as micro-credit for women's cooperatives, is to be headed by the Emir of Ringim, Dr. Sayyadi Mahmud, CON, who is currently the chairman of the World Cooperative Societies.

Expatriating on the motives of the programme, the special adviser to Governor Turaki on Millennium Village Commission, Alhaji Ma'amun Da'u Aliyu, told newsmen that the initiative was the continuation of the already existing poverty alleviation programmes of the state government that had already benefited thousands of unemployed youths.

10,000 women get N180m goat rearing loans in Jigawa

From Hassan A. Karofi,
Correspondent (Dutse)

He revealed that twenty-four women's cooperatives under the twenty-seven local government areas of the state will benefit from the loans which amount to over 10,770 beneficiaries, stressing that the motive was to make life of housewives better, thereby improving the lives of the entire household.

According to him, the modalities to be used are through the disbursement of N250,000 each to societies, where each member will be given two she-goats, one he-goat, two bags of offal, N666.67 as transport and N5000 to operate mini-businesses to further support the goats rearing activities.

Each society, according to the package, will deposit 20%

of the amount which again is to be given by the committee, while the certificate of registration of each society is to be deposited with the committee for safe keeping until the loan is repaid in a period of one year.

"Our target," according to the special adviser, "is to touch the lives of 75,000 households to reduce unemployment and improve meat and milk supply and the general earnings of the women-folk."

Daily Trust reports that the launch of the programme is expected to be formally declared open before the end of this month.

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3rd term: Rep debunks bribery allegation

A member of the House of Representatives from Kebbi State, Rep. Faruk Abdullahi, has debunked insinuations that the National Assembly members were bribed by the Presidency to support the third term agenda.

Speaking to newsmen in Birnin Kebbi, Rep. Abdullahi said the allegations were baseless and a calculated attempt to tarnish the good image of the two respected legislative Houses.

"Believe me sincerely to the best of my knowledge that, I didn't hear or be a party to any arrangement that involves bribery between the legislative arm and the executive, so these allegations were unfounded," he declared.

He further opined that no matter the circumstances,

representatives from the Northern part of the country would not descend to any pressure that would not be in favour of the north.

According to him, some of the areas Northern legislators are fighting to ensure improvement is the agricultural sector, which he said provides employment for seventy per cent of the populace in the north.

Rep. Abdullahi however assured that they will continue to accelerate their efforts to make President Olusegun Obasanjo's government consider agriculture as its top priority.

He described agriculture as not just for cultivation of food items for consumption, but the backbone of the economy of any nation.



Former minister of state on education, Hajji Halima Tayo Alao (r); the director-general, National Education Research and Development Council (NERDC), Prof. Godswill Obioma (standing), and other dignitaries at the workshop on strategic planning for education organised by NERDC in Abuja, recently.

'Nigeria oil wells will never dry up'

Scientist

Scientist, Dr. Clement Umemedimo, the inventor of the Anti-Commosive Special Paint meant for offshore drilling, has declared that Nigeria's oil wells will never dry up.

Dr. Umemedimo said claims by oil companies that Nigeria will produce oil for ninety-nine years only were false and misleading.

The scientist maintained that his research in the deep ocean waters had revealed that the volume of oil below the sea was equal to the amount of water above the oil.

Although his company has been on a court battle over the years with multinationals over stealing of his patent, Dr. Umemedimo expressed the hope that the multinationals will soon succumb to him.

He said he would not want to be selfish with the proceeds accruing from his invention, rather he would use them to actualize the yearnings of Nigerians, improve their living standard and generate employment in the society.

Pay journalists well

Shonekan tasks employers

The former head of state, Chief Ernest Shonekan has called on media proprietors to pay journalists their entitlements to enable them to discharge their duties in line with the ethics of the profession.

Addressing participants at the launch of a magazine organized by the Nigerian Union of Journalists Wednesday, Chief Shonekan said the media could only watch the society dispassionately through fair comments when practitioners are economically empowered.

He praised the media for their steadfastness in the fight against colonialism and their strive to ensuring the elimination of social vices and promotion of democratic values. He

By Abubakar Ibrahim

urged the government to provide the enabling environment for fair and objective journalism in the

country and asked journalists to consider national interest above other considerations.

Shonekan however urged journalists to concentrate on inspiring reforms and fighting poverty.

In his address, the

president of the Nigerian Union of Journalists, Mr. Smart Adeyemi, called on the National Assembly to urgently pass the journalism enhancement bill before it, into law to achieve a better deal for its members.

Adeyemi wondered how

a journalist who is owed about six to eight months' salary arrears would abide by the ethics of his profession when his immediate social and economic needs could not be met.

Aviation engages Norwegian firm for safety aids

In a bid to improve safety in Nigeria's aviation sector, the federal government has shown interest in engaging the services of a Norwegian firm, Park Air System Electronics, to provide Nigeria with modern navigational aids.

The proposal, which is currently before the FG, is expected to be endorsed

Mohammed S. Shenu, Reporter

ahead of the September auditing of the county's airports by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

The Minister of Aviation, Prof. Babalola Borishade, disclosed this when the Norwegian firm visited him in Abuja to present the

proposal on some of the company's modern navigational aids that could improve air safety in the country.

"These initiatives are necessary to ensure that our airports are in excellent condition before the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) audit visit in September this year," the minister said.

A statement from the ministry made available to *Daily Trust* said Prof. Borishade had reiterated the government's determination to upgrade air safety facilities and replace obsolete ones in all Nigerian

airports.

After fixing the facilities, the statement said the company would in collaboration with the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) maintain the equipment within six months for a fee to be paid by NAMA.

During the maintenance period, the statement said the company would also provide relevant services and train new generation simulators for the Nigerian College of Aviation (NCAT), Zaria. Some of the specific navigational aids to be provided include Instrumental Landing System (ILS), Very High Frequency Omni Directional Radio Range (DVOR) and Distance Measuring Equipment (DME) for Yola and Ibadan airports, while Abuja, Lagos, Port-Harcourt and Kano international airports are to be provided with virtual towers. Information from the ministry said the company was now bidding for Yola and Ibadan projects.

Kaduna Capital School old students meet Feb. 11

Kaduna Capital School Old Students Association (KADCAPSOSA) will hold its general meeting on Saturday, February 11 at the school's assembly hall at 10 am.

The meeting, according to the secretary, Mallam Hassan Idris, will be the first in 2006 and will discuss crucial issues concerning the association and the *alma mater*. He disclosed that the meeting will appoint members of the electoral committee

which will kick-start the process for the election of new executive members, who will steer the affairs of the body.

He urged all registered members and old students who wish to join the association to attend.

NYSC to flush out ghost workers

The NYSC Director-General, Yusuf Bomo, has called on NYSC staff to co-operate with the management in the move to flush out ghost workers from the scheme.

The director-general made the call Wednesday in Abuja during a pay parade carried out by the scheme in preparation for the monetisation of staff's fringe benefits.



Prof. Babalola Borishade, Minister of Aviation

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C/O OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION, THE PRESIDENCY, FEDERAL SECRETARIAT COMPLEX, PHASE I SHEHU SHAGARI WAY, ABUJA, PHONE: 09-5235962.

On 1st November, 2005, the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo (GCFR) inaugurated the above Committee to examine current salaries and allowances in the Public Sector with a view to consolidating them into single personal emolument that will attract and retain the best brains in the public service. The Committee was also charged to examine the collective bargaining principle and recommend a mechanism that will ensure periodic adjustments in the emoluments of Public Servants in accordance with the economic realities prevailing at any particular time without recourse to empanelling a Committee to look into the matter.

In carrying out this assignment, the Committee had invited members of the public to submit memoranda to it. In addition to that, the Committee hereby wishes to announce its intention to hold Interactive Sessions in the Six Geo-Political Zones of the country and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

The time-table for the interactive sessions is as follows:

S/NO	ZONE	DATE	CITY	VENUE	TIME
1	South-West Zone	13 th February, 2006.	LAGOS	Lagos State Auditorium Alausa, Ikeja.	9.30 AM
2	North-Central Zone	15 th February, 2006.	JOS	Crest Hotel, Airport Road.	9.30 AM
3	North-West Zone	22 nd February, 2006.	KANO	Zainab Hall Royal Tropicana Hotel.	9.30 AM
4	South-South Zone	27 th February, 2006.	PORT - HARCOURT	Atlantic Hall of Hotel Presidential	9.30 AM
5	National	1 st March, 2006.	ABUJA	To be confirmed	9.30 AM
6	North-East Zone	7 th March, 2006.	YOLA	Adamawa Banquet Hall, Yola.	9.30 AM
7	South-East Zone	9 th March, 2006.	ENUGU	To be confirmed	9.30 AM

Members of the public especially the Academic Community, Trade Unions, the Military and Para-military, Health and Medical Institutions, Research Institutions and State Government Parastatals are invited to attend any of the above interactive sessions at the location nearest to them. Similarly, all those that responded to the call of the Committee for memoranda should endeavour to meet with members of the Committee at the location nearest to them to enable them elucidate further on the contents of their memoranda.

SIGNED:
(Olu O.A. Sobo)
Committee Secretary

News

3rd term: Nigerians should trust senators - Zwingina

Deputy Senate Leader Senator Jonathan Zwingina has said that Nigerians should trust the National Assembly on the issue of third term, saying federal legislators will not be moved by monetary inducement to support any inimical policy.

"I can assure you that no senator would be moved by any kind of inducement to support any position, not in consonance with the best aspiration of this country," he said.

Senator Zwingina, who spoke with newsmen during an interactive session with political editors of selected media establishments across the country, also said the third term issue was largely in the realm of speculation.

According to him, there was no group, or individual who can be pointedly associated with the third term plot.

He said that the president had not come out to state that he wants a third term, and that the president's silence on the issue has probably not given the proponents of third term any solid foundation in their agitations.

By Emmanuel Bello,
Political Editor

Similarly, Senator Udo Udoma, corroborating Zwingina, said it was not practicable for the National Assembly to oppose what existed in the realm of conjectures.

He insisted that no senator has been approached on third term and that legislators cannot be made to support what is unconstitutional.

In his own remarks, the Senate Committee chairman on Media and Publicity, Victor Udoma-Egba, said he was prepared to swear by the Holy Bible, as a practising Christian, that no one has asked him to support a third term plot, noting that the National Assembly is peopled by reasonable and intelligent individuals who would not be swayed by mundane inducement.

Similarly, Senator Zwingina explained the situation that led to the jettisoning of the third term clause from the sub-committee report. "We asked how the three term of four years entered the document and no one raised his hand. Was it a memo, or did it come from a constituency? No

one owned up to it, so we said forget the reports. Let's take the 1999 Constitution to the public for debate."

The interactive session held at the Zuma Hall of the Rock View Hotel in Abuja, was attended by political editors of both electronic and print media across the country.

The Niger State government has appealed to civil servants in the state to exercise patience over the government's inability to pay their salaries because of the delay in the release of federal allocations.

The state's Commissioner for Information, Alhaji Umaru Ragada, in an interview with *Daily Trust* in Minna yesterday, pleaded with the workers and the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) in the state to bear with the government on the matter.

Daily Trust learnt that states rejected last month's statutory allocations because of the deductions made by the Presidency without their con-

Niger explains salary delay

From Aideloje Ojo,
Correspondent (Minna)

The non-release of the allocations, it was learnt, had caused severe hardship for workers in Niger State whose salaries have remained unpaid.

It was also learnt that arrangements to borrow money from banks to pay salaries to workers were discontinued because of government's position that local government workers should be paid alongside the state workers.

But Ragada said the work-

ers would soon be paid their salaries as government was doing everything possible to solve the problem.

"We are not unmindful of the hardship of the workers as a result of the delay in receiving the federal allocations," he said.

The information commissioner said government appreciated the understanding of the workers and pleaded for their patience and cooperation.

He assured that government would do its best to cushion the effects of the hardship caused by the problem.



The National Publicity Secretary of the Obasanjo Solidarity Forum, Mr. Tunde Fagbohunge (left), briefing journalists along with the National Co-ordinator of the Forum, Alhaji Dauda Ibrahim and his deputy (North), Alhaji Fola Ashiru (right), during the ceremony held at their office in Abuja...yesterday.
Pix: Joe Oroye

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SIGNED:
Secretary General

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SIGNED:
Secretary General

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public that the Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) belonging to Musa Bala Shelengwa No. GS/2173/LAN/5040 was lost to Armed Robbers sometime in November 2005, along Garkida-Biu Road.

Signed:
Musa Bala Shelengwa.

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY, ABUJA

WHEREAS THE PERSON/PERSONS whose name is set out in the first column hereunder died intestate on the date and place in the said column. AND WHEREAS the person whose name and address is set out in the second column hereunder claimed the relationship of the said deceased and has applied to the above named court for the grant of letters of Administration of the personal property.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the said letters of administration be granted to such persons unless "NOTICE TO PROHIBIT" the grant thereof is filed in the Probate Registry of the above named court within twenty one (21) days from the date of publication.

DECEASED ADDRESS

ETUK DICK EKIM
NEPA POWER STATION CALABAR

DIED ON 4TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2000

SCHEDULE

APPLICANT FOR GRANT
INSPECTOR UFOT DICK & AKPAN DICK
ANTI ROBBERY PATROL DIVISIONAL
POLICE HEADQUARTER ZONE 3, ABUJA

THE BROTHERS

DATED AT ABUJA 1ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 2005

SIGNED:
FOR: PROBATE REGISTRAR

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public that the original letter of Acknowledgement and receipts of payment of ground rent of the follows plots obtained from AGIS are missing.

1. Mohammed Mumur Jaafaru
Plot 601, CD A04
New File No: 10247
Old file No: KD220
2. Maryam Khadi
Plot No. 130B CDC06
New File No. 10230
3. FOOD ACRICOM LTD with P.A in favour of Chigozie Diloru
Plot No644, CD B02
File NO. 14168 (MISC).

If found return to plot 10 Gongola Street, Area 2.

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD MINISTRY

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

The Trustees are:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Amaku Paul Obiyo | - Founder |
| 2. Jenifer Oparaku | - Treasurer |
| 3. John Kennedy Uche | - Secretary |
| 4. Justice Iheanyichukwu | - Legal Adviser |
| 5. Harriet Oganno Anamelechi | - Member |

Aims and Objectives:

1. To spread the word of God
2. To organize crusades and fellowships
3. To have Church Services
4. To help the poor and needy e.t.c

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, P.M.B. 189, Abuja, within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

SIGNED:
TONY AZUATALAM

LOSS OF INTERNATIONAL PASSPORT

The general public is hereby informed of the loss of an international passport belonging to MR. FAHEED KASSIM ZAHRLDINE with Number 3037187 on the 30/12/05. The passport was issued in Abuja Syrian Embassy on the 6/12/2001. If found, please return to the undersigned or the nearest Police Station or the Syrian Embassy.

Signed:
FAHEED KASSIM ZAHRLDINE
08034012767

CHANGE OF NAMES

I, formerly know and called HAFSAT MUKHTAR, wish to be called MRS. HAFSAT AHMED KARAYE. All former documents remain valid. Nigerian Law School and NYSC take note.

I, formerly known as MISS BENEDICTA EHIANRUWA OSAGIEDE, now wish to be known as MRS. BENEDICTA EHIANRUWA OGIERIAKHI. All former documents remain valid. UNIBEN, WAEC, NYSC to note.

I, formerly known as MISS SIMNOM GYUK, now wish to be identified as MRS. SIMNOM HARUNA GARBA. All former documents remain valid. Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, Nigerian Law School, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the public to note.

I, formerly GRACE ULUNMA ONUKOGU, now known as MRS. GRACE ULUNMA LINUS-AGUNNA. Former documents remain valid. National Film & Video Censors Board. General public note.

Inside Politics

2007: What really does the Middle-Belt want?

Next week, barring any last minute change, and on the 15th of February precisely, the Middle-Belt Forum (MBF) will meet once more with states from the South-east and South-South to fashion out strategies of securing political power in the heated race for the soul of 2007. The hope, according to one of their chieftain is to find ways of harnessing the support of the South in fighting the core North (or far North, depending on one's persuasion) and ensuring that, if power ever shifts to the North, it comes to the Middle-Belt.

But the persistent questions are legion among which are: can the Middle Belt trust the south? Conversely, will the southern regions, given their own ambition, accept the Middle-Belt proposal of wanting the presidency? Will there be betrayal as had happened in the past? What about the mutual hatred and mistrust in the historical development of the nation? But, even more problematic, is the definition of the concept itself.

Middle Belt and definitions

A crisis of identity suddenly springs up each time one attempts a definition of the term: Middle Belt. As a geographical concept, it is difficult to point to it on the Nigerian map. Ethnically, the people who occupy the area called Middle-Belt consist of all the groups in the North, complete with the diversity that characterized it. As a religious concept, there are observers who believe that the Middle-Belt is a Christian affair with Muslims seen as the anti-thesis of the concept.

But in a recent interview, with *Daily Trust* second republic governor and stalwart of the Middle-Belt movement, Chief Solomon Lar said that the Middle-Belt concept is not a religious one. He traced the history of the movement to the Witlink commission that worked on the minority issue in Nigeria and observed that it was this colonial body that suggested a separate state or entity for the smaller groups in the larger regions. He went on to say that the Middle-Belt is thus peopled

By Emmanuel Bello,
Political Editor

by minorities who are oppressed in the bigger sections of the country.

Also debunking the

said that the peoples and societies of the Middle-Belt have been patient for too long and now wants to take their rightful place.

Similarly, in a recent press interview, petrel of the

which sought to overthrow the strangle-hold of the NPC which was the most dominant political party of the Northern region. Senator Tarka, a flamboyant politician, popularized the theory

International Conference Centre (ICC) in Abuja early in the year, the worrisome point confronting the middle belt, according to most of the speakers, is the lack of economic power.

marginalization when they often refuse to help each other. According to him the leaders of the middle belt are selfish and unconcerned about the fortunes of their colleagues.

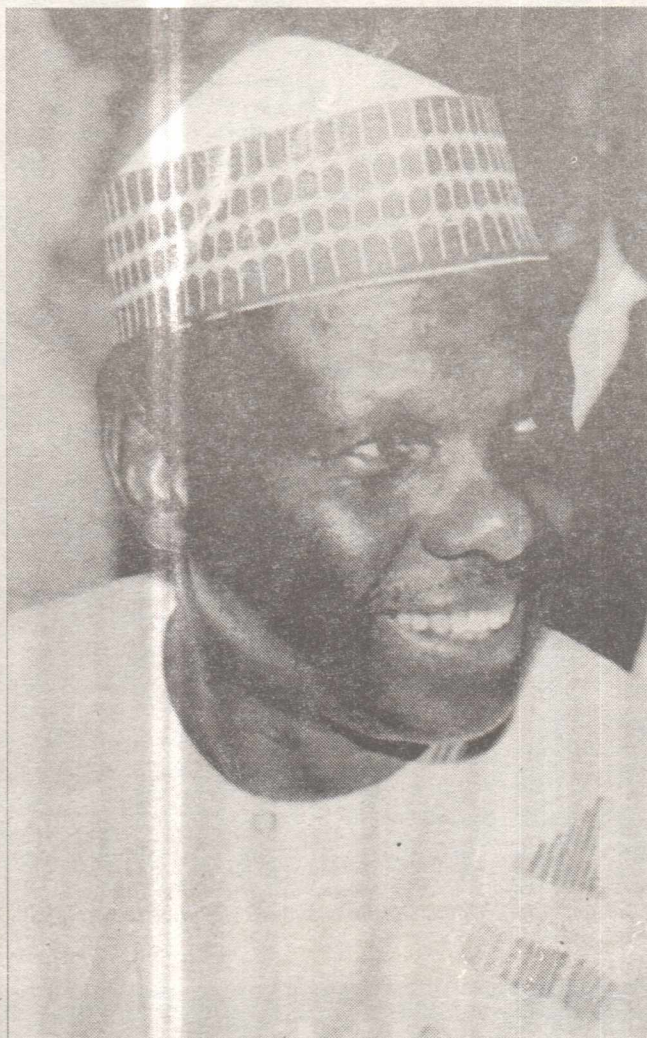
Drawing from personal experiences, he told *Daily Trust* that, when he had the chance, he helped some middle-belters to get to the height they now occupy. He said that this was the best way to empower the north and not in blaming a section.

Similarly, Alhaji Umaru Dikko, who said he was a personal friend of late Senator Joseph Tarka, lambaste the middle belt leaders, blaming them for not properly interpreting history. He termed as untrue the claim that the middle belt people were the heroes of the civil war, saying that the victory of the war joint effort of northern military officers and the rifle men of the middle belt. He urged present day leaders of the region to remember that their relevance is tied up with the larger north. Furthermore, he said that the late Sarduna of Sokoto, Sir Ahmadu Bello never discriminated against the people of the so-called middle belt. Rather, the late premier was integrature in his policies, he said, adding that the middle-belt should align with the rest of north. According to him, the south would never accept the middle-belters as brothers.

Alliances

But chieftain of the middle belt continue to seek new alliances. The latest is the south-south, whom they see as co-victims of marginalization. According to one of the stalwart of the movement who spoke to *Daily Trust* in condition of anonymity, said that they hope to come to an understanding with the south-south.

The new strategy is to team up with the south-south/south east and demand that power shift to any of the other regions apart from the south-west and North west. "Our hope is that the south-south/south east will eventually cede the chance to us. We believe that power will shift to the north. But to our north, which is the middle-belt," he said. It is a tough experiment.



Prof. Jerry Gana

views that the concept is not a geographical reality, Chief Lar showed on a map, the various sites on the Nigerian map that fall into the Middle-Belt. He noted that, when viewed dispassionately, the Middle-Belt is actually the largest group in the North.

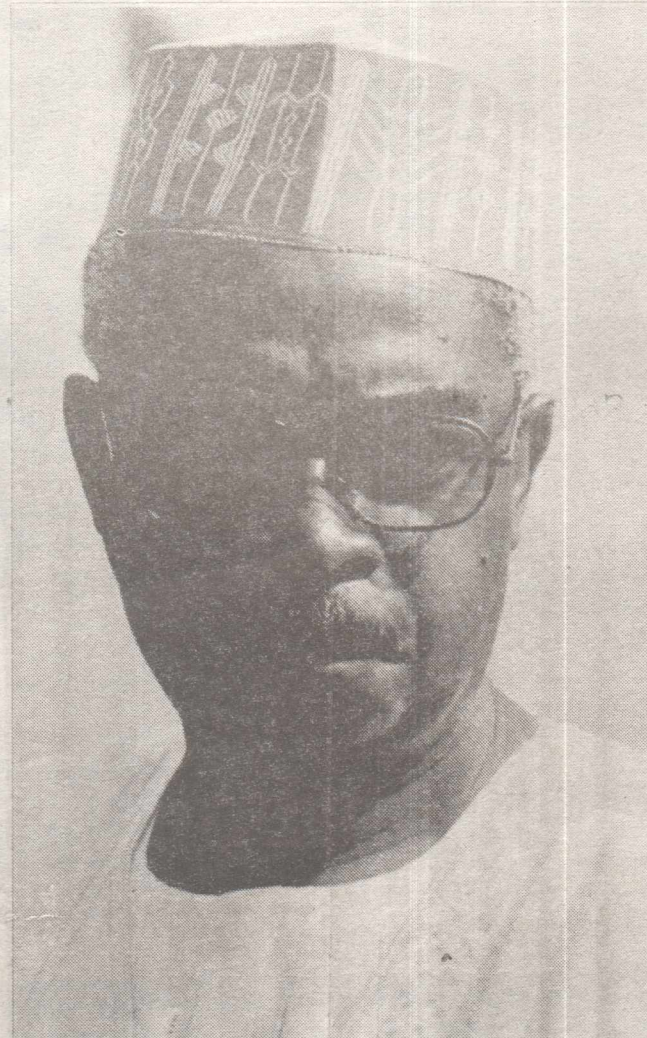
Another chieftain of the Middle Belt, Hon. John Dara puts it differently. According to him, the Middle-belt is the "minorities who constitute the largest or strongest group."

It is this numerical strength, he said, that the Middle-Belt will harness to achieve political gains. He

Middle-Belt movement, Hon. Isaac Shehu said that the movement is committed to overthrowing the "feudal oligarchy of the Hausa-Fulani domination of the central/middle belt people." He noted in strong terms, that the region was not prepared to play second fiddle any more, observing that the Middle-Belt is now prepared to become its own master in the scheme of things.

Tarka and his descendants

Leader of the United Middle-Belt Congress (UMBC) late Senator Joseph Tarka probably started it all with his political party



General Theophilus Danjuma

of freedom from northern domination with acolytes like Hon. Isaac Shahu becoming latter day crusaders of the concept.

But it is a fact of history that Senator Tarka, spent the latter part of his earthly existence, working to entrench the NPN, a political party with northern flavour as the dominant power in the country. One wonders if the late Tarka, were he alive today will support the reincarnation of his movement.

Economic empowerment for political power

In their last meeting held in the expansive hall of the

They bemoaned the region's backwardness and blamed it on years of not controlling central leadership. They also blamed it on deliberate policies skewed against the people of the Middle-Belt. In their views, economic power will naturally translate into political strength, and thus the region must devote itself to acquiring wealth.

But in his explanation of the backwardness of the middle-belt region, ace-politician and Plateau state born Alhaji Ibrahim Ishyaku said that the middle belt is its worst enemy. He noted that the region has had its golden chance to change its fortunes in the past, observing that General Yakubu Gowon, (rtd) is a middle better who became head of state.

He contends that the north has never denied the middle belt any chance to produce a central leader, observing that military heads of state of note have emerged from the middle belt. He wondered why the region complains of

"A crisis of identity suddenly springs up each time one attempts a definition of the term: Middle Belt. As a geographical concept, it is difficult to point to it on the Nigerian map. Ethnically, the people who occupy the area called Middle-Belt consist of all the groups in the North, complete with the diversity that characterized it. As a religious concept, there are observers who believe that the Middle-Belt is a Christian affair with Muslims seen as the anti-thesis of the concept."

Alhaji Shehu Mustapha Bature

Internal Chairman

decided to leave the party we are not to wait for any



ALL NIGERIAN PEOPLES PARTY

NO. 46, KIYAWA ROAD, DUTSE, JIGAWA STATE.



RE: JIGAWA: ANPP'S MANY LIES AGAINST GOVERNOR IBRAHIM SAMINU TURAKI
SUSPENSION OF GOVERNOR IBRAHIM SAMINU
TURAKI: NO-GOING BACK

The attention of the Jigawa State ANPP has been drawn to a publication in the *DAILY TRUST* of Wednesday, January 25, 2006 allegedly authored by one Alhaji Muhammadu Murtala, a faceless candidate of no fixed address.

The ANPP Jigawa State wish to inform our esteemed members that its determination to ensure discipline within the rank and file of its members remain unshaken.

Disciplinary measures taken after full investigation into the grievous uncondoned anti-party activity against the party, therefore cannot be reversed.

We are happy that the national Secretariat of our great party has constituted a verification committee to confirm series of anti party activities perpetrated by Governor Ibrahim Saminu Turaki, culminating in the final carpet crossing from the party to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

To add salt to injury, instead of addressing his offence and seeking ways of appeasement, Turaki chose the path of confrontation, sponsoring series of rantings against the party.

How on earth can a disciplined party member promote disaffection within his party through wild allegation and lies. Turaki's suspension is conclusive, it was arrived at after exhausting all constitutional due processes of the party.

ANPP is an independent party not under the control of any other political party therefore, when Turaki decided to leave the party we are not to await for any

instruction or announcement by his new party before taking action on his misdemeanors.

What we expect of the write-up is to come out clearly and State whether he has truly decamped or not, rather than brushing the issue aside.

We urge the loyal members of Jigawa State ANPP to remain calm in the wake of series of confusing and misleading publications by Saminu Turaki and his cohorts.

Take the forged PDP membership register published in the *Daily Trust* of wednesday January, 25 2006 for example.

We wonder what blinded their vision to put the registration date at 1/10/05 a very important public holiday in this country when the PDP did not hold any registration exercise throughout the country to mark the national day.

The apparent alterations in the document where the column containing the particulars of the form were forged by using small letters instead of capital letters thereby casting doubt on its Authenticity.

A copy of the Authentic register with Turaki's membership NO is reproduced herewith for public perusal.

Long Live ANPP

Long Live The Federal Republic of Nigeria

Signed:

Alhaji Shehu Mustapha Babura
Interim Chairman

Inside Politics

Borno NDP leadership resigns

The entire leadership of the National Democratic Party (NDP) in Borno State, including indigenous of the state holding national party offices has resigned from the party, as senior woman politician Hajja Kinna Ibrahim Bulama and the former chairman of Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC), Alhaji Kaka Bolori of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) decamp to the Peoples democratic Party (PDP).

From Abdullahi Bego, Assistant Editor Maiduguri

The resignation of the NDP leadership may have followed their decision to also move to the People's Democratic party (PDP) in the state.

Already, the chairman of the NDP, Alhaji Adam Ibrahim has written to the Borno State PDP Chairman, Alhaji Kolo Bukar, informing him of the "desire" of the NDP leader-

ship "to move to the PDP."

On part her, Hajja Kinna Ibrahim Bulama, a former senatorial candidate of the ANPP in Borno North senatorial zone during the 2003 election decamped to the PDP in a ceremony on Tuesday at her Mobbar local government constituency.

Her decampment, along with the former MMC chairman, and the developments within the NDP in Borno State

is all interpreted to have implications for the forthcoming general elections in 2007.

It is not clear how the new decampment to the PDP would fare within the party in the state, but sources said that it would be a Herculean task on the PDP to try sort out the various interests, which now seemed to fuse within it in time for the new politicking ahead.

Elders in the three political zones in Bauchi state are moving to reconcile Governor Ahmadu Muazu and former aviation minister, Malam Isa Yuguda.

Muazu and the former minister used to be friends, until the recent exit of the Yuguda from the government.

Yuguda's supporters had accused the governor of being behind the ex-minister's travails.

The trouble-shooting group, *Daily Trust* gathered, is made up of serving senators, former and present ministers from the state, respected politicians and opin-

Bauchi elders move to reconcile Muazu, Yuguda

From Tashikalmah Hallah, (Correspondent) Bauchi

Our correspondent gathered that the idea to call a meeting which came on the heels of claims of attack from both sides was to stop the growing tension among rival supporters across the state.

It was also learnt that some of the elders approached to be part of the peace team were said to be enthusiastic over the move.

According to our source, the initiators of the move were said to have been irked by the fact that Muazu and Yuguda were close friends who have contributed to the development of the state and still had the potential of doing more.

One of the elders who spoke to our correspondent on condition of anonymity told *Daily Trust* that the group was yet to approach any of them.

The source said effort was being made to enlarge the membership in order to command credibility and wait for an effective result.

Why we moved against Etiebet, by Bafarawa

Governor Attahiru Bafarawa of Sokoto state has said that aggrieved party members moved against the All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) national chairman, Chief Don Etiebet because they realised that he had been working against the party's interest.

Fielding questions from newsmen in Abuja shortly after the faction led by retired General Jeremiah Useni announced Etiebet's ouster, the governor said the embattled chairman had refused to implement the accord reached February 10 last year in the

By Habeeb I. Pindiga, Assistant Political Editor

peak of the last crisis in the party.

According to Bafarawa, part of the truce was that Etiebet would convene a national executive committee meeting to fashion ways of moving the party forward.

This, the governor said, was not done.

"Let me recall, if you can remember there was a similar crisis in ANPP and we decided that to move the party forward, we should bury our differences. At a meeting on

February 10, 2005, it was agreed that the chairman should remain as chairman and the deputy should remain as deputy chairman. We agreed on other major issues.

"But since then, no meeting was convened to discuss any issue. So how do you expect us to move forward? Last year when we moved against him, we were accused of attempting to break the party. But since then no meaningful progress has been achieved.

"What we are doing today is an attempt to strengthen the party." He said.

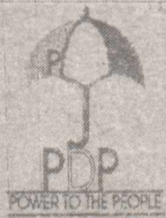
Among those seen at the

meeting of the Useni group were the Senate minority leader, Senator Lawal Shuaibu, House of Representatives minority leader, Aminu Tambuwal, a number of National Assembly members, some ANPP state chairmen and some national officers of the party.

ANPP is at present enmeshed in leadership tussle. A group led by deputy national chairman (North) of the party, Useni had announced suspending Etiebet, but the chairman dismissed this as a futile action by political jobbers.

A letter addressed to the national chairman of the NDP a copy of which was made available to *Daily Trust* said that the decision of the Borno leadership of the party to resign "was taken after long and exhaustive deliberations with members of the party in the state."

The letter, signed by state chairman, Alhaji Adam Ibrahim, Secretary, A.D. Mohammed and the party's gubernatorial candidate in the 2003 election, Comrade Zanna Shettima, added that the resignation is with immediate ef-



PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY

MEMBERSHIP REGISTER

STATE	STATE Code	L.G.A	L.G.A Code	WARD	WARD Code
JIGAWA	JG	KAZAUFE	17	U/GABAS	10

S/NO	DATE	MEMBERSHIP NO	NAMES	SEX	AGE	ADDRESS	OCCUPATION	SIGN	REMARKS
121	4/10/2005	121	USMAN IBRAHIM	M	36	LADKON RIJIYA	FARMING		
122	✓	122	IBRAHIM USMAN	M	70	✓	✓		
123	✓	123	LUSANA IBRAHIM	F	55	✓	✓		HIWIFE
124	✓	124	AISHA IBRAHIM	F	60	✓	✓		✓
125	✓	125	KABIRU IBRAHIM	M	21	✓	✓		STUDENT
126	✓	126	HUWAILA IBRAHIM	F	26	✓	✓		HIWIFE
127	✓	127	YALUZA SHUAIBU	M	24	✓	✓		STUDENT
128	✓	128	AISHA ABBAS	F	15	✓	✓		✓
129	✓	129	FATIMA ABBAS	F	18	✓	✓		✓
130	✓	130	SANI NANI	M	51	✓	✓		FARMING
131	✓	131	YAKI BABA SANI	M	35	✓	✓		HIWIFE
132	✓	132	INA SANI	F	28	✓	✓		✓
133	✓	133	BASTU SANI	M	27	✓	✓		STUDENT
134	✓	134	NAMA SANI	F	20	✓	✓		HIWIFE
135	✓	135	AISHA SANI	F	20	✓	✓		✓
136	✓	136	ABBYA SANI	F	10	✓	✓		STUDENT
137	✓	137	KAMALU SANI	M	10	✓	✓		✓
138	✓	138	KURAJA SANI	F	15	✓	✓		✓
139	✓	139	AHMED IBRAHIM	M	15	✓	✓		FARMING
140	✓	140	ABBA DRUSKAR	M	67	✓	✓		✓
141	✓	141	UMMA AHMED	F	49	✓	✓		HIWIFE
142	✓	142	FATIMA AHMED	F	18	✓	✓		STUDENT
143	✓	143	MUSBAHU AHMED	M	35	✓	✓		✓
144	✓	144	BASHAR AHMED	M	22	✓	✓		✓
145	✓	145	SADISU D. LAWAN	M	17	✓	✓		FARMING
146	✓	146	LAWAN WATASHI	M	25	✓	✓		STUDENT
147	✓	147	ABUBAKAR AHMED	M	18	✓	✓		✓
148	✓	148	FURKAN IS	M	15	✓	✓		FARMING
149	✓	149	LAWAN WATASHI	M	23	✓	✓		STUDENT

Sports

EGYPT 2006 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP Egypt's home brew face Ivorian exports

Host nation Egypt will attempt to win a record fifth African Nations Cup title when their team of home-based players face Ivory Coast's impressive array of European exports in Friday's final.

The Egyptians, who on paper possess only an average team, have been swept to the final on a wave of patriotic fervour after overcoming initial scepticism among their own public.

Ivory Coast, meanwhile, have got steadily better as the tournament has worn on,

eliminating any doubts about their World Cup credentials as they prepare for their first finals appearance in Germany in June.

Almost uniquely in a tournament where most players ply their trade with foreign clubs, 19 of Egypt's 23-man squad are based locally, and the most prominent of the four exports will be missing from the final.

Tottenham Hotspur striker Mido, who has scored only one goal in the tournament, was kicked out of the squad on Wednesday for his tempestuous

reaction to being substituted in the 2-1 semi-final win over Senegal.

Mido, who has also been banned from the team for six months, was involved in a furious row with coach Hassan Shehata as he left the field in the 78th minute.

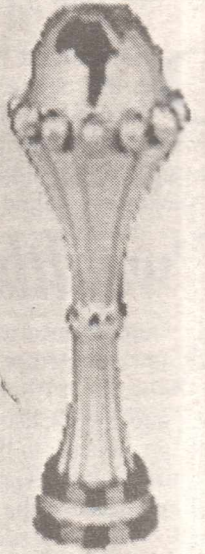
Shehata, who took part in three Nations Cup tournaments as a player, was proved right as Mido's replacement, Amr Zaki, headed the winner three minutes later.

Zaki, who plays for ENPPI, could be rewarded with a place in Friday's starting line-up.

The other recognised forwards still in the squad are Al Ahli's Emab Moteab and 39-year-old Hossam Hassan of Al Masry, one of three survivors in the squad from Egypt's last title in Burkina Faso in 1998.

In contrast, Ivory Coast's attack will be led by one of the world's most expensive and high-profile players, Chelsea striker Didier Drogba.

Unlike Mido, Drogba, who emigrated to France as a five-year-old, has been an inspiration for his side, scoring three of their six goals.



Rabou. Helped his club to a place in last year's African Champions League semifinals.

11-Mohamed Shawki (Al Ahli). Born 5.10.81. Caps: 34 Goals: 3 Has taken five years in and out of the squad before establishing himself as the team's key defensive midfielder.

Scored against Cameroon both home and away in the 2006 World Cup qualifiers.

12-Mohamed Barakat (Al Ahli). Born 7.9.76 Caps: 60 Goals: 8 Voted best African player of 2005 by the BBC after playing a starring role in November's African Champions League triumph. Former Egyptian footballer of the year, started career at Qmail, and has also played in Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

17-Ahmed Hassan (Besiktas, Turkey). Born 2.5.75 Caps: 117 Goals: 16. Scored Egypt's second goal in the 1998 Nations Cup final victory against South Africa and four at the current tournament. This is Hassan's sixth Nations Cup tournament where he is captain of the team.

18-Samir Sabri (ENPPI). Born 13.1.80 Caps: 3 Goals: 0 Replaced the injured Osama Hosni just before the start of the Nations Cup tournament. Captain of his club side who were surprise runners-up in the Egyptian league last season and play in this year's African Champions League.

22-Mohamed Aboutrika (Al Ahli). Born 7.11.78. Caps: 28 Goals: 9 Star of Al Ahli's African Champions League winning side last year and has played a pivotal role for Egypt at the Nations Cup. Scored five goals in his first six internationals, but did not score again for 11 games.

STRIKERS
9-Hossam Hassan (Al Masry). Born 10.8.66. Caps: 168 Goals: 71. Legend of the African game, playing in a record-equaling seventh Nations Cup tournament at the age of 39. He won all the major honours in African football, except for the African Footballer of the Year award.

10-Emad Moteab (Al Ahli). Born 20.2.83 Caps: 19 Goals: 10 Had an excellent start to his international career, scoring seven goals in his first eight games and has contributed three more at the Nations Cup finals. Scored six goals as his club won last year's African Champions League title.

14-Abdelhalim Ali (Zamalek). Born 24.10.73 Caps: 41 Goals: 9. Has made only a substitute appearance in his third Nations Cup finals appearance. A former Champions League and Egyptian championship winner with Zamalek.

15-Mido (Tottenham Hotspur, England). Born 23.2.83 Caps: 43 Goals: 17. Expelled from the squad on Wednesday after a confrontation with coach Shehata when he was taken off in Tuesday's semifinal win over Senegal. Scored on his debut for Egypt, and played in the two previous Nations Cup finals.

19-Amr Zaki (ENPPI). Born 1.4.83 Caps: 22 Goals: 14. Zaki's goals took unfashionable ENPPI to second place in the 2005 Egyptian league. Scored a hat trick against Benin in the 2004 World Cup qualifiers last year.

21-Ahmed Eid Abdelmalek (Harras El Hodoud). Born 15.5.80 Caps: 9 Goals: 2 Plays for coach's Hassan Shehata's club, who are based in Alexandria. Has not made any appearances at the Nations Cup finals in Egypt.



Ivory Coast squad

GOALKEEPERS

1-Jean-Jacques Tizie (Esperance, Tunisia). Born 7.9.72. Caps: 20 Goals: 0. First choice goalkeeper, who made his debut in a friendly in 1995 but waited five years before his second cap at the start of the 2002 World Cup qualifying campaign. Only African-based player in the Ivorian squad at the Nations Cup.

23-Boubacar Barry (Beveren, Belgium). Born 30.12.79. Caps: 5 Goals: 0. Second choice goalkeeper who made a cameo appearance at the tournament as a substitute in the group match against Egypt. One of more than a half a dozen Ivorian players at his Belgian club.

16-Gerard Gnanhouan (Montpellier, France). Born 12.2.79. Caps: 6 Goals: 0. Last played for the national side when they lost 3-2 at home to Cameroon in a World Cup qualifier in September, a match where he received considerable criticism for his performance. Spent three seasons at Sochaux, including participating in the UEFA Cup.

DEFENDERS

3-Arthur Boka (Racing Strasbourg, France). Born 2.4.83. Caps: 18 Goals: 1. Began his career at ASEC Abidjan's academy and was among the first wave of players to leave for Beveren in Belgium under the tutelage of the Frenchman Jean-Marc Guillou. Won the French League Cup in May with Racing Strasbourg.

20-Guy Demel (Hamburg SV, Germany). Born 13.6.81 Caps: 6 Goals: 0. Parisian-born of Ivorian parentage, Demel has spent most of his professional career in Germany and has played both in defence and midfield. Made his first start for the Ivorians in the group match against Egypt on Jan. 28.

17-Cyrille Domoraud (Creteil, France). Born 22.7.71 Caps: 47 Goals: 0. Elder statesman of the side who now provides defensive cover and has made only one appearance in Egypt. Has played at major clubs like Girondins Bordeaux, Olympique Marseille, Inter Milan, Monaco and Espanyol in Spain but is now back with French Ligue 2 club Creteil, where he began his professional career in 1992.

21-Emmanuel Eboue (Arsenal, England). Born 4.6.83. Caps: 8 Goals: 0 Started his career as striker but now a defender to watch for in the future, forging a place at right back during the Nations Cup finals. Played in the 2004 Belgian Cup final and accumulated 70 appearances in three seasons at Beveren before moving to England.

6-Blaise Kossi Kouassi (Troyes, France). Born 2.2.75 Caps: 32 Goals: 0. Squad member at four Africa Nations Cup finals tournaments but made only one appearance during the World Cup qualifiers in 2005. Won the 1998 African Champions League with ASEC Abidjan before a transfer to Guingamp in France.

13-Marc Zoro (Messina, Italy). Born 27.12.83 Caps: 12 Goals: 0. Born in Abidjan but taken to Italy as a teenager where he signed at Salernitana. Made headlines in recent months as the subject of some stinging racial abuse in the Italian league, a practice which he has harshly condemned.

4-Kolo Toure (Arsenal, England). Born 19.3.81 Caps: 39 Goals: 1 Outstanding in defence for the Ivorians at the Nations Cup finals, which heralds the start of a busy year with Champions League and World Cup commitments lying ahead of him. Won an English premier league championship medal in 2004 and an FA Cup winners' medal last year.

2-Kanga Akale (AJ Auxerre, France). Born 7.3.81. Caps: 18 Goals: 2 Unheralded player in his own country who only came to prominence after moving to Switzerland, first at FC Sion and later for FC Zurich. Scored the first goal in the 3-1 win over Sudan last October that booked the Elephants' berth at the 2006 World Cup finals.

7-Emerse Fae (FC Nantes, France). Born 24.1.84 Caps: 9 Goals: 0 A winner of the world under-17 championships in Trinidad and Tobago with France in 2001, Fae benefited from new FIFA rules which allowed him to change his international status. Born in Nantes, Fae has played a part in all five of the Ivorians' games at the Nations Cup finals in Egypt.

18-Siaka Tiene (St Etienne, France). Born 22.2.82 Caps: 22 Goals: 0 Tiene was part of the teenage ensemble that ASEC Abidjan put out for a famous win in the 1999 African Super Cup and went on to win numerous league and cup titles with the club. Moved in 2003 to Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa and after two seasons in Pretoria signed in July for the French Ligue 1 side St Etienne.

10-Gilles Yapi Yapo (FC Nantes, France). Born 30.1.82. Caps: 24 Goals: 2 Yapi Yapo played for Nantes in the 2004 French League Cup final, where he squandered a penalty in the post-match shootout that Nantes lost. A squad member for the Ivorians at the 2002 African Nations Cup finals in Mali, but did not see any game time in the tournament.

19-Gneri Yaya Toure (Olympiakos, Greece). Born 13.5.83. Caps: 9 Goals: 1. Younger brother of Kolo Toure, who is also originally from the ASEC Abidjan academy and then the Belgian club Beveren, but now competing for Greek champions Olympiakos. An imposing midfielder, his elder brother Kolo often says of him: "He is much better than me".

5-Didier Zokora (St Etienne, France). Born 14.12.80 Caps: 34 Goals: 0 Highly rated defensive midfielder linked in recent months with a possible move to several major European clubs including Manchester United. Zokora joined Belgium's Racing Genk in 2000 and helped

the provincial side to win the league title in 2002 before moving to France.

THE SQUADS

Made only substitute appearances for the Elephants in the 2006 World Cup qualifying campaign but started three games at the tournament in Egypt.

14-Bakary Kone (Nice, France). Born 17.9.81. Caps: 12 Goals: 3. Scored within 16 minutes of coming on for his international debut and has a role now as a substitute striker off the bench to replace either Drogba or Arouna Kone. He was named as the best player in France's Ligue 2 after 24 goals in 35 matches for Lorient in the 2004-05 season, moving up to Ligue 1 with Nice in July.

11-Didier Drogba (Chelsea, England). Born 11.3.78. Caps: 27 Goals: 21. Formerly Africa's most expensive footballer, who cost Chelsea 24.0 million pounds (\$41.85 million) when he moved from Olympique Marseille in 2004. His goal ratio for the Ivorians has been the catalyst for their elevation into first-time World Cup finalists, scoring nine



Egyptian captain Ahmed Hassan, right, vies for an aerial ball with Senegalese Frederic Mendy during Nations Cup semi final in Cairo regular place in the Ivorian starting line-up after not participating in last year's World Cup qualifiers. Moved from ASEC Abidjan to Beveren in 2003 and then Le Mans at the start of the season.

8-Bonaventure Kalou (Paris St Germain, France). Born 12.1.78 Caps: 44. Goals: 10. Former captain of the Ivorian side and among its most influential players, adept both in attack and midfield. He was bought from ASEC Abidjan's academy by Dutch club Feyenoord, where he spent six seasons and in 2002 won the UEFA Cup.

9-Arouna Kone (PSV Eindhoven, Netherlands). Born 11.11.83 Caps: 13 Goals: 2. Striker who has carved a high profile for himself at the Nations Cup finals and from whom much is expected at the upcoming World Cup finals.

2-Ahmed El Sayed (Al Ahli). Born 30.10.80. Caps: 1 Goals: 0 Captain of Al Ahli as they won the African Champions League last November with his performances earning him a call-up to the Nations Cup. Chosen because club team mate Emad El Nahas was injured.

3-Mohamed Abdelwahab (Al Ahli). Born 1.10.83 Caps: 11 Goals: 0. Injured for much of the second half of 2005 but came back for a cameo role as Al Ahli won the Champions League. Also competed in the Club World Championship in Japan in December.

4-Ibrahim Said (Zamalek). Born 16.10.79 Caps: 39 Goals: 2 A surprise choice by coach Hassan Shehata, brought back to the squad in December after almost four years out. Enjoys an image as one of the 'bad boys' of Egyptian football, sent home from the 2002 Nations Cup finals in Mali for disciplinary reasons.

5-Abdelzاهر El Saqqa (Konyaspor, Turkey). Born 30.1.74 Caps: 100 Goals: 3 The latest Egyptian player to break the 100-cap mark with his appearance in Tuesday's semi-final. Played in the side that won the 1998 Nations Cup title in Burkina Faso.

7-Ahmed Fathi (Ismaili). Born 10.11.84. Caps: 28 Goals: 0 Was the first choice right-back going into the tournament but lost his place after a poor performance in the last warm-up friendly against South Africa on Jan. 14. Made his debut for Egypt a month after his 18th birthday and is competing at his Nations Cup finals.

13-Tarek El Sayed (Zamalek). Born 9.10.78. Caps: 41 Goals: 5 Competing in his third successive Nations Cup tournament but has made just one start. A flying left back who is also a past winner of the African Champions League with Zamalek in 2002.

20-Wael Gomaa (Al Ahli). Born 3.8.75. Caps: 39 Goals: 0 Uncompromising central defender, who has played in all five of Egypt's matches en route to the final. His achievements also include two previous Nations Cup finals appearances and a 2005 African Champions Cup winners' medal.

MIDFIELDERS
6-Hassan Mostafa (Al Ahli). Born 20.11.79 Caps: 20 Goals: 0 Hard-working midfielder whose role at the tournament has been as a second-half substitute. Made debut in late 2003 but then was not picked again until a year later, when Hassan Shehata took over as coach.

8-El Moataz Mohamed Salama (Zamalek). Born 9.11.84 Caps: 0 Goals: 0 Brought into the squad one day before the tournament started as a replacement for Racing Strasbourg midfielder Hosni Abd

16-Abdelwahed El Sayed

GOALKEEPERS
1-Essam Al Hadari (Al Ahli). Born 15.1.73. Caps: 61 Goals: 0. Has produced several outstanding performances in the Nations Cup tournament to help his side to Friday's final. Was in the squad when Egypt last won the event in 1988 but did not play in the tournament in Burkina Faso.

16-Abdelwahed El Sayed

16-Abdelwahed El Sayed

Sports

Eagles Ouster: Nigerians call for probe

Disappointed by the dismal outing of the Super Eagles at Tuesday's semi-finals of the Nations Cup in Egypt, soccer fans in Abuja have called for a

probe into the circumstances that led defeat of the Eagles by the Ivorians.

A cross section of fans who spoke to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja blamed both the players

and the technical crew for the unimpressive performance, which ended the country's dream of winning the coveted trophy.

Mr Joseph Kola, an

insurance broker said he was shocked by the way the Eagles played through out the encounter and said: "the players were just too casual as if nothing was at stake".

Kola said he was not

surprised that the team, lost at the end because the opponents were more serious and determined.

"The coach needs to tell us why he decided to use Nwankwo Kanu at the beginning of the match, when Jay Jay Okocha was okay," he said.

Abdullahi Shuaibu a sports analyst corroborated Kola's claim and called on the sports ministry to organise a stake holders forum to unravel the circumstances leading to the poor outing.

Abdullahi said the coach appeared to have been confused into using a faulty formation for the team, adding his refusal to change the system after the first half created more problems.

Hassan Sarkin-ruwa,

another fan said coach Austin Eguavoen must resign, adding that defeat was a pointer to the fact that Nigeria had an urgent need to secure the services of a foreign coach.

Sarkin-ruwa said the country must abandon its plan of using local coaches if it intended to continue making impact in international football.

He called on the sports ministry to start the process of getting a new foreign coach.

But Musa Shehu, a commercial motorcyclist, said the team should not be blamed for the poor outing attributing the problem to ill luck.

C'wealth Trials: 700 athletes converge in Abuja

About 700 local athletes are expected in Abuja for the 17th Mobil Track and Field Championships, preparatory to the

Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, Australia, next month.

The championship is billed to hold between Feb. 9 and Feb. 11 at the main bowl of the National Stadium, Abuja.

The Chief Coach, Athletic

Federation of Nigeria (AFN), Ms Amelia Edet, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja that the athletes would later be joined by their foreign-based counterparts.

"The three-day event is meant to prepare our athletes for the games and it is open to all our athletes wishing to exhibit their talents," Edet said.

She said that the annual event, which usually holds in

June was shifted backwards to enable the federation make final selection for the country's flag bearers in athletics at the games.

She told NAN that AFN had made adequate arrangements to ensure a hitch free competition.

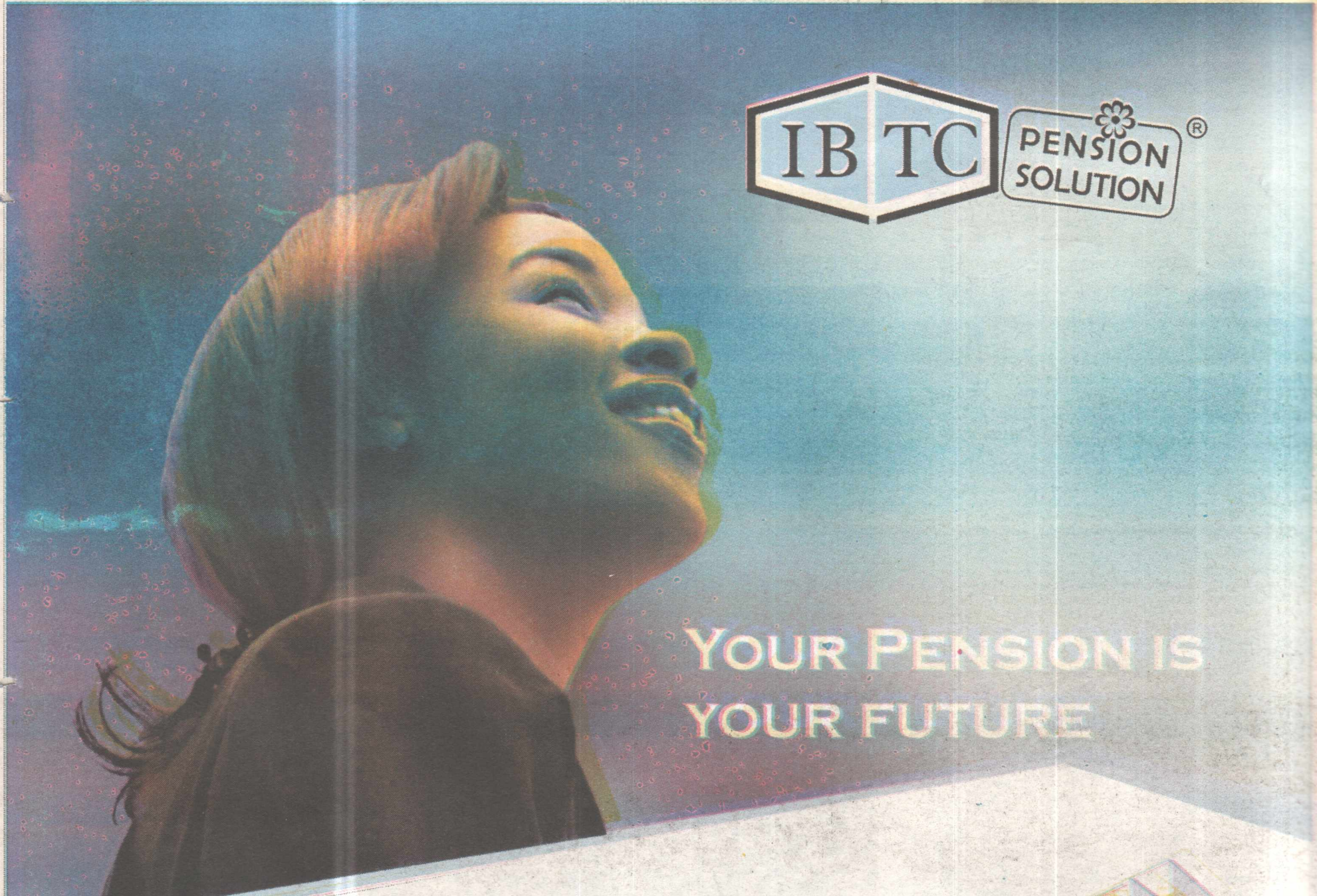
About 42 track and field events would be competed for. About N7.5 million cash prizes is up for grabs at the championship sponsored by

ExxonMobil.

NAN correspondents covering the championship, report that AFN

technical officials were seen putting finishing touches to the tracks and field.

Some athletes, who have arrived from various states and the FCT were also seen practicing for the championship at the stadium's practice pitches.



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Sports

EGYPT 2006 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

Don't cry over spilt milk

Reactions have continued to pour in following The Super Eagles failure to make it past the semi-finals of the ongoing Nations Cup in Egypt. The teams' coordinator

Sumonu Bello Osagie was on live to sports radio 88.9 Brila fm Wednesday morning.

He described it as very unfortunate adding that the officials and players were not

-Eagles co-ordinator

proud of the situation. He also informed Nigerians that a lot went wrong with the

"We knew we had the boys who could do the job but a lot went wrong with the

boys, things that we could not explain we should however stop crying over spilt milk and focus on the third place match Thursday against Senegal."

Bello-Osagie said there were series of meetings

after the match adding that they had a long night.

As a parting shot Sumonu Bello-Osagie called on Nigerians to put heads together and reflect on how to find a way forward for the Super Eagles.

Eagles get World Cup 2010 backing

Though they were bundled out of the Africa Nations Cup at the semi final stage by Cote d'Ivoire, the Super Eagles have been tipped to become the continent's top team at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, Nigeriansportsonline.com can report.

This verdict is coming from highly revered sports journalist Mark Gleeson, who is in Egypt covering the 25th Africa Nations Cup for a number of print and electronic media organisations.

Gleeson, a South African and regarded as an encyclopedia on the African game told Nigeriansportsonline.com:

"It was rather disappointing that your Super Eagles lost to the Elephants of Ivory Coast.

"But then this Nigerian team carries a lot of hope for the future.

"These Eagles are a you-



Eguavoen

ng bunch of talented players and from what I've seen here they will be leading Africa's challenge for the World Cup in 2010.

"With the World Cup coming to Africa for the first time then, if there is an African team to win it then it is this Eagles team.

"They have shown a lot of promise at this Nations Cup."

Sambawa boosts Eagles

Sports Minister Samaila Sambawa has lifted the spirits of the Super Eagles ahead of yesterday's Nations Cup third-place match against Senegal here in Cairo as he got the NFA to pay them 50 per cent of their win bonus for losing to Cote d'Ivoire while the Eagles stars who lost money at their hotel rooms were refunded

promptly.

Sambawa had dinner with the squad at the Movenpick Hotel in the Giza area near the famous pyramids and really got the players in battle mood when he announced these handsome cash rewards.

"I'm ready to play my heart out," said midfielder Wilson Oruma, who was paid the 6,000 US dollars he lost to

thieves at the team's hotel in Alexandria.

"I never expected to get the money back but the Minister really took me by surprise."

Coach Austin Eguavoen picked up the bonuses of the players late Wednesday at the Marriot Hotel in Cairo, which serves as headquarters for the NFA.

Sambawa said he was

excited with the response of the players.

"They are ready to go and get at least a bronze medal from this tournament," he said.

"We were already thinking of the final, forgetting that we will have to beat Cote d'Ivoire in the semifinal and that was what cost us the game on Tuesday."

Mido makes public apology

Egypt striker Mido has apologised for his touchline row with coach Hassan Shehata in the semi-finals of the African Cup of Nations.

Talking on an Egyptian television channel a day after the incident he apologized to the public and the coach.

"I want to apologize to all the fans and to my coach and I hope that nobody is still upset with me," he said.

"I just wanted to play and be part of this great accomplishment. Yes, I made a mistake and I accept the punishment."

Mido's reaction to being substituted against Senegal has seen him thrown out of the squad and told he will not be picked for six months by Egypt.

"The thing is I haven't insulted the manager," he told BBC Radio Five Live.

"I said why, why are you always changing me? He's not that professional that he came to argue with me."

Mido's replacement Amr Zaki went on to score the winner against Senegal and book Egypt's spot in Friday's final against Ivory Coast.

Asked if he was sorry for his actions, Mido added: "I feel sorry for the fans, all the Egyptian people because they wanted me to play the final.

"I wanted to play the final because I wanted to win the tournament and I wanted to share the moment with my team-mates.

"A lot of people will feel sorry for what has happened and I do as well as it's really disappointing."

Mido, who believes his punishment was an overreaction, did not rule out playing under Shehata again but insists he will now concentrate on trying to help club side

Tottenham to qualify for Europe.

"All I'm thinking about now is that I want to forget about what happened here," he added.

"I want to come back to London and train with my Tottenham team-mates. I want to score goals and win games with Spurs and qualify for Europe."

The decision of Egypt's football authorities has not received the support of key players who believe he has been treated harshly.

"My own feeling is that the decision was out of proportion. We needed Mido in this game," said striker Hossam Hassan, who had to restrain Mido during the altercation with Shehata.

"I have known him since we were kids, he's just eager to play.

"He tried to apologise for what happened but the FA people made the problem bigger. Mido is not the only one to lose out - it's the whole team, the fans and the Egyptian Football Association.

"People might think I'm wrong but I've seen that happen with other big players who got upset.

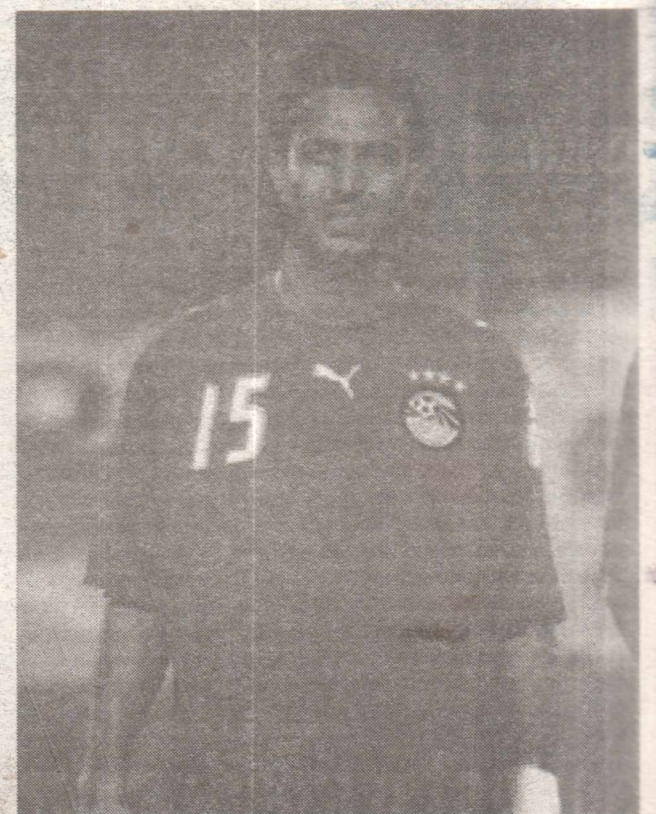
"We've made a problem for ourselves and I'm not happy with this decision," said 39-year-old Hassan, Africa's most capped international player.

Mohamed Barakat, the reigning BBC African Footballer of the Year, shared Hassan's feelings.

"The fact that he is not here is making us weaker. But we have to accept that Mido is not going to be here.

"We have to be self-sufficient and any player who replaces him has to do the business.

"We are all frustrated by



Mido was apologetic after the show of shame

this, we need Mido because he can play anywhere on the pitch.

"We have Hossam Hassan, Emad Moteab and Amr Zaki and if Allah wills it we will win the Nations Cup, whether Mido is here or not."

Giving an insight into events behind the scenes, Barakat added: "Mido said 'I want to stay with the squad to the end - don't exclude me, even if I made a mistake.'"

"It was a nice thing for him to have said. For me, what happened yesterday was out of jealousy and love.

"Even if he was a bit out of line, it was just a clarification between him and the coach."

Although defender Wael Gomaa admitted that Mido's outburst was unacceptable.

he felt it was Mido's passion for the team that was responsible for his bad behaviour.

"I think Mido was wrong in what he did. But Mido is still young and he is not experienced.

"He wants to be on the field and wants to score goals but his behaviour is not good."

Gomaa said the Egyptians were fortunate to overcome the conflict and beat Senegal in what was a keenly contested encounter.

"In my mind I thought we will lose after something like this. But thank God for the win. It was a very difficult moment but that's football."

Egypt, four-time winners of the African Cup of Nations, are seeking an unprecedented fifth title on Friday.



Senegal's Henri Camara, right, is challenged by Egypt's Mido



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EDITORIAL

Corruption and the people

The most depressing fact which is beginning to emerge in the nation's contemporary political life today is the thoroughly amoral response of members of the electorate to issues relating to the probity and personal integrity of their elected leaders. The startling and, no doubt, alarming reaction of the Nigerian people to President Obasanjo's war on corruption among public office holders has been, inexplicably, either complete indifference or outright hostility.

When impeached Bayelsa State governor, Diepreye Alamieyeseigha, first jumped British bail and arrived back in his Nigerian homestead a couple of months ago, his people (whose money he was accused of having stolen and attempted to launder away overseas) lionised him instead of ostracising him. It took some time and considerable effort for the federal authorities to extract a belated disgust for the embarrassment which the deposed governor had brought to his state and country among the people. Their initial response had been to regard Alamieyeseigha as a kind of spurious folk hero. Some of them even argued that the money which he was alleged to have stolen was their own state's money, not federal money any longer, some of them even saying that as far as they were concerned, they were not complaining to anybody that their money had been stolen and carted abroad. Nothing that has happened so far shows convincing proof that the people of Bayelsa State have now come around to approving or applauding how the federal government and its agencies like the EFCC succeeded, albeit sloppily, in bringing the man eventually to face the law.

If anybody was tempted to believe that the indifference and palpable hostility of the people of Bayelsa to the removal and arrest of their former governor had something to do with the general resentment and restiveness among the people of the Niger Delta toward the rest of the country over the sharing of crude oil revenue, such a rationalisation must have rapidly melted by now, in the face of the similar and even older case of Plateau State. That state's governor, Mr. Joshua Dariye, had been arrested much earlier in the United Kingdom and held by the British police for a similar money laundering offence. But he jumped bail and ran back home to take cover under the immunity which the Nigerian constitution bestows upon him, and has refused either to resign honorably or report himself back to the British authorities since then.

Like the people of Bayelsa, those of Plateau do not seem to see anything morally repulsive or unacceptable in having a criminal suspect at the helm of their public affairs. Only when the EFCC moved to freeze the accounts of the entire state did the people of Plateau begin to react in various ways, some of them calling on Mr. Dariye to resign honorably and proceed to face the laws of Nigeria and the UK, while others (among them respected leaders) are still encouraging the criminal suspect to continue to hang tough, remain in office and defy federal authority as well as all known laws of public morality.

Now, what worries us very much in these two cases is the fact that free-born Nigerian citizens who are such a strong component of a national community which complains so much about the damage which corruption in high public office has done to their country, should be so strongly supportive of their political leaders who are caught red-handed, so to say, in corrupt practices at this stage of our national experience. Not only does this inexplicable response of our people to abuse of public trust and criminal behaviour among their leaders show that Nigerians deserve what they get in corrupt leaders because the people are themselves so irredeemably corrupt, but that we have not yet even begun to scratch the very surface of this gargantuan national malady. In other words, corruption thrives so strongly in this country because the people themselves approve of it, and consider it an unpardonable sin for their political leaders to be honest.

Since no serious nation can allow its house to be erected on a foundation of such corruption, however, what we are seeing today is only serving us early warning that we all have to rise up as a united national community to give serious battle to this corruption epidemic. It is a battle which is too big for us to leave to the Obasanjo Administration alone to prosecute, and no amount of appeals to primordial and unreasonable instincts must be allowed to distract us from calling a thief a thief. Even in spite of themselves, the people of Nigeria must be made to accept the cold fact that being led by thieves is an anathema to all decent human societies. It is not our leaders alone who are corrupt. We, their followers are equally corrupt too, and we have no other option but to purge our leaders as well as ourselves of this self-destructive malady.

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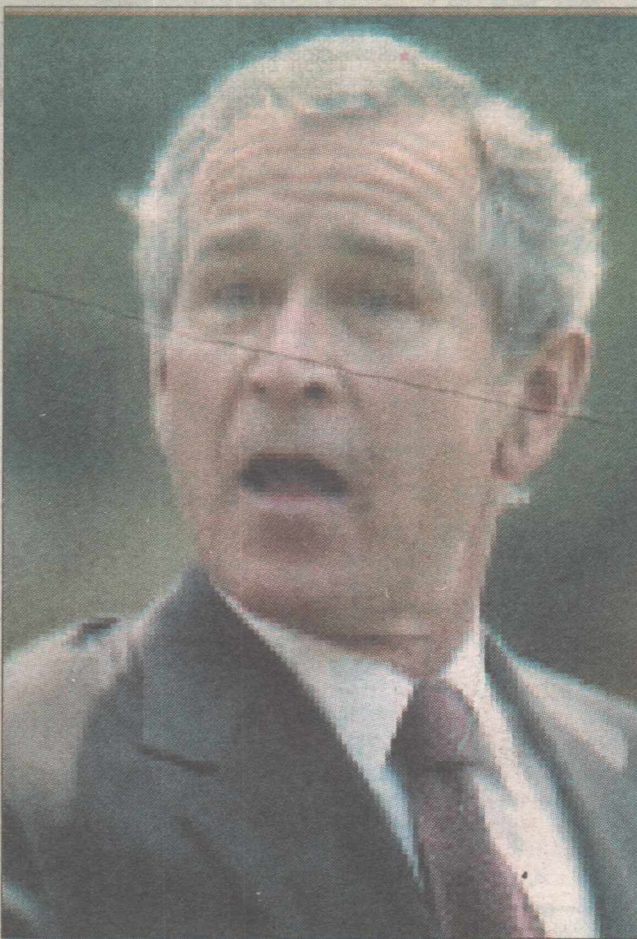
Friday, February 10, 2006

Blasphemy: A new defining moment

By Adamu Adamu

If the Danish *Jyllands-Posten* and, in its wake, European newspapers had merely drawn just an ordinary cartoon of the Holy Prophet of Islam [SAW], it would have been enough to outrage the feelings of all Muslims and, hopefully, that of all religious people of goodwill, the world over. And there would have been demonstrations and loss of lives. As it was, this time the insult was double.

The Holy Prophet [SAW] was depicted in a doubly most obscene and most objectionable way as a terrorist. And going by the protests that swept portions of the Muslim World, people who know would probably say that, in view of the gravity of the provocation, the reaction had been surprisingly mild. But instead of accepting this fact and going on to look for the right solutions from that standpoint, the West is once again pushing its head into the sand.



George W. Bush, US President

As I write this piece, Imam Ahmad Abu Laban, an Imam of a Copenhagen mosque is being made the sacrificial lamb in the matter by the Danish government of Prime Minister Anders Foges Rasmussen. According to the government, it was Abu Laban who must take the blame for all the riots going on, because he had travelled to the Middle East to incite his two-billion strong brethren to take a stand in the matter of the cartoon blasphemy.

And for the government of the United States of America, what is happening was not the spontaneous reaction of an *Ummah* that had been wounded, but the calculated plot of some countries trying to use the occasion for their own purposes. According to US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, "Syria and Iran have gone out of their way to inflame sentiments."

This attitude is an even bigger and more gratuitous insult to Muslims than the cartoons themselves. Certainly, Muslims don't need anyone to go round inflaming their passions when the honour of the Holy Prophet is assaulted. But suppose Iran and Syria did in fact incite and inflame sentiments, why shouldn't they? It is a religious duty for them to do so, even if the Americans do not like it.

When on February 14, 1989, Imam Khomeini [*quddisa sirruh al-sharif*] passed the sentence of death in absentia on Indian-born Salman Rushdie, author of *The Satanic Verses*, he was performing a religious duty:

"I give the glad tidings to proud Muslims all over the world that the author of the book, *The Satanic Verses*, which is opposed to Islam, opposed to the Most Noble Messenger and against the Holy Qur'an, and everybody involved in the book's publication who is aware of its contents, is hereby condemned to death. I challenge all Muslims to execute these persons wherever they may be found."

And if they were to look the length and breadth of the earth in search of the true Muslim who was opposed to the Imam in

his *fatwa*, they would not find him. No doubt, given the choice, Muslims would prefer that the world went to blazes than that the honour and sanctity of the Holy Prophet [SAW], or that of Jesus Christ [AS] or, for that matter, that any of God's prophets be violated. For peace to reign in the world, people must accept that Moses [AS], Jesus [AS] and Muhammad [SAW] must at all times be deserving of, and receiving, respect and adoration and be above this type of disrespectful caricaturing.

In several countries in the Middle East, the protests against the cartoons ended with the symbolic burning of flags. This time, the flags of Denmark, the United States of America, even though the Americans had offered a half-hearted support to the Muslims and the other half to the Danes, and the flag of Israel were burnt. Why?

Of course, the West would never understand what was happening and what would continue to happen in the Muslim World and the relationship between it and the Muslim World until it properly understood what Zionism had done to the West itself—and especially the cultural and moral consequences that had resulted from the Zionist assault on religious values.

And ultimately, therefore, the West must make a choice between its current position of sponsoring, protecting and underwriting Zionism in the name of progress or the advancement of democracy and the chance to live in peace and harmony with the Muslims of the world. While for Muslims, Zionism includes matters relating to Israel, the Middle East conflict and related misfortunes, it is by no means limited to that. It is indeed a much vaster concern.

Nowadays, the most objectionable harvests of cultural Zionism have been indigenised by the West. After the period of colonialism, we have been made to enter the era of globalisation in which we are expected to trade our spiritual values for economic development. In the name of the freedom of expression, they corrupt the morality of the world; and in the name of the freedom of conscience, they fight the basis of religion and deny its claims on man. These false freedoms, what are they worth? What does it profit anyone if divine personalities are insulted?

Muslims do not know which god legislated that the freedom of expression, for instance, is a more important value than the sanctity of Messengers of God. Even in the Christian way from which the West has sprung and which it falsely claims to follow, blasphemy is well recognised. In the Old Law, the blasphemer was punished by death. "The man that curseth His God, shall bear his sin: And he that blasphemeth the name of the Lord, dying let him die: all the multitude shall stone him, whether he be a native or a stranger. He that blasphemeth the name of the Lord, dying let him die" [Leviticus 24:15-16].

Lord Scarman of the British House of Lords said at the Whitehouse prosecution: "Every publication is said to be blasphemous which contains any contemptuous, reviling, scurrilous or ludicrous matter relating to God, Jesus Christ, or the Bible, or the formularies of the Church of England, as by law established..." This is a provision of the law that must be extended to all other faiths if their so-called interfaith roundtables are really serious about religious peace in the world. The way forward does not lie in the repeal of this law but in its general application to cover other non-Christian faiths.

A recent report of the House seems to indicate much the same. It says: "The law of blasphemy is discriminatory. It prevents (say) a Muslim from speaking about the sacred entities of Christianity in ways that would not be criminal if a Christian were to speak in similar terms about Islam. This violates Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) taken together with Article 10, unless an objective and rational justification for the difference in treatment can be shown. Furthermore, failure to protect a Muslim against abuse of his religion might also violate Article 14 taken together with Article 9. Although the European Commission rejected an application based on Article 14 taken together with 9 in the "Satanic Verses" case, that predated the heightened respect for protection against abuse shown by the Court in *Otto-Preminger Institut* and might not be decided in the same way today.

Right here at home, it will appear that the right steps have been taken, and I must commend the Christian Association of Nigeria, CAN, for its decision to forcefully come out in support of Muslims and in total condemnation of the blasphemy. It takes not a little courage to overcome all this period of acrimony between them and Muslim groups and stand up for the truth favourable to an erstwhile opponent. This stand might also be indicative of CAN's realisation that one attack against one divine sanctity is an attack against all divine sanctities.

Many of us, for instance, were very sad that the fact and details of Martin Scorsese's film, *The Last Temptation of Christ* Cont. on Page 9