

# DAILY TRUST



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**The Man of the Moment**  
**The Great Reformer**  
**2007**  
**Kyan Tafiya**  
**Dawowa**




Courtesy: Dr. Haruna Usman Mashegu

**COUNT DOWN TO CENSUS 2006**  
**(21 - 25 March)**  
**42 DAYS TO GO**  
**ONLY PERSONS PHYSICALLY SEEN BY**  
**ENUMERATORS WILL BE COUNTED**



Courtesy: National Population Commission

**ORJI KALU**  
**For**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**2007**  
*For Generational Change*



## PDP decides on Atiku today

The ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), disciplinary committee will meet today to decide appropriate punishment to be meted out to alleged errant members. Today's meeting may also recommend punitive measures against the Vice President, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, believed to be on the committee's list of high pro-

By Emmanuel Bello,  
Political Editor

file members engaged in alleged anti-party activities.

Chairman of the disciplinary committee, Alhaji Ibrahim Shema, told *Daily Trust* yesterday that he would not comment on the cases before his committee reiterating his earlier position that he would not

be both a judge and the jury in the matter. He however confirmed that the committee will meet to consider the cases before it.

On the speculations that the name of the vice president is on the committee's agenda, Alhaji Shema who is also the party's deputy national chairman (North), said that he would adequately speak on

the committee's activity after its meeting, observing that he can not preempt the committee's proceedings.

A newspaper (not *Daily Trust*), reported last Thursday

## Govs meet on 3rd term

State governors will meet in Abuja tomorrow, reportedly to take a final stand on the constitutional amendment, especially the contentious issue of tenure extension.

Sources told *Daily Trust* that the governors who are likely beneficiaries are expected to support constitutional amendment for a third term for political office holders.

However, a source said it may not be an easy sail because there are governors that have refused to come aboard the third term train.

The source points to the fact that Governor George Akume, Mr. Boni Haruna (Adamawa) and Sam Egwu (Ebonyi) departed half way through the governors forum's meeting in Abuja two weeks ago when the third term issue was being discussed.

Similarly, the source said some state governors did not even turn up for the meeting. They are, Governor Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Lagos state, Chief Joshua Dariye, Plateau, Dr. Chris Ngige, Anambra

that the vice president was billed to appear before the panel to be tried for alleged anti-party activities which includes funding the Movement for the Restoration and

Defence of Democracy. "Abubakar, it was learnt is to answer questions before the committee on his alleged disloyalty to Obasanjo and the

*Cont. on Pg. 2*

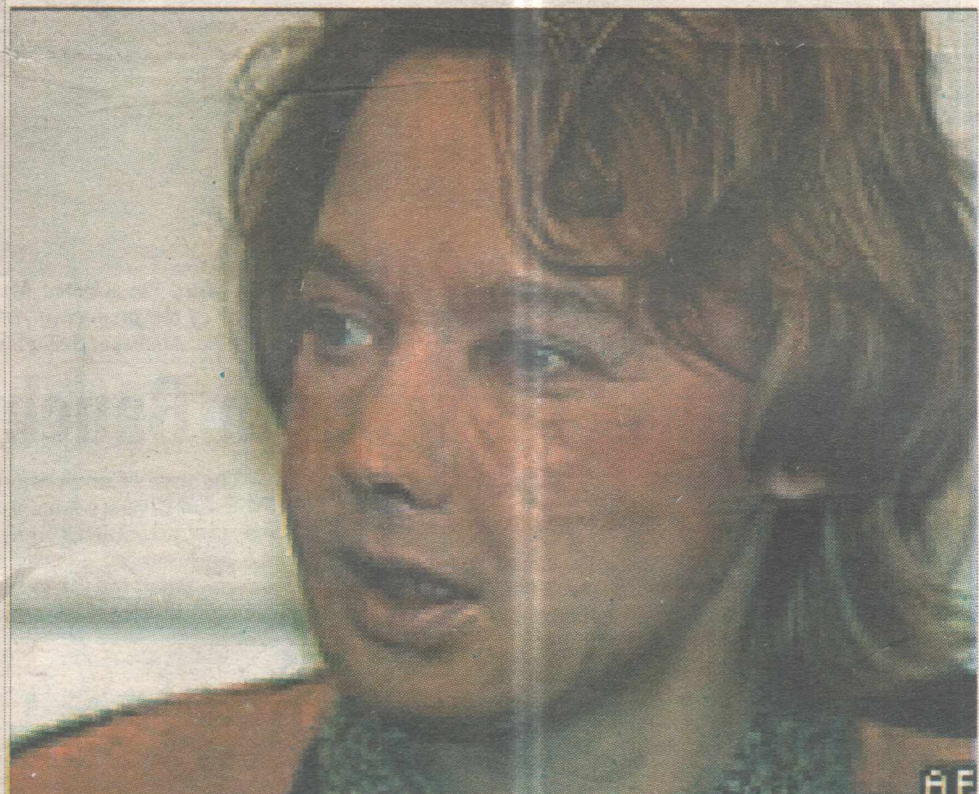
By Emmanuel Bello, Political Editor & Sufuyan Ojiefu, Special Correspondent

state and Orji Uzor Kalu, Abia State. Their absence was widely regarded as a resistance to the president's al-

leged third term plans.

Sources told *Daily Trust* that tomorrow's event will however consolidate on the Governors Forum previous meeting, especially getting

*Cont. on Pg. 2*



Isabelle Dinoire, a 38-year-old French mother of two who received the first facial transplant on 27 November after being mauled by her dog. (See full story on Page 14).

**2007**  
**Sai Kunyi Insha Allah!**



Courtesy: Yerima Solidarity Association

## Mbeki rules out third term

South African President, Thabo Mbeki, has ruled out staying in his post beyond the end of his second term in 2009.

He said the governing Africa National congress (ANC) would not use its two-third parliamentary majority to

change the constitution to allow a third presidential term.

Formerly deputy president, Mr. Mbeki succeeded Nelson Mandela as president in 1999 and was re-elected in 2004.

Some ANC supporters

*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

Reach for something portable in the **Horizon**

# News

## PDP *Cont. from pg. 1*

sponsorship of an opposition party, the Movement for the Restoration and Defence of Democracy," said the paper.

However, the disciplinary committee did not meet as reported. Although there was no official reasons for its inability to meet, sources said the party may be finding it difficult to garner sufficient proof to indict the vice president.

Buttressing this, spokesman to the vice president, Malam Garba Shehu, told *Daily Trust* that the PDP does not have credible grounds to prosecute Atiku. He said that the charge of sponsoring the MRDD cannot be substantiated as nobody has produced a cheque or records of transactions showing that the vice president gave money to the group or attended its meeting.

The MRDD also disowned the vice president yesterday, denouncing media reports that made the claims. Speaking on the matter, the association's interim chairman, Alhaji Gambo Jimeta, said that the VP is not a member nor a financier of the MRDD, even as he lambasted the PDP

as a dying party.

Alhaji Jimeta also distanced the MRDD from any links with the vice president and pointed out that his political organization is the "successor" of the ruling PDP.

The vice president has been linked with the MRDD in recent times, especially when a number of his political associates are said to be in the group. The MRDD, a coalition of the MDD and MRD, has politicians such as Prince Yomi Edu, Chief Audu Ogbeh, Chief (Mrs.) Titi Ajanaku, Alhaji Lawal Kaita, Chief Tom Ikimi, Ms. Funke Adedoyin, among others said to be political associates of the vice president.

Meanwhile, Atiku is said to be shopping for a viable political platform to actualize his presidential ambition in 2007. He is being linked to one of the newly registered party, the ACD, a claim which has since been denied by Garba Shehu, who told *Daily Trust* that "the vice president is still in the PDP and has not made up his mind to run for the office of the president yet."

## 3rd term *Cont. from pg. 1*

dissenting governors to support the amendment. "The matter might even be thrown up in a vote with the majority likely to support the third term issue."

South West PDP governors have however taken their stand on the third term issue when last Friday, they generally endorsed President Olusegun Obasanjo when the latter was in Ogun State for an official visit.

Meanwhile, five state governors allegedly of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), are working for the realization of the third term ambition of President Olusegun Obasanjo, *Daily Trust* investigations has revealed.

The governors of Jigawa, Borno, Yobe, Kebbi and Zamfara states have begun working for the success of the third term project before the Governors Forum meeting, sources said in Abuja, last week, at which the 36 state governors reached a resolution to support a comprehensive amendment of the constitution.

Feelers emerged last week that the Jigawa state governor, Alhaji Saminu Turaki, is in the thick of the planned tenure extension, a project into which he is alleged to have committed about N1 billion in sponsorship of the Unity Forum in the House of Representatives.

The Unity Forum is acting as a counterpoise to the Northern Members Forum in the House of Representatives which is opposed to the extension of tenure of political office holders.

Publicity Secretary of the Unity Forum, Honourable Binta Goji, who said that the forum is to promote peace and unity in the country, said it was unfortunate that such allegations could be made against the patriotic initiative.

"It will interest you, to know how the Unity Forum started. I was just looking at

the coat of arms and I saw unity and progress and I said to myself that we should work for the unity and progress of the nation. Those who are fighting for north/south dichotomy are old people.

Also, but in a quick response to the allegation that Governor Turaki is financially involved in the tenure extension project, his Special Assistant (media), Alhaji Mohammed Murtala, dismissed the allegation as "infantile."

He challenged those he called "faceless peddlers of such dangerous rumour," to come out with documentary evidence to back up their claims, otherwise they should desist from what he called "calculated and continuous attempt to bring Governor Turaki into ridicule in the estimation of Jigawa people."

Murtala wondered where a state like Jigawa would get one billion naira to cough out into a third term project when the state needed such funds to pump into the development of infrastructure. He said the whole thing was a lie, a concoction to disparage Governor Turaki.

According to him, "this is a very big lie. How did he get the money and where is the evidence that Governor Turaki dipped his hands into the public coffers, pulled out one billion and gave it to whoever that is working on the so-called third term agenda?"

"For what purpose would he give that kind of money? If I may ask, does President Obasanjo want a third term in office? Did he tell you journalists that he wants a third term? We are not aware that he wants a third term. And, besides, I do not know why the rumour peddlers have decided to pick on Governor Turaki because he is a quiet, straight-forward and honest person."

## Corruption: EFCC operatives withdraw from Jos

By Andrew Agbese,  
Correspondent (Jos)

There were indications yesterday that the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have withdrawn from Jos after attempts to arrest the Speaker and some members of the Plateau state House of Assembly failed on Sunday.

Our correspondent confirmed in Jos that the EFCC operatives who laid siege on the official quarters of the Speaker and some members had quietly withdrawn from the premises and may have called off their operations in the state.

However, EFCC spokesman Mr. Osita said the agency did not send its men to Jos to arrest the members of the House of Assembly and that it was not interested in arresting the lawmakers.

Mr. Osita Nwajah, who gave the reaction in a telephone chat with our correspondent, also denied being aware of any raid on the houses of the Speaker and six members of the House of Assembly.

Many of the members who were reported to have been arrested by the anti graft body who could not be reached on phone the previous day became accessible on phone

yesterday and refuted claims that they were arrested by the EFCC.

But *Daily Trust* learnt that the EFCC only called off the raid when words leaked of their presence in the state which made the legislators to go underground.

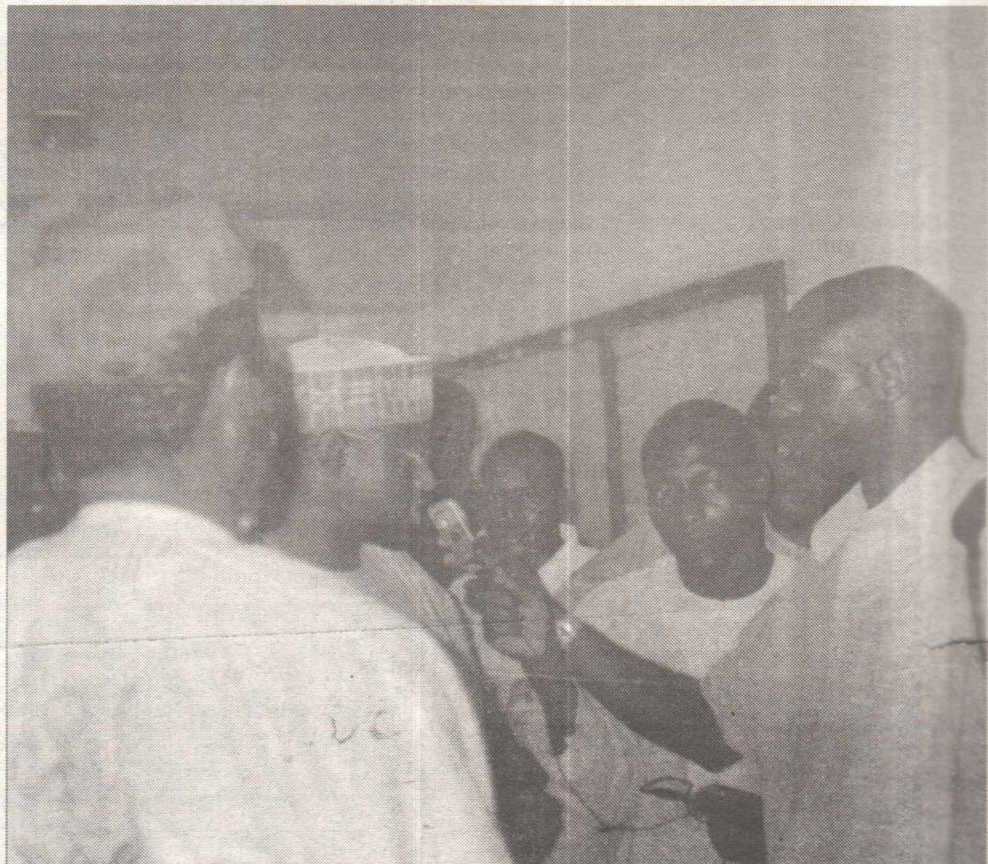
The Deputy Speaker of the

House, Honourable Usman Zumunta Musa, when contacted on phone, stated that he was not arrested and that was away the previous day on a personal trip.

Meanwhile, the member representing Quanpaan constituency, Honourable Mike Dapialong, denied allegations against him that he was instrumental to the EFCC's search of members residence, saying it was unfortunate that

the Speaker could make such allegations against a member when the House had resolved to appear before the EFCC in the event that any of the member is picked.

The Speaker, Honourable Simon Lalong, had accused the member of being the brain behind the raid, saying Dapialong is interested in taking over his position as speaker.



The chairman house committee on states and local government, Hon. Dr. Ahmed Musa Ibeto, answering questions from newsmen after the inspection tour of the project of Abaji Area Council chairman... recently.  
Pic: Abubakar Sadiq Isah.

## Mbeki

*Cont. from pg. 1*

have called for a debate on a constitutional change, promoting speculations over a third term.

But in an interview with South African television, Mr. Mbeki moved to crush such speculations.

He said that even with its more than two-thirds majority, the ANC is not going to use this two-thirds majority fundamentally to alter the constitution.

"By the end of 2009, I will have been in a senior position in government for 15 years. I think that's too long," Mr. Mbeki said, adding that "I think that after 15 years, I should step aside in any case."

The SA National Civics Organisation - a coalition of civic organisations broadly allied to the ANC - has called for a debate on changing the constitution so as to allow the president to run for a third term in office.

But Mr. Mbeki said the ANC does not support that position, despite having won more than two-thirds of the seats in parliament in the 2004 election - enough to change the constitution unilaterally if it so chooses.

"The ANC has taken the position that we don't want to change the constitution," said Mr. Mbeki.

"Even when we got more than two-thirds majority, we said that we are not going to use this two-thirds majority fundamentally to alter the constitution. And that remains our position."

Over the last decade, other African leaders have drawn criticisms at home and internationally for seeking to extend their terms in office beyond their original mandate.

## Meningitis kills seven in Bauchi

An outbreak of meningitis in Shira, Ganjuwa and Dass local government areas of Bauchi state has claimed seven lives, while seventeen patients are on critical condition in hospitals, *Daily Trust* investigations has revealed.

Our correspondent who was in Shira local government where eleven cases of the disease has been reported with four people already dead as a result of the infection, reports that some of the victims are lying helplessly at the General Hospital, Yana, the headquarters of the local government, with health personnel uncertain of what to do.

Malama Aishat Audu told our correspondent that she has been on admission with her son in the hospital for the past three days, but lamented that she was not satisfied with the condition of her son as he has refused to improve, even as she is contemplating taking the sick child to Birnin Kudu, Jigawa state.

The Shira local government was said to have written a letter to the state ministry of health for its intervention three weeks ago when the first case was recorded, without any response from the ministry. The chairman of the local government, Alhaji Sule Hassan Danja, was not avail-

From Tashikalmah Hallah,  
Correspondent (Bauchi)

able to confirm the report as he was said to have travelled to Bauchi.

The state's Commissioner, Professor Iliyasu Mohammed was not available to confirm the outbreak as he was not on seat when our correspondent twice went to his office.



Arrival of Olu of Ilaro, His Royal Highness Oba Adekanbi Tella the airport for a civic reception for President Olusegun Obasanjo who visited Ogun State... recently.  
Pic: Oladipupo Odun

# News

## Wilmot arrives for Murtala lecture

Former Sociology teacher in Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Dr Patrick Wilmot, will return to Nigeria this week for the memorial lecture of the late General Murtala Muhammad.

Dr Patrick Wilmot was deported to London in March 1988 by the Nigeria Immigration Service on the allegations that he was preaching a revolution.

By Abubakar Haruna, Reporter

The Jamaican born academic was among the intellectuals that worked for the late Head of State during his famous proclamation that "Africa has come of age" and the eventual freedom for Angola.

Wilmot's return for a 10-day visit is being organised by the civil society organizations, ASUU activists and

pro-democracy campaigners. According to the programme of event put together by the Centre of Democracy, and Development (CDD), Centre for Information and Technology and Development (CITAD), Wilmot will arrive Lagos tomorrow.

He will hold media events in the commercial capital the following day, including meeting with newspaper and magazine publishers as well as a book reading programme at the jazzle.

The intellectual legend will be in Abuja between February 9 and February 10, for a meeting with the editorial board of the Media Trust Limited, publishers of *Daily Trust* and *Weekly Trust* newspapers.

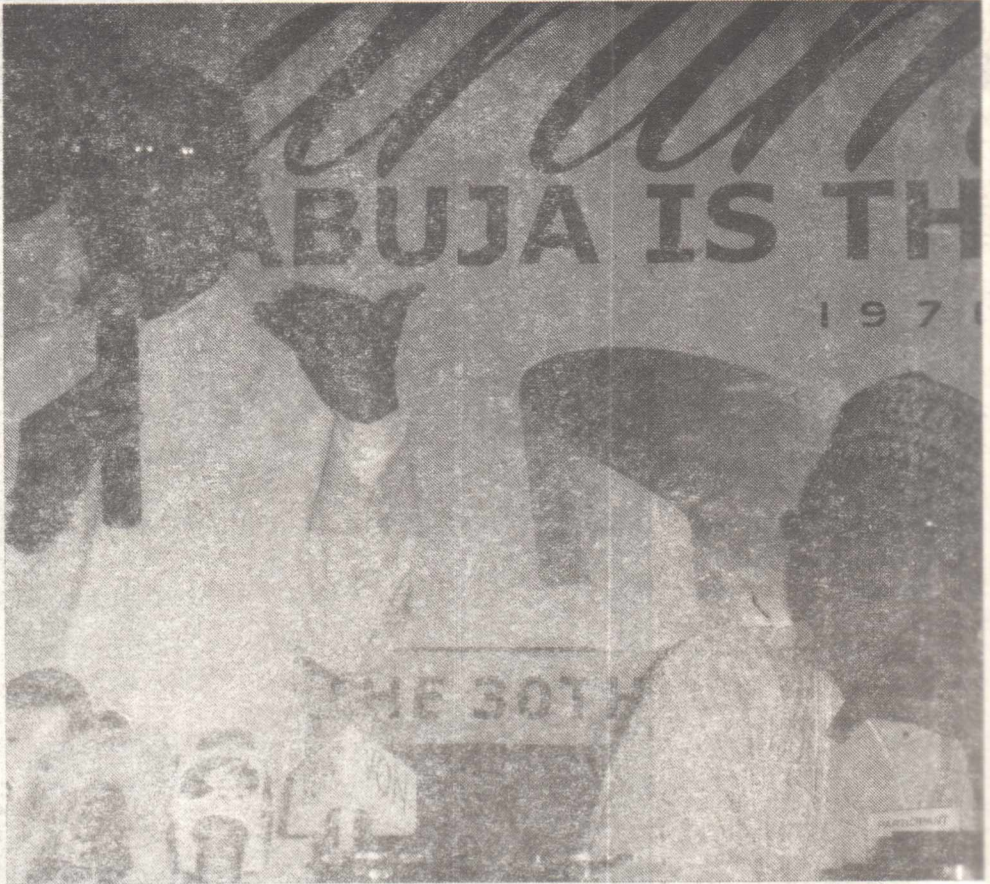
Also in Abuja, Wilmot will deliver a lecture at the University of Abuja, participate in a seminar at the NLC headquarters and attend a special night organised by the CDD.

The weekend of February 11, will be the turn of ABU, Zaria, to host its former member, including a seminar on a new book put together by the visitor himself.

Wilmot will be in Kano on February 13, to participate in the commemoration of the late Head of State, Murtala Muhammad, at the Mamburya House, the residence of the late Melani Aminu Kano.

He will then attend the 4th Pan African Conference on the Environment and Development (PAF-CED) a seminar at the Centre for Advanced Social Science (CASS), which was founded by the late Prof. Olu Ake.

Wilmot's last formal engagement will be on February 16, when he will deliver a lecture at the Usman Dan Fodiyo University, Sokoto.



Minister of FCT, Mallam Nasir el-Rufai (left) and member representing FCT, Hon. Ado Sidi Ali during the press conference to mark the 30th year anniversary of FCT in Abuja... yesterday. Pic: Felix Onigbinde.

## Abuja infrastructure gulps N250bn - el-Rufai

The provision of basic infrastructure for Phases 1 & 2 of Abuja, Federal Capital Territory (FCT) has gulped over N250 billion in the thirty years of the existence of the territory.

FCT Minister, Mallam Nasir el-Rufai, who stated this Monday at a press briefing on the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the FCT, however, said the territory needs N200 billion to open up its new satellite towns.

By Nasir Imam, Abuja Property Editor

Obasanjo to clean up the territory and restore the lost glory as envisaged in the Abuja Master Plan.

The minister said the reforms carried out in the FCT under his administration include abolition of the Lands Department and the establishment of the Abuja Geographic Information System which saw to the computerization of a land registry and the re-issuance of C of Os.

Mallam Nasir el-Rufai said 932 development permits were granted in 18 months while N100million was paid as compensation to persons whose properties were demolished.

On the relocation of squatters in the FCT, the minister said 47 villages in phase 1 of the FCT were enumerated while 28,889 persons involved in Karamo Kibi squatters village were eventually being relocated to six villages where 45,000 plots have been made available.

Finance Minister, Mr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, who was present at the briefing, commended the efforts of the FCT Minister who he described as fearless, dynamic and resolute.

At the creation of the territory in 1976, the minister said the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA), started with office in Lagos before an FCDA Field Base was established in Suleja before the ceding of the FCT Administration in Gwagwalada.

Mallam Nasir el-Rufai said construction work started with the construction of Lower Usuma Dam, the Accelerated District (Canki 1) and North-West District (Wuse 1), while major roads and the outer southern expressway were constructed in the early 90s.

He however said that overpopulation and other challenges in the 90s date necessitated the mandate given him by President

## Jokolo gets better at National Hospital

The deposed Emir of Gwandu, Alhaji Mustapha Haruna Jokolo, is fast recuperating at the National Hospital, Abuja, from health complications which may have resulted from high blood pressure, *Daily Trust* reliably gathered.

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin, Senior Reporter

The recently deposed Emir, checks revealed was rushed to the National Hospital, Abuja, for a specialist hospital in Lafia, Nasarawa state by week on the instructions of the state's health commissioner.

The two doctors allowed to see the deposed Emir on his hospital bed at the Lafia regional hospital said that the Emir's health is stable and he will be transferred to the National Hospital, Abuja, for

proper treatment in view of his deteriorating health as at last week.

It could be recalled that Alhaji Jokolo who was deposed by the incumbent executive governor of Kebbi State, Alhaji Adamu Aliero, has been under tight security in Obi local government area of Nasarawa state where he was banished to.

The chief public relations officer of the National Hospital, Abuja, Mal. Yehaya Ozi Adig, who confirmed to *Daily Trust* that the deposed Emir of Gwandu has been in the hospital since last week,

maintained that he is responding very well to treatment.

Though all attempts to see Alhaji Jokolo at the private wing, Ward B of the National Hospital proved abortive, his close aide told our reporter that the deposed Emir is far better now than he was brought to the hospital last week.

"Am sorry, he said he cannot speak with you now as he has been attending to visitors who have been trooping in to see him since morning," Jokolo's aide who pleaded anonymity noted.

Alhaji Jokolo who was the 19th holder of the office of the Emir of Gwandu was deposed in June last year by Alh. Adamu Aliero, the Kebbi State governor who replaced him with retired General Muhammadu Jega.

## Police plan strike Feb. 20

The National Union of Police Officers (NUPO) yesterday announced that it will go on strike on February 20, 2006, to demand for a 10 per cent increase in salaries and allowances.

The union said it has been in a state of lock-out since January 2005, after the government refused to meet its demands. It said the government has offered a 5 per cent increase, which it considers insufficient.

The union also demanded for the abolition of the 10 per cent tax on salaries and allowances, and for the government to pay the arrears of salaries and allowances.

The union said it will continue to hold the government to account until its demands are met. It said it will also continue to support the government in its efforts to improve the economy and create jobs for the youth.

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## Snake bite cases reduce in Gombe

Annual cases of snake bites in Gombe State, has reduced significantly as a result of measures taken by the traditional ruler of the area to arrest the menace.

The Mai of Kaltungo, Alhaji Muhammadu Jega, said last year, placed a prize of N100,000 for each dead snake brought to his palace as a reward for the effort to rid the chiefdom of the menace of snake bites.

The area which has become snake-free over the years, was visited by *Daily Trust* in January yesterday. Engineer Sale Muhammad, who is the deputy chairman of the Gombe State council of traditional rulers, said only one death was recorded last year from snake bites.

He said in the past, about 100 cases of death were being recorded almost every year as a result of snake bites, such as the one that took place in the area of the chiefdom.

From Muhammad Abubakar, Correspondent (Gombe)

very insecure for the people of the chiefdom.

"I can confidently tell you now that Kaltungo chiefdom is about 90 percent free from cases of snakebites as against some years ago. Only one death was recorded last year. In the previous two years, we recorded more than 13 deaths," said the royal father.

He attributed the success of the measures taken to curb the menace on the prize placed on each dead snake brought to his palace and the efforts of the people in the area to rid the chiefdom of this menace.

The Mai of Kaltungo also commended the state government for stocking the Kaltungo General Hospital with anti-snake venom as well as the local government council and wealthy individuals who assist to make the area free from snake bites.

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# NEWS

Stories that touch the heart

## Suspected ritualist plucks out boy's eyes

A 10-year-old boy, Shitu Muntari, is now lying in critical condition at the Katsina General Hospital, having lost his eyes to a suspected ritualist.

According to reports, Shitu was found in the bush near Barawa Village, in Batagarawa local government area, on the outskirts of Katsina, by a good Samaritan last Friday.

He was found lying unconscious and the good Samaritan drew the attention of the villagers, who reported the case to the police.

The boy's father, Malam Mohammed Muntari, who was at the hospital with his son, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), that the boy left home to play with his peers around 8 p.m. last Thursday and never returned.

He said one of his neighbours who works in the hospital, informed him that the boy was admitted at the hospital with his eyes removed.

The doctor who operated on the boy's eyes, Dr Ahmed Kofar-Bai, told NAN that Shitu's right eye was forcefully removed, while the left eye was damaged as an attempt was made to remove it too.

He said a sharp object, such as knife, was used to remove the boy's eye, noting that "there is no hope that the boy will regain his sight".

Kofar-Bai lamented that the trauma might lead the boy to suffer mental retardation and hypertension.



Trailer set ablaze by rioting commercial bus drivers and okada riders in front of Benue State University (BSU), Makurdi.

Pix: Hir Joseph

## Bauchi: Man loses two daughters to fire

The District Head of Shira in Bauchi state, Alhaji Baba Umar Faruq, has lost two of his daughters, Safiya and Radia to a mysterious midnight inferno which also burnt part of his house in Azare, the headquarters of Katagum Emirate. The midnight inferno, according to the people, is a mystery as its source could not be immediately ascertained at the time of going to press. However, some sympathisers hinged it to an electrical fault from the building which also serves as his palace.

From Tashikalmah Haliq, Correspondent in Bauchi

accommodation, but our correspondent could not confirm the claim.

Apart from the loss of his personal effects and the two daughters, his wives' properties such as some jeweleries, clothes and other domestic items were

destroyed in the inferno. However, Alhaji Faruq, while receiving sympathisers including the Deputy Governor of Bauchi, Alhaji Abdulmalik Mahmood, has attributed the fire incident to an act of nature, as he believes that it was God that gave him the children and what he has lost. Meanwhile,

the Deputy Governor, Alhaji Abdulmalik Mahmud, has consoled the Emir of Katagum, Alhaji Mohammed Kabir Umar, over the fire incident that occurred at the district head of Shira's palace.

Responding, the Emir of Katagum, Alhaji Mohammed Kabir Umar, thanked the Deputy Governor and his

entourage for their concern and love and described it as an act of God.

Also at the District Head of Shira's palace, the Deputy Governor advised the District Head to regard the incident as an act of God and prayed that God should console him and give him the grace to bear the loss.

## Three pupils crushed to death

Three pupils of Police Primary School, Jos, Plateau state, were yesterday crushed to death by a commercial bus.

The bus, which was also carrying a large number of passengers, was involved in an accident at the Jos University Teaching Hospital.

correspondent visited the scene of the accident, the bus was still in flames, as it was set ablaze by an angry mob comprising parents, passers-by, commercial motorcycle racers and sympathisers.

Immediately the accident occurred, the driver was said

to have absconded, leaving the commuters at the mercy of the angry mob. When news of the accident went round, parents, mostly mothers, besieged the scene, wailing.

NAN reports that the angry mob also chased away

men of the Plateau State Fire Service who had arrived the scene to put out the fire.

The corpses of the deceased pupils, yet to be identified, have been deposited at the Jos University Teaching Hospital mortuary.

## Student commits suicide

A final year female student of Auchi Polytechnic in Edo state, whose name was given as Bose, has committed suicide. The deceased was said to have taken her life after discovering that she failed for the second time, the same course that prevented her from graduating last year.

A family source who confirmed the suicide, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) at Igarra, headquarters of Akoko-Edo council at the weekend, that the deceased left a suicide note.

Bose, a final year student of business management, was to have graduated last academic session, but for a particular course she failed.

Witnesses explained that on discovering that she had again failed the same course, she drank poison and died.

The deceased was said to be the choir mistress of her church in Igarra.

A family member said she was able to have easy access to the poison because she used to assist her father in managing the sale of chemical products which the family was noted for in the town.

A source told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), that the driver of the bus had suddenly lost control when a traffic warden stopped all the vehicles passing through Joseph Greenwalk Road to enable the pupils to cross the road.

The bus was said to be carrying market women to the Paris Café market and some students of St. Mary's College.

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## 141m in child labour

By Abubakar Karuna, Reporter

The Special Assistant to the President on Human Trafficking and Child Labour, Ekundayo Akinmoye, has disclosed that 211 million children aged between 5 and 14 and 141 million aged between 15 and 17 are active in child labour.

Ekundayo Akinmoye, who made the disclosure while chatting with journalists in Abaja yesterday, said that most of the findings were forcibly gathered for economic reasons.

She said, "recently around, it is that 211 million children aged 5-14 and 141 million children aged 15-17 are economically active in child labour".

She added that "even though accurate statistics are difficult to obtain but many kinds of child labour are underreported and countries have no desire to publicize it".

According to her, apart from depriving a child of their childhood, potential and dignity, child labour is also harmful to the child physically, emotionally, socially and mentally. Akinmoye who stated that not all work is to be discouraged, maintained that children need participatory work that is suitable to their well-being, personal development, emotional development and moral

development.

She explained that the international standard or minimum age for admission into employment begins from 14, 15 or 18 years, with minimum age of which light work is permissible can be set at 12 or 13 years.

She however advised that Nigeria needs to set the minimum age for employment looking and considering its peculiar situation.

She noted that federal government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with some 19 other countries and other development partners to ensure the elimination of child labour in Africa.

# CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

**INSIDE**

**Suleja residents decry rise in crime, prostitution**

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**Three arrested over complicity in murder case**

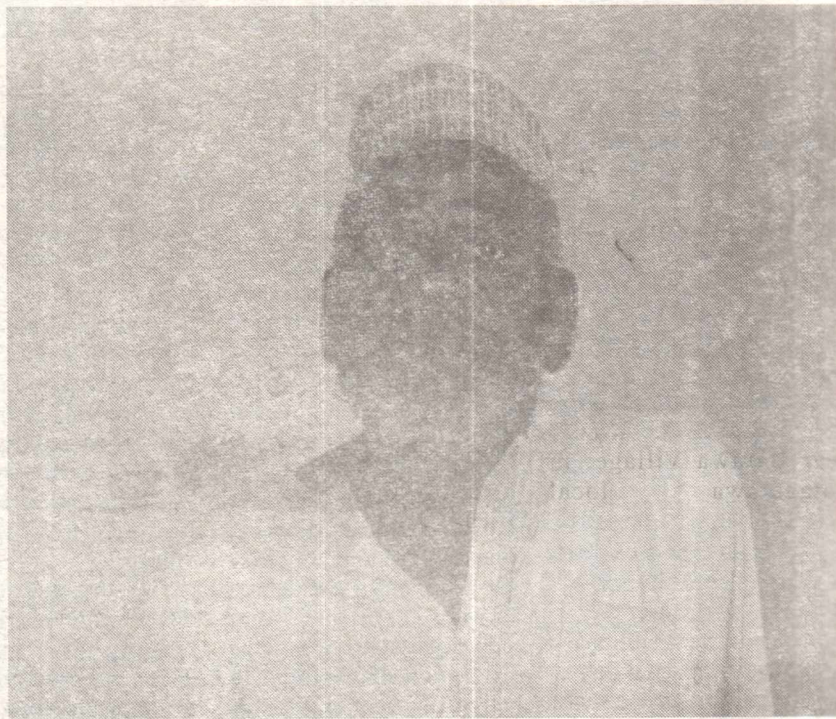
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**Seven bag two year jail term**

Page 7



The proposed site for Mato's building project



Jari Dodo

## Police shared my N11m loot – Says arrested police corporal

**I**nvestigation into the armed robbery incident at the Standard Chartered Bank, Wuse II Abuja, on December 8, took a dramatic turn last week when police Corporal Mathew Mato alleged that the police investigation team shared part of his loot before they handed the rest to the police.

Mato said that he surrendered N11m and \$10,000 to SP Peters who allegedly declared only N2.25m and \$10,000 to the FCT command.

Cpl Mato who was arrested in his hometown Luwana, near Lere in Kaduna State on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December, 2005 by Superintendent of Police, Marvellous Peters-led team from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), of the FCT police command, was reported to have recovered a large brown bag of money from the suspect before he escaped six days later from custody in Kaduna.

Speaking exclusively to this reporter, the Village Head of Luwana in Kaduna state, Mallam Abubakar Shuaibu, said Cpl Mathew Mato told him on telephone from his hiding place that he actually took part in the bank robbery and that his share of the loot running into millions of naira was allegedly shared by the team who arrested him.

Mallam Shuaibu, who said the telephone conversation took place in the office of the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), of Saminaka Division in Kaduna State, CSP Magaji, said Mato told him in their local language Kusaal that

By Shehu Abubakar, Reporter

phone that after he was arrested by the team and taken to Kaduna, a substantial amount of his share of the bank robbery loot which he handed over to the investigation team was shared by them in Kaduna.

Mallam Abubakar Shuaibu, who said he was the one that Mato asked to go into his room in the village and bring out the bag of money and hand it over to SP Peters who later put the bag in the boot of his vehicle, said the money was neither counted in the village to know the arrested amount nor was it counted at Ramin Kura police out-post station supervising Luwana.

Heavily armed men

numbering about 10, dressed in police and army uniform, stormed the Wuse II branch of Standard Chartered Bank on December 8, between 1pm and 2pm and robbed the bank of large sums of money in both local and foreign currencies.

At the scene of the robbery, one of the vehicles allegedly used in the operation, a Carina car, was involved in an accident near Sheraton Hotel & Towers and was abandoned with N1.75m cash in the boot of the car. The car and the money were recovered by the police.

The FCT commissioner of police, Mr. Lawrence Alobi, said vital documents found in the car revealed the identity of Cpl Mathew Mato of MOPOL 5 unit, Benin City.

This reporter reliably gathered that when Mathew Mato could not be found in his station in Benin City, SP Peters led his team to Saminaka police division from where an inspector was asked to lead them to Ramin Kura police out-post station.

At the station, it was gathered that one Sgt Maigizo, a Kurama by tribe and who knew Luwana very well, was asked to guide the team. The team, according to a reliable source, met the District Head of the area, Alhaji Umaru Shuaibu and introduced themselves as friends of Mathew Mato who were in the village to see him.

Confirming this to *Daily Trust* in his palace, the District Head, Alhaji Shuaibu, said Mato had earlier arrived the

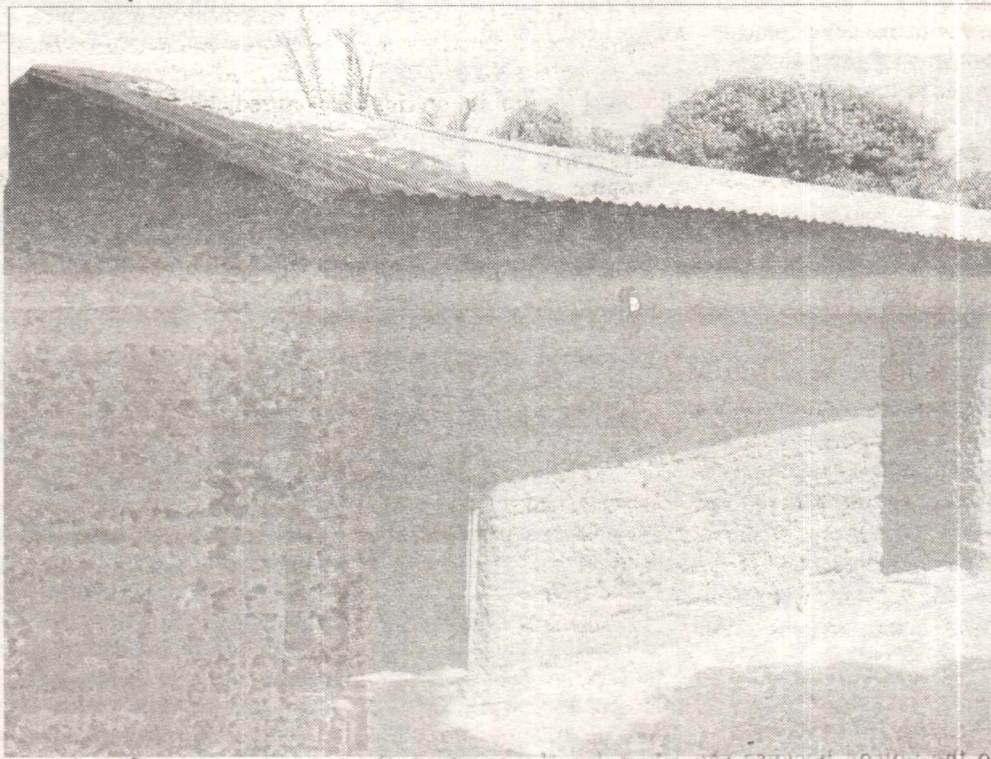
village on the December, 10, 2005 and showed him a Carina car he claimed to have bought. He said Mato also told him that he bought several tipper load of sand and 100 bags of cement with which he intended to build a house.

The District Head said he blessed Mato and when he left, he summoned the village head of Luwana, the Waziri (Prime Minister), Mr. Yani Mai-Samari and Reverend Ibrahim Azato of ECWA church and asked them to assemble the next day after church service and invited Mato and his father to know Mato's source of income.

"I was told that Mato was at the church the next day, December 11, 2005, but was not told of the meeting, up to the time he left for Saminaka with one of his childhood friends. Not quite long when he left, the team came and said they were his friends. I told them to wait for him because he has gone to Saminaka and will return before 9pm but they said they will go and come back.

"I was told later that they went to Ramin-Kura and laid ambush for him. They trailed him from there back to the village. He drove straight to his father's compound. I was told before he came out of the vehicle; they brought out their guns and started shooting sporadically into the air. We all thought they were armed robbers," the District Head said.

He explained that while the women and children ran into the bush, the local



Front view of Mato's compound in Luwana

# CRIME & PUNISHMENT

## Police shared my N11m loot - Says arrested police corporal

Continued on pg. 6

hunters, vigilante and the youths barricaded all roads leading to the village. They raised alarm that robbers have invaded the town. The District Head said he sent the village head and the prime minister to check what was happening.

"The village head came back to tell me that the same people that came earlier to tell me that they were Mato's friends were the ones that trailed him, handcuffed him and said they were going with him. He said they were policemen but we only recognized Sgt. Maigizo. I said to him, since you recognise Sgt. Maigizo, ask the boys to dismantle the roadblocks and escort them until they leave the village.

"I was angry that the situation was not handled well. The police team showed that they did not have confidence in the traditional institutions. I expected them to have simply told me that they were policemen. Mato has committed an offence and they want him. I would have handed over Mato to them quietly," the District Head said.

The Village Head, said he accompanied the team out of the village up to Ramin-Kura from where himself and the secretary to the district head disembarked. He said Mato and his friend, Kajere, a truck driver found with him, were arrested and taken away. So also the Carina bought by Mato was equally taken away.

The village head said in less than 30 minutes, the team came back and met him at Ramin-Kura and said Mato has admitted taking part in the robbery and promised to surrender his loot to the police. So, he should again assist them and escort them back to Luwana where the loot was kept.

"We drove straight to Mato's father's compound. All this while, the father did not know what was happening. He was not at home. After collecting the money, I again saw them off to Ramin-Kura to ensure that nobody harassed them based on their initial attitude. All the elders of the village pleaded with them to release Kajere because he knows no where other than the village, but they refused and went with him," he said.

He said Kajere, being a childhood friend of Mato and because he was seen in company of Mato when they were returning from Saminaka, was equally arrested by the team on the allegation that they might have robbed the bank together. Kajere was however, released from detention the next day when the team was satisfied about his innocence.

At the Saminaka police division where Mato was detained over night, this

reporter gathered that all efforts by the DPO, CSP Magaji, to convince SP Peters to count the money recovered from Mato in the village and recorded same in their station diary as required by police regulations failed.

SP Peters was reported to have said it was purely an Abuja affair and so he should be left alone. SP Peters was said to have spent the night in a chalet at Saminaka Motel with the bag of money.

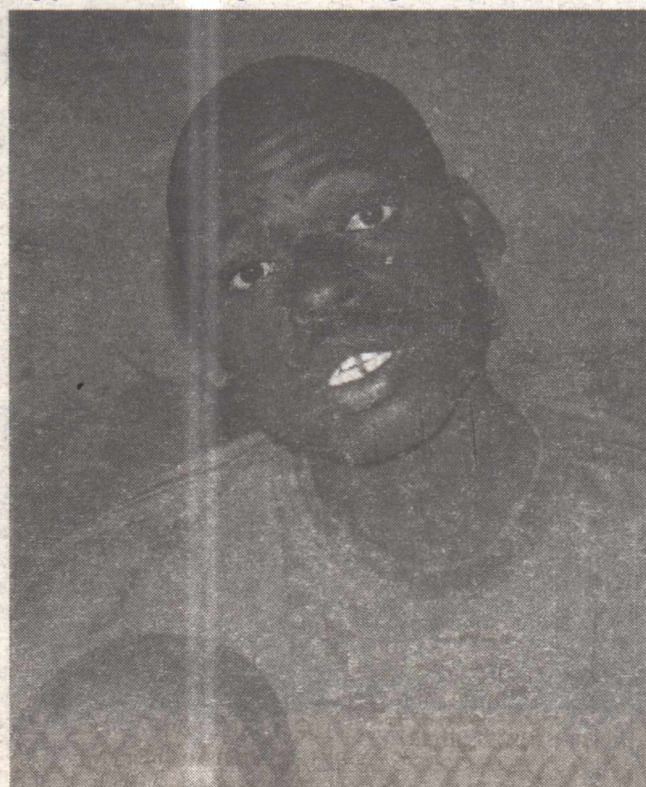
However, SP Peters was said to have had a lengthy discussion in private with Mato after which he directed that Mato's hand-set, shoes, belt and other items earlier retrieved from his pockets be returned to him.

The source said the team first left Saminaka towards Kano with Mato before they later returned to the station and told them that Mato received a phone call on the way which made them to change their route towards Kaduna.

At Kaduna, it was gathered that Mato revealed to the investigation team the names of three officials of the Standard Chartered Bank, Abuja, who collaborated with his team by advising the gang to attack the bank when large sum of money was believed to have been transferred to the branch.

The Inspector General of Police, Mr. Sunday Ehindero, confirmed the arrest of three officials of the bank for questioning over their alleged roles in the robbery. He did not, however, give the names of the bank officials nor did he reveal the actual amount carted from the bank during the robbery.

It was at Kaduna that SP Peters team was said to have counted the money recovered from Mato and reportedly declared the sum of N2.25m and \$10,000 dollars as the amount recovered from him. Mato was said to have been angry with that development.



Lehemia Judi

He alleged that the amount declared by SP Peters did not tally with the one he surrendered to the team. He reportedly told his relations on phone that he watched the team share a substantial part of the amount among themselves.

The FCT Commissioner of Police, Mr. Lawrence Alobi, told newsmen at a press conference that a total of N4m and \$10,000 were recovered from Mato as his share of the loot from the robbery.

Mr. Alobi explained that the sum of N1.75m was recovered from the Carina with fake registration number BZ 580ABC abandoned by the robbers on the day of the robbery while the sum of N2.26m and \$10,000 was recovered from Mato in his village.

On the sixth day of his arrest while still in Kaduna helping the police to apprehend other members of his gang, Mato was said to have escaped un-hurt from the custody of SP Peters.

SP Peters led his team back to Saminaka division, this time with a request for assistance to arrest the entire family of Mathew Mato from Luwana over Mato's escape in Kaduna.

The District Head of Luwana, Alhaji Umaru Shuaibu, was contacted and he obliged the police request by mobilizing Mato's father, Mr. Jari Dodo, the mother, Mrs. Aroma Jadi and Mato's two younger brothers, Ishaku and Lehemia.

The *Wazirin Luwana*, Yani Mai-Samari, said the District Head, the Village Head, himself, the Reverend and other elders of the community, accompanied them to the station at Saminaka where they were detained and later conveyed to Abuja.

He said it was at the station that the idea to phone Mato came and when the village head, Mallam Shuaibu,

phoned him, Mato urged him to call back after 13 minutes because he was driving and hopes to reach his destination by then.

"Mallam Shuaibu called him back after 13 minutes and we spoke for a very long time with the village head and the district head. He also spoke with the mother and the DPO. We all tried to convince him to either come home or tell us where he was.

"When I told him the police have arrested the mother, father and his two brothers and were taking them to Abuja, he started crying on the phone. He told me he was in Lagos looking for money before he could return. The DPO assured him that if he could come immediately to Saminaka, he assured him that the parents and brothers will be immediately released. But he insisted he was not coming until he gets some money," he said.

On his part, Mato's father, Mr. Jari Dodo, told this reporter that he has not set his eyes on Mato within the two days he spent in the house before he was arrested. He said when Mato visited the village on Saturday, he was at the farm. He said he slept off before Mato returned home that night and left for church service before he woke up.

"I was in the church when I heard that Mato has donated N20,000 to the church. He left the church before me. From the church, I proceeded to my farm and returned late in the night after he had been arrested and taken away by the police. Before I went to Saminaka police station on Monday, they had already left with him," he said.

He however, confirmed that Mato bought sand and a hundred bags of cement with which he intended to start the building of his house in the village. He said he had not seen Mato with any large sum of money or vehicle in the past.

He also confirmed that SP Peters arrested him, his wife Aroma, his two children, Ishaku and Lehemia as well as Mato's mother and father-in-laws from Zaria and detained them at the FCT police command in Abuja for 41 days. He said they were questioned over Mato's whereabouts while in detention.

On the educational background of Mato, his father Dodo, said after his primary education, Mato went to Government Day Junior Secondary School, Fadan-Kahugu where he studied for less than two years before he left the school due to an eye problem.

"He has not been to any school since then until he was recruited into the Nigeria police about five years ago and went to Police College,



Abubakar Shuaibu



Waziri Yani Mai-Samari

Kaduna. He worked in Kaduna before he was later transferred to Benin City. I do not know the certificate or educational qualification with which he used in joining the police," he said.

Mr. Dodo said he was surprised that his son is linked with armed robbery, adding, "until I see him and hear from him, it will be very difficult for me to believe the story. But even if he is an armed robber, he must have learnt how to rob while in the police force. No doubt they taught him how to shoot gun. I only taught him how to farm."

Mato's younger brother, Lehemia, told this reporter that they were arrested by the police, dehumanized and ill-treated without any justification. "They said my brother was an armed robber. They arrested him, handcuffed him and took him away. Days later, they came back to arrest all of us and detain us in Abuja for 41 days without any offence of ours.

"I am not sure that is what

the laws of this country provide. Even if he is an armed robber, he has never gone on robbery with us or shared his loot with us, but look at what we have suffered. I think our case deserves special attention," she said.

*Daily Trust* investigation at the force headquarters in Abuja revealed that Mato might have falsified his records and promoted himself a corporal as all his records in both the secret and open registries indicate that he was until his arrest, a police constable.

In the meantime, Mathew Mato has been re-arrested by the police in Benin City. Edo State police spokesman, ASP Peter Oboi, confirmed the arrest. Sources at the FCT police command said Mato had been transferred to Abuja at the weekend.

FCT commissioner of police, Mr. Lawrence Alobi, said the police are still investigating the robbery and the circumstances of Mato's escape.

# CRIME & PUNISHMENT

## PETROL DEAL

### Seven bag two years imprisonment

An Abuja Chief magistrate yesterday sentenced seven people to two years imprisonment each for illegally dealing in petroleum products.

The convicts, Raphael Jonathan, Aminu Zakari, John Abraham, Yahaya Muhammed, Abdul Usman, Abonyi Oliver and Tijani Abdul, all of no fixed address, were found guilty under section 97 of the penal code.

The prosecuting police officer, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), Joseph Onu, told the court that the suspects were arrested along Lokoja road in a lorry with registration number A. A. 254 Aje, by an officer of the Nigerian Army, A. A. Malnui.

The lorry, according to the prosecution, carried five drums containing different petroleum products and four motorcycles.

The prosecution further

By Abdulwahab Deji Ajikobi

said that when the accused were questioned at the police station, they could not give any reasonable account of the said products.

Pleading on behalf of the convicts, Barrister Friday H. Enefola, prayed the court to temper justice with mercy, adding that they were all applicants in the labour market and also first offenders.

The presiding chief magistrate, Usman Ahmad, said in view of the plea by the defence counsel, he sentenced the accused to two years imprisonment each with an option of N10,000 fine each.



One of the acquired Bell Helicopter 407 when it was displayed at the force headquarters, Abuja ...recently. Pix: Felix Onigbinde

## Robbers attack two journalists in Abuja

Two Abuja based journalists were attacked and robbed of their money and valuables in their various homes by

By Shehu Abubakar, Reporter

gunmen suspected to be armed robbers.

One of the victims residing at Pyakassa said he was hit severally with a locally made pistol and a club while his money, handset and wrist-watches were taken away.

The other victim, a cameraman working for a television station, said the suspects went to his house at Lugbe while he was away and stole the sum of N18,000 meant for his upcoming wedding, his dresses, electronic appliances and other valuable items.

During the attack at Pyakassa, the victim said though he did not hesitate to give the suspects his money, GSM handset and wrist-watches and that of his wife as they demanded, the attackers beat him up in the

presence of his wife and children.

He said the suspected armed robbers who were angry that they could not get much money from him, hit him severally with a locally made pistol on the head until he started bleeding.

He said the attackers who were convinced that he had more money to give them, also used a club to hit him repeatedly on the back until they noticed he was slipping into unconsciousness.

The journalist told this reporter that the hoodlums gained entry into his house after they forcefully removed the window and the burglary proof of his sitting room. He said they had earlier made attempts to force open the iron door to the sitting room

but failed.

At Lugbe, those who robbed the television cameraman were said to have robbed his neighbours before breaking the door to his room to remove almost all he had.

He said the only things left for him in his room after the robbery were his bed, mattress, curtains, chairs and table. He said all other movable items were taken away.

The reporter, who said he made a personal complaint to the FCT commissioner of police, Mr. Lawrence Alobi, on the issue, said he was satisfied with the efforts the police were making to trace the robbers.

All efforts to contact Mr. Alobi for comments failed as he was said to be away from the office at the weekend.

## Suleja residents decry rise in crime, prostitution

Suleja residents have raised alarm over an increase in criminal activities and prostitution, around the Suleja barracks.

Residents who spoke to our reporter said although Shariah was introduced in Niger state as a whole but the law exempted the military barracks.

Some residents said that the barracks have become a new haven for people engaged in illicit trade like the sale of Indian hemp, hard drugs, alcohol and prostitution.

Daily Trust investigations revealed that most of the inhabitants of the barracks are

retired soldiers.

A resident who spoke with Daily Trust on condition of anonymity, said the happenings around the barracks are affecting the moral character of their children, noting that a secondary school is located opposite the military barracks.

"The police are aware of this. There was a case of robbery that took place in Abuja and the suspects were arrested. After thorough investigation, it was discovered that the robbery was planned in Suleja barracks," he said.

When our reporter visited the scene, the story was confirmed. A retired soldier

who spoke with Daily Trust, said that the vicinity is shariah-free and that only alcohol was being sold.

A member of the shariah implementation committee in the state, Alhaji Habib Madaki, said: "the situation is worse than you think. We hear that apart from India Hemp, some people transact cocaine business."

He said "the barracks is out of bound to us. We therefore call on the governor and other relevant authorities to rescue the situation."

Madaki also attributed the increase in social crisis in Suleja to el-Rufai-led demolition exercise in Abuja which led to the influx of people into Suleja.

## Three arrested over complicity in murder case

Three people are now in police net in connection with the death of two middle-aged men who were stabbed to death during a street fight in Lagos at the weekend.

Detectives attached to the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Panti, in Yaba arrested the suspects, Amechi and Emeka Agware residents of Oja-Oba area of Abule-Egba, for alleged complicity in the death of one Sani Balogun.

A fight was said to have ensued between the deceased and the two suspects who allegedly beat him to death. The cause of the fight

By Bola Ojuola, (Lagos)

was not immediately known. Another victim identified as Ibrahim, was allegedly stabbed to death by one Kaliya during a fight at airport bus-stop, Agege motor road also at the weekend.

Sources told Daily Trust that the two men had engaged in a serious fight in the cause of which Ibrahim was allegedly stabbed on the neck with a broken bottle by Kaliya and he collapsed as a result.

He was said to have been rushed to a nearby private hospital where he died from excessive loss of blood.

The Lagos state police public relations officer, Mr.

Olubode Ojajuni, who confirmed the arrest of the three suspects and the death of the victims, said they have removed the corpses to the public mortuary for autopsy.

He said they were still investigating the cases.

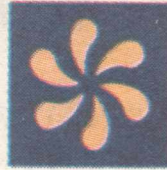
In a related development, a commercial bus-driver was said to have run over a one-year old child close to his parents compound in Anthony area on Friday.

The vehicle with registration number AJ 69 LSD, was said to be reversing when it ran over the baby.

The driver of the vehicle identified simply as Friday, has since been arrested. Ojajuni also confirmed the incident.



The Toyota Carina car in which police corporal Mathew Mute, a bank robbery suspect was arrested in his hometown Luwani in Edo state.


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# Opinion

## Gombe politics and campaigns of calumny

By Ilyas El-Badr

For some weeks running now, my attention has been taken over by some disturbing issues and comments in newspapers regarding politics in Gombe State, and especially the campaigns of calumny being orchestrated by some disgruntled politicians against the person of His Excellency, Governor Muhammad Danjuma Goje. The nasty campaigns were not only against his person but also extended to his dynamic and purposeful administration.

Come to think of it, these lost-out elements through their comments, actions and public utterances want to portray the situation in Gombe State as that of an environment of growing culture of violence. They have continued to disguise under one cover or the other to achieve their selfish motives.

But one cover that has given them the most needed opportunity was the little uproar that ensued at the venue of a marriage ceremony that the governor attended in Nafada. A minister from that state, Colonel Musa

Muhammad was there too. That was a wedding ceremony at which people from different walks of life attended. The wedding was just a social gathering and a function sanctioned by Islam; a religion that both the governor and the minister proffers. So what is new or strange about this? It is a difficult scenario and even untenable for anybody to brazenly concoct any story and expect people to believe when all that happened was witnessed by the hundreds of people in attendance.

That was not to be as some so-called highly-placed individuals, but also unprincipled and self-centred came out to give newspaper interviews and pass comments, which were not the true reflections of what really took place. But like I said, disgruntled elements under the guise of politics will always find cover to perpetrate all their nefarious and evil plans just for them to actualise their selfish ob-

jectives.

Governor Muhammad Danjuma Goje is a well-bred personality. He is a man well-groomed and always determined to positively touch on the lives of his people. This has since made him one of the few respected grassroots politician in Gombe State. His style of association with the ordinary people goes way back even before his days as a minister; and when he was elected to serve as the chief executive of the state, to Goje it was just another bigger platform to make the difference in political performance.

Furthermore, it is on record during the election in which the governor emerged victorious that there was neither violence nor any political upheaval. On the contrary, there were jubilation and celebration all over the state attesting to his popularity and love for peace and progress in Gombe State. It should be remembered that he was contesting against a serving governor, and what a rare feat that Muhammad Danjuma Goje was able to accomplish without victory, bloodletting or any sort of violence.

Given this scenario, it is difficult for all decent and discerning people to believe anybody coming out today to tell us that Danjuma Goje would engage anyone in political violence just at an ordinary social function like a marriage ceremony. This is unthinkable. And there are the lies and hearsays that the detractors of the governor have been peddling all around that at the said ceremony, his 'Yankalare' militia were instructed to attack the minister.

The lies unfortunately

found willing ears from some respected journalists in the media who believed hook, line and sinker the stories dished out by the doomsayers from Gombe State.

Forthright, focused and objective as ever, Alhaji Danjuma Goje recently addressed the citizens of Gombe State in his characteristic manner. He made it clear that he neither supports nor condones the activities of the 'Yankalare' militia group. In fact, as the chief security officer of the state has demonstrated his capacity to cause the arrest and prosecution of not only 'Yankalare', but any person or group of persons that pose great security risk to the state.

That singular address put to shame all those that had been going with stories that the governor was the founder, the financier and supporter of this group. It has come to light that these thugs are operating on their own or that their financiers and supporters are those political big wigs who want to see Gombe State in political turmoil or up in flames so that they can manipulate events to meet up their parochial agenda.

The nuisance posed by political thugs like the 'Yankalare' is not peculiar to Gombe alone; it is rather a phenomenon parading the political landscape of Nigeria. Indeed, Alhaji Danjuma Goje ought to be commended, because as we all know the problem of breeding thugs is being caused by poverty and unemployment. These twin problems the governor has been able to address with the speed and dynamism of a purposeful leader.

Youths in Gombe State are being gainfully engaged in

economic ventures through the laudable programmes of the administration and some of their leaders have also been given some responsibilities to make their contribution and feel the care of the government as regard their plight and welfare. This policy of engaging the youth has been paying off, but one is sure that at this period of the economic downturn, you only make a conscious effort but you can't have a hundred per cent success. However, Governor Danjuma has made tremendous success in this direction.

Those who have some political issues to settle with the governor are the same people posing great danger to their party in the state. They want to hijack the machinery of the party to dance to their whims and caprices; and where they fail; they will then resort to blackmail and campaign of calumny. They will stop at nothing, even selling their honour, if at all they have it.

As commentators, we owe it a duty not only to the people of Gombe State, but to the general public to aim at putting issues in their proper perspective. That is why it burns one's heart when one observes how some journalists sell themselves out or throw the ethics of their profession to the winds. Lots of articles and analyses have appeared on the pages of some newspapers and lots of such comments and reports went on the air, especially through some foreign media.

Some of such reports left much to be desired and coming from so called journalists in the field. It is hoped and one will continue to pray that such journalists will remember the cardinal principles of journalism as they write their reports pass their comments or

write their analyses. This will save the public from receiving disinformation, half-truths or even concocted stories.

At the final analysis, the write-up recalls the recent resolution passed by the Gombe State Elders Forum of the People's Democratic Party under the headship of Alhaji Isa Umar Hina the Batart of Hina.

The forum which expressed serious concern over the attitude of some PDP elders who were bent on blackmailing the governor Alhaji Muhammad Danjuma Goje on the pages of newspapers by engaging the services of reporters of some foreign media who were working out of the content of the ethics of journalism.

The forum however renewed its total support for the policies and programmes of the state government. Alhaji Isa Umar Hina also said the aim of such acts was to divert government's attention on the execution of viable programmes embarked upon by the state's number one man.

The forum therefore warned that the elders of the party would not fold their arms watching some self-centred and unpatriotic politicians waging war of character assassination against the government of Gombe State; saying that enough is enough. It also supported the steps being taken by the government to check the activities of the 'Yankalare' boys being sponsored by some ill-motivated politicians who have contributed nothing to the development of the state and its creation.

Ilyas I. M. El-Badr, Nasarawa Quarters, Gombe LG, Gombe State.

## Sa'adatu Rimi's murder: Political terrorism

By Ibrahim Garba Aliyu

We have no doubt that death is inevitable. No matter who you are, it's your final destination. Every soul shall taste its bitterness. Death is a fury to every living creature; no one can escape the wretched hands of death. As all humanity believes in such living creed; that as there is life, also there will be death, but the linchpin issue here is, what will be our fate after death?

Do we know that one day we will all appear before the Almighty and all creations to account for all our deeds? Do we know that our feet, hands and eyes will give and bear witness to our deeds before the Almighty? Do we know that we are going to be judged according to our deeds and actions? Do we know that the reward of those with good deeds is paradise and wrong ones is hell fire?

Do we have pantheism in our deeds and actions? Certainly, a person that has such a religious creed would not have engaged himself in such miserable and ruthless murder which is in praxis of even paganistic ethics of an innocent sister, wife and a mother, who devoted her lifetime looking after her kids and her be-

Let me remind the reader of this article a little that I myself did not know much about Alhaji Muhammad Abubakar Rimi, let alone Hajija Sa'adatu. In fact, I came to know about Hajija Sa'adatu just before her death. But of Rimi, I knew him as a former governor and a prominent person in Nigerian politics whom I usually came across his interviews, speeches, critiques through media stations and newspapers. I think Hajija Sa'adatu's attitude of isolation was due to her conception of life to be a devoted housewife who preferred to live her life serving her husband and looking after her small kids as is conceived by Islamic teachings, which to my trust is the best way every woman should do for herself.

But my attempt here is to belch out my feelings as many Nigerians will wish to over such havoc and to denounce in totality all those human butchers over their immoral attitude towards humanity. I also wish to extend my message to many Nigerians over this brutality.

That was not the first time Nigeria had experienced such

I say it is political terrorism. People like Bola Ige, Harry Marshal, among many others tasted such miserable death and we are all witnesses to that. But the questions that are raised whenever such incidents occur are; why the killing? Who are behind it? What measures are to be taken?

But our answers always are mute. Are we supposed to fold our arms watching things happening like this without stopping them? The sorrow and panic that were spread in the minds of people, in which the death was not the cause but the manner and nature in which the killing was done was what ignited so much fear and suspicion in the public; that if such very prominent people in Nigeria as the former minister could be killed what way and be treated in such beastly and barbaric manner, what would be the fate of an ordinary citizens like me and you? Are we compelled to butcher our kith and kin in order to achieve our political or whatsoever goals? Do we know the grievousness of a sin accompanied by such actions? How solid are we over our depravity? Are we faithful to ourselves? Is it a reality or fantasy? We need answers to these questions.

venom appeared within us which need to be terminated. My heart bleeds over the murderous havoc normal cut-throat which suddenly emerged in the heart of Kano city. It is known to everyone that even during war, women and children are allowed not to be killed, but the deceased was chased into her inner room, tortured and slaughtered like a goat. Why? I think it was very unfair, even if the husband of the deceased would had to be frustrated through political threats, his innocent wife who was not a combatant in the political war should have been let alone. But the envy and anger of the human butcher descended on the wrong and innocent target. What gain did the murderers here achieve through this gruesome murder? Only God knows.

We are lost! Our time is always passing away not knowing that we cannot rewind a second no matter the cost. We are wasting our time, energy, and resources in killing and torturing our kith and kin in order to achieve our controversial political goals. We always facilitate and encourage political terrorism within our community, as other commu-

milk invaded their lands while blood and sins invaded ours. Development has reached everywhere while we are left behind emboldening envy and selfishness among ourselves. The race is getting to an end while we are yet to join. The reign of civilisation has almost reached its peak; we are still practising barbarism.

Enough is enough! We need to turn to the turning point. We need a sanitised and abstinence democracy for our nation. Why can't we copy since we cannot learn from even smaller nations not as important and great as Nigeria? We should not let the viper to regrow and produce enmity within our society. Both government and public should be at surveillance of those blood suckers, and shall face the wrath of the arm of law before the public. A child that disturbs his mother's sleep, he too will

never sleep. We shall respect the rule of God and the rule of law. We need to re-mould, reorient and restructure and purify our rot. This reminds me of the statement made by one of our great nationalists, the founder and leader of NCNC, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, which says, "when a team of dedicated Nigerians with a sense of mission, patriotic vision and inspired imaginations assume the reins of government, they can not fail to read the writings on the wall".

Lastly, I will like to extend my condolences to Alhaji Muhammad Abubakar Rimi and his entire family and relatives in particular and Kano State in general over this tragedy. May the gentle soul of Hajija Sa'adatu rest in perfect peace, likewise the other dead *ummahs*, ameen.

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*"That was not the first time Nigeria had experienced such murder which are mostly alleged to be political killings, but I say it is political terrorism. People like Bola Ige, Harry Marshal, among many others tasted such miserable death and we are all witnesses to that. But the questions that are raised whenever such incidents occur are; why the killing? Who are behind it?"*



## YOUR LETTERS

# Enhancing our democracy

Nigeria is unarguably a great country whose resources - natural and human - are incomparable in sub-Saharan Africa. The nation has recorded phenomenal achievements in virtually all spheres of human endeavours since democracy was restored in 1999. Nigeria before the advent of democracy six years ago was a fragmented, despondent, corruption-stricken and pariah nation. Today, Nigeria has been transformed; our economy is turning around, with inflation beating a fast retreat, unemployment is gradually being reduced and the crime rate is in record time low. The telecom-

munications and ICT sectors are booming, as confidence has been revived in the economy, with debt relief secured and consolidation in the banking sector taking centre-stage. Our nation's economy has once more become attractive to foreign investors because of the above-mentioned investment indices.

For the first time since 1982, Nigerians in the Diaspora are expressing their willingness to "Andrew back" in order to contribute their quota in national development. These entire beautiful scenarios would not have been possible without the enthronement of democracy in

our nation's body politic. Democracy without mincing words is a desideratum for any nation to develop. The realisation of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria will be a mirage if the tripod on which democracy stands - the Independent National Electoral Commission is not well-funded. Section 153(f) of the 1999 Constitution established and outlined the functions of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). These vital functions, the chief of which is to organise, undertake and supervise all elections to the offices of the President, Vice President, the Governors and

Deputy Governors of the various states, and to the membership of the Senate, the House of Representatives and Houses of Assembly of each state of the federation is intrinsic to the survival and sustenance of our nascent democracy.

It is therefore worrisome to read of media reports that INEC is already six weeks behind in its preparation for the 2007 General Elections due to the non-availability of funds. Research has shown that inadequate and late release of funds for the National Electoral Commission have been responsible for the shoddy conduct of elections with its attendant nega-

tive consequences.

In the past, the Independent National Electoral Commission had sadly compromised her independence by going cap in hand to the executive begging for their statutory fund.

INEC under Prof. Maurice Iwu has demonstrated a great zeal and patriotic determination to conduct a credible free and fair election in 2007. INEC's Electronic Voting System (EVS) would revolutionise the transmission of election data and results using electronic means. One of the main problems inherent in conducting elections in difficult terrains will be solved

through the Electronic Voting System (EVS) thereby enhancing the conduct of a less acrimonious election that would be acceptable to all and sundry. The National Assembly should expeditiously approve and release the N60.5 billion INEC Budget for 2007 General Elections. Only this will guarantee INEC's ability to conduct acceptable free and fair elections next year. It is hoped that INEC would judiciously utilise funds allotted to it, as posterity will never forgive it if it fails to live up to expectations.

*Mr James Okoronkwo lives in Abuja.*

The episode of 15th January 2006, during the Sardauna Memorial Lecture in Kaduna was a real disgrace not only to the youths who were seemingly the culprits in the perpetration and execution of the wanton thuggery, but all our elders in the North who were at the receiving end of the thuggery. Suffice it to say that the episode culminated in the real frustration for all and sundry in the North on the gimmicks of keeping the Sardauna memory alive.

Whereas we remain unequivocal on the total failure of the Northern elders and elite to truly emulate the good deeds of Sardauna's to the degree of giving their best in all circumstances like education, health, employment, farming, textiles, delegation of authority, chastisement of all culprits, general obedience to law and order, discipline and general social welfare, etc., it is an outright blackmail to apportion any such anti-social and illiterate conduct to the person of Right Honourable Minamud Rabi'u Bako, an accomplished journalist, a commissioner of many times including in the present-day government of Governor Ahmed Mohammed Makarr, and a member of the Kaduna House of Representatives and an adviser to the Executive Governor of Kaduna State.

## On the show of shame in Kaduna

In fact, it can only turn out to be a paradox if an outsider without an inkling of the state power and authority can engineer thuggery of this magnitude and go ahead to execute it despite all the state protocol and security network. It is either that the state power aided and abetted the perpetration of this act or they were the direct perpetrators and executors of the thuggery.

Certainly, it will remain only cheap blackmail to point accusing fingers at any other person, group or institution than the host state given the facts that when the hoodlums were feasting on the invited dignitaries going in and coming out of the conference venue, the chunk of the Nigerian Police Force who were drafted did not control the situation nor did they make any arrest. However, in the tradition of the present day politics of witch-hunting, cheap blackmail and outright sadism, the Kaduna State political apparatus of doom started to hunt for their target personalities in their respective residence, including our political leader Rt. Hon. Minamud Rabi'u Bako who chaired the session.

whenever VP visits Kaduna, as a mark honour for the man who deserves it. So, therefore, unless and until they prove that the vice president does not belong to the PDP or that he is not a statesman deserving of the honour our leader bestows on him, the tactics and utterances of the Kaduna North PDP executives against Alhaji AbdulMalik Mahmoud and Bauchi 2007 guber election

The main objective of this write-up is to enable the people of Bauchi State to have an insight into the myth and realities of Alhaji AbdulMalik Mahmoud, the current deputy governor of the state. This presentation is not intended to be a marketing strategy to sell the deputy governor to the good people of Bauchi State as he has not declared his intention to run, but the reality on ground indicates that while others - both pretenders and contenders - may be trying to build bridges of understanding and association among the people of the state, Alhaji AbdulMalik Mahmoud stands out as the bridge itself having cemented and bridged the relationship between the people of the state and the government.

Alhaji AbdulMalik Mahmoud believes in hardwork, team work, fairness and total dependence on God in all he does. Despite the high position he has attained in life, he remains a man of unbelievable sympathy, humility and civility. Whoever comes close to him is in for a shock of these rare qualities from a man of high social standing and generosity. He is also highly respected, very intelligent and an upright person. His doors and his arms are always open to all. His residence in Bauchi is a centre of refuge for those who need one form of assistance or the other.

Alhaji AbdulMalik Mahmoud is a man of high social standing and generosity. He is also highly respected, very intelligent and an upright person. His doors and his arms are always open to all. His residence in Bauchi is a centre of refuge for those who need one form of assistance or the other.

Alhaji AbdulMalik Mahmoud is a man of high social standing and generosity. He is also highly respected, very intelligent and an upright person. His doors and his arms are always open to all. His residence in Bauchi is a centre of refuge for those who need one form of assistance or the other.

support and encouragement of the people of Bauchi State for this great gentleman. The emergence of this gentleman as the governor of Bauchi State in 2007 will transform the state economically and socially and will also restore the people's hope and confidence in government in the areas of prudent management of resources and the implementation of people-oriented programmes and policies like employment-generation, affordable food production, quality education, vibrant healthcare system, affordable houses and good roads.

Finally, I am advising the good people of Bauchi State to persuade this gentleman to run for the governorship of our great state in 2007.

*Dr K. K. Ibrahim wrote in from Umuahia, Abia State.*

Let the going go and we shall see who the non-starters are. We are vehemently and unrepentantly committed to Vice President Atiku Abubakar for the 2007 presidency and not to any dark horse.

Lastly, all that Nigerians are looking and praying for is total political freedom. The right to equal and level political fields, not a situation where all other politicians have been banned from posting posters whereas the whole Kaduna metropolis is filled with Makarr's 2007 posters.

Now, who is fooling who?

*Mallam Ibrahim Mohammed Inuwa Tela, secretary, Alherin Allahi, Kaduna State.*

# MUHAMMAD AL-GHAZALI

ON TUESDAY  
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## Between OBJ and General Malu

If you believe the grapevine, the official grapevine, that is, then the erstwhile Army Chief, General, Victor Malu should be a guest of security agents by the time you get to read this piece. Not that there is anything particularly ingenuous about that. Apart from embarrassing the man for belonging to the opposite camp, he would have been summoned for daring to express his views on what we had long known about the president's catastrophic handling of the economy, which had further impoverished more Nigerians than at any other time since independence. But more importantly, except commonsense eventually prevails, the gutsy General would be grilled for questioning OBJ's patriotic credentials, which had seen the nation turned into a de facto military base for the Americans.

Nigerians would recall that soon after Malu's unceremonious removal as Army Chief, the same army which he led meritoriously inexplicably rolled its tanks into his village and reduced the place to rubble in apparent reprisal for the killing of soldiers in the locality by militia men from his ethnic group. The General lost an aged relation in the brutal assault, yet I am not aware that any judicial panel of inquiry ever indicted him in the slaughter of the military personnel. More significantly, no military personnel were ever publicly rebuked for the carnage at Malu's village either. Like the incident at Odi before it, if truth must be told, Zaki Biam was so eerily reminiscent of the destruction of Fela's shrine all those years ago when a certain General Olusegun Obasanjo just happened to be the leader of this much-abused nation. And yet while Fela's version of the sordid events at the Kalakuta Republik has long passed into legend in his musical composition and rendition of the "Unknown Soldier," there was nothing baffling about why General Malu had to be kicked out of the Army at the point of his supposed retirement.

Indeed in my view, people like the PDP stalwart George who reduced Malu's disagreements with the president to the personal level are simply being mischievous to say the least. For instance, it is doubtful if the General would still have been hounded out of the military if he fully endorsed the president's virtual surrender of the nation's sovereignty to the Americans as alleged; and for all we know of the uncanny misfortunes which befell most of his high profile adversaries such as Abubakar Rimi in recent times, it is equally doubtful if the storming of Zaki Biam would ever have occurred had he not towed the line he did.

And yet Malu's umbrage at the unhealthy romance with the American military was clear and unambiguous. The American military have nothing to teach their American counterparts, he insisted, in fanfany warfare of the type Nigerian soldiers experienced in the jungles of Liberia and Si-

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nuclear, or to a large extent air war, in which a handful of American pilots simply dropped bombs from the relative safety of their cockpits on their hapless and largely impoverished victims at Hiroshima, Vietnam, Afghanistan and lately Iraq. Very certainly, not anyone with even a pedestrian sense of military history can ever unravel why the American military hurriedly fled Vietnam with their tails literally between their legs, and why, in spite of Douglas MacArthur, they considered the ground invasion of Japan in the Second World War a non-starter, and the invasion of the Korean peninsula immediately after it a military impossibility.

In an era in which his contemporaries lobbied for military appointments, Malu remained a professional soldier to the core. What is also beyond dispute is that in this age of shameless sycophants and retired military men who metamorphosed into political harlots and doyens of oil and banking interests, General Malu never wavered and remained true to his professional calling. His views on developments in the military he loved with a passion therefore cannot be simply swept under the carpet on the basis of political expediency. In his own words: "I am the only Nigerian soldier who served in Liberia twice in two different capacities. Chief of Army Staff of the ECOMOG and I also combined it with being the Nigerian contingent commander. A few years after, because of my performance, I was reappointed, the ECOMOG Force Commander where I presided over and brought democracy to Liberia. My tenure as ECOMOG Force Commander was extended to Sierra Leone. I commanded troops from ten West African countries. I earned the highest military award from the government of Liberia: that is, the Distinguished Service Order." Quite clearly, General Malu, unlike Olusegun Obasanjo who, with due respect, was only called upon in the closing stages of our civil war to mop up the remnants of the Biafran rebels dealt mortal blows in the sector earlier commanded by General Adekunle, had clearly proven himself in combat several times over and knew what he was talking about.

Also, except our memory fails us, or conscience and decency count for very little, such intimidating military credentials cannot be easily waved aside. Those who also call for his head by mischievously misinterpreting and misrepresenting his views fail to see the patriotic underpinnings to his 'offensive' comments. I have also carefully studied the somewhat impromptu speech he delivered at the meeting of the Arewa Consultative Forum penultimate week which generated the unnecessary controversy. My understanding

ferent from the views already expressed by Chief Sunday Awoniyi. Still, at the risk of overflogging the matter, Malu's speech essentially captured the deeply felt frustration of a man who watched as the institution he once had the honour to lead with distinction was systematically stripped of dignity and honour in the president's haste to please the West; it captured the anguish of the consummate professional forced to choose between loyalty to his nation and capitulation to the wishes of one single individual with a questionable mandate for that matter. But more importantly, in my opinion, his principled retirement from the military demonstrated his uncommon character which must be apparent to all fair-minded Nigerians. Not only that, by resisting the demons within him in his tussle with the president, he also emerged as an apostle of our nascent democracy no matter how imperfect it may be at present.

It is also instructive that even now that his head is literally on the guillotine, General Malu unlike the fascists in the president's employ, continues to express his preference for the rule of law above anything else. "I am 58 years old. If I start being afraid of people now, then I can never lay claim to my professional training. I did not go into the army by mistake. It was by design. I know what the law says. If I commit an offence, arrest me and take me for trial and see what will happen."

Unfortunately for the man, certain satirical developments in the polity since the last general elections suggest that he might not get his wish. If anything, he must thank his maker that unlike Bola Ige, Dokubo and Chuba Okadigbo, he has not already joined his ancestors under questionable circumstances. I happened to be in Ibadan last Thursday and the tension and frustration of a healthy chunk of its inhabitants was tick in the air. My friends actually warned me not to venture anywhere near Molete for fear of violence. The reason: The incumbent governor and benefactor of all the dirty politics had just released a well-known associate of Adedibu commonly called "Tokyo." The same man was earlier imprisoned on allegations of murder by Governor Ladoja! Also, only last week, the president revealed to a shocked nation that a man confessed to the rigging of the elections in Lagos State in 2003. Forget the cliché that birds of the same feather often flock together; the same character, like Chris Uba and Ngige who similarly confessed before the president to the theft of the people's mandate in 2003, are yet to be visited by the law in Obasanjo's brand of democracy. Such men can do no wrong in this dispensation and are apparently OBJ's preferred company.

May God deliver us from this obvious abuse of executive privilege. In the meantime, long live General Malu!

# REFLECTIONS

By ISSA AREMU

## Hamas: Phobia or democracy?

By Issa Aremu  
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What was in the electoral victory of a resistance movement in a Palestinian occupied territory that alarmed governments in Europe and America? The recent mass hysteria in the West which heralded the proclaimed victory of Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in the Palestinian parliamentary election has once again exposed the Western countries' triple standards with respect to global movement towards democracy. Democracy is not meant to necessarily be efficient, which explains why the world tolerated the outcome of controversial elections that produced President George W. Bush, Jr despite the loud global opposition to his permanent war agenda. Democracy is not necessarily to be manned either, which explains the new wave of feminisation of democratic presidency from Liberia to Chile and Germany! The only thing constant in a democracy is change and the elements of suspense and unwelcome surprises are its ingredients! Worldwide, (Middle East inclusive!), we have seen that democracy is not necessarily to produce saints or virgins as winners. Democracy has actually enthroned terrorists as leaders. Menachem Begin (1913-1992) was an acknowledged Israeli statesman and Prime Minister who shared Nobel Prize with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt in 1978. He was once a commander-in-chief of the notorious militant terrorist Zionist group called Irgun Zvai Leumi, which metamorphosed to the coalition party that won election in 1977. Ariel Sharon, the Prime Minister currently in a coma following massive stroke in January, was once a crime minister of sort who proudly presided over the massacre of Palestinian refugees in Sabra and Shatila camps in 1981. He even regretted not having liquidated Yasser Arafat who was held up in the siege in southern Lebanon.

In fact, Sharon was the only prime minister who came to power through terror-provocation that included provocative visit to some holy sites in East Jerusalem! Until 1990, Nelson Mandela (the living global moral force), was declared a terrorist by apartheid South Africa backed by the West, while the ANC, his organisation was so lionised. But Mandela who spent 10,000 days (27 years!) in prison overwhelmingly won the first ever democratic

actually shared the Nobel Prize with F. W. de Klerk.

If the world came to terms with the above cited democratic outcomes, why the frenzy and mass hysteria about Hamas victory which every discernible observer knew to be inevitable? The official propaganda had it that Fatah dominated the PLO lost election because of corruption and cronyism at Palestinian Authority, but nothing could be more misleading. The voice of moderation was lost in the

the evidence of new democracy in the Middle East has threatened to cut off aid to plausible Hamas-led Palestinian government and urging other nations to take similar stand. It is precisely this lack of disinterestedness and sheer meddlesomeness that has imperilled the United States' role in the Middle East peace process! The aid came too late and too token in the first instance and the total withdrawal of it meant America was inadvertently making Hamas' case that it (i.e. America) only pays lip-service to the

**"Historians of Palestinian/Israeli conflict will be right to conclude that the campaign manager of Hamas in this historic election of Hamas was strangely Mr Sharon who through the serial murder of its leaders, notables like venerable wheel-chaired 80-year-old Sheikh Yassin and Dr Ranlisi popularised their cause and generated sympathy for them. It is a case of one extremism begetting another extremism!"**

Palestinian election precisely because it was rewarded by both Israel and USA with hard-line posturing that meant the mass murder of Palestinians and further occupation of their lands.

Historians of Palestinian/Israeli conflict will be right to conclude that the campaign manager of Hamas in this historic election of Hamas was strangely Mr Sharon who through the serial murder of its leaders, notables like venerable wheel-chaired 80-year-old Sheikh Yassin and Dr Ranlisi popularised their cause and generated sympathy for them. It is a case of one extremism begetting another extremism! The United States, which paradoxically has been taunting Iraqi "elections" in which minority Shiites "won" over the majority Sunnis as

Palestinian cause. It is right if the Israeli voters elected bulldozers to power but unacceptable if the Palestinians chose wind-breakers to resist hurricanes. The question is if the West rejects democratic outcomes, do they prefer a return to stone-throwing Intifada days which seems the only alternative to democracy? Before the death of Yasser Arafat, the propaganda was that he was the main obstacle to peace process. A year after, it is self-evident that as long as the perceived and real injustice against the Palestinians remain, leaders and those who choose them are not the problems but those who are in the position like Americans and Europeans to ensure equity and justice to all parties in the age-long conflict in the Middle East.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Africa

# Row over Cameroon 'gay' witchhunt

Cameroon's political and business elites have been rocked by a campaign by tabloid newspapers to "out" top personalities they say are homosexual.

The newspaper editors say they are exposing people who engage in "deviant behaviour". Some 50 people have been named and the papers have sold out.

Homosexual acts are banned in Cameroon, with up to five years in jail.

But the campaign has been condemned by the state communication council for invading people's private lives.

The BBC's Jean-David Mihamle in Yaounde says the campaign has sparked a

national debate about gay rights and privacy.

Like much of Africa, Cameroon is a conservative society, where homosexuality is frowned upon.

Communications Minister Pierre Moukoko Mbonjo, who is one of those named, has threatened legal action and told Cameroon's media they risked breaking up families, reports Reuters news agency.

"Whether it is heterosexual or homosexual, sexual intercourse takes place in an intimate environment between two persons," he told media chiefs last month.

We could not remain silent. We had to ring the alarm bell.

However, none of those named have gone to court yet and three people - a minister, a top civil servant and a radio presenter - have denied the claims.

Our reporter says one newspaper had to have two extra print runs and some vendors resorted to selling photocopies to satisfy demand.

The newspapers say they are waiting to defend themselves - and have proof of their allegations.

The publisher of the weekly L'Anecdote, Jean Pierre Amougou Belinga, defended headlines such as "Gay are among us".

"We could not remain silent. We had to ring the alarm bell. We don't regret it and we have to do it again... in spite of numerous death threats me and my journalists have had," he told Reuters.

# Kenya drought 'worsens conflict'

The drought in northern Kenya is increasing conflict between the area's nomadic groups, as they travel further to find scarce pasture, a charity says.

"It's not just the food crisis that is claiming lives," said Oxfam Kenya head Gezahegn Kebede, warning of further deadly clashes unless more aid arrives.

He warned of the worst conflict in a decade. Last month, some 40 people were killed in clashes between rival groups.

Some 4m Kenyans need food aid, along with a further 7m across East Africa.

The nomadic groups of northern Kenya, southern Ethiopia, parts of Sudan and Somalia have a history of fighting over livestock and pasture but Oxfam says the drought is increasing tensions.

Following long wars in Somalia and Sudan, weapons are relatively cheap and readily available in the area.

"The number of weapons in the area is making such encounters increasingly lethal as nomadic communities now have to travel hundreds of kilometres in search of pasture - often taking them into areas controlled by other communities," Oxfam said.

"There is also growing conflict between farmers and cattle herders as livestock invade farms."

Last month's death came when Kenyans tried to retrieve animals stolen by cross-border raiders from Ethiopia and Sudan.

Kenya's environment minister and Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai has often warned of the link between conflict in Africa and environmental factors such as land degradation.

# UN moves closer to Sudan peacekeeping

The Security Council Friday authorized planning for the expected UN takeover of peacekeeping operations in Sudan's conflict-racked Darfur region.

A council statement asked Secretary-General Kofi Annan "to initiate contingency planning without delay" with the African Union for a possible transition to a UN operation. African Union peacekeepers are currently in Darfur.

"The purpose of today's presidential statement was to kick off contingency planning," said US Ambassador John Bolton, the current council president. "And my instructions are very clear - which is to move as far and as fast as we can during the month of February."

The African Union has agreed in principle to transform its 7,000-strong peacekeeping force in Darfur into a UN peacekeeping force, a



The Somalis in the dock denied the charges of piracy.

# Somali 'pirates' charged in Kenya

Ten Somali men have been charged with piracy in the Kenyan port of Mombasa, where they were flown after being arrested by the US navy.

They denied the charges and said they did not know why they had been "abducted" from their fishing boat.

But Indian sailors taken hostage by pirates have identified the men.

Piracy has become common off anarchic Somalia, which has had no central government for 15 years. Its waters are now the most dangerous in the world.

The BBC's Joseph Odhiambo in Mombasa says many people have been questioning why the US marines flew the men to the port town to be charged, when the alleged offence happened off the Somali coast.

The men were caught earlier this month by guided missile destroyer USS Winston S Churchill after receiving a report of piracy off the Somali coast.

The Indian crew on board the ship was freed. They had attracted the attention of the US navy by writing "Help" on the side of the ship, reports Kenya's Daily Nation newspaper.

The US ambassador to Kenya William Bellamy said the rescued Indian vessel was brought to Mombasa because it was the nearest port.

"I believe under international law Kenya could if it chose take jurisdiction in this

case. Other states, however, may wish to take jurisdiction," he said on a visit to Mombasa.

We stayed with them for five days... these are the ones for tortured us

The captain of the Indian dhow taken hostage says he is sure that he has identified the men correctly.

"We stayed with them for five days... these are the ones for tortured us," he said.

Another of the 16 Indian sailors said they were all beaten and kicked by those who held them.

Our correspondent says that after their ordeal, many of the Indian sailors are anxious to return home and say they do not intend to take to the seas again.

Somali waters are the world's most dangerous for pirate attacks, according to international shipping groups.

# Moi 'knew about' Kenya gold scam

Kenya's former President Daniel arap Moi must have been aware of a scam which cost some \$600m, according to a report into the "Goldenberg affair".

The report also says Education Minister George Saitoti - finance minister under Mr Moi - should face criminal charges, according to sources who have seen it.

Both men have repeatedly denied the allegations against them.

The report comes as Mr

Moi's successor, Mwai Kibaki, is threatened by a separate corruption scandal.

Mr Kibaki won 2002 elections on pledges to tackle corruption - and end scams like Goldenberg.

He named an inquiry into the scandal, which has now handed over its final report to the president.

The scam involved licences and credits for fictitious gold and diamond exports in the early 1990s.

This week Finance Minister David Mwiraria resigned to "clear his name" over the Anglo Leasing scandal.

The BBC's Adam Mynott in the capital, Nairobi, says the timing of the delivery of the report is being seen as a possible attempt to divert attention away from the running corruption scandal to one that swept through the former Kenyan government.

During the hearing, a key suspect said that he had given suitcases full of money to Mr Moi - an allegation the former president denied.

# Malawi minister guilty of fraud

Malawi's former education minister, Yusuf Mwawa, has been found guilty of four counts of fraud and corruption.

This is the first conviction since President Bingu wa Mutharika launched his anti-corruption campaign in 2004.

He was sacked last year after being accused of using \$1,500 of public funds to pay

expenses for his wedding at a hotel in Blantyre.

His wife, Diana, burst into tears following the guilty verdict. The court was packed with his supporters.

The conviction means he loses his seat in parliament, which he won on the ticket of the former ruling United Democratic Front (UDF).

He had denied the charges but offered to pay back the money.

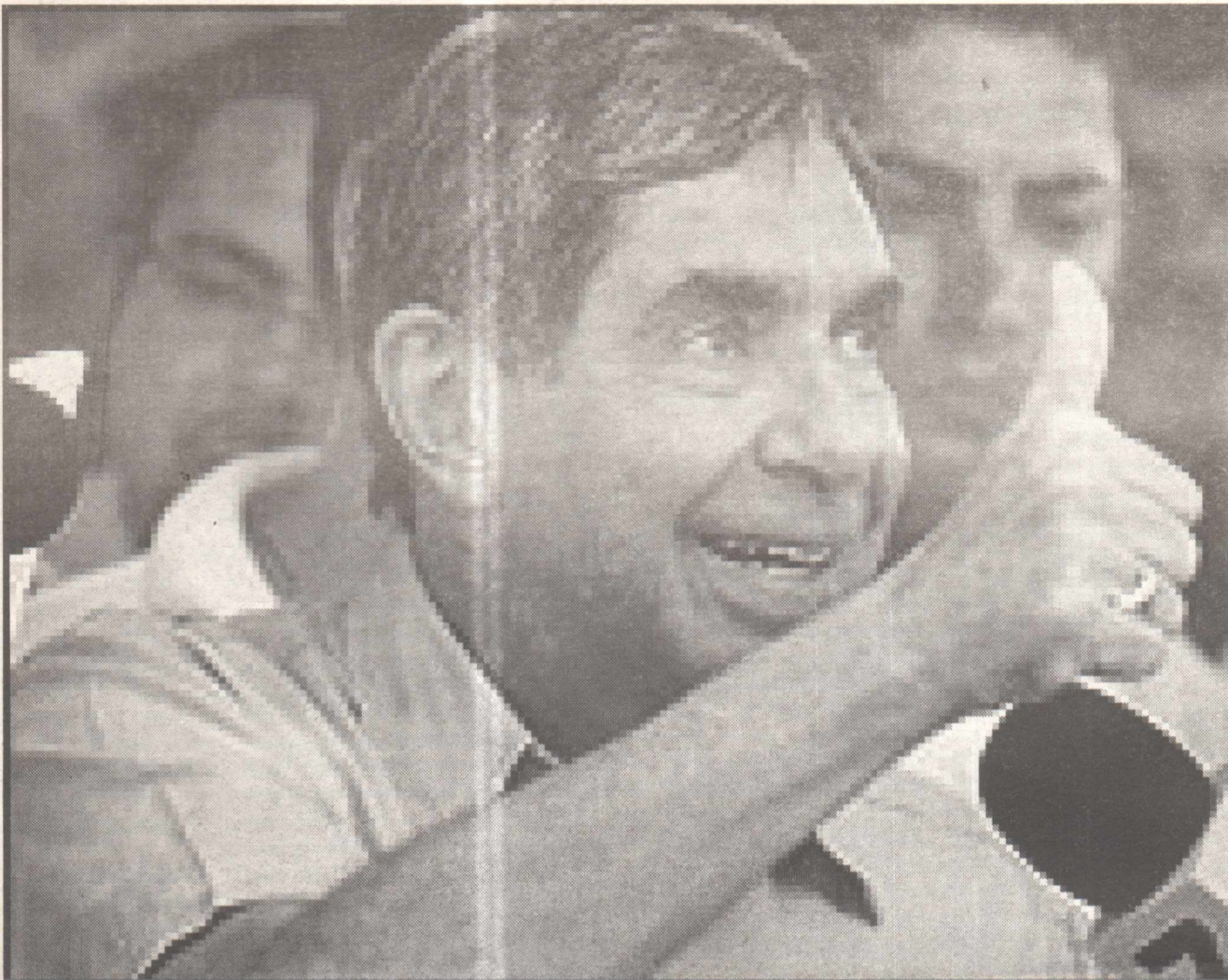
He is to be sentenced on 9 February.

Two of the charges carry jail sentences of up to five years, according to Gustave Kaliwo, head of the Anti-Corruption Bureau.

President Mutharika has left the UDF, saying the party did not support his drive against corruption.

# Trust International

## World Report



Mr Arias one of the candidates in Costa Rican presidential poll.

## Costa Ricans vote for president

Polls have closed in Costa Rica as the country votes for a new leader in an election which could see the return of former President Oscar Arias.

With 77% of the votes counted, Mr Arias, head of the National Liberation Party, had 40.8% support compared with 40% for his rival Otton Solis.

Centrist Mr Arias, 65, has enjoyed a big lead in opinion polls over his main rivals, Mr Solis and Otto Guevara.

Mr Arias won the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize for work to halt regional conflict. Mr Solis heads the Citizens' Action Party.

Television exit polls had earlier given Mr Arias a share of 45%. The top two candidates go through to a second round if the winner does not get at least 40%.

"At this hour we still don't know whether the president has been chosen or if his election will be delayed until 2 April," Oscar Fonseca of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal said.

The election comes amid wide disillusionment with politics after a string of corruption scandals in Costa Rica.

"Today, we'll make reality what the polls have been saying," said Mr Arias.

Voting stations opened at dawn for the country's eligible 2.5 million voters, but attendance was reported to be thin all day. Polls closed at 1800 (0000 GMT).

Officials said the poll had one of the lowest turnouts in years but the election had proceeded peacefully.

Activists for the main par-

ties drove through the streets of the capital, San Jose, honking horns and waving flags in a bid to drum up support.

It contrasts to previous presidential elections, which are traditionally treated as a national holiday with people wearing party colours and driving through streets waving flags on the eve of voting, the Associated Press reports.

"This is a cold election because people are disillusioned with our politicians," Elena Hidalgo, a 52-year-old lawyer waiting to vote in San Jose, told AP.

Three former presidents have been accused of taking illicit payments from foreign companies. Two of them are on trial.

Correspondents say many Costa Ricans see Mr Arias - who was president between 1986 and 1990 - as a politician untainted by the recent scandals.

But his critics describe him as arrogant.

Mr Arias won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987 for spearheading talks that led to the end of civil wars in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

He says he wants Costa Rica to join the Central American Free Trade Agreement (Cafta) with the US.

Costa Rica is the only country in the region which has not ratified the deal which is set to come into effect later this year.

Mr Solis wants some of the deal to be renegotiated, arguing that in its current form it would exacerbate poverty and hurt small-scale farmers.

He is hoping to ride the left-wing wave sweeping through some Latin American countries. He has about 31% of support, according to polls.

## Cole mastermind escapes from Yemen prison

An al-Qaida operative sentenced to death for plotting the USS Cole bombing that killed 17 sailors in 2000 was among a group of convicts who escaped from a Yemen prison last week, Interpol said Sunday in issuing a global security alert. Officials set up checkpoints around the capital of San'a, where the prison was located, to try to catch the escapees before they could flee to the protection of mountain tribes, according to a Yemeni security official speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the press.

Some mountainous tribal areas are essentially outside the control of Yemen's central government, raising fears the fugitives could hide there before escaping the country.

The Yemeni government made no official comment Sunday.

Yemeni officials said Jamal al-Badawi - a man convicted of plotting, preparing and helping carry out the Cole bombing - was among the fugitives, Interpol said. Al-Badawi was among those sentenced to death in September 2004 for plotting the attack, in which two suicide bombers blew up an explosives-laden boat next to the destroyer as it refueled in the Yemeni port of Aden on Oct. 12, 2000.

A Yemeni security official announced the escape of convicted al-Qaida members Friday but did not provide any details or names. The official said only that the escapees had all had been sentenced last year on terrorism-related charges.

Interpol said in a state-

ment that at least 13 of the 23 escapees were convicted al-Qaida fighters.

The convicts escaped via a 140-yard-long tunnel "dug by the prisoners and co-conspirators outside," Interpol said. The Yemeni official said the prison was at the central headquarters of the country's military intelligence services in a building in the center of the capital.

Another of the 23 escapees was identified as Fawaz Yahya al-Rabeiee, considered by Interpol to be one of those responsible for a 2002 attack on the French tanker Limburg off Yemen's coast. That attack killed a Bulgarian crew member and spilled 90,000 barrels of oil into the Gulf of Aden.

Al-Rabeiee also was convicted for an attack on a helicopter carrying Hunt Oil Co. employees a month later and the detonation of explosions at a civil aviation authority building.

"We are closely monitoring the situation at this time and we will work with our domestic and international partners to actively pursue these dangerous terrorists," FBI Special Agent Richard Kolko said in Washington.

Interpol's urgent global security alert, known as an "orange notice," was issued "because the escape and unknown whereabouts of al-Qaida terrorists constituted a clear and present danger to all countries," the statement said.

## Woman has first face transplant

Surgeons in France have carried out the first face transplant, it has been reported.

The woman had lost her nose, lips and chin after being savaged by a dog.

In the controversial operation, tissues, muscles, arteries and veins were taken from a brain-dead donor and attached to the patient's lower face.

Doctors stress the woman will not look like her donor, but nor will she look like she did before the attack - instead she will have a "hybrid" face.

This is the first face transplant using skin from another person.

It has been technically possible to carry out such a transplant for some years, with teams in the US, the UK and France researching the procedure.

Skin from another person's face is better for trans-

plants as it will be a better match than skin from another part of the patient's body, which could have a different texture or colour.

But the ethical concerns of a face transplant, and the psychological impact to the patient of looking different has held teams back.

Concerns relating to immunosuppressant, psychological impact and the consequence of technical failure have so far prevented ethical approval of the procedure in the UK, though doctors here are fully able to perform transplants.

The 38-year-old French patient, from the French town of Valenciennes, underwent extensive counseling before her operation.

The operation took place over the weekend in Amiens, and is believed to have lasted approximately five hours.

The French magazine Le

Point reports that the tissues, muscles, arteries and veins needed for the transplant were taken from a multi-organ donor in the northern city of Lille, who was brain-dead.

The operations were carried out by a team led by Professor Bernard Devauchelle and Professor Jean Michel Dubernard.

In a statement, the hospital said the woman had been gravely disfigured in the attack in May this year.

She has been unable to speak or eat properly since.

It added that the woman - who wishes to remain anonymous - was in "excellent general health" and said the graft looked normal.

It is not clear whether an individual could be left worse off in the event that a face transplant failed.

Like any other transplant patient, the woman will have to take immunosuppressant

drugs to help her body cope with the donated tissue.

Doctors working in the field say many could benefit from the procedure, including 10,000 burns victims in the UK.

Iain Hutchison, an oral-facial surgeon at Barts and the London Hospital, said: "This is the first face transplant using skin from another person."

But there are medical, and ethical, concerns of facial transplants.

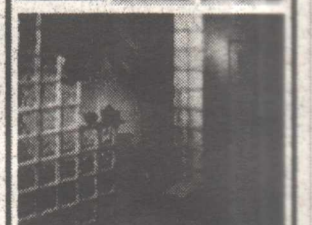
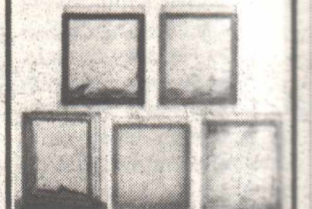
Mr Hutchison, who is chief executive of Saving Faces - the Facial Surgery Research Foundation, warned blood vessels in the donated tissue could clot, the immunosuppressant could fail - and would increase the patient's risk of cancer.

Mr Hutchison added there were ethical and moral issues around donating facial

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# Trust International

## More reactions on cartoon controversy

### Lebanon apologizes to Denmark for violence

Lebanon apologized Monday to Denmark after rampaging Muslim demonstrators set fire to its diplomatic mission in Beirut, while violent protests escalated throughout the Muslim world against the publication of caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad in Western newspapers.

In Afghanistan, hundreds of demonstrators clashed with police and soldiers during a protest in the central city of Mihtarlam, killing one person and wounding seven. Police fired on the crowd after a protester shot at them and others threw stones and knives, said Dad Mohammed Rasa, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry.

Police used batons and rifle butts to break up a crowd of 200 protesters in front of the presidential palace in Kabul, the Afghan capital. At least three people were injured and seven arrested. Some protesters also threw stones at a guard house outside the main American base in the city, but no injuries were reported.

Elsewhere, violent protests broke out in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation. Hundreds of demonstrators hurled rocks at the Danish and American consulates in Surabaya, while protesters burned Danish

flags in other cities.

The main city in Indian-controlled Kashmir came to a standstill as shops, businesses and schools shut down for a day to protest the drawings. Dozens of protesters torched Danish flags, burned tires and shouted slogans across Srinagar. Police used tear gas and water cannons to break up protesters in New Delhi.

About 400 Muslims also stomped on Denmark's flag outside the country's embassy in Bangkok, Thailand.

European leaders, meanwhile, called for an end to violence.

"I understand that, when religious feelings are hurt, that can be expressed, but violence cannot be a means in the discussion," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said.

The prime ministers of Spain and Turkey appealed for calm in a column in the International Herald Tribune, saying: "We shall all be the losers if we fail to immediately defuse this situation, which can only leave a trail of mistrust and misunderstanding between both sides in its wake."

The Lebanese Cabinet apologized to Denmark following a late Sunday emergency meeting. Information Minister Ghazi Aridi said the

government had unanimously "rejected and condemned the acts of riots ... that harmed Lebanon's reputation and its civilized image and the noble aim of the demonstration."

At least one person died, 30 were injured and about 200 were detained in the violence Sunday, officials said. Prime Minister Fuad Saniora said the arrested included 76 Syrians, 35 Palestinians and 38 Lebanese.

The protesters set the building housing the Danish Embassy ablaze and threw stones at a Maronite Catholic church — the first attack on Christians since the protests began. Muslim clerics also denounced the violence Sunday, with some wading into the mobs to try to stop the attacks.



Mr Sabeh (centre) resigned after the rioting

### ...minister quits over riot

Lebanon's interior minister has quit after protesters sacked Beirut's Danish embassy in more riots over cartoons depicting the prophet Muhammad.

"A few minutes ago I put my resignation at the disposal of the cabinet. I didn't wait for an answer and left the meeting," Mr Hassan Sabeh said.

Around 200 people were arrested after the riot, including more than 70 Syrians and some Palestinians.

The cartoons were first published in a Danish newspaper.

On Saturday, mobs in Syria torched the Danish and Norwegian embassies in Damascus.

Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller has called for calm.

"It is a critical situation and it is very serious," he told Danish public radio.

Danes living in Lebanon have been told to leave the country or stay indoors.

Mr Sabeh said 1,200 security men and 1,600 army troops had been called in to prevent peaceful protests turning violent on Sunday.

"But things got out of hand when elements that had infiltrated into the ranks of the demonstrators broke through security shields," Mr Sabeh said.

"The one remaining option was an order to shoot, but I was not prepared to order the troops to shoot Lebanese citizens," he added.

The violence has been condemned by political leaders across the country, says the BBC's correspondent Jim Muir.

Around 200 people have been arrested, including more than 70 Syrians and some Palestinians, as well as Lebanese.

Some leading politicians were quick to accuse Syria of instigating the violence in

order to undermine Lebanese security, our correspondent says.

Thousands of protesters attacked the Danish mission in Beirut

Lebanon's leading Sunni politician Saad Hariri, said the violence was a "black day" for Lebanon's Muslims.

The cartoons first appeared in a Danish newspaper in September and caused outrage among Muslims, who consider any images of Muhammad offensive.

One of the cartoons shows Muhammad wearing a bomb-shaped turban.

Newspapers across Europe republished the pictures in recent days, saying they

are defending freedom of expression.

Huge crowds attended Sunday's protest in the Christian neighbourhood where the Danish embassy is located.

The protest started out peacefully, but turned violent after Islamic extremists tried to break through security barriers protecting the building.

"We have a right to defend our prophet," one protester told the BBC.

"They should have respected our religion," said another.

Some 2,000 riot police and army troops fired tear gas and water cannons to disperse the crowd and fired their weapons into the air.

### Five killed in Afghan protests

Four people have died in violent protests against cartoons satirising the Prophet Muhammad, following more than a week of demonstrations.

Three people died after police in Afghanistan fired on protesters when a police station came under attack, a government spokesman said.

In Somalia, a 14-year-old boy was shot dead and several others were injured after protesters attacked the police.

Further protests have been taking place from Gaza to India, Indonesia and Iran.

They follow attacks on Danish embassies in Syria and Lebanon over the weekend. The cartoons were first published in a Danish newspaper.

Monday's deaths were thought to be the first, but officials in Lebanon have now confirmed that a demonstrator died on Sunday after jumping from the third floor of the Danish embassy in Beirut to escape a fire.

Hundreds of people took part in the morning demonstration in Afghanistan's Laghman province, in a second day of protests in the city.

The province's director of information, Hamraz Ningarhari, told the BBC that a policeman and a number of other people were injured.

Demonstrators shouted "death to Denmark" and "death to France" and called for diplomats and soldiers from both countries to be removed from the region.

kicked out of Afghanistan.

"They want to test our feelings," protester Mawli Abdul Qahar Abu Israra told the BBC.

"They want to know whether Muslims are extremists or not. Death to them and to their newspapers," he said.

Across Afghanistan, hundreds protested in Kandahar and Mazar-e-Sharif, while 200 demonstrators gathered outside the Danish embassy in the capital, Kabul.

In the north-eastern province of Takhar, demonstrators threw stones at government buildings and police fired in the air.

In the port city of Bosaso, in the autonomous Somali region of Puntland, police shot dead one protester and three more were injured after demonstrators threw stones and barricaded streets outside international aid agency buildings.

Peaceful protests were held in several other Somali towns.

In Indonesia, police fired warning shots at protesters outside the US consulate in Surabaya, the country's second largest city. Earlier, demonstrators hurled stones and broke windows at the Danish consulate in the city, and there were protests in the capital, Jakarta.

Riot police in the Indian capital, Delhi, fired tear gas and water cannons to disperse hundreds of students protesting against the cartoons.

across Indian-administered Kashmir were closed after a general strike was called in protest at the drawings

In Thailand, protesters shouted "God is great" and stamped on Denmark's flag outside the country's embassy in Bangkok, the Associated Press news agency reported

There were protests outside the European Union offices in Gaza, following demonstrations there last week.

The cartoons first appeared in a Danish newspaper in September and caused outrage among Muslims, who consider any images of Muhammad offensive.

One of the cartoons shows Muhammad wearing a bomb-shaped turban.

Newspapers across Europe republished the pictures last week, saying they were defending freedom of expression.

### Indonesia protests spread

Indonesian police have fired warning shots to break up a protest in Surabaya, East Java, over cartoons satirising the Prophet Muhammad.

It was the latest protest to hit Indonesia and other countries regarding the pictures, which were first printed in a Danish newspaper last year.

Protesters in Surabaya first attacked the Danish and then the US consulate.

demanding a newspaper apologise for publishing one of the cartoons.

At least 200 protesters gathered outside the Danish consulate in Surabaya, Indonesia's second largest city, before moving on to the US consulate.

The warning shots were fired when the protesters tried to remove the US consulate's plaque, reports said.

There were also protests outside the Danish embassies in Jakarta and Bangkok, Thailand.

### In quotes: Reaction to cartoons

The decision by some European newspapers to reprint cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad has caused widespread condemnation and protests.

As the row intensifies, governments and world leaders have been giving their reaction. Here is a selection of comments from political leaders around the world.

**HOSNI MUBARAK**, Egyptian President  
Freedom of opinion, expression and of the press, which we guarantee and respect, cannot be used as an excuse to insult sanctities, beliefs and religions.

**HAMID KARZAI**, Afghan President  
Any insult to the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, is an insult to more than one billion Muslims and an act like this must never be allowed to be repeated.

**ANDERS FOGH RASMUSSEN**, Danish Prime Minister  
We are talking about an issue with fundamental significance to how democracies work. One can safely say it is now an even bigger issue.

**AHMED QUREIA**, Outgoing Palestinian Prime Minister  
We hope that the concerned governments are attentive to the sensitivity of this issue. We warn that emotions may flare in this very sensitive issue.

**Prince NAYEF**, Saudi Interior Minister  
We hope that religious centres like the Vatican will clarify their opinion in this respect.

**PHILIPPE DOUSTE-BLAZY**, French Foreign Minister  
The principle of freedom should be exercised in a spirit of tolerance, respect of beliefs, respect of religions, which is the very basis of secularism of our country.

**YURI THAMRIN**, Indonesian Foreign Ministry spokesman  
Freedom of expression cannot justify indignity towards a religion.

**FRANCO FRATTINI**, EU Justice Commissioner  
It should be crystal clear to all that violence, intimidation, and the calls for boycotts or for restraints on the freedom of the press are completely unacceptable.

I can understand the feelings of indignation, frustration and sadness of the Muslim communities over the last few days. Such events do not facilitate dialogue between faiths and cultures.

# Trust International

Odd World

## Don't let the bed-bugs bite? Try stopping them!

Australia is suffering a bed-bug epidemic with the tourism industry losing an estimated A\$100 million (US\$75 million) a year because of the blood-sucking insects, according to a new entomology study.

Some pest controllers have reported more than a 1,000 percent rise in bed-bug outbreaks, said the Institute for Clinical Pathology & Medical Research at Sydney's Westmead Hospital. The Australian outbreaks are part of a global epidemic, with the number of bed bugs worldwide doubling each year, Institute medical entomologist Stephen Doggett said Friday.

"Britain, Europe and a lot of America have reported a resurgence in bed bugs," said Doggett.

Hotel and pest control operators in the United States reported a 20 percent rise in bed bugs in 2004 and bed bug infestations in the United States have caused lawsuits, with a number of companies sued by guests after being bitten.

Doggett said the world-

wide rise in the insects was a result of changing pest control measures and a rise in travelers visiting exotic locations.

Pest control in the past usually involved insect sprays, which also killed bed bugs, but new environmentally friendly practices such as insect baits, had no effect on bed bugs.

"Bed bugs haven't been a serious public health problem in Australia for about 50 years prior to their current resurgence," Doggett said.

"Motels use to be sprayed for cockroaches, but now they use cockroach baits and bed bugs are blood suckers so the baits have little impact," he said.

Some people suffer blood poisoning as a result of bites.

Bed bugs prefer dark locations close to where people sleep so they can feed on human blood at night. They usually nest in mattresses, particularly in the seams, under floorboards and carpets, inside bed frames and slats and behind skirting boards.

The chairman of Back-

packing Queensland, Dean Cooper, said accommodation operators in the tropical northern state were losing money by closing rooms to treat bed-bug outbreaks.

"It can sometimes be a minimum two or three days that you'll have a room out of action — a couple of hundred dollars just for that particular room, and then you have possible reinfestation problems down the track," Cooper told Australian radio.

Queensland's Tourism Industry Council will hold a bed-bug summit next Tuesday to discuss combating the biting problem.



An adult bed-bug full of blood is seen in this undated handout photograph in Sydney. (Institute for Clinical Pathology and Medical

## Ultraviolet lure may catch fish's eye

In the ancient struggle between man and fish, man has a new weapon. Forget fancy lures, depth charges or precision casting guns. The new weapon requires vision — ultraviolet vision.

Called Fool-a-Fish, it comes in a bottle that sprays titanium dioxide on fishing lures and bait. The chemical lights up the watery depths like a disco ball, luring fish from half a mile away.

Fool-a-Fish is the brainchild of a Spokane physician named Milan Jeckle — that's Dr. Jeckle to you — who combined his love of chemistry and the outdoors into a new business. Fool-A-Fish is earning a growing reputation as anglers from Alaska to Florida enjoy success with the product.

"You catch three or four times more fish, and the biggest fish," Jeckle contended.

Researchers have discovered that while humans see in three colors — red, yellow-green and blue — fish and birds see a fourth color in the ultraviolet range, which shows up as a white glow, Jeckle said. This color is invisible to humans.

Working with David Cleary, a chemistry professor at Spokane's Gonzaga University, Jeckle came up with the formula combining titanium dioxide, which is used in sunscreens, and several other chemicals. The whitish liquid dries quickly, and will stay on a lure for some two hours, he said. It is nontoxic, odorless and washes off with soap and water.

But underwater it shines like a beacon to fish.

In November of 2004, Jeckle and two friends went to Moses Lake, in central Washington, to try it out.

"I put it on my bait and caught a 6-pound walleye," Jeckle said. Later he took it to Alaska and caught several 100-pound halibut.

Jeckle said many of the spray products currently used to lure fish are scented, because fish are known to search for food by

smell.

"This is based entirely on vision," Jeckle said. "This is a new way to fish."

"It's not just blood that attracts sharks," he added. "They can see a swimmer half a mile away."

Jeckle makes up batches of Fool-A-Fish in his kitchen. The spray is sold in some outdoor stores in the region, and it can be ordered on Jeckle's Web site. It is also getting written up in fishing magazines. Northwest Angler said the formula "makes it super easy for fish to see lures or baits from great distances."

Instructors at Salmon University in Tacoma, a guide

service and fishing school, also report success with the product. John Keizer, one of its chief instructors, said he found that treated herring caught three fish for every one caught on untreated herring.

Jeckle has also adapted his formula to produce Fool-A-Bird, which works on a reverse principle. Birds use ultraviolet vision to avoid humans, so Jeckle created a formula that when sprayed on a hunter's clothes, body and gun will absorb ultraviolet rays.

"You spray it on yourself and they treat you like a tree trunk or a dead stump,"

Jeckle said. "They ignore you."

Jeckle grew up in Green Bay, Wis., where he began fishing for perch as a boy. He practiced for three decades as a family physician in Spokane, and went into semiretirement five years ago. That's what gave him the time to develop his products, he said. Jeckle cautioned that Fool-A-Fish is not foolproof.

"It's not magic," Jeckle said. Some days nothing will make fish bite, and other days they will bite at anything, he said.

"This is for when it's in-between," he said.

## Plastic traffic cop slows cars in Russia

This is one Russian traffic cop who will never issue a ticket or take a bribe: he's made of plastic.

A life-size mock-up of a traffic police officer is prompting more drivers to obey the speed limit on a highway in western Russia, the plastic policeman's flesh-and-blood colleagues said in a report on state-run Channel One television Sunday.

"Our monitoring has shown that drivers here ... are more disciplined: they slow down," said Ivan Zybin, the deputy commander of a traffic police detachment in the Belgorod region near the Ukrainian border.

A bit like the kind of flat cardboard cutout that enables tourists to snap photos with world leaders, this fake human figure comes complete with a nearly two-dimensional patrol car, a speed gun and a black-and-white baton — held up to signal travelers to be cautious.

But Alexei Zakharov, the officer who served as the model for the mock-up, said that the sight of his plastic double prompts some drivers to do more than slow down.

"Some drivers stop and come up to him to show their

documents, others sit in their cars and wait for the inspector to approach them. They sit there for five minutes and they drive away," he said.

The stretch of highway is busy, in part because of drivers traveling to Ukraine, and officer Sergei Kurdyumov said the mock-up boosts manpower.

"He helps us in that we can't be in two places at once here and there," he said.

Regional authorities plan

to use more of the mock-ups if the experiment proves successful, Channel One reported. Traffic police sometimes place mock-ups of patrol cars by Russian road-sides for similar purposes.

Non-plastic Russian traffic police are widely known for accepting bribes, which are sometimes offered by drivers who want to avoid losing their license or facing inconvenient paperwork or a court appearance.

## 200-Pound Univ. of Vermont mascot stolen

The University of Vermont is offering a reward for the return of its missing cat. The catamount that is, the 200-pound, nine-foot by seven foot aluminum snarling mascot that is jumping through an oversized V.

The sign had been taken to a South Burlington business for updating when it disappeared between Jan. 27 and Thursday.

"It's probably a college student prank," said Sign-A-Rama owner Bob Diaco. "It's either that or somebody who wanted it for the value of the metal."

Hopefully, it will show up

in the next few days." UVM officials hope to give the cat a makeover and display it on Patrick Gymnasium.

The reward will be in the form of sporting event tickets. "I think we would certainly like to show our appreciation for anyone who's able to help us get it back," said Chris McCabe, UVM assistant vice president. "We have so many exciting things going on in the athletic department with our events. We would certainly make sure we put somebody rink-side, court-side."

The cat sign is valued at \$10,000.

## Arcade claw offers live lobster prizes

You don't have to be a fisherman to catch lobsters anymore. At a neighborhood store in this Portland suburb and at restaurants and bars in more than a dozen states customers can plunk down \$2 for a chance to catch their very own lobster using a mechanical claw in an arcade-style game.

The apparatus is a new version of the old-style amusement game where players put in a quarter or two in hopes of grabbing a stuffed animal. But instead of plush toys, the Love Maine Lobster Claw game has a water-filled tank full of lobsters.

When a lobster is caught, the restaurants cook it for free and serve it with side dishes.

"He looks like a keeper," said Frank Margel of Westbrook, eyeing a mottled-green crustacean at Eight Corners Market before giving the game a try.

It's easier said than done, however. Unlike stationary stuffed animals, the lobsters flap their tails, flail their claws and squirm this way and that, making them elusive prey.

"Those lobsters are lively. They're ready for competition," Margel said a minute later and \$2 poorer after the crustacean slipped away.

Marine Ecological Habi-

tats in Biddeford has been making the Love Maine Lobster game for just over a year and sold a couple of dozen, said Joe Zucchero, the company president.

The Maine-made machines can be found in restaurants and bars in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Maine, Zucchero said. A Florida company, The Lobster Zone Inc., makes a similar machine that it says can be found in more than 20 states. The game has its critics. Animal rights activists contend it's cruel to toss a lobster into a boiling pot of water. And playing with the creatures before sending them to their deaths rubs some people the wrong way.

"Turning animal cruelty into a game is absolutely hideous," said Karin Robertson of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

A restaurant in Pittsburgh removed its lobster game last week in response to PETA's campaign against the machines.

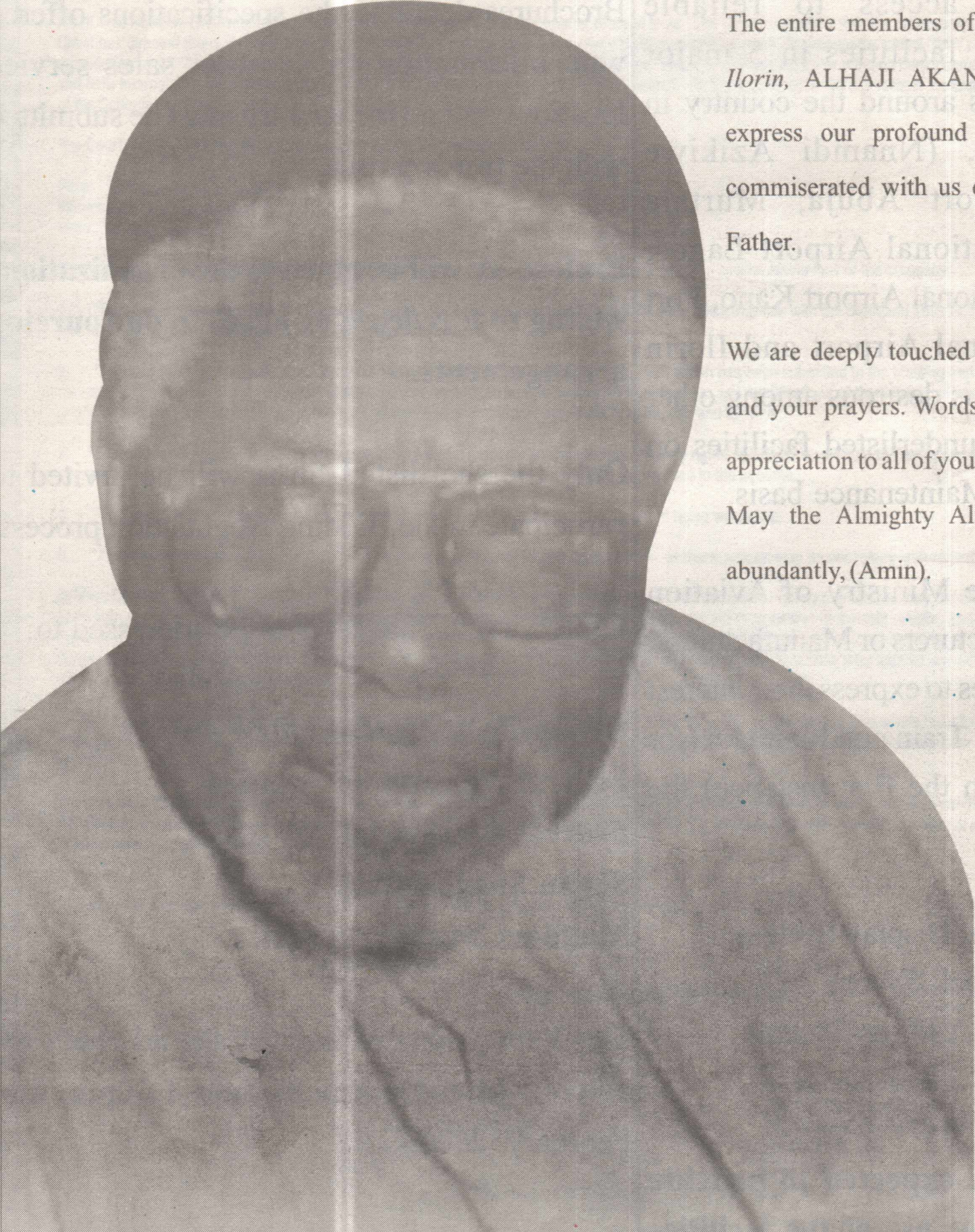
Paul Carrozi, owner of Roland's Seafood Grill, said he doesn't agree the machine is inhumane, but removed it after receiving threatening e-mails and calls. "It just wasn't worth it," he said.

Zucchero maintains that the machine has a gentle claw that won't hurt the animals.

# Appreciation

from the

## Oniyangi Family



The entire members of the family of the late *Walin Ilorin*, ALHAJI AKANBI MAHMUD ONIYANGI, express our profound gratitude to all those who commiserated with us over the passing away of our Father.

We are deeply touched by the overwhelming support and your prayers. Words are not enough to express our appreciation to all of you, too numerous to mention.

May the Almighty Allah (S.W.T.) reward you all abundantly, (Amin).

**Signed:**  
**ABDULRAZAQ ONIYANGI**  
for the family

ALHAJI AKANBI MAHMUD ONIYANGI  
(*Walin Ilorin*)

Feb 10 1930 - Jan 17 2006



## MINISTRY OF AVIATION

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Federal Secretariat, Shehu Shagari Way, Abuja

### Expression of Interest for the Procurement of Airport Facilities

The Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) in its efforts to ensure continuous access to reliable information system facilities in 5 major International Airports around the country in the first instance, (Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport Abuja, Murtala Mohammad International Airport Lagos, Aminu Kano International Airport Kano, Port Harcourt International Airport and Ilorin International Airport) is desirous among other plans to procure the underlisted facilities on Supply, Install and Maintenance basis.

For this purpose, the Ministry of Aviation hereby invites Manufacturers or Manufacturers' Agents/Representatives to express their interest for the Supply, Install, Train and Maintain (for a period of 5 years in the first instance) the underlisted facilities.

- < Flight Information Display System
- < Synchronized Clock System
- < Integrated Public Address System
- < CCTV

Interested firms are expected to provide training programs for use of the facilities being offered together with their training manuals.

This Expression of Interest is for Manufacturers or Manufacturers' Representatives only. Brochures detailing the specifications offered with information on the after sales service locations around the country must be submitted with the firm's profile.

**Preference will be given to the organizations willing to hire/lease or agree to outsourcing arrangements.**

Only the shortlisted firms will be invited to participate in the Bidding/Negotiation process.

Expression of Interest is to be addressed to:

**Office of the Honourable Minister  
Federal Ministry of Aviation  
Federal Secretariat  
Shehu Shagari Way  
Maitama District, Abuja.**

The Expressions of Interest should reach the above address not later than 4.00pm, 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2006.

Signed

**Permanent Secretary**

*Federal Ministry of Aviation*

# Business Trust

## INSIDE

### Motoring:

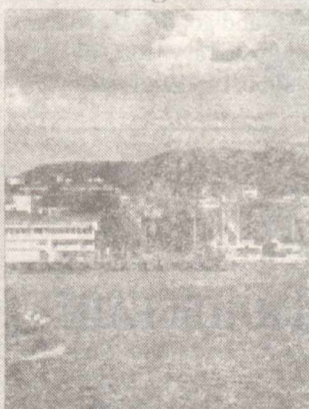
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### Zaria coy to assist PHCN in metering

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From left: Minister of State for Finance, Mrs. Nenadi Usman, Minister of Finance, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and Special Adviser on Budget matters, Mr. Bode Augusto at a news briefing in Abuja, recently.

## Post consolidation: Banks struggle under integration costs

The 25 surviving banks in the country are presently coming to terms with integration costs as they make efforts to cut down their workforce, align their systems and IT infrastructure, *Business Trust* can authoritatively report.

According to some bank chiefs who spoke in Lagos, banks are not happy doing

away with staff because of the inherent cost of that inevitable action.

However, while some banks find it difficult coming up with the huge wage bill as a result of demands of redundancy and IT software migrations, banks like United Bank for Africa (UBA) which

recently paid N4 billion in its optional retirement package are not finding things difficult.

As the bank's executive director (retail), Chika Mordi revealed, the UBA merger with Standard Trust Bank Plc freed up a sum total of N12 billion for the new UBA.

He said that this was a result of the fact that the two banks were settlement banks and that having merged they were no longer compelled by CBN to invest N12 billion each on treasury bills as mandated for settlement banks in the country.

Apparently the sum has

been beneficial in UBA's N4 billion wage bill for the staff that recently departed and the over one billion expended on re-branding its IT software migration, logo change in its branches in New York, Ghana and Nigeria.

Diamond Bank's chief executive officer, Mr. Emeka Onwuke recently posited that issues of integration would be very expensive, saying that is the challenge for mega banks at this point in time.

The managing director of First City Monument Bank (FCMB), Mr. Deji Balogun also said that the CBN has promised to help banks in the cost of integration.

### ...at war over sharing formular

The First City Monument Bank Plc and former Akwa Ibom State owned Cooperative Bank that survived the recent shake up through merger will on February 14, 2006 appear before the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly to settle the seeming impasse between them over assets sharing.

A statement issued by the House had directed officials of the two banks who may have found it difficult to draw up a sharing formula on among other things, workforce, assets and liabilities, to present their papers without fail.

*Business Trust* gathered that presently a good member of staff who were previously

working with Cooperative Bank have been allegedly asked to go home while the First City Monument Bank have their staff intact.

Also a few who have been allowed to continue, find it very difficult to have their salaries streamlined in accordance with the new administration.

The speaker of the House of Assembly, Obong Nelson Effiong who announced the invitation called on the two financial institutions to put their presentations in writing so as to defend same at the floor of the House on the designated date.

### How to avoid financial crisis

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### Stock market Report

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### Currencies

#### West African Unit of Account

Country	N Equivalent
The Gambia	6.0320
Ghana	0.0143
Guinea	0.0588
Liberia	1.8633
S/Leone	3,563.84
Nigeria	192.48

#### Parallel Market

	Average
Dollar	144
Pounds	261

### 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
CEA	0.240	0.250
Rand	20.54	21.55
S/Dollar	8.00	9.52
Yuan	16.00	17.00

## NICON promises to retain staff

The new chief executive officer of NICON Insurance Corporation, Barrister Jimoh Ibrahim has assured staff of the corporation of the security of their jobs.

The promise is against the backdrop of the current reorganisation in the corporation.

Jimoh, in an exclusive interview with *Business Trust* in Lagos allayed fears of retrenchment among staff and assured that he would even need more competent hands rather than sack. He however laid emphasis on competence in the discharge of duties and promised constant training of staff to get the best of their skills.

The new helmsman has also assured of prompt payment of genuine claims to

the corporation's clients.

In the meantime, two of the former top directors of NICON Insurance Corporation (NICON) that were relieved of their posts by the new management have re-applied to be engaged in the organisation as the new management led by Barrister Jimoh Ibrahim reorganises the corporation.

*Business Trust* exclusively confirmed over the weekend that Mr. Sunny Adeda Executive Director (technical) and Alhaji Shadiq Sharubutu (E/D finance and admin) have both forwarded their applications to the new chief executive officer.

The two, including other directors and the erstwhile managing director, Ms Prisca Soares were relieved of their positions as ownership structure of the corporation

changed from complete government control to 70 percent private through a privatisation process conducted by the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) that saw the emergence of Assurance Acquisition Limited, a consortium chaired by Barrister Jimoh Ibrahim.

It was however gathered that the former MD, Ms Prisca Soares and general manager, legal services, Mallam Nasir Ahmed voluntarily tendered their resignation letters even when the new management gave them the option to reapply. Efforts by *Business Trust* to reach Mr. Adeda on his mobile phone were unsuccessful as he did not pick calls. NICON Insurance spokesman Alh. Yakubu Akor who promised this reporter that he would get across to him never did as at the time of filing the report.

## Recapitalisation 371 capital market operators meet deadline

No fewer than 377 capital market operators, representing 48 percent of a total of 786 operators in the market have been able to comply with the apex regulator of the Nigerian capital market's directive that all operators beef up their capital base for a new regime.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) disclosed Friday that the January 31, 2006 grace period granted the operators to comply with the directive had expired.

According to the statement signed by its head corporate affairs, Ismail Ville, about 49 percent of the stockbrokers operating in the capital market have been able to comply with the directive.

The commission disclosed that the number of stockbrokers or stockbrokers with the additional functions registered with it as at the end of December 2005 stood at 247, out of which 49 percent of the total (about 121) were able to meet the directive as at the end of the grace period.

Detailed analysis of the Commission's list of operators that have been able to comply with the minimum paid-up capital/net worth requirement shows that 101 brokers dealers have met the requirement as at the end of January, while four stockbrokers/dealers (with other functions) scaled the huddle at the end of January.

While two dealers and brokers each met the directive as at January 31, 2006, five fund/portfolio managers (only) and eight fund/portfolio manager (with other function) scaled the huddle and two fund manager and two portfolio manager (only) complied at the end of the period.

# Business Trust

## Motoring

### 2006 Hyundai Accent in economy row

The redesigned Accent finished a respectable third in the Best New Economy Car class in Automobile Journalists Association of Canada AJAC voting, behind the all-new Honda Civic and the Toyota Yaris.

The quality of the Accent is far superior to even the model it replaces. And this is in a car that has always been a consumer favourite over the years with more than 191,000 being sold in Canada since 1994.

The 2006 model is larger than its predecessor. Overall, the new Accent is 1.8 inches (45.72 mm) longer, while the wheelbase is 2.3 inches (58.42 mm) longer. It is also 1 inch (25.4 mm) wider and 3 inches (76.2 mm) taller. Meanwhile, the larger exterior translates into a larger interior as well, producing the most interior volume (passenger and cargo) of any sedan in its class.

This increased spaciousness means more comfort for driver and passenger alike along with an increased trunk capacity from 11.6 cu. ft. (328 litres) to 12.4 cu. ft. (351 litres).

Inside, the two-tone colour scheme on the dash gives a touch of class not normally found in economy sedans like this. Other little "extras" like sunvisor extensions, a storage compartment and a 12-volt outlet are also unusual in an entry-level vehicle.

The 1.6L 16-valve DOHC four-cylinder engine proved to have decent pick-up, despite only 110 horses. At 100 km/h, the engine runs smoothly and fairly quietly. Above that speed, engine

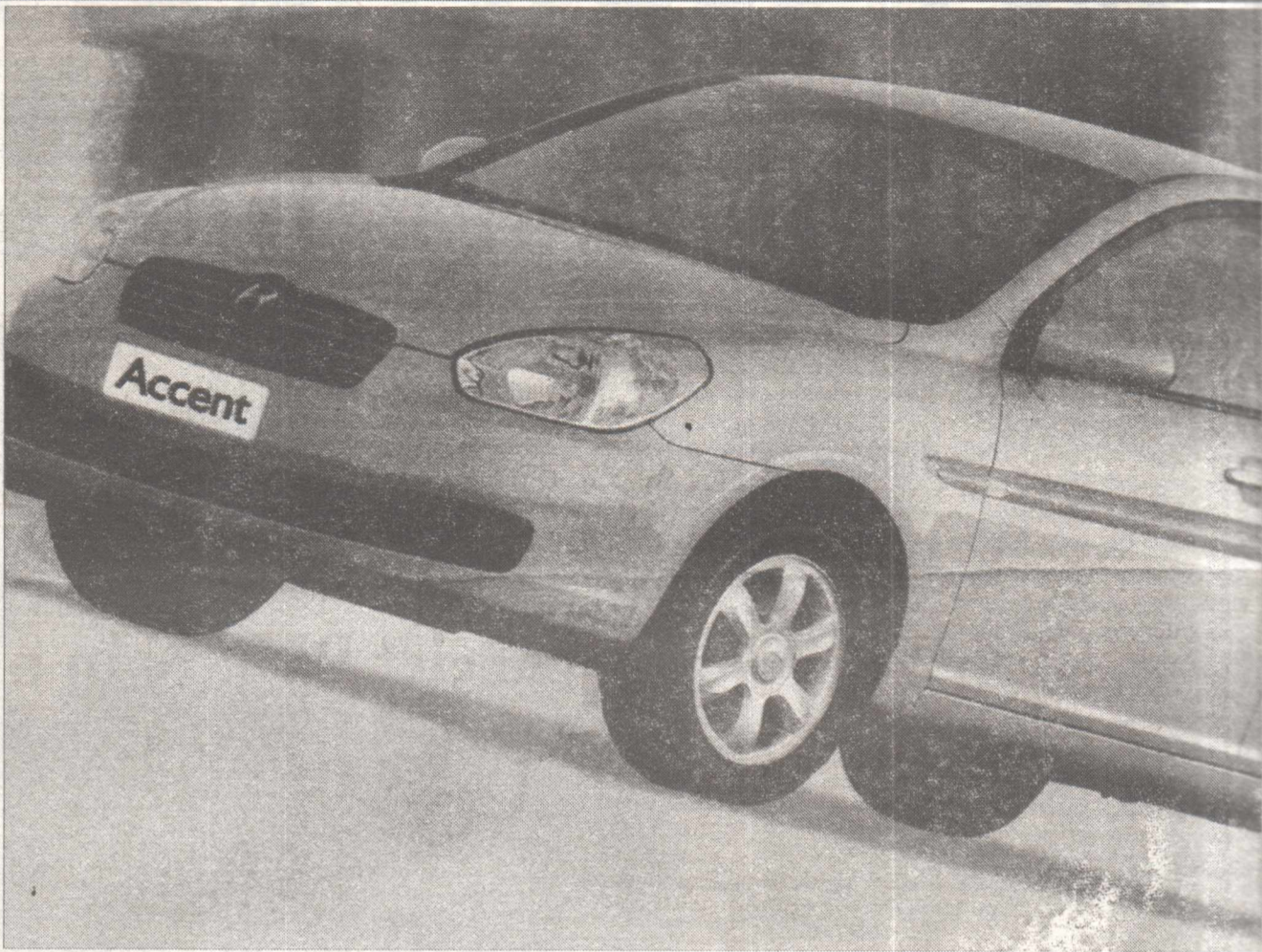
By Hamisu Muhammad, Business Reporter

noise becomes much more pronounced.

Seating up front is comfortable for driver and passenger alike. The driver's seat can be manually adjusted eight ways and the seats offer good support with plenty of legroom. In the rear, legroom again is above average for a car in this category.

The Accent features a fully independent front suspension with stabilizer bar and semi-independent rear suspension.

The combination provides a fairly comfortable and predictable car to drive in both city and highway conditions, although the ride quality does deteriorate over washboard roads.



2006 Hyundai Accent

### Dodge to introduce mid-size Nitro SUV

Dodge, a division of DaimlerChrysler AG's Chrysler Group, first introduced a concept version of the 2007 Dodge Nitro at last year's Chicago Auto Show. This time, it's unveiling the production version, which will go on sale later this year. The Chicago Auto Show is open to the public Feb. 10-19.

Dodge says the Nitro will spice up the crowded mid-size segment, which includes such stalwarts as the Toyota 4Runner, Ford Explorer and Chevrolet TrailBlazer. The Nitro has 20-inch tires, chrome vents on the fenders and Dodge's muscular design and unmistakable grille. Higher-end models come with a plastic cargo floor that slides rearward for easy loading.

The Nitro will come with

a standard 3.7-liter, 210-horsepower V-6 engine and an available 4.0-liter, 255-horsepower V-6 engine on the performance-oriented Nitro R/T. It has several standard safety features, including electronic stability control and side-curtain air bags.

The Nitro fills a hole in Dodge's lineup. Buyers have had to turn to the Jeep Liberty which shares the Nitro's underpinnings if they wanted anything smaller than the Dodge Durango, which was billed as a mid-size SUV when it was introduced in 1998 but has grown taller, longer and wider in subsequent redesigns.

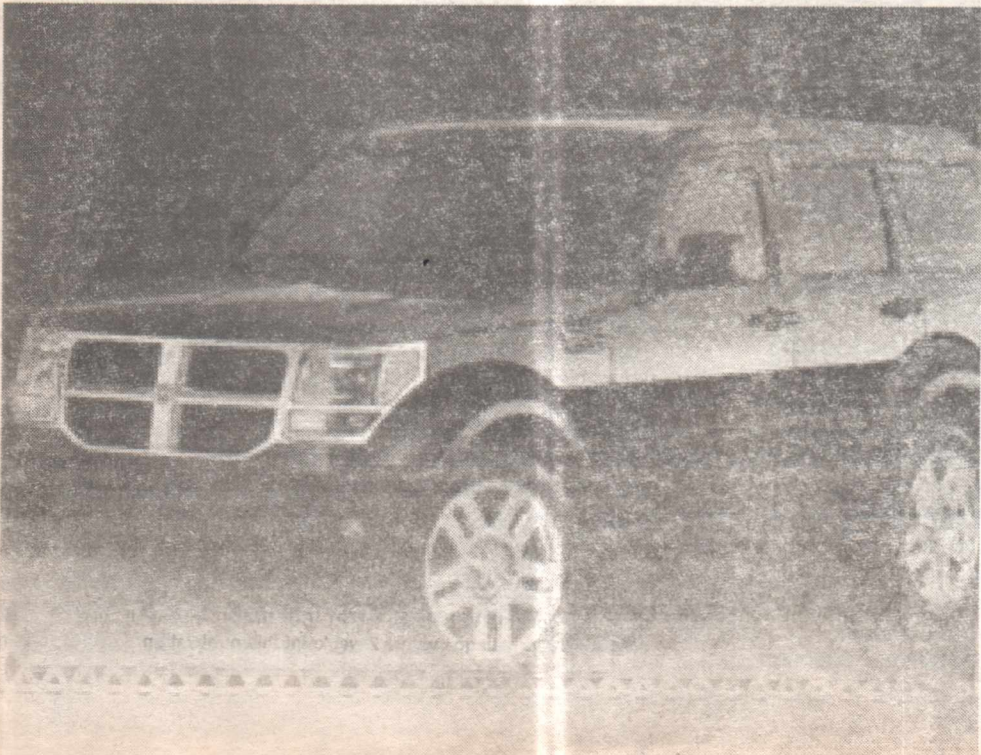
The Nitro "definitely helps on the showroom side, and the styling of it is fabulous," said Rebecca Lindland, an auto analyst with the consulting firm Global Insight Inc. "There's

nothing below the Durango in the Dodge showroom, and even with gas prices people still want SUVs. They want the utility."

Lindland describes the Nitro as a burly Liberty, with a longer wheelbase and more aggressive styling.


But the vehicle shares

some of the Liberty's better qualities, including its car-like ride and good fuel economy, estimated at 18 to 23 miles per gallon, Lindland said.



**VISIT THE**

**27<sup>TH</sup> KADUNA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR**



**Theme:**  
*"Consolidating the Impact of Reforms in Commerce, Industry and Agriculture"*

**KADUNA INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT CENTRE KM.4, KADUNA-ZARIA ROAD, RIGACHIKUN, KADUNA - NIGERIA.**

**DATE:**  
**FRIDAY 17TH - SUNDAY 26TH FEBRUARY, 2006.**

**ORGANISERS:**

**KADUNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, MINES AND AGRICULTURE (KADCCIMA)**

≤

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: ≤**

<p>KADCCIMA Secretariat, Kaduna Int'l. Trade and Investment Centre, KM. 4, Kaduna - Zaria Rd. Box 728, Kaduna, Tel. 062-318794, 080-300-1361, 080-441-180-87 Fax. 062-318795 Website: <a href="http://www.kadccima.org">www.kadccima.org</a> Email: <a href="mailto:kadccima@inet-global.com">kadccima@inet-global.com</a></p>	<p>Kaduna Expo International Ltd., 5A, Zanna Dujima Road, P. O. Box 52, Kaduna. Tel. 062-247556 Fax. 062-247557</p>	<p>Kaduna State Liaison Office, Plot 1232, Bishop Oluwole St., Victoria Island, Lagos. Tel. 01-616274</p>
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NACCIMA Office  
15A, Ikorodu Road,  
Maryland, Lagos.  
01 - 4964727  
4964737

**"AFRICA'S MOST FAMOUS FAIR"**

# Business Trust

## NUBIFIE wants bank workers to unionise

The National Union of Banks, Insurance and Financial Institutions Employees (NUBIFIE) has called on Central Bank Governor, Professor Charles Soludo to make it compulsory for all banks that scaled through the consolidation hurdles to allow their workers to belong to Unions of their choice.

The Union in a statement tagged: Post Consolidation challenges of the Banking Sector reform" signed by its national president, Comrade Lawal A. Ahoji, stated that the challenges facing the Union presently are the "stability of the consolidated banks, unfettered employee right to belong to the Union within the (merger) new entity.

The text of the NUBIFIE statement read in part: "the reform programme has indeed affected the membership strength of the Union on a short term; we believe that in the long term the right of employees to freely exercise their fundamental right of freedom of association as enshrined in the 1999 constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria is sacrosanct."

The NUBIFIE national president, Comrade Ahoji stated further that his Union was ready to engage in constant dialogue with the banks just as it emphasised that it was never at any point opposed to the reform but only raised fundamental questions regarding job security, joining, among others. Adding reasons why workers should be allowed to join unions of their choice by the management of consolidated banks, he said that one of the best ways to bring out the best in the

From Samson Ojo, Lagos

workers is to allow them enjoy their fundamental right of freedom of association as enshrined in the constitution.

He however lauded the unionised banks, urging them not to renege on the collective agreement and ensure that their workers are paid their entitlements as the merger and the acquisition lasted.

Alobo advised workers to embrace unionism at all times noting that the best place for employee to be assured that their jobs are secured is within the union.

Meanwhile, the union has written to insurance companies, warning that any rationalisation exercise that would take place as a result of re-capitalisation in the industry should be done strictly according to the existing collective agreement; "we have to remind you that workers in the industry enjoy the terms and conditions in the collective agreement and any rationalisation exercise the company might wish to carry out in the near or immediate future must necessarily be in line with the finance industry collective agreements," the union warned.



Unity Bank's Ag MD/CEO, Engr. Ahmed Ibrahim standing for recognition during the opening of the court ordered meeting of Bank of the North shareholders in Abuja meeting to his left is a director Chief Raymond Ihyembe and to his right are Chairman Alh. Abubakar Sadauki and BS/Legal adviser, Alh. M.U. Avuya...recently.

## Zaria coy to assist PHCN in nationwide metering

In line with the ongoing restructuring in the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), Joseph Makoju, the chief executive officer of the company has hinted that PHCN is planning to expand metering

nationwide on a mass scale with the help of local manufacturers like EMCON in Zaria to make meters available at all locations in the country.

According to him "we want to quickly put customers who are on direct

connection on meters as soon as possible that is why they are being disconnected. But anytime we disconnect a customer on direct connection we make sure he has a meter when we reconnect him."

He further spoke on the pre-payment meter been deployed throughout the country and said everyone would not be on the system.

The reason for this he said is because of the cost of

maintaining the system which may be affordable for rich segments in the country.

"I don't see pre-payment ever really having wide application in the rural areas because it is expensive compared with the normal credit reading meter. For the user with very low electricity consumption, it is not economical to give him a prepayment meter because the cost of that meter may be more than his two years

consumption."

Makoju who however stressed factory and commercial houses must necessarily use the prepayment meters explained that the old billing system will not be entirely phased out for it will be operated side by side with the prepayment system.

He further stressed that PHCN is determined to bring on stream, 17 new power stations of 6,000mw by next year.

## Coy strategises to meet recapitalisation deadline

Consolidated Risk Insurers Limited (CRI) says it will adopt all known consolidation mix to attain the February 2007 deadline for recapitalisation by insurance firms.

CRI vice-chairman and chief executive officer, Eddie Efekoha made this known in Lagos during a chat with correspondents on the company's agenda towards meeting the mandatory recapitalisation for operating underwriting firms.

He explained that the company board of directors met and endorsed that "the capitalisation will take the form of private placement and initial public offers (IPOs) we are going to bring all of these mix together. We are not going one way. We are going to use these mix and I must say that our private placement is ongoing. In all of these, we will be talking to

From Abdulwahab Isa, Business Correspondent Lagos

our existing customers. We will be talking to private investors, and we will equally be talking to public sector that is government. Again, we will be talking to outside community. Bear in mind that at CIR, we have set out to look at business beyond local setting. Right from the world go we have foreign investors and expatriates. We are tapping into that because it is an advantage to us" he said while unfolding CIR strategies towards meeting the maximum capitalisation for insurance.

He commended government initiative to jerk up authorised share capital of underwriting firms, adding CRI was not caught unaware because it was already operating on N1 billion authorised capital before federal government announcement last year.



Charles Soludo, CBN Gov

## FCMB opens branch at Onabanjo University

The First City Monument Bank (FCMB) has opened another branch in Ogun State. The branch which is in line with its university project is located inside the Olabisi Onabanjo University Ogun State.

Speaking Friday at the occasion, the managing director of the bank, Mr. Deji Balogun stated that the branch was to enable it reach the younger generation in readiness for the future.

He said the electronic, mobile and internet banking facilities of FCMB at

From Bright Ewulu, Deputy Business Editor, Lagos

the institution will enable students to pay their fees without having to come physical at the institution.

According to him the bank is also deploys ATM services in their branches on campuses, saying this enable student to spend little time in various bank transactions and keep them at pace with global developments.

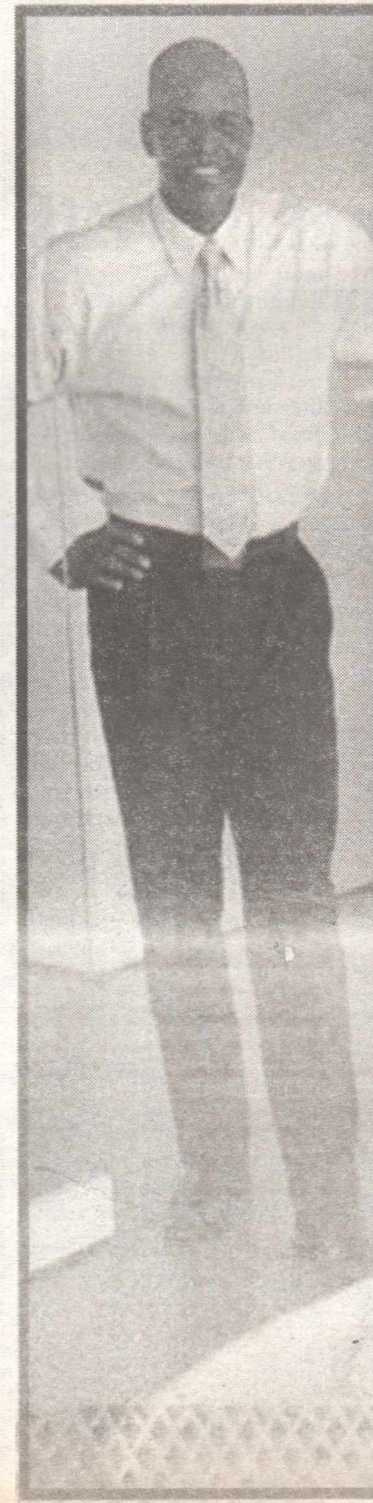
Earlier, president Olusegun Obasanjo bid to execute the tape cutting ceremony was disrupted by the crowd of students

chanting songs for him.

The event was graced by Otumba Machael Balogun, chairman first city Group and other dignitaries.

It should be recalled that FCMB recently merged with Cooperative Development Bank (CDB), Nigerian-American Bank Limited (NAMBL) and Midas Bank Ltd.

According to the managing director because of these acquisitions its total branch network has moved to 70 branches and will be upped to 100 in the course of the year.



### Exciting Opportunities in Financial Advisory Services (Abuja)

Our client is a boutique financial advisory services consultancy set up to serve clients in both the private and public sectors, in Abuja.

As a prerequisite, all the positions listed require a good first degree (minimum 2:1 - second class upper), with relevant professional qualifications. A postgraduate degree in business administration, finance, or accounting will be an added advantage.

#### Fund Manager/ Financial Advisory Officer

You have between 3 to 4 years experience selling financial products and services to clients for investment purposes. You have experience developing and delivering presentations to clients.

#### Internal Control Officer/Accountant

You are a qualified chartered accountant, with experience directing and coordinating activities concerned with buying or selling investment products and financial services. You are also proficient in the use of relevant accounting software.

#### Dealer

You are a qualified dealer, with between 3 to 4 years' post-qualification experience dealing on the floor of the Nigerian Stock Exchange, with a broad understanding of market dynamics. You are also able to undertake report writing.

#### Leasing Officer

You are a sharp, dynamic individual with a minimum of 3 years experience working in a similar position in a professional organisation. You are able to demonstrate in-depth practical knowledge of most aspects of leasing.

#### Office Manager

You are naturally talented at multi-tasking, with strong administrative skills. You have a minimum of 3 years' working experience managing a variety of general office activities for a professional services firm.

If you know you qualify for any of these positions, please download an application form from the 'vacancies' page of [www.thejobmarketng.com](http://www.thejobmarketng.com).

Email completed forms to [VSL@thejobmarketng.com](mailto:VSL@thejobmarketng.com) or post to VSL Recruiter, P.O.Box 54406, Falomo, Ikoyi, Lagos within 2 weeks of this publication.

# BUSINESS TRUST

International

## Cartoon: Denmark loses £50m over boycott

Danish-Swedish dairy giant Arla Foods said yesterday that the ongoing boycott of Danish products in the Middle East has so far cost it between £40m and £50m.

As the Muslim world refuses to buy Danish goods in protest over cartoons published in a Danish newspaper, Arla is losing £1m a day.

Arla has also had to send home 170 employees across Denmark due to the impact of the reduced sales.

The offending cartoons featured caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW). They were first published last September in Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten.

The row erupted over the last week when the cartoons were republished in a number of other European newspapers.

It is blasphemous in Islam to have pictures or drawings depicting the image of prophet Muhammad (SAW). Even though Jyllands-

Posten has apologised for any offence caused (but not for publishing the cartoon), sales of Danish products have ground to a halt across the Middle East.

Denmark's Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen has also tried to diffuse the crisis, having met with 76 foreign diplomats, including some from Muslim countries, though he made clear that the government could not apologise on behalf of the newspaper.

What we have done is expressed our deepest sympathy with the Muslim world and Muslim people who feel insulted by these pictures, but that doesn't seem to have helped said Arla spokesman Louis Honore

Honore told the BBC that the company was both "saddened and very depressed" by the ongoing situation.

"We have built up our business in the Middle East

countries for 40 years, and have had production in Saudi Arabia for 20 years," he said.

"And then within five days or so this is all in ruins."

Mr Honore added that the company was trying to explain that it was innocently "caught in the middle", but that it was "very difficult for us to get [this] through".

"We have put full size advertisements in the major Saudi newspapers, showing

the official Danish line on Islam, but that hasn't helped either."

Protests against the offending cartoons are continuing across the Muslim world.

Iraqi, Egyptian and Palestinian Islamic groups have called for demonstrations as Muslims attend Friday prayers, while protests have also broken out in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim country.

However in a bid to counter the effects of poor sales in the middle east, conservative websites and bloggers are promoting a "buy Danish" campaign, in an effort to counteract the effect of a Muslim boycott of products made in Denmark

Calls for Americans to "buy Danish" have been appearing on a growing number of websites.

"Help Arla Foods survive this unconscionable bullying and intimidation, and help the free world protect the principle of freedom of speech," urged Robert Spencer on Dhimmi Watch. "Please buy as many of their products as you possibly can." Paul Belien at The Brussels Journal said Muslim consumers had the right to boycott whomever they want.

## Oslo becomes world's most expensive city

After 14 years as the world's most expensive city, Tokyo has been knocked off its top spot - by Oslo.

The dubious honour to the Norwegian capital was awarded by the Economist Intelligence Unit, which compared the cost of living in 130 cities.

Fellow Nordic city, Reykjavik, in Iceland, jumped to third place, and Japan's second city, Osaka, was fourth.

And the cheapest place to spend hard earned cash? Tehran - which was the most expensive city 14 years ago.

Apart from the Japanese entries all of the top 10 on the

survey were in Europe.

The EIU said the result "highlights a much wider increase in the relative cost of living across Europe".

10 MOST EXPENSIVE CITIES	
1st - Oslo, Norway	
2nd - Tokyo, Japan	
3rd - Reykjavik, Iceland	
4th - Osaka, Japan	
4th Paris, France	
6th - Copenhagen, Denmark	
7th - London, UK	
8th - Zurich, Switzerland	
9th - Geneva, Switzerland	
10th - Helsinki, Finland	



Oslo harbour, where you can spend a fortune in just a day

## How to avoid financial crisis

In Today's world, the need for effective management of resources is increasingly becoming necessary. On a personal level, proper management of resources can go a long way in improving your economic conditions. Here are a few tips to help you manage your finances

**Save more money**  
Trying to save by cutting discretionary expenses — daily lattes, for example, or meals out — requires the kind of joyless discipline that few of us can sustain long enough to make a difference.

The real trick to saving more is to take your will power (or lack thereof) out of the equation: Automate the process.

**Keep it simple**  
Don't let anxiety about choosing from the sometimes intimidating number of investment options keep you from signing up. Check out Resolution No. 2 for simple ways to put together the right mix of investments. You can always change your selections later.

**Get all of the match**  
Elect initially to contribute at least as much as your company requires to get the full employer match, which is usually between 3% and 6% of your salary.

**Look beyond retirement**  
You can apply the same principles of automated savings to other goals, such as building an emergency fund or saving up for your kids' tuition.

**Automate everything**  
Most major banks, broker-

ages and fund companies will allow you to set up automatic monthly cash transfers into a designated savings or investment account.

Match the vehicle to the goal for your emergency fund, use a safe, liquid vehicle like an online bank or a money-market fund. For medium-term goals, look at short-term bond funds. To see how long it will take for your collective savings to hit seven figures, check out the Millionaire calculator.

**Invest smarter**  
The critical determinant of how well your portfolio performs over time is not the specific stocks or funds you pick; study after study shows that it's your mix of stocks, bonds and cash. The good news: Getting the right mix is not rocket science.

**Lay the groundwork**  
First ask yourself these questions:

**How far away is the goal?**

Over the long run, stocks will probably be your biggest winners (13 percent average annual returns over the past 20 years vs. 9 percent for bonds). But they're riskier in the short run (biggest one-year decline: 27 percent vs. 3 percent for bonds). The sooner you'll need the

money, the less you should hold in stocks.

**How much risk can I handle?**

Conversely, bumping up the percentage you hold in fixed income investments will smooth out short-term ups and downs, at the cost of lower returns over time.

**Apply the rules**

The simplest way to divvy up your assets: Use index funds, like Vanguard's Total Stock Market Index and Total Bond Market Index, that track a particular investment category.

Or choose a life-cycle fund, which maintains a stock/bond mix based on a time horizon and adjusts as your target date gets closer.

**Take it further**

To reduce risk and boost returns, diversify within asset classes.

In the stock portion of your portfolio, you might divide your money among funds that invest in big, small and foreign companies.

For help with this, use an online asset allocation calculator.

**Get out of debt**

By Janet Paskin,

Getting out of debt, says behavioral economist Meir Statman, "is the financial equivalent of trying to quit smoking."

Good intentions alone aren't enough. To kick either habit, you need to break your underlying patterns of behavior.

### National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development (NIPRD) and United States Government/National Institute of Health (NIH)

#### Post-Graduate Fellowship Opportunity

The NIPRD/NIH Scholars Program hereby calls for applications from highly qualified and motivated candidates to enter into a post-graduate fellowship program leading to a Ph.D. degree in the area of Natural Products Chemistry.

#### NIPRD/NIH SCHOLARS PROGRAM:

**WHO:** Successful candidates will have a B.Sc. in Chemistry (1st or 2nd class (upper division) degree) and a M.Sc. (Chemistry, Pharmaceutical Chemistry or Pharmacognosy) with a "Ph.D. registerable" average score of 60% or above. Applicant must be willing to engage full-time in the Scholars Program.

**WHAT:** The program will provide tuition, monthly stipend, and research materials for three years of formal Ph.D. studies. Research for the Ph.D. thesis will be conducted primarily at the NIPRD laboratories in Abuja (Nigerian Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development). Research will be supervised jointly by visiting professors from both the USA and NIPRD.

**WHY:** Students aspire to participate in thesis research in support of the joint NIPRD/NIAID mission to develop new therapies for the treatment of tuberculosis and to improve the care of patients suffering from TB and HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**WHERE:** Laboratories at NIPRD, Abuja and at a leading University in Nigeria (to be named) with the possibility of laboratory experience at NIAID/NIH, Maryland, USA.

**WHEN:** To commence at the start of the 2006/2007 session.

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANT:

- In order to be considered for the Program, please compile:
- A two-page maximum CV/Bio which should include date and place of birth, educational institutions attended, qualifications obtained with dates, work experience with dates, and any publications
- A one-page essay describing your interests, past studies and future aspirations
- Photocopy of degree credentials to include the NYSC certificate (originals will be required for those interviewed).
- Three letters of support from previous teachers/supervisors (due at interview if shortlisted)
- Contact information (telephone number and e-mail where you can be reached to schedule interview)
- Send application materials to:

Director General of NIPRD  
Post-Graduate Fellowship Program  
P.M.B. 21 Garki, Abuja, Nigeria.

All applications must be received by February 20th, 2006.

Only those shortlisted shall be invited to Abuja for an interview to be conducted by NIPRD and NIH. The interview will take place the first week in March 2006. No other correspondence with the applicants shall take place.

# Business Trust

## 1ST-TIER SECURITIES

## THE NIGERIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

## REPORT AS AT MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2006

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares
ADSWITCH PLC.	1	1.36	6,760	9,193.60
CUTIX PLC	2	2.73	9,180	25,251.20
JULI PLC	3	0.52	745	387.40
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>16,685</b>	<b>35,102.20</b>
<b>AGRICULTURE/AGRO-ALLIED</b>				
THE OKOMU OIL PALM COMPANY PLC	14	16.80	239,980	4,092,356.00
PRESCO PLC.	9	11.05	168,500	1,852,325.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>408,480</b>	<b>5,944,681.00</b>
<b>AUTOMOBILE &amp; TYRE</b>				
DUNLOP NIGERIA PLC.	21	2.68	147,845	383,306.36
R. T. BRISCOE PLC.	19	5.42	322,536	1,748,855.12
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>40</b>		<b>470,381</b>	<b>2,132,161.48</b>
<b>BANKING</b>				
ACCESS BANK PLC	147	2.79	5,258,057	14,510,469.36
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC.	18	9.10	109,217	993,874.70
DIAMOND BANK PLC	1	7.75	20,000	155,000.00
EIB INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC.	1	2.26	2,500	5,650.00
FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	5	5.11	161,500	825,265.00
FIDELITY BANK PLC	2	2.93	1,039,395	3,045,427.35
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC.	542	33.00	3,576,849	119,490,975.73
GTBANK PLC.	269	13.30	3,804,798	50,968,458.03
INVESTMENT BANKING	8	4.57	338,500	1,546,945.00
INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT BANK PLC.	2	0.84	72,004	60,483.36
INLAND BANK (NIGERIA) PLC.	1	1.81	3,182	5,759.42
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC.	141	9.30	6,881,910	63,037,237.10
LION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC.	2	1.40	2,500	3,500.00
NAL BANK PLC.	3	2.80	254,205	711,774.00
OCEANIC BANK PLC	94	5.62	18,190,953	103,318,276.86
OMEGA BANK (NIGERIA) PLC	1	1.91	1,566	2,991.06
PLATINUM BANK PLC	2	2.60	100,000	260,000.00
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC.	95	12.20	548,466	6,621,482.10
UNION BANK NIGERIA PLC.	100	25.48	1,714,715	43,690,938.20
UNIVERSAL TRUST BANK PLC	2	0.63	100,000	63,000.00
WEMA BANK PLC.	9	3.74	77,398	289,468.52
ZENITH BANK PLC	41	19.64	153,871	3,022,026.44
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>1,486</b>		<b>42,411,586</b>	<b>412,629,002.23</b>
<b>BREWERIES</b>				
CHAMPION BREWERIES PLC.	1	1.94	25,000	48,500.00
GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC.	104	99.05	1,151,949	116,193,157.47
NIGERIAN BREWERIES PLC.	335	37.00	2,096,927	76,551,480.16
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>440</b>		<b>3,273,876</b>	<b>192,793,137.63</b>
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC.	66	34.00	125,774	4,257,581.08
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC.	1	6.50	5,660	36,790.00
CEMENT COMPANY OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	18	7.00	250,586	1,757,894.42
WEST AFRICAN PORTLAND CEMENT CO. PLC.	146	17.80	5,277,095	94,670,721.25
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>231</b>		<b>5,659,115</b>	<b>100,722,986.75</b>
<b>CHEMICAL &amp; PAINTS</b>				
BERGER PAINTS PLC.	10	3.75	95,842	351,604.46
CAP PLC.	7	8.50	145,427	1,290,185.22
D. N. MEYER PLC.	6	3.39	21,033	71,301.87
NIGERIA-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC.	8	4.21	139,950	597,285.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>31</b>		<b>402,252</b>	<b>2,310,376.55</b>
<b>COMPUTER &amp; OFFICE EQUIPMENT</b>				
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC.	3	1.45	20,266	29,385.70
TRIPPLE GEE AND COMPANY PLC.	1	0.41	5,600	2,296.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>25,866</b>	<b>31,681.70</b>
<b>CONGLOMERATES</b>				
A. G. LEVENTIS NIGERIA PLC.	13	1.15	96,042	109,196.20
C F A O NIGERIA PLC.	2	3.40	1,536	5,222.40
CHELLARAMS PLC.	1	0.83	268	222.44
JOHN HOLT PLC.	2	1.53	21,900	34,221.00
P. Z. INDUSTRIES PLC.	63	16.20	181,962	2,947,784.40
U.A.C. NIGERIA PLC.	81	16.00	548,116	8,779,865.68
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	118	20.25	329,101	6,703,823.31
U.T.C. NIGERIA PLC.	5	0.76	50,703	38,534.28
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>285</b>		<b>1,229,628</b>	<b>18,618,869.71</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC.	1	22.15	1,000	22,150.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1,000</b>	<b>22,150.00</b>
<b>FOOD/BEVERAGES &amp; TOBACCO</b>				
7-UP BOTTLING COMPANY PLC	31	26.15	34,992	913,644.05
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC.	112	66.06	447,213	29,353,359.80
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC.	50	25.25	83,471	2,105,732.27
NIGERIA BOTTLING COMPANY PLC.	39	62.30	58,291	3,567,599.19
NESTLE FOODS NIGERIA PLC.	41	190.02	47,744	9,083,022.62
NORTHERN NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC.	6	16.05	12,616	203,359.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>279</b>		<b>684,327</b>	<b>45,226,716.93</b>
<b>FOOTWEAR</b>				
LENNARDS (NIGERIA) PLC.	6	0.63	1,600	1,008.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,008.00</b>
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>				
EKOCORP PLC.	1	0.82	500	410.00
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	6	2.57	37,525	96,319.25
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIGERIA PLC	34	10.26	316,697	3,190,083.90
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	1	5.36	2,000	10,720.00
MORISON INDUSTRIES PLC.	1	0.84	2,000	1,680.00
NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARM. PLC.	3	3.23	33,710	108,883.30
PHARMA-DEKO PLC.	2	4.55	730	3,321.50
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>48</b>		<b>393,162</b>	<b>3,411,417.95</b>
<b>HOTEL &amp; TOURISM</b>				
TOURIST COMPANY OF NIGERIA PLC	2	3.80	400	1,520.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>400</b>	<b>1,520.00</b>
<b>INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS</b>				
ALUMACO PLC.	3	1.08	15,000	16,200.00
B.O.C. GASES PLC	7	2.77	81,000	225,790.00
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIGERIA PLC.	2	0.70	55,000	38,650.00
VITAFAM NIGERIA PLC.	58	4.90	685,989	3,368,663.69
VONO PRODUCTS PLC,	1	1.14	5,200	5,928.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>71</b>		<b>842,189</b>	<b>3,655,231.69</b>
<b>INSURANCE</b>				
ACEN INSURANCE COMPANY PLC	2	0.69	120,000	82,800.00
AICO INSURANCE PLC.	3	2.39	50,665	121,089.35
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC.	21	1.39	746,500	1,049,206.20
CRUSADER INSURANCE PLC.	10	1.68	239,256	384,855.24
GREAT NIGERIA INSURANCE PLC	1	1.38	500	690.00
LAW UNION AND ROCK INSURANCE PLC.	8	1.02	95,410	94,617.30
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.79	500	395.00
N.E.M. INSURANCE CO. (NIG.) PLC.	1	0.58	10,000	5,800.00
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	9	2.76	111,235	319,262.60
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	8	2.30	180,500	403,581.86
ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE PLC.	4	2.90	132,008	385,223.20
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE	5	1.29	41,800	53,922.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	12	1.30	707,631	919,620.30
WEST AFRICAN PROV. INS. COY. PLC.	8	3.30	71,461	228,788.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>93</b>		<b>2,507,466</b>	<b>4,049,851.05</b>
<b>MANAGED FUNDS</b>				
C & I LEASING PLC	4	1.16	45,991	54,249.56
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>45,991</b>	<b>54,249.56</b>
<b>MARITIME</b>				
JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERVICES PLC	16	1.80	523,000	969,905.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>523,000</b>	<b>969,905.00</b>
<b>PACKAGING</b>				
NAMPAK NIGERIA PLC	1	1.45	5,000	7,250.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>5,000</b>	<b>7,250.00</b>
<b>PETROLEUM(MARKETING)</b>				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	69	43.50	601,279	25,893,647.90
CONOIL PLC	44	90.00	21,835	1,950,096.59
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	21	2.45	527,059	1,286,720.59
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	27	158.01	42,092	6,717,225.30
OANDO PLC	159	90.50	263,570	23,751,452.36
TEXACO (NIGERIA) PLC.	26	110.01	14,431	1,600,476.70
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	33	182.00	29,520	5,374,435.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>379</b>		<b>1,499,786</b>	<b>66,574,054.44</b>
<b>PRINTING &amp; PUBLISHING</b>				
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC.	5	3.18	10,600	34,508.00
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC.	4	1.57	23,604	37,058.28
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>34,204</b>	<b>71,566.28</b>
<b>REAL ESTATE</b>				
UACN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PLC.	20	9.30	149,235	1,388,032.70
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>20</b>		<b>149,235</b>	<b>1,388,032.70</b>
<b>TEXTILES</b>				
AFRINT NIGERIA PLC.	1	22.00	22,000	484,000.00
UNITED NIGERIA TEXTILES PLC.	1	22.00	22,000	484,000.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>44,000</b>	<b>968,000.00</b>
<b>Overall Totals</b>	<b>11,378</b>		<b>49,617,949</b>	<b>860,698,430.85</b>

### TOP 10 TRADES AS AT YESTERDAY

SYMBOL	VOLUME	VALUE	TRADES
FIDELITYBK	1,039,395.00	3,045,427.35	2
GUINNESS	1,151,949.00	116,193,157.47	104
UBN	1,714,715.00	43,690,938.20	100
NB	2,096,927.00	76,551,480.16	335
FIRSTBANK	3,576,849.00	119,490,975.73	542
GUARANTY	3,804,798.00	50,968,458.03	269
ACCESS	5,258,057.00	14,510,469.36	147
WAPCO	5,277,095.00	94,670,721.25	146
INTERCONT	6,881,910.00	63,037,237.10	141
OCEANIC	18,190,953.00	103,318,276.86	94

### TOP 10 GAINERS

SYMBOL	LASTCLOSE	YESTERDAY'S CLOSE	CHANGE
NBC	60.65	62.30	+1.65
CONOIL	88.50	90.00	+1.50
CADBURY	65.00	66.06	+1.06
NB	36.00	37.00	+1.00
OANDO	90.00	90.50	+0.50
ASHAKACEM	33.56	34.00	+0.44
GLAXOSMITH	9.90	10.26	+0.36
WAPCO	17.50	17.80	+0.30
FLOURMILL	25.01	25.25	+0.24
UBA	11.99	12.20	+0.21

### TOP 5 LOSERS

SYMBOL	LASTCLOSE	YESTERDAY'S CLOSE	CHANGE
MOBIL	160.10	158.01	-2.09
FIRSTBANK	33.52	33.00	-0.52
TOTAL	182.50	182.00	-0.50
AP	43.90	43.50	-0.40
CAP	8.86	8.50	-0.36
RTBRISCOE	5.70	5.42	-0.28
NNFM	16.25	16.05	-0.20
OKOMUOIL	17.00	16.80	-0.20
OCEANIC	5.81	5.62	-0.19
LONGMAN	3.34	3.18	-0.16

## Oil price increases on Iran concerns

Oil prices rose yesterday after Iran ended all voluntary cooperation with the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency, saying it would start uranium enrichment and bar surprise inspections of its facilities.

Traders fear the dispute between the United Nations and Iran could disrupt supplies from OPEC's second-largest oil producer.

Light, sweet crude for March delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange rose 62 cents to \$65.99 a barrel in electronic trading by midday in Europe. But that was off its high for the day of \$66.62 a barrel.

Brent crude for March rose 57 cents to \$63.96 a barrel on London's ICE Futures exchange.

Nymex heating oil advanced nearly 2 cents to \$1.7996 a gallon, while gasoline fell less than half a cent to \$1.6780 a gallon. Natural gas gained 9 cents to \$8.700 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Iran's announcement Sunday came after the International Atomic Energy Agency reported the nation to the U.N. Security Council over its nuclear program. Iran insists it only wants to generate electricity, but the United States and some of its allies contend Tehran is trying to build a weapon.

The Islamic republic left the door open for further negotiations over its nuclear program and, in an apparent softening of its position, said it was willing to discuss Moscow's proposal to shift large-scale enrichment operations to Russian territory in an effort to allay suspicions.

An Iranian official at the IAEA meeting in Vienna, Austria, had said that proposal was "dead." The comment was made after the IAEA's 35-nation board of governors voted to report Iran to the council, which has the power to impose economic and political sanctions.

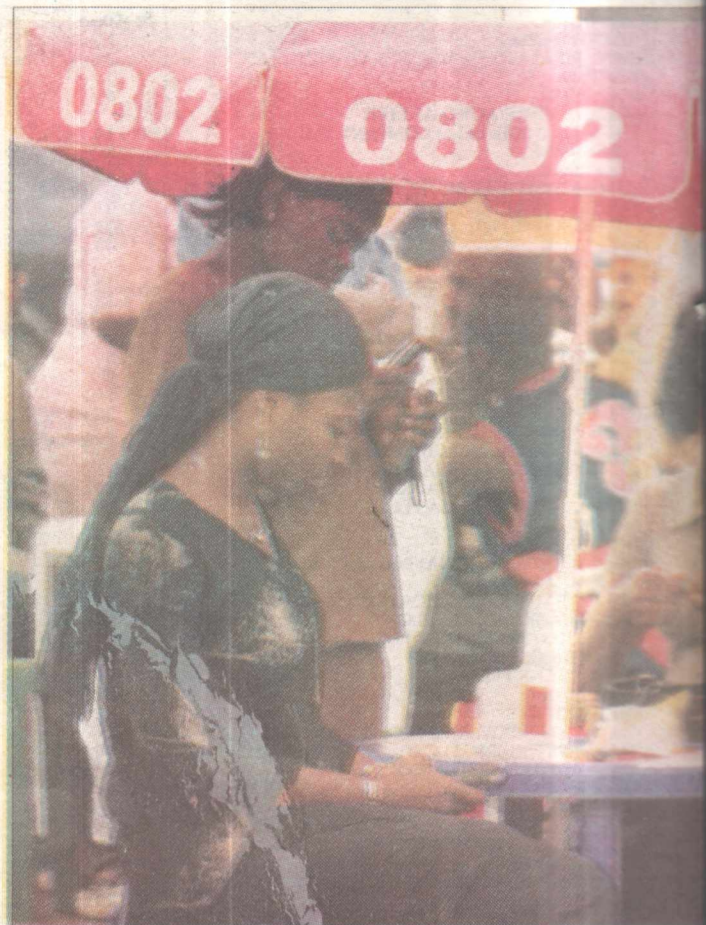
Dominic Bryant, an analyst at BNP Paribas, said that while Iran's referral was widely expected, it is still a significant milestone in the dispute, which will be protracted.

Despite relative high stocks of crude and oil products in the U.S., concerns about Iran reducing exports — either voluntarily or because of any sanctions imposed — are supporting the market, said Sudden Commodity brokers.

Worries over supplies from Iraq and Nigeria persist as well. Insurgents have targeted oil installations in northern Iraq in efforts to cripple the country's infrastructure. Nigeria's exports have been reduced because of recent violence against oil companies. Insurgents have blown up pipelines and have taken oil workers hostage over the past months.



NCC Vice Chairman, Ernest Ndukwe (left) and Minister of Solid Minerals, Obi Ezekwesili, during the second business roundtable with the government of Nigeria, held in Abuja



Ladies holding various cell phones at a commercial GSM centre.

When the Global Satellite Mobile (GSM) system of telecommunications was introduced in the country some five years ago, hopes and expectations were high amongst Nigerians, that the days of making phone calls with tears would soon be over. Today, however, five years after the service was launched in the country, calls here still remain one of the most expensive in the world.

The four GSM companies operating in the country namely: MTN Nigeria, V-Mobile, M-tel and Globacom, have repeatedly blamed poor infrastructure, especially epileptic power supply, as being responsible for the abnormal cost of making phone calls in the country. They have consistently argued that they spend huge sums of money fuelling the generating sets that power their base stations,

# Will GSM call tar

By Anas A. Galadima,  
Assistant Business Editor

masts etc, and as such have to charge high fees, in order for them to recover costs and make profits.

In the few years which GSM has been in operation in Nigeria, the operators have engaged various forms of media, ranging from advertisements to public relations, all in a bid to woo customers to patronise their services. The result of the multi billion naira media effort that has been done in the last five years, is that more people have embraced the service. The number of GSM subscribers in Nigeria has risen in the last five years from zero to 19 million, thus making the country's tel-

communications industry, the second fastest growing in the world market, second only to China.

Billions of dollars have in the past few years found their way into the economy, in what is popularly called Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

The nations telecommunications industry is arguably the most profitable sector after the oil and gas industry. Statistics available show that the GSM companies, even though they paid \$285 million to obtain their licences in 2001, were able to recoup their money in a period of two years.

Upon inception, the companies had explained that the huge costs of making calls were directly attributed

to the high fees paid for licences, with a promise that in a five year period Nigerians would be able to make phone calls at very low rates. But today five years later, that dream is still yet to come true.

Last week, the Economist Conferences Second Business Roundtable with the government of Nigeria, was held in Abuja. The theme of this year's conference was "Planning for sustainable and profitable growth". The conference was sponsored by British American Tobacco (BAT), MTN Nigeria, Telkom of South Africa and Ciscor System. Amongst others, the achievement recorded in the nation's telecommunications industry within the last five years

were highlighted. Cornelius Adebayo, Minister of Communications and Engr. Ernest Ndukwe, Executive Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) made presentations during the conference on the state of the nation's telecommunications industry and the way forward. The progress in the country's telecommunications sector, and how to consolidate that growth was emphasised.

However, it was at the press conference organised to wrap up events of the conference, that the real issues affecting the lives of ordinary users of GSM services were raised.

Mike Mlengana, Vice president and Group Executive of Corporate Business Development of Telkom, a South African Telecommunications company, observed that while there are claims to competition in Nigeria's telecommunications sector, the true situation of things is that there is no real competition.

"True competition will push down prices, and introduce other very important services, besides voice calls" he said.

"With due apologies to MTN (MTN's corporate services executive, Amina Oyagbola was seated close to him), I think that there has not been serious progress, in terms of giving the consumer value for his money."

Mlengana observed that

calls are made in the country are extra-ordinarily high, adding that more needs to be done to ensure that the cost of making calls can be reduced to a reasonable price. The only way to achieve this, he observed, is to allow more players into the industry.

Although he acknowledged that telecommunications companies in Nigeria spend so much on fuel to power their generators, he still believed that prices are still extraordinarily high.

Mlengana is not the only one that shares this idea. Raymond Adewale, a participant at the conference, who spoke to *Daily Trust*, said the GSM companies in the country have jointly formed what he called a "collective monopoly". According to him, "there is a deliberate attempt by operators in the country to deliberately keep prices up, so that they can make mega-bucks. If you take a look at the situation in the industry in Nigeria today, you will realise that when GSM started some years ago, MTN and Econet (now V-Mobile) were charging customers so much, while M-tel brought down its rates. If you recall well, while the other two networks were charging around N40 to N50 per minute, M-tel was charging around N20 or thereabouts. But the government owned M-tel could not sustain it, because when it comes to in-

***But with Nigeria tending towards a free market economy, the likelihood of regulators controlling prices is very unlikely. However, Chinyere, like Mlengana and Adewale, thinks that if more operators are brought into the industry, things may change for good. She also cautions that the government should not only concentrate on economic growth, as indicated by indices of growth. "Economic growth should also be looked at from the point of view of consumers. However, have they been able to meet their needs? This is important because some big companies may just exploit the consumers and make them poorer, yet because they have made huge profits, the economy would be seen by the government as growing, when indeed the poor people are only getting poorer."***



A service operator watches a customer using a mobile phone

## iffs ever come down?

tors. Sometimes it would have to pay more than what it is charging customers. So this arrangement didn't work.

Mr. Adewale noted that for the call tariffs to come down significantly, there have to be more players in the industry, who also have the financial might to compete with already existing operators.

"By the time you have up to eight or nine strong GSM firms in the system, prices would crash, and the quality of services would improve, because consumers could easily switch over to another network, if they don't get good offers and services," he said.

Next week, the exclusive licensing regime will make an entry into the telecommunications sector of the economy. Both operators of GSM and fixed wireless services would now have the free will to offer either of the two services, amongst others.

Adewale is optimistic that when the new regime takes effect, "the small fixed wireless companies would likely get foreign investors that would put more money in their businesses, to enable them expand their operations to include GSM services. So instead of just providing fixed wireless and CDmet services, they can now move into GSM, and some of them may even seek to become national carriers. That is the only way to fur-

value for money spent."

"Currently," he continued, "the few companies that operate in the system only exploit customers, because competition is not strong. All they do is make billions on a monthly basis, and at the end of the year they just organise a sales promo, just to give out a few millions to some lucky customers. This is not the way to reward customers. True reward for customers would spread across all users of the services, and this can only be in the form of reasonable call rates."

In his presidential address about the future of Nigeria's economy, President Olusegun Obasanjo who said at the conference that Nigeria offers about 35 percent returns on investments, as against between 10 to 15 percent, obtainable in Europe, and other parts of the world.

With the rate of returns on investment in the country, an investor could make his money in roughly two years. But this high rate of returns does not come, without someone somewhere paying too much for a product or service.

Richard Hodgson, Managing Director of British American Tobacco (BAT) who also spoke at the press briefing rounding up the conference, said a lot of the international reports by world bodies on Nigeria are negative. These negative reports then portray Nigeria as

quently, foreign investors are scared away.

The outcome is that the few investors that would then take that "risk" to invest in Nigeria, would then have an opportunity to make so much profit.

He gave an example of his company which virtually has no serious competitor, and is currently making good money. "The risks may be perceived as being very high, but the rewards are extremely higher," he noted.

While the conference discussed various economic issues in the country at the macro level, and the gains that foreign investors could make by investing in the country, little reference was made in terms of the impact

of such investments on the lives of consumers.

The Economist Conferences is a division of the Economist intelligence unit. It is a leading provider of international fora for senior executives seeking new insights into strategic issues. This perhaps explains why the conference made little reference to benefits derivable to consumers.

Chinyere Nicholas, who operates a commercial phone call centre outside the Wuse Modern Market, said a lot of the money made goes to the telecommunications companies. "I just do this to sustain myself, but there is nothing significant that flows out of it. All the money we make goes back to the

GSM companies. You have to buy a booster card at the end of the month, and you have to recharge the phone everyday. At the end of it I don't make much, because the rates are high. And if you decide to raise your own rates, customers would run away."

Chinyere believes that the regulators of the industry should compel the operators to bring down their rates, that there should be a price control mechanism, to ensure that users of mobile phone services are not charged too much.

But with Nigeria tending towards a free market economy, the likelihood of regulators controlling prices is very unlikely. However,

Chinyere, like Mlengana and Adewale, thinks that if more operators are brought into the industry, things may change for good. She also cautions that the government should not only concentrate on economic growth, as indicated by indices of growth. "Economic growth should also be looked at from the point of view of consumers. However, have they been able to meet their needs? This is important because some big companies may just exploit the consumers and make them poorer, yet because they have made huge profits, the economy would be seen by the government as growing, when indeed the poor people are only getting poorer."

**Mike Mlengana, Vice president and Group Executive of Corporate Business Development of Telkom, a South African Telecommunications company, observed that while there are claims to competition in Nigeria's telecommunications sector, the true situation of things is that there is no real competition. "True competition will push down prices, and introduce other very important services, besides voice calls" he said. "With due apologies to MTN (MTN's corporate services executive, Amina Oyagbola was seated close to him), I think that there has not been serious progress, in terms of giving the consumer value for his money." Mlengana observed that the rates at which phone calls are made in the country are extra-ordinarily high, adding that more needs to be done to ensure that the cost of making calls can be reduced to a reasonable price. The only way to achieve this, he observed, is to allow more players into the industry.**



# BAUCHI STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

## LEISURE AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

### YANKARI RESORT & SAFARI PROJECT CALL FOR STAGE ONE TENDER (prequalification of Bidders)

The aim of the project is to transform the Yankari Games Reserve into a tourist attraction of international standard renowned for its emphasis on the environment, culture and community that symbolise co-existence of man and nature which will serve as a benchmark for ecotourism developments in Nigeria and Africa as a whole.

The project is an environmentally friendly and value for Multi-Billion Naira development that is top quality and must be completed in the shortest possible time, it must also be compatible with economics, safety to man and animal, avoidance of disputes between all stakeholders, and empowering the local community.

The project is in Two Phases, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Phase involves the construction of the Yankari Resort & Safari Complex at Wikki Camp (115km from Bauchi). The complex has been designed and is to be made up of the following:

1. Accommodation (luxury suites, studio suites, deluxe suites, chalets, corporate villas, royal villas and presidential villa),
2. Nature village (theme park, cultural park, cinema, retail shops),
3. Conference Centre,
4. Renovation of Wikki Spring (spring water swim, beach sports, changing rooms, fast foods cafes, cableway/car),
5. Support facilities (clinics, petrol station, workshops, security posts, staff area, fire service station, incinerator),
6. Leisure and Entertainment Centre (sports complex, spirit of Africa spa, swimming pools, restaurants and cafés),
7. Edu-tainment Centre (museum, library, students hostel, meeting/teaching rooms),
8. Research and Conservation Centre (laboratories, classrooms, offices),
9. Safari park (Wikki camp post game viewing tracks, wildlife & conservation, water holes, bird hides, bush camps),
10. Infrastructure (access highway road (42km), estate roads, footpaths, walkways, surface & foul drains, power distribution, sewage treatment plant, IT networking, water supply & distribution, Wikki camp fence, Wikki camp gatehouse).

To execute Phase 1, a blend of the Traditional Procurement System and the Construction Management Procurement System using the Two-Stage Tendering process has been selected. This is to ensure that equal opportunity to all interested parties is given and help achieve internationally recognised quality standards at affordable cost.

As part of the tendering process therefore, this is to invite contractors, package contractors, subcontractors and suppliers to submit a Prequalification bid as part of the First-Stage tendering process.

- A Construction Management Contractors
- B Traditional Main Contractors
- C Package Contractors
  - a) Highway Construction
  - b) Infrastructure-Ground works (Civil & Building)
  - c) Building Construction
  - d) Mechanical Services
  - e) Electrical Services
  - f) Telecommunication
  - g) Landscaping
  - h) Waste Management
  - i) Conservation
  - j) Interior Decorators
- D Suppliers
- E Special Service Providers

The tender submissions must clearly state which category (bidders are allowed to submit for any one or two or all of the categories) and outline the following quality criteria:

- Introductory letter	5%
- Letter from the contractor's bank	10%
- Company profile including financial standing	20%
- Project organisation	15%
- Key project personnel	30%
- Current and Past projects execution	20%

This would form the basis for selection to bid in the Second Stage using detailed bill of quantities price (i.e. issue of the Invitation to Tender- ITT). The established quality threshold to be achieved by tenders before price is considered is 60%.

The quality score of the successful CM or Main contractors, Package contractors and Suppliers would be used as part of selection process for the second stage (ITT).

Please submit your Stage-one tenders by Courier to the following address:

**The Chairman,  
Bauchi State Tourism Development Committee,  
Yankari Resort and Safari Project Office,  
Yakubu Bauchi Road,  
Bauchi.**

The submission closing date is 10 days from date of publication.

The invitation to submit is to be in the following categories: **Bauchi State Government is an equal opportunity and transparent client.**

# News

## Minister identifies women's barriers to nation building

The Minister of State for Health, Chief Helen Esuene, has identified low social and economic status as well as cultural barriers as impediments to the participation of women in the development of the country.

Speaking recently on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of a non-governmental organisation, Pathfinder International in Abuja, Chief Esuene lamented the lack of access to services and information for Nigerian women, the consequence of which she noted is the women's inability to participate effectively in decision making in the affairs of the country.

According to her, the Federal Ministry of Health, since past three decades, is collaborating with Pathfinder International in the area of family planning and reproductive health. She added that the organisation had contributed immensely in this aspect by supporting public, private and non-governmental sector institutions and empowering local communities.

"It is on record that it was Pathfinder that provided financial support to establish the Planned Parenthood Federation of Nigeria (PPFN) in 1965." She disclosed further

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin, Senior Reporter

that it also conducted the first ever training of family planning coordinators for the Federal Ministry of Health that resulted in the improvement of healthcare delivery in the country.

While applauding the organisation for its contributions to the provision of safe and effective family planning services in the country, Chief Esuene charged it to chart a new path in specific areas of healthcare delivery in the country.

Speaking at the occasion, the organisation's country representative in Nigeria, Mike Egboh, said the Pathfinder International impacts are being felt throughout the country for its management of reproductive health projects.

According to him, the organisation focuses on empowering local communities, particularly the Muslim dominated North and Niger Delta regions of the country, adding that Pathfinder had developed expertise in designing outreach and advocacy projects that enhance access to family planning and reproductive health services.

Highlights of the occasion include awards to personalities who have contributed to creating enabling environment for Pathfinder to thrive and a paper on reproductive health challenges and opportunities in Nigeria delivered by Prof. O.A. Ladipo, president and chief executive of the Association for Reproductive and Family Health (ARFH).

Gov. Chris Ngige of Anambra State has called on Nigerian professionals to join politics to ensure a decent polity in the country.

Ngige made the call when he appeared on the popular NTA network talk show *AM Express* at the weekend.

He said the professionals included retired civil servants, lawyers, engineers, medical doctors and other retired professionals.

"I want professionals to join politics because it is a noble work for people who are

## Ngige calls for new brand of politicians

either earning salary or have retired," Ngige said.

He said that politics was designed for noble and professional people, who are in a better position to meet the goals and aspirations of the citizens.

According to the governor, while professionals play politics in other countries, all manners of people join poli-

tics in Nigeria for their selfish gains.

He said that he entered into politics with the sole aim of serving the people, adding that he was committed to ensuring the provision of better services to his people.

Ngige, who is a medical doctor, also urged politicians to always work for their people to enjoy the dividends of democracy.



Wife of the Benue state governor, Mrs Regina Akume (left), presenting copies of Braille Bible to the blind and other disabled persons at Van dei kya, venue of this year's International Day of the less privileged in the state. Pix: Hir Joseph

## Legal Aids Council, NOA collaborate on human rights

The Legal Aids Council of Nigeria and the National Orientation Agency (NOA) have established a framework for partnership for the monitoring of human rights situation in Nigeria.

The two organizations are also collaborating alongside other stakeholders to ensure the success of the newly launched Police-Duty-Solicitors' Scheme with which the Legal Aids Council intends to use to render free legal advice to the less privileged.

The director-general of the council, Mrs. Uju Aisha Hassan-Baba, said at a meeting between the two organizations that the council would rely on the agency's wide-reach and grass-roots appeal to take the programmes to the nooks and crannies of the country.

"We are confident that by the virtue of your (NOA's) mandate and because you exist practically in every nook and cranny of the country, you are very much in touch with the grass roots and that is what we need."

"If these two programmes will succeed, then we need the cooperation and support of NOA because information dissemination is not your problem," she said.

She said that the partnership between the two organizations would enhance the

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma, Reporter

mandate of the council by providing free access to justice for the poor and ensure that people who have no business being in prison never get there.

Mrs. Hassan-Baba observed that there are people and communities that have been deprived of their fundamental human rights, because of the existence of the council only at state capitals.

She explained that the Police-Duty-Solicitors' Scheme would ensure that the poor get lawyers from the point of arrest and interrogation, which she described as the most crucial time when the degree of offence committed will be known and necessary cautions applied.

In his remarks, the acting director general of the NOA, Dr. Lanre Adebayo, said that the role of the council was very critical in view of the level of literacy, ignorance and poverty in the country, adding that the only way the downtrodden can gain access to justice is through the kind of support the council offers.

He said that the foundation for progress and national development was equity and justice, saying that the programme would check human rights abuses and prison congestion in the country.

## Reps pick Okitipupa as best performing LG

The House of Representatives has picked Okitipupa local government area of Ondo State as the best performing local council for the year 2005.

Dr Ahmed Musa Ibeto, the chairman of the House Committee on State and Local Government Affairs, announced this at the weekend in Okitipupa, during the committee's inspection of projects in the area.

Leading four other members of the committee, Ibeto explained that Okitipupa was selected "after a thorough and diligent appraisal of programmes and projects embarked upon by each of the 774 local governments in the country."

According to him,

"Okitipupa local government council was picked by the committee and some National Assembly accredited consultants."

Ibeto commended the council chairman, Deacon Segun Ayerin, "for embarking on projects that touch the lives of the people."

The chairman explained that "the concern of the committee is to ensure that our people enjoy the dividends of democracy through projects executed by the local government areas."

Ibeto said the award was aimed at spurring other council chairmen "to embark on meaningful developmental projects."

Projects inspected by the House Committee included roads, blocks of classrooms,

hospitals, boreholes, libraries, drainages and culverts constructed by the local government council.

In his remarks, Deacon

Ayerin explained that the projects were funded through the excess crude oil allocation and the thirty per cent deducted monthly by the state government from the local government allocation from the Federation Account.

## Two die after taking 'love portion'

Two persons died while two others were hospitalised after they consumed herbal medicine prepared by two female herbalists at Wagini village in Katsina State.

The district head of the village, Alhaji Sani Wagini, told the *British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)* Hausa Service and monitored in Abuja yesterday, that the first victims consumed the con-

By Abubakar Haruna, Reporter

coction for seeking love power while others took it to have more breast milk.

"Malam Muktar died after taking the love portion with a beans cake meal while Malama Zuwaira also lost her life for drinking it to increase her breast milk. Two persons are now in hospital for taking the medicine."

The brother of one of the victims, Malam Yusif, added "The late Muktar after taking the medicine complained of stomach pain and lost his life in the hospital."

Alhaji Wagini, who described the incidence as pathetic, also cautioned people to be careful in taking herbal medicine that could harm their lives.

## Ebonyi to spend N110m on roads

The Ebonyi State government says it is spending N110m on the reconstruction of forty-three roads in the state through direct labour.

The Commissioner for Works and Transport, Mr Paul Okorie, said at the weekend in Abakaliki that the

roads were selected from three senatorial zones of the state.

"We opted for direct labour because it is cheaper, faster, qualitative and also serves as a source of employment," Okorie said.

About fifty-five per cent of the money had been released, he said, adding that appreci-

able progress had been recorded.

According to him, the ministry is currently supervising thirty-five projects which are on contract and at various stages of completion, while three contracts had been terminated because the contractors were unable to perform.

# EKO TRUST

## Ex-HOS sheds light on 2003 Lagos guber election

The former head of service in Lagos State, Chief Rafiu Tinubu, has said that the 2003 governorship election was rigged in favour of the incumbent governor, Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

This is coming barely 24 hours after President Olusegun Obasanjo claimed that the Alliance for Democracy in Lagos rigged the 2003 elections in the state.

In a statement issued on Saturday, the ex-head of service gave an account of how he was allegedly used to influence the re-election of Governor Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Chief Tinubu claimed that the governor used the power of incumbency on the eve of the election to coerce local government personnel to rig the election in his favour.

His words: "The governor himself sent election emissaries at the eve of the election to all local governments. Due to the power of incumbency, he used all the powers and all the paraphernalia at his disposal, including local government personnel to influence the election."

He said he had to campaign vigorously because most voters in Lagos were disappointed by the governor's failure to fulfill his pre-election promises during his first four years in office.

Part of the statement read: "Consequent to the speculation and confirmation in some quarters that 2003 gubernatorial election in Lagos State was rigged, I wish to lend credence to it that the government of Bola Ahmed Tinubu cannot beat its chest and say that the election was not rigged."

"I personally mobilized

Stories by Olumide Bajulaiye, Correspondent (Lagos)

voters, moved from house to house; staff quarters from staff quarters to canvass for votes in 2003, but people rejected Bola Ahmed Tinubu as a result of his non-performance.

"In view of his insensitivity to the yearnings of residents, they resolved to vote him out, but for the intervention of people like me, who apart from campaigning from house to house spent all my energy and money to supply food to each polling booth throughout the state.

"Bola Ahmed Tinubu is not a myth. We cannot shy away from the fact that he rode through the back of Late Bashorun MKO Abiola in 1999 because of the sympathy residents had for the late business tycoon and politician.

"The PDP is well prepared this time around and will never allow him in 2007 to steal people's mandate. If he is sure of himself, let him meet us at the local government election soonest."

But in a swift reaction on Saturday, the state government demanded the immediate arrest and prosecution of the ex-head of service by the police.

In a statement, the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Mr. Kehinde Bamigbetan, said Tinubu's confession was the calculated mischief of a man who did everything possible to stay beyond his retirement age.

The statement claimed that Tinubu's grouse was that he was disallowed to block the career progression of compe-

tent civil servants.

It noted that this bitterness and his inability to prepare himself for the challenges of retirement, led him to advertise an exaggerated impression of his relevance in the scheme of things to the Peoples Democratic Party with the hope that the betrayal of a government he served for over six years could be rewarded with patronage by the Presidency.

"In that ignoble assignment, the ex-head of service was apparently willing to criminalize himself as a self-acclaimed rigger and perpetrator of electoral fraud to win the confidence of the President and enter the corridor of Aso Rock. It is, however, shocking, that Mr. President did not live up to the oath of his office by promptly ordering the prosecution of this self-confessed electoral fraudster."

"Any rational recipient of this loose talk would have wondered how the ex-head of service, who was neither a politician nor an official of the Independent National Electoral Commission, could have gained access to the polling booths and collation centres all over the state simultane-

ously to pollute the electoral process.

"This criminal grandstanding defies logic and commonsense and could only have resulted from the desperation to milk The Presidency by posing as someone who could rig the 2007 elections in Lagos State successfully.

"This is the dubious qualification that the ex-head of service is selling to the Presidency. This is the atrocious and odious credential that the Presidency is ready to accept and patronize in the hope that the PDP could use the services of this self-confessed rigger to 'capture' Lagos in 2007.

"Let it be stated loud and clear that Lagosians will defend their votes with everything at their disposal. If the PDP is hallucinating that its rigging plans would work in 2007, let it be warned that it would amount to playing with fire and brimstone because the people of Lagos know what to do to those who seek to steal their votes.

"It is not too late for the President and his party to embrace the norms of civilized politics by adopting the methods of persuasion and implementing pro-people policies in its efforts to seek public support. The current agenda of capture will be militantly resisted by the courageous people of Lagos State at every polling booth and in every ward in Lagos State."

## Lagos to review transport laws

The Lagos State government has hinted of plans to review existing transport laws in the state as part of efforts to tackle the chaotic traffic problems in Lagos.

Lagos State Deputy Governor, Mr. Olufemi Pedro, who made this disclosure cited World Bank study, and lamented that the state loses an estimated sum of N42 billion, in man hour annually, to the chaotic traffic problems.

Pedro said that to address the situation, the present administration at its inception introduced far-reaching policies and programmes aimed at solving the seemingly intractable traffic and transportation problems.

Some of these policies include the harmonization of the various modes of transportation such as functional road transport, complemented by an efficient ferry and rail services.

The objective of the policies, he stressed, was aimed at reducing the number of vehicles on the roads by encouraging the use of high capacity buses that can move

about 200 commuters at a trip.

Pedro however admitted that "the insanity on our roads is not only caused by lack of necessary infrastructure", but due to indiscipline among motorists. "It is common to see motorists disobey traffic rules and regulations," he said.

He therefore called for urgent attitudinal change, public enlightenment and education among the stakeholders.

The deputy governor further disclosed that the state government has introduced a new law, citing motor vehicle and motor spare parts dealers Law Cap 20 of 2004 to curb the excesses of motor vehicle spare parts dealers, who have converted pedestrian walkways, road set backs, among others, into auto spare parts shops.

The law, he added, would curtail the sale of stolen vehicles and purchase of fake spare parts as car or spare part dealers would be held responsible in the event of cars registered through them or spare parts as the case may be are found to be stolen or fake.

## Tinubu inaugurates N563m Ikorodu road

Governor Bola Ahmed Tinubu of Lagos State on Thursday inaugurated the Majidun/Ipakodo road in Ikorodu Council area, built at N563 million.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the 2.3 km road, named Oba Sekumade road, connects about 20 communities. The governor, accompanied by members of the state Executive Council and the Speaker of the state House of Assembly, Mr. Adeyemi Ikuforiji, drove on the well-paved road constructed by the Lagos State Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA).

He disclosed that owners of articulated vehicles and tankers would pay tolls to ply the road for its maintenance.

Tinubu, who said the road cost his administration a fortune, expressed satisfaction that more than five million Lagosians living in more than

20 communities in Ikorodu and its environs would benefit from the infrastructure.

He assured Lagosians that his administration would continue to strive to meet their aspirations and needs. The Managing Director of LAMATA, Dr. Dayo Mobereola, had earlier said the road was designed to serve the interest of motorists and pedestrians.

"The design has made the road the first of its kind in Nigeria. It is built with the requirements of both the vehicle users and the pedestrians in mind to give them equal rights," he explained.

Mobereola said necessary measures had been taken to compel motorists to respect the right of way of pedestrians at designated crossing points.

"This is an example of the many road safety measures we have incorporated into the project," he said.



Governor Tinubu of Lagos State (right), and Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, Lagos State Commissioner of Justice, at a ceremony in Lagos...recently. Pix: Oladipupo Odunewu

## ...seeks French assistance for Lagos schools

Lagos State governor, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, has sought the assistance of the French government to develop and empower the youths through the sponsorship of various volunteer programmes in schools in the state.

Tinubu, who spoke while receiving the Consul-General of the French Embassy in his office at the Alausa, said that Lagos was interested in benefiting from the wide experience of the French in youth

development and empowerment.

The governor reiterated that the state placed much emphasis on the well-being and proper nurturing of its youth because "they constitute a major problem in the development of any nation."

He added that the state was also optimistic of attracting more investment from the hospitality sector for which the French had gained global recognition. Tinubu said the successes recorded by the

state government in the environment would be more fortified if the French exerted her influence in the European Union to play a role in the quest to rid the state of filth.

This, he said, could be achieved through the active participation of the European Union in the several beautification efforts of the state. In addition, the governor sought the support of the French embassy in the housing sector where the state government is pursuing the

provision of affordable houses to the teeming masses of Lagos State.

He expressed the intention to improve the relationship between both countries in areas of cultural exchange and expressed determination to promote more business collaboration with the French.

Speaking earlier, the Consul General de France a Lagos, Erwan de Gouvello, said the visit was necessitated by the need to facilitate improved contact between the Lagos and French governments.

# Inside Politics

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT:

# Are the public hearings already rigged?

Deputy Senate President, Alhaji Ibrahim Mantu has remained unfrazzled by last week's rejection of his third term pet project. Sources close to the chairman of the National Assembly Joint Committee on the review of the constitution told *Daily Trust* that Mantu has bounced back from his momentary discouragement after colleagues made mince meat of the subcommittee's reports. The lawmaker from Plateau State is said to be upbeat and cocksure of positive results as the amendment battle goes to the court of public opinion. Nigerians have been tasked with the job of reviewing the 1999 constitution, and if possible, grant the president a resounding third term ticket via an amendment of the tenure clause. But how independent would Nigerians be in deciding the fate of the constitution? Are the citizens sufficiently knowledgeable on the various issues to be debated? or will they be manipulated to the executive's advantage?

### Public hearings cost and implication

According to Senator Mantu, the public hearings will be the most transparent project in recent times as it will be a media event, complete with live coverage of proceeding. Like the National Conference held last year, Nigerians will watch as pundits take on issues and discuss them with vigour and emotion. The delegates to the hearings would be picked from six zones of the federation and will attend the proceeding in the selected centres.

Observers are however of the opinion that the hearings would not be as transparent and independent as Mantu hopes. Says Alhaji Ibrahim Isyaku, a frontline politician and founding father of the ruling PDP, the public hearing might have been already rigged. He noted that the choice of the centres for the hearing is suspect and that the whole event would be stage-managed.

Observing that in a country where monetary rewards could tilt public opinion, it would be hard convincing critics that Nigerians would not be used in providing the needed amendment.

Already, the public hearings are promising to be big, though some are sceptical about the sincerity and genuineness of the process.

By Emmanuel Bello,  
Political Editor

eventual monetary windfall. Senator Mantu has also hinted on the big spending that will trail the event when he said that a sum of N600

million is needed for publications, organizing public hearings and paying both lawmakers and delegates to the hearings.

Nigerians, ever enterprising, are already getting ready to benefit from the public hearings and the fact that it is big budget also suggest that more people would want to participate in the exercise.



Senator Ibrahim Mantu.. ready for action

million is needed for publications, organizing public hearings and paying both lawmakers and delegates to the hearings.

Nigerians, ever enterprising, are already getting ready to benefit from the public hearings and the fact that it is big budget also suggest that more people would want to participate in the exercise.

### Ignorance.

The public hearings will be an exercise in showcasing the ignorance of many Nigerians on the issues raised. Many people are either ignorant or indifferent to the issues such as electoral reforms, judicial reforms and other "sophisticated" matters in the constitution and may not debate effectively on the matters, especially if the grassroot is to be involved.

Senator Mantu is aware of this. He told *Daily Trust* that the committee would soon embark on mass sensitization of the public through the media and pointed out that the issues would be outlined and widely advertised for everyone to see and understand so that they would properly digest them for a robust debate.

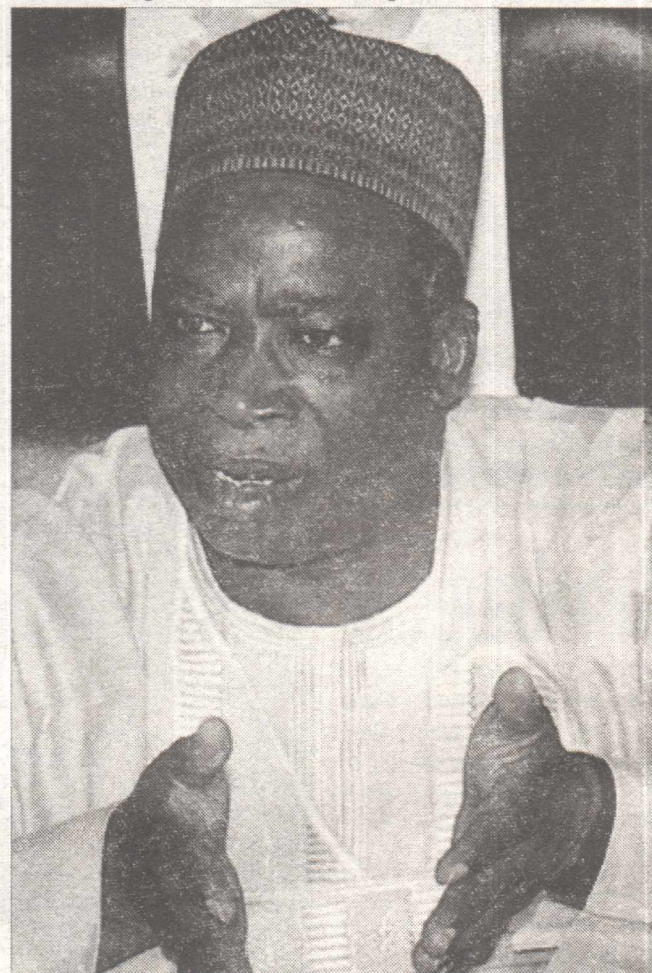
On the contentious tenure matter itself, Nigerians would be expected to decide on a proper and acceptable for-

public hearings might thus find Nigerians deciding for the status quo even though the real views may not receive media coverage.

Already, speculations are rife that delegates to the public hearings would be

nized units in the federation? What informed the choice of these areas and why are the hearing held in centres seen as pro-Obasanjo zones.

Lafia, the Nasarawa state capital is seen as a bastion of the pro-third term crusaders.



Governor Abdullahi Adamu.. one of the host

screened to avoid a confab-like situation where anti third term forces outweighed those for it.

### The six "safe" zones

The hearings will hold in six zones of the federation and they include Lafia, Bauchi and Kaduna (in the North), Ibadan, Port-Harcourt and Enugu (for the South). The questions many have raised is that why these zones rather than the states which are the constitutionally recog-

nized units in the federation? What informed the choice of these areas and why are the hearing held in centres seen as pro-Obasanjo zones.

Lafia, the Nasarawa state capital is seen as a bastion of the pro-third term crusaders.

With a governor said to be sympathetic to the president's alleged extension plot, Lafia is expected to support all the positions that would benefit the president. Governor Adamu Abdullahi, who is reported to be the president's personal friend, is said to share same positions with the presidency on the tenure issue. Would he allow the deliberations to go on without interference in Lafia? Or would he personally su-

pervise the selection of participants and proceedings at the public hearings?

It is the same questions raised in connection to Kaduna State where Governor Ahmed Makarfi us said to be a president's person. It is feared that, like in Lafia, the debate may not be totally free from external control in Kaduna.

Ibadan in Oyo State is said to be ready for the public hearings, especially now that a pro-Obasanjo government is in place. The theory on Ibadan is that the former governor was removed to make way for a more sympathetic governor who could back the president during the public hearings.

But rising in defence of the president, senior special assistant to the president on public affairs, Chief Femi-Fani Kayode said that the public hearings would not be teleguided by the president and that it would be transparent noting that the president has no plans to interfere with the proceedings.

### Parallel public hearings

Even with this defence, a critical section of the Nigerian public still believes that the hearings are already rigged. Alhaji Isyaku, for instance, holds the view that the hearing has all the trappings of a staged event. According to him, there is a procedure and a constitutionally approved way of changing the constitution and he thus wondered why this was not followed. He said that the public hearings will only legitimize the third term proposal.

"They want it to look as if Nigerians are the ones proposing the issue and then give it some legitimacy," he said, adding that what the Mantu committee is doing is reviewing the constitution and not amendment.

### Review or amendment?

With over a hundred sections to be amended, some observers have said that the constitution is being completely changed, as amendment in a few places is not the case in this exercise. Rather, the whole event will seek to change the document that has guided the affairs of the country since 1999. But the snag is the feasibility of this exercise given the time, venue, and the participants in this event. Are Nigerians ready for a constitutional amendment? Will they be able to digest the issues raised and debate them for a robust decision? The public hearings will be a test of the nation's readiness for a robust debate.

***"Many people are either ignorant or indifferent to the issues such as electoral reforms, judicial reforms and other "sophisticated" matters in the constitution and may not debate effectively on the matters, especially if the grassroot is to be involved. Senator Mantu is aware of this. He told Daily Trust that the committee would soon embark on mass sensitization of the public through the media and pointed out that the issues would be outlined and widely advertised for everyone "to see and understand so that they would properly digest them for a robust debate."***

# Inside Politics

## Govs can't force us on 3<sup>rd</sup> term

Senator Lawal Shu'aibu is leader of the All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) caucus in the National Assembly. In this interview with Daily Trust, Shu'aibu speaks on the efforts to frustrate President Olusegun Obasanjo's alleged third term bid and crisis in the ANPP among others.

**Y**our caucus is in the forefront of the campaign against third term. Recently the National Assembly constitution review committee dropped the third term proposal. Is it time to celebrate?

We worked towards defeating the objective of third term, but we don't know what they are coming with again. So we are not relenting our efforts, we are waiting to see what joker they are coming up with again. But so far so good. The wish of the Nigerian public has been upheld.

**If an attempt is made to reintroduce the third term agenda, how do you intend to stave it off?**

You see, the buck stops at the National Assembly. Nobody has the responsibility of reviewing the constitution except the National Assembly. Even constitution review committee has no last say. Whatever they recommended has to come to the floor of the two chambers for discussion, debate and resolution. After this the State Houses of Assembly come in. Agreed that there are so many sections of the constitution that need review. But any such review has to go with the public opinion. And that is where the issue of public hearing comes in. I proposed a motion on the basis of which the whole idea of asking the committee not to go ahead came up. I was asked to step down the motion and let us discuss it in executive session. And then let's direct the committee to go and compile an interim report and submit to the two chambers of the National Assembly before going ahead. I agreed that so long as it is not going to exceed two to three weeks, I have no objection. But if exceeds three weeks, I'll come under order 14 and move my motion.

The meeting of the constitution review committee yesterday (last Wednesday) was a step in the right direction where about 80 per cent of the members present expressed the same view, expunge the third term proposal. And in the course of further debate, 90 per cent of the members said they were not going to use any sub-committee proposal. They

By Habeeb Idris Pindiga,  
Assistant Political Editor

were going to use the constitution as their working document. Let the public have their say on the entire constitution, not on handpicked opinions of handpicked persons. So we are winning. But we don't know whether we have won. Time will tell. When they move again, we move against them.

**There are talks of state governors being interested in this third term, and that they will impress on you lawmakers to retrace your steps. How will you face this?**

We have never impressed on the governors to do what they do in the states, never! So I don't see the governors impressing on us to do what we are here to do! We are here to do our constitutional responsibility and nobody can twist us. We are all mature people. The Northern senators met, they passed a resolution, no third term. The Southern senators even met in Enugu, part of their resolution was no third term. So I don't see any back door through which the governors will come in. Eighty per cent of the senators are not in cordial relationship with their governors. So how do you expect the governors to penetrate the Senate? They cannot penetrate the House of Representatives let alone the Senate.

**Is it because some of you are interested in succeeding the governors?**

We can't listen to the governors because the governors' agenda are different from our agenda. Our agenda is to make sure the constitution is abided by, our agenda is prudence with public funds (and) our agenda is fight corruption.

**Has any governor made any overtures to your caucus to tone down your anti-third term stance?**

Our caucus has never received such.

**In the event they come...**

We'll tell them no.

**They may try financial inducement...**

Let them, try, we are very incorruptible.

**How did you manage to record this victory when you are in the minority?**

Let me tell you what Mantu said during the meeting, he said "the views of the minority have become the views of the majority today". So once you are patient, so long as your views are predicated on sincerity, you will surely win. We hold meetings, we strategise. Last (penultimate) week we held meetings twice, and we



Senator Lawal Shu'aibu

harmonise our views. By the time we come out of most our meetings, we come out with one opinion. And that is secret of our victory.

Besides this, majority of PDP members are not with that group working for third term. When the issue of my motion came up, I can't remember one PDP senator that said he won't support me if the motion is tabled. But unfortunately, the PDP top

notchers came to the National Assembly and turn the tables on us. I was asked not to move my motion on the promise that Mantu will be directed to produce a time table for the constitution review process.

**People are still sceptical of this process because they feel that the public hearing may be stage-managed. How do you intend to counter this?**

We know the opinion of the Nigerian public. They don't want third term, they will come out and say so at the public hearing. They can-

not manipulate the public hearing, because the public hearing is where something is done in the public under the glare of cameras of the press and before everybody particularly the civil society.

**So you don't have any fears?**

We don't have any fears regarding public hearing.

**Where do you have fears regarding this third term agenda?**

— Senator Shu'aibu

I think the third term issue is dead at least for now. It's dead.

**Will they not attempt to resuscitate it?**

I can give you this assurance, nobody will have the guts (and) nobody will have the audacity to resuscitate the issue of third term during the current dispensation.

**The ANPP is at present enmeshed in crises, what do you in the National Assembly make of this?**

It's all politics. When you hear silence, make sure there is some autocracy going on within the system. When you hear some noise, people are expressing their opinions, then politics is going on.

**Even when a state governor is trading words with the national chairman of the party?**

I think what happened is that there is some kind of misunderstanding between the Sokoto state deputy governor and the party in the state. A committee had been set up to investigate the problem. But even before that committee finished its assignment, the ANPP national chairman came out castigating Governor Bafarawa, that he is a liar, he is this and he is that, he even have problem with his deputy governor. I think he was passing judgment. As national chairman of the party, your committee has not submitted any report. Why will you start castigating the governor? What made you think that the deputy governor was right? What made you think that the governor was wrong? I think that is the genesis of the whole thing.

**Sokoto legislators accused Etiebet of becoming a spokesman of PDP. Do you agree with them?**

You see, no matter how you want to defend the national chairman of our party, some of his public utterances

will restrain you from doing that. He has made so much statements in favour of the ruling party and in condemnation of his own party. For instance, he was nominated to the National Political Reform Conference to represent the party. But when the South-south delegates walked out, he joined them. So who was he representing there? He was not representing the party because he walked out with another group. And then on several occasions he kept talking about the "laudable" programmes of the Obasanjo administration, well if he thinks the Obasanjo administration is laudable he should keep quiet, he should remember his views will be misinterpreted as views of the party. The party has not taken a position with regards to programmes of the ruling party. So why will he make such public utterances at the expense of the credibility of the opposition party? There are lots of things that can restrain you from defending him, and unfortunately he could not adequately defend them himself. So why should anybody want to defend him?

**Will you say that ANPP will be better off with Etiebet out?**

No matter what happens Etiebet has served his term and according to the constitution he has to leave.

**Is he not eligible to re-contest?**

Yes, he has the right to seek for re-election.

**Taking into consideration how he run the party in his first term, will ANPP be better off with somebody else as chairman?**

Of course the party will be better off with somebody better than Etiebet. You cannot say Etiebet is the most qualified to be ANPP national chairman. We need somebody better than him.

**"We have never impressed on the governors to do what they do in the states, never! So I don't see the governors impressing on us to do what we are here to do! We are here to do our constitutional responsibility and nobody can twist us. We are all mature people."**

## NOTICE OF COURT ORDERED MEETING

IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA HOLDEN AT LAGOS  
 SUIT NO.  
 IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTMENTS AND SECURITIES ACT (ISA) 1990  
 AND  
 IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 100 THEREOF AND  
 IN RE:

- 1) FIRST INLAND BANK PLC RC 112876..... 1ST APPLICANT
- 2) NUB INTERNATIONAL BANK LIMITED RC 10422 ..... 2ND APPLICANT
- 3) IMB INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC RC 13042..... 3RD APPLICANT

**MEETING OF THE HOLDERS OF THE FULLY PAID ORDINARY SHARES  
 OF  
 IMB INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that by an Order of the Federal High Court (hereinafter referred to as "The Court") dated the 1st day of February 2006, made in the above matter, the Court has directed that a meeting of the holders of the fully paid up ordinary shares of IMB International Bank Plc (hereinafter called "IMB") be convened for the purpose of considering and if thought fit, approving (with or without modification) a Scheme of Merger between IMB and the other merging banks namely, First Inland Bank Plc ("First Inland"), and NUB International Bank Limited (NUB) (hereinafter collectively referred to as "The Banks") The Scheme is explained in details in the Explanatory Statement on Pages 19 to 32 of the Scheme Document.

The Court Ordered Meeting of the shareholders of IMB will be held as follows:

**Date:** Tuesday February 7, 2006  
**Venue:** Pearl Hall, Oceanview Restaurant, Victoria Island  
**Time:** 2p.m.

The following resolutions will be proposed at the Court Ordered Meeting and if thought fit passed as special resolutions of the company:

1. "That this Meeting approves the Report of the Directors, the Balance Sheet as at 30th June 2005 together with the Profit and Loss Account for the year ended on that date and the Report of the Auditors and Audit Committee thereon;
2. "That this Meeting approves the Scheme of Merger dated the 31st day of January, 2006 which has been submitted to the Meeting and for the purposes of identification subscribed by the Chairman, and that the Directors be and are hereby authorized to consent to any modifications of the Scheme of Merger that the Securities & Exchange Commission, the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Federal High Court may think fit to impose and approve;
3. "That all assets, liabilities and undertakings including real property and intellectual property rights of IMB be transferred to First Inland in consideration for the issue and allotment of fully paid Ordinary Shares by First Inland to the shareholders of IMB as provided in the Scheme.
4. "That the total share capital of IMB be cancelled and the IMB entity be dissolved without being wound up.
5. "That the Board of Directors of IMB be and are hereby authorized to take such actions as these actions may be necessary with regard to giving effect to the Scheme.

By the said Order, the Court has appointed the Chairman of the Board of Directors of IMB, Mr Ken Odogwu or failing him Mr. Anthony Okocha, Acting Managing Director or failing them both any other Director appointed in their stead by the shareholders present at the meeting to act as chairman of the said meeting and has directed the Chairman to report the results thereof to the Court. Voting at the meeting will be by poll. The said Scheme of Merger will be subject to subsequent approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Central Bank of Nigeria and by the sanction of the Court. Shareholders may vote in person or they may appoint any other person, whether a shareholder or not, to act as proxy and to attend and vote in their stead.

A form of proxy is being sent to each shareholder. In the case of joint shareholders, the vote of the senior holder who tenders a vote, whether in person or by proxy, will be accepted to the exclusion of the votes of the other joint holders; and for this purpose seniority will be determined by the order in which their names stand in the register of Members of the Bank.

It is requested that forms appointing proxies be lodged at the office of the Registrars of IMB as shown on the form of proxy, not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for the Meeting. Please note that the lodging of the proxy form does not prevent you from attending the meeting and voting should you wish to do so. However, in such an arrangement, your proxy will not be entitled to vote.

Your Board of Directors unanimously recommends that you vote to adopt the merger agreement.

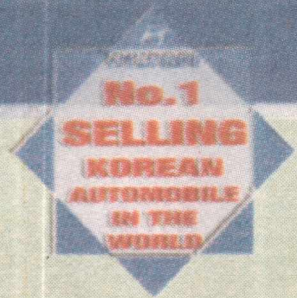
DATED THIS 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2006.

THE CITY LAW ASSOCIATES  
 PRINCES COURT, SUITE 9D  
 P.C. 37 AHMED ONIBUDO STR.  
 VICTORIA ISLAND  
 LAGOS.

GEORGE ETOMI & PARTNERS  
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# BENUE STATE GOVERNMENT

## BENUE MOURNS THE DEATH OF A MATRIARCH



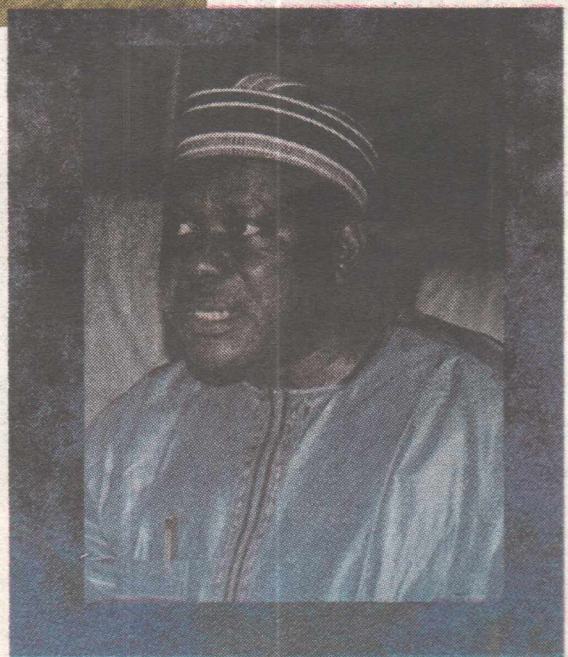
### LATE MATRIARCH

The Government and people of Benue state mourn the death of a heroine, matriarch and political mother of the State, Mama Ikpaanyam Tarka Nachi, the mother of the late legendary Chief J.S. Tarka.

After spending greater percentage of your life fighting for justice and unity of the Middle Belt, womenfolk and the Tiv race in general, the Lord God In His wisdom has called you to eternal glory at a time the country needs your wisdom and wise counsel at this critical period of democratic transition.

As you take your exit on earth, the entire government and people of Benue State pray for the repose of your soul as you rest in the bosom of the Lord.

Adieu Mama Ikpaanyam Tarka



DR. GEORGE AKUME  
Executive Governor of Benue State

Signed:  
DR. GEORGE AKUME  
Executive Governor of Benue State

# News

## Solid minerals ownership put to rest -Ezekwesili

The recent directive by the National Economic Council (NEC) to all state governments to abrogate their Ministries of Solid Minerals has put to rest the issue of ownership of such resources.

Speaking to newsmen over the weekend, solid minerals development minister Oby Ezekwesili said that the council made it clear that ownership of mineral resources irrespective of their location was the exclusive preserve of the federal government.

According to the council, the 1999 Constitution was also clear on the issue, making it illegal for any state to own a Ministry of Solid Minerals.

Ezekwesili, who presented the case to the council end of last year, because some states had such ministries, said over the weekend in Abuja that the sector would develop better under one federal body.

She explained that the federal government was solely responsible for the management, supervision and regulation of the ministry under the present dispensation.

However, she said because the government recognised the importance of the states and local governments as the areas where the resources were located, a mechanism was in place to bring the three tiers together

for any mining activity in their states.

A News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) check showed that most states were aware of the constitutional ownership of mineral resources by the federal government. The Director of Commerce and Industries in Nasarawa State, Mr. Esla Abimiku, told NAN that "the development of solid minerals remains the exclusive legislative right of the federal government."

"All activities for harnessing, exploitation and export of mineral resources have to be conducted by the federal government," he added.

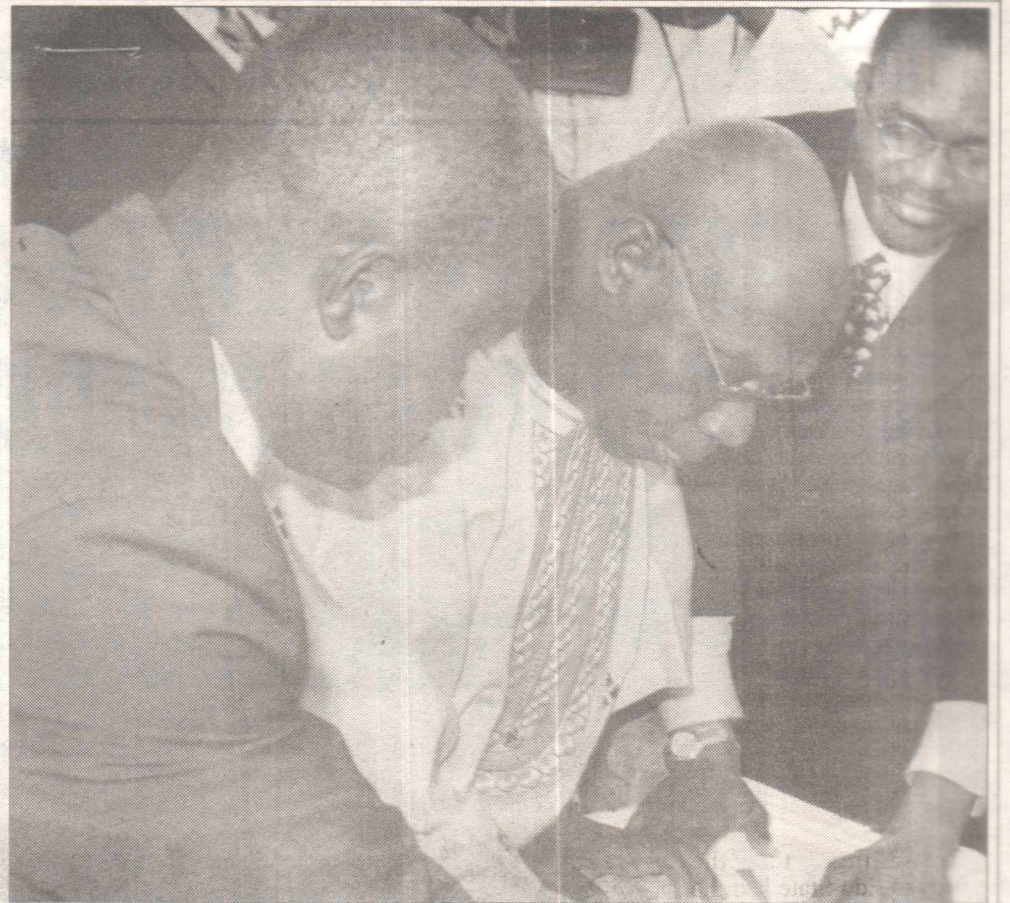
NAN reports that Nasarawa is endowed with about 23 exploitable mineral resources spread across all

the local government areas of the state.

In Gombe State, the Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Zubairu Umar, told NAN that there was no law in the state backing the establishment of either a ministry or department of solid minerals.

He said the state "is mindful of the fact that the solid minerals sector was an exclusive preserve of the federal government." In Rivers State, the Peter Odili-led administration has in place a Bureau of Energy and Natural Resources headed by a special adviser.

This bureau is under the office of the governor and has a department of solid minerals headed by a director.



President Obasanjo (C) signing the parental portion of the marriage register during the marriage between former Miss Enitan Adebola Obasanjo and Terence Afolabi Adeleye, at the State House, Abuja...Saturday. Pix: Joe Oroye.

## Namu crisis: Commission ends public sittings

The Commission of enquiry into the Namu crisis in Plateau says it has concluded its public sittings after receiving evidence from 39 witnesses, 22 memoranda and 58 exhibits.

The commission, headed by Justice Constance Momoh, was constituted by the state government last December, following communal clashes in Namu chiefdom of Quanpan council area on Nov.11, 2005.

The crisis, which left eight persons dead and several others injured, also led to the destruction of many houses and property, including the chief of Namu's official resi-

dence.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) recalls that the commission was set up to investigate the immediate and

remote causes of the clashes.

The clashes occurred after the announcement of the creation of Pan Development Area with headquarters at

Namu by the state government.

The commission, which commenced sitting on Jan.18, rounded up its public sittings

on Feb. 4.

Among the communities that gave evidence were Pan, Namu, Gamai, Uzaq, Dajan and Kudabang.

## Panel urges govt to clean up wage system

A Presidential Panel on Wages, Salaries and Emolument Relativity has called on the federal government to move towards a cleaner wage system in the country.

The panel made the call while presenting a three volume report on the findings of the panel to the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) Chief Ufot

Ekaette.

A statement issued from the OSGF and made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) yesterday in Abuja said the panel among other things recommended "a grade compression in the public service".

According to the statement, the Chairman of the panel, Prof. Emmanuel Edozien, said there was need to link substantial component of management remuneration to performance.

Edozien noted that remuneration aligned pay with value creation in the private sector.

The panel also called for a benchmarking pay of specialised agencies in the public service.

Edozien said the task of institutionalising objective and national criteria for determining economy-wide compensation packages was both difficult and chal-

lenging.

He, however, noted that the factors and issues that went into play in arriving at the package did not discourage hard work and professionalism.

Edozien said the panel in arriving at its findings, carried out a survey of about 400 government institutions and 155 private enterprises.

He gave some of the findings as the country's remuneration structure, which, he noted, was characterised by multiple salary structures within the public sector.

Other findings included the prevalence of non-monetised fringe benefits in both the public and private sectors and the non linkage of the private sector structure to productivity, profitability or performance.

Edozien gave other findings as pay relativity, which, he said, exhibited distorted and unmanageable wage

structure and the presence of dormant salary grade levels in the public service.

Others are wide relativity across tiers of government and within sectors, public-private sector average earnings differentials, that varied across various strata of employees.

Edozien said the panel had proposed immediate, short, medium and long term measures, which, he added, would address the noticeable distortion, in pay relatives in the country.

Receiving the report, Ekaette noted that the report would be considered along with that of the Presidential Committee on Consolidation of Emoluments in the public sector headed by former head of state Chief Ernest Shonekan.

He further said that the reason for setting up both panels was for an improvement on the welfare of the workers.

## LG wants tough measures against pipeline vandals

Etsako-West local government in Edo wants security personnel to adopt tough measures to curb the activities of pipeline vandals, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports.

"We have resolved to propose a shoot-on-sight order to the Area Peace and Security Committee," the coun-

cils' Chairman, Malam Gani Audu, told NAN at Auchi over the weekend.

He said: "I am fed up with the activities of these vandals who are trying to jeopardise the peaceful co-existence of our people just to satisfy their selfish interest.

"It is obvious that some highly-placed individuals in the community connive with PPMC insiders to perpetrate the act.

"The only option I have is to ask for permission for security personnel to shoot-on-sight whenever they sight anybody around either the vandalized spot or pipeline area."

Audu said in spite of several appeals to traditional rulers to talk to their subjects to desist from sabotaging petroleum products pipeline vandalism has continued to increase by the day.

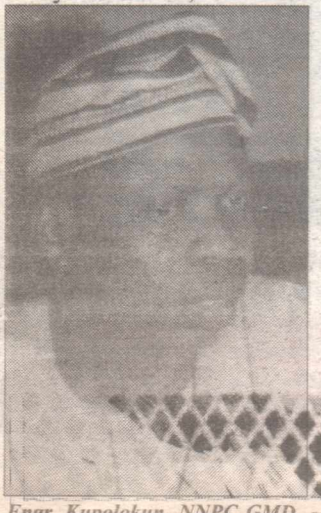
"But I am going to give them one more opportunity by inviting all traditional rulers in the area to a meeting to have a last minute discussion on the issue," he said.

Meanwhile, the palace of the Otaru of Auchi has set up a committee to liaise with the police and other relevant authorities or groups towards finding a lasting solution to the problem.

NAN reports that the activities of vandals in Etsako-West local government area of Edo has escalated in recent time.

Last Wednesday, a fracas between the police and some vandals left one Dirisu dead. He was hit by a gun shot fired by a policeman who claimed he acted in self-defence.

In January, four persons died in an explosion that vandalised a spot in a forest at Iyekhoji village, near Auchi.



Engr. Kapolokun, NNPC GMD

## ANPP wades into states crises

The national secretariat of the ANPP has announced its readiness to resolve the crises rocking some states under its control.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that Kano, Sokoto and Borno States had been recently enmeshed in leadership and membership defection crises.

ANPP's National Publicity Secretary, Okelebera, told NAN yesterday

in Abuja that the party's National Working Committee (NWC) has scheduled a crucial meeting on Wednesday to consider grievances in the affected states.

"The party has scheduled a crucial meeting on Wednesday to discuss some of these problems with a view to resolving them amicably," he said.

Olebera also revealed that the party's National Execu-

tive Committee (NEC) would meet on Friday to consider the deliberations of the NWC and other matters affecting the ANPP.

He said: "We outlined these sanctities to restore our members' hope and confidence in the party ahead of the 2007 general elections."

He further said that the party would continue to work towards restoring its credibility through the two meetings.

# News

## NDLEA destroys 55,000kg of illicit drugs

From Aideloje Ojo, Correspondent in Minna

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) says it destroyed over 55,433.8 kilograms of indian hemp nation-wide in three months. The chairman of the agency, Alhaji Ahmadu Giade, disclosed this in Minna, Niger State over the weekend when he supervised the destruction of over 2,433.8 kilograms of Indian hemp seized by the Niger State command of the agency.

According to the chairman, Edo State had the highest seizure of over 33,000 kilograms of the illicit drug, while in Delta State over 20,000 kilograms of the drug were also destroyed.

"I have decided to make public destruction of exhibits a priority in order to rebuild public confidence and reassure the nation that the Agency will protect Nigerians from the enormous threat drugs pose to our society," he said.

The NDLEA boss said the successful interception of the substance was a testimony to the fact that his men were alive to their responsibilities.

Giade lamented that Niger State had become a notorious transit point in the trafficking of illicit drugs even though consumption was still very low.

The chairman commended the state government for its efforts in fighting the trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs in the state.

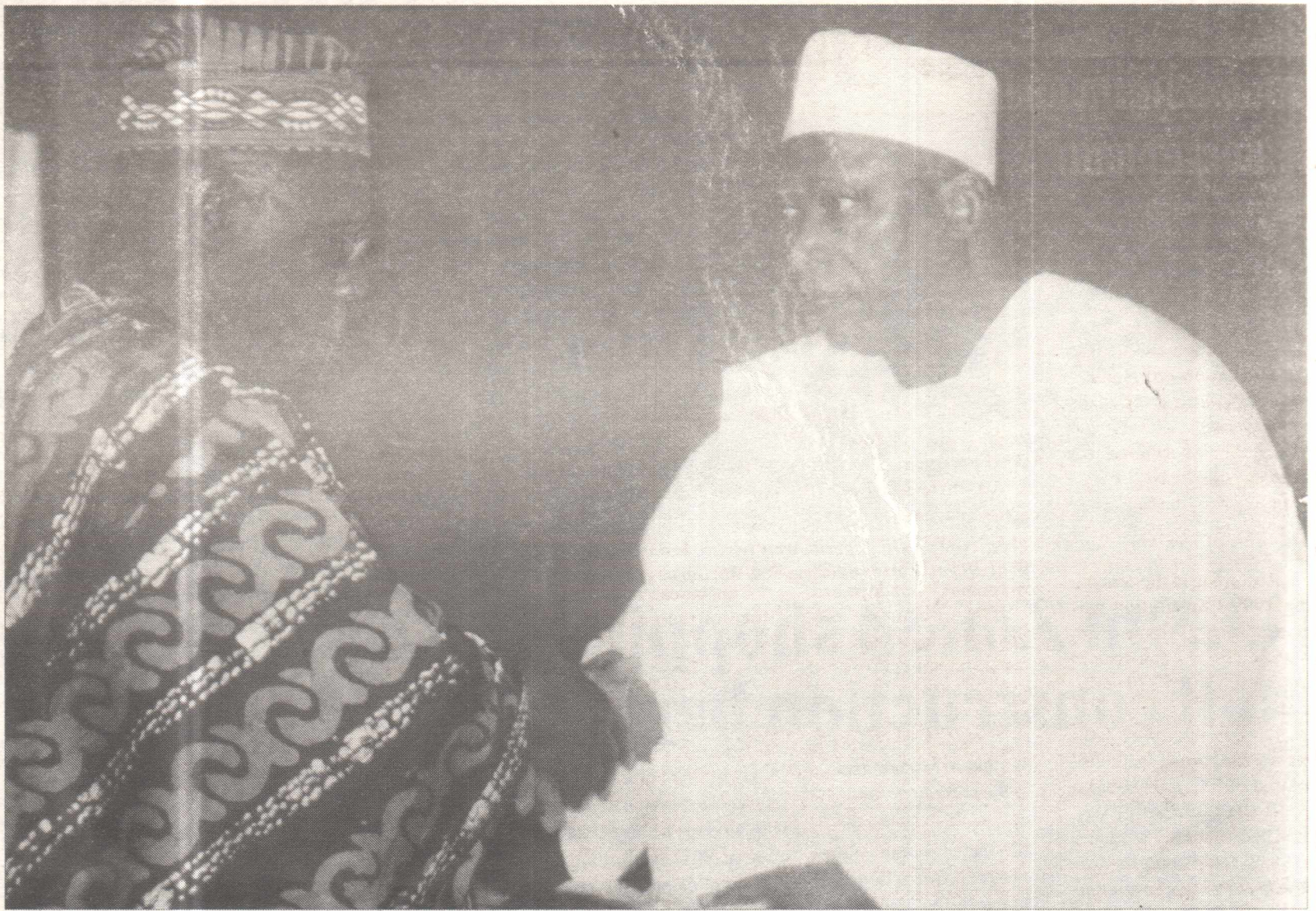
"Although these seized drugs might not have been cultivated in the state, it is obvious that the transiting of the drugs could eventually lead to the emergence of a user market with a disastrous consequences.

"I wish to call on the state government and the good people of Niger State to realize that the future is at stake and we must redouble our efforts to tackle the problem before our youths are destroyed," he explained.

Earlier, the state commander of NDLEA in Niger State, Mr. Joshua Majin, thanked the state government for its support and assistance to the agency.



Sunday Ehindero, IGP



President Obasanjo receiving the report of the National Mosque Rehabilitation Committee's chairman, Governor Abdullahi Adamu of Nasarawa State during the ceremony held at the State House, Abuja...recently. Pix: Joe Oroye.

## 25 NGOs fight human trafficking

Twenty-five Non-Governmental Organisations in Kano State are to benefit from capacity building to be offered by the National Agency for Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and other related matters (NAPTIP) to enable them help the agency fight the menace of trafficking.

The Director and Head of Investigation and Monitoring, Mallam Mohammed Babandede, announced this at a meeting of the NGOs and NAPTIP at the NAPTIP zonal office in Kano.

Mallam Mohammed Babandede expressed dismay that statistic indicate that there were about 50,000 Nigerian girls in the sex industry in Italy alone.

He also stated recently that 15,000 Nigerians were evacuated from Libya to Nigeria. Mallam Babandede said the NGOs were closer to the community and would assist in no small measure to enhance activities of the agency.

According to the director of NAPTIP, government alone can not handle the responsibility which he described as enormous.

"To be able to succeed in this, NAPTIP has stated

From Jamilah Nuhu Musa, Correspondent, Kano

will begin the building of capacity of NGOs to enable them promote the agency's programmes," he said.

Babandede who said that NAPTIP will give the NGOs the necessary support, urged

them to take into consideration, the religious and cultural values of the society.

According to him, the *almajirci* system in Kano state for instance is one of the greatest challenges facing NAPTIP. Parents of

*almajirais* he said do not consider the system as trafficking, therefore NGOs must ensure that they work towards assisting NAPTIP to achieve set objectives. The director said the NGOs would also work in the areas of public enlightenment,

research and statistics, prosecution, counselling and rehabilitation of victims.

Also speaking at the occasion, the guest speaker, Alhaji Aliyu Adamu Kiyawa, urged the NGOs to help stamp out the menace of trafficking in persons.

## Solar eclipse can cause blindness

—Expert

Brazilian physicist Dr. Edward Simter Dr. advised Nigerians against viewing the March 29, 2006 solar eclipse with their naked eyes as it could result in blindness.

The expert speaking on AIT Kakaki programme monitored in Abuja yesterday likened the rays of the sun to that of diamond. Moreover, he advised against the use of telescope or any other scientific gadgets in viewing the eclipse.

He also lamented that Nigeria will be experiencing another eclipse in 2034, adding that the country can make money out of the phenomenon by marketing it to tourists, citing the

Africa solar eclipse, a situation where the sun and the moon entered into each other.

The eclipse, according to scientist, would occur between 9.15am and 9.45am on March 29, 2006.

States to be affected are Oyo, Kwara, Niger, Zamfara and Katsina, and partial eclipse in the remaining parts of the country.

Meanwhile, the federal government has directed the Ministry of Information and

Police Affairs to carry out enlightening campaign to avoid panic.

The March 29 eclipse will be the fifth time Nigeria will experience eclipse following the 1898, 1947, 1959 and 2001 respectively.

## Refuse fire burnt four under aged children in Katsina

Four children in Katsina are now hospitalized following injuries sustained in a tragic fire incident.

Three of the victims, Shuaibu (11) Khauiza, (3) and Hussaini, a nursing baby, are children of the same parents while the fourth, Ahmed (12) is the child of a neighbour.

Daily Trust investigation revealed that the incident occurred when Ahmed brought out a gallon of petrol and invited the other three victims to assist him burn a

From Lawal Ibrahim, Correspondent, Katsina

house. While attempting to ignite the fire on the dump, the gallon of petrol caught fire and subsequently engulfed three of the victims who were close to the dump sit. Younger sister to Shuaibu however got burnt while trying to assist her two brothers.

Father to the victims, Mallam Abudullahi Salisu, who described the incident as the will of God, has appealed for assistance from government and wealthy

individuals to enable him take care of the medical bills of his children.



Governor Umar Musa

# NEWS

## Police strike, illegal —Senate minority whip

Senate minority whip, Senator Mohammed Abba Aji, yesterday in Abuja urged police personnel not to go on strike as they would be committing an illegality.

Police personnel, under the aegis of the Nigeria Police Union (NPU) has issued a strike warning, alleging poor service conditions.

Fielding questions from Senate correspondents yesterday, Aji said no circumstance would warrant strike by police personnel.

He said the principle of strike as a last resort to employees of labour do not apply to police personnel.

"The police cannot legally go on strike. They cannot go on strike under any situation, not just condition of service. This is their condition of service. i.e. they cannot go on strike no matter what happens," he said.

Urging the police personnel to forget the idea of strike, Aji said no employee of labour in Nigeria enjoys perfect working condition.

By Habeeb I. Pindiga, Assistant Political Editor

The lawmaker, a member of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) from Borno State, said the number of

policemen in the country was grossly inadequate.

He said he was working with a bill that would enable all graduates that cannot get jobs to be enrolled in the police force.

## Asaju, senate president's CRS resigns

By Habeeb I. Pindiga, Reporter

Mr. Tunde Asaju, Chief Press Secretary to the President of the Senate, Ken Nnamani, has resigned.

In a statement in Abuja yesterday, Asaju said he was leaving the job because his duties were curtailed.

Asaju, a member of the Daily Trust Editorial Board, said though the job should have entailed being a bridge between the president of the Senate and the media, he was reduced to a mere MC.

"Unfortunately, these past 10 months, there has been a serious strain in the relationship to the extent that I am hardly on top of the itinerary of the president of

the senate. My job has been whittled down to being mere MC at public functions. While I take pride in being MC, I think the task of Chief press secretary goes far beyond that," he said.

Asaju said he had tendered his letter of resignation yesterday, giving reasons for his decision.

He, however, added in the statement, "most of my grounds I do not wish to discuss in the media because I believe that there are still avenues for improvement and I want to make it easy for my successor."

Reviewing officer, Maj. Gen. O. A. Azazi, GOC Div Nigeria Army (right), at the passing out of the 57 Regular Recruits at the Army Depot, Zaria with BrigGen. M. Garga ...recently.

## N3.5bn Zone 4 shopping mall construction begins

The chairman of the Federal Capital Development Authority, Mallam Nasir el-Rufai, yesterday laid foundation for the construction of N3.5 billion Zone 4 shopping mall.

Speaking at the ceremony at the site of Zone 4 Neighbourhood centre in Abuja, el-Rufai said his administration set plans to work according to the specifications and protect the master plan of the Federal Capital Territory.

He said with the new restructuring of the capital city, "the idea of corner shops will no longer be accommodated", stressing that as soon as the project is completed, Zone 4 corner shops will be called shopping mall.

El-Rufai described the project as best initiative between the FCT administration and private business community aimed at ensuring strong business activities in line with the international standard.

He said the occasion is quite essential as the FCT is celebrating its 30th anniversary, which also shows a new landmark in the development

By Hamisu Muhammad, Business Reporter

of the city.

He called on the contractors to expedite actions and complete the building within the specified period, saying further all the necessary support will be ensured to allow common man benefit from the project.

In his remark the chairman, Wuse Zone 4 Property Development Company, Alhaji Abubakar Sani, said over 500 offices and shops will be build as against less than 100 that existed before the demolition.

He said the structure will represent a monument which will serve as a tourist attraction in Africa and fitting to the status of the city, stressing that the edifice will be environmentally friendly as against what was obtained in the past.

According to the architect of the building, Mr. Taiwo Aina, said the shopping mall was designed to accommodate and fit the terrain of the area and will open a new chapter in the physical development of the Abuja.

## NUJ election campaign hots up

From Sadeed Aliyu, Senior Reporter (Sokoto)

Presidential aspirant in the forthcoming Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) triennial delegates conference, Mr. Ndagana Akwu has promised to run a participatory administration if elected into office.

Mr. Ndagana Akwu, who was in Sokoto to canvass for support, assured all state councils that they would directly be involved in the running of the administration of the union at the national level.

He said the media bill now before the National Assembly if passed into law would bring a lot of positive changes into the journalism profession and therefore solicited the vote of Sokoto delegates.

The presidential candidate, who spoke on the NUG Reformation Conference held at Ilorin last year, explained

that he would uphold the basics of the conference which aims at reforming journalism practice to a full fledged profession just like NBA and Nigerian Medical Association (NMA).

Mr. Akwu further said if elected into office he would ensure that working journalists enjoy special salary scale just like other professionals.

He however said this could only be possible if the union goes professional and do away with its trade union nomenclature.

The presidential candidate advised Sokoto delegates to make a wise choice, pointing out that if they elect wrong candidate they should be ready to endure bad leadership for another three years and vice-versa.



Mallam Nasir el-Rufai



## University of Abuja, Abuja (Postgraduate School) MBA Entrance Examination

This is to notify all candidates who applied for the MBA programme of the University for the 2005/2006 Academic session that an entrance examination will be conducted for them as follows:

- Date: Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2006
- Venue: Mini-Campus, Gwagwalada Abuja.
- Time: 9:00 am

Candidates should bring along with them certified bank draft in the sum of two thousand and five hundred naira (N2,500.00) only payable to the University of Abuja and drawn from any of the following banks: First Bank, United Bank for Africa (UBA) and Bank of the North.

Candidates who fail to appear for the entrance examination would not be considered for admission.

Signed:

M.B. MODIBBO

NEWS

# Poultry disease spreads to FCT, Nasarawa

The outbreak of poultry disease reported in Kaduna and Kano states has spread to the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and Keffi in Nasarawa state where poultry farmers have

By Abdulahi M. Gulloma, Reporter

complained of losing thousands of their birds.

One of the farmers who spoke to *Daily Trust* on condition of anonymity, said that the poultry farmers have refused to talk on the devastating effects of the disease on their birds in order not to lose their customers.

According to him, the farmers have invested so much in the poultry industry and that it would be difficult for them to open up on the disease.

He said that the farmers are losing substantial part of their birds to the disease, adding that he personally lost 2500 out of the 9500 birds in his farm.

He said that the inability of the farmers to reveal the disease could make Nigerians consume eggs or chickens that might be infected with the disease.

He also expressed fears that in the next six weeks, the prices of eggs would skyrocket to an unprecedented level due to the rapid spread of the disease.

"A crate of egg was N250 and later jumped to N400 in the six weeks it could be N600 per crate or more because of the disease that is now threatening poultry farming in the country," he said.

He said that supportive measures such as compensation for lost and extensive service for the poultry farmers need to be put in place by the government to cushion the effects of the disease.

## Census: Helicopter to monitor mountainous areas

Two helicopters are to be deployed to the moderately populated but mountainous areas, of Adamawa State so as to cushion the successful conduct of the National Housing and population census stated for March 21st -25th 2006.

From Hamza Idirs, Correspondent (Yola)

mountainous areas. On getting to the top, they were completely exhausted "how do you expect them to perform?" He asked "of course we have to look for a way out which is the use of the helicopters".

The Federal Commissioner added that even though Adamawa State does not have many boundary dispute cases, the few that exist would not be left out.

"Some boundary disputes have been there for years, the role of the National population Commission is to map out the affected areas clearly, then carried out the census and then 'hang up' the figures. The result will not be released to the affected L.G.A but will be included in the overall population figure of the state."

Mr. Isiayei stated that the commission has also taken into cognizance all the communities ceded to Nigeria from the Republic of Cameroon and fall within the borders of Adamawa State adding that a total of 18,000 ad-hoc workers have been recruited for the four-day exercise.

The Federal Commissioner of NPC in the state Mr. Jeremiah B. Isiayei (JP) told correspondents in Yola yesterday that the use of the helicopters becomes necessary because as an all encompassing exercise, there was the need for every Nigerian to be part of the exercise no matter what amount it would cost the commission.

He said there are many people leaving in the mountainous areas of Sukur kingdom of Madagali local government area and other several settlements in Toungo local government. According to him, these areas could not be reached with ease despite their numerical strength. "You can get to anywhere in Adamawa state now using cars, motorcycles or bicycles... the only difficult places are these mountainous areas".

He added "during the trial census exercise there were enumerators posted to the

## 2007: Muazu calls for divine intervention

Bauchi State Governor, Ahmadu Adamu Muazu has called on Nigerians to intensify their prayers so that God will intervene in the political situation of the country particularly the 2007 general elections so that it will come and go without any blood bath just as he has urged politicians to play the game of politics according to its rules without bitterness.

From Tashikalmah Hallah, Correspondent (Bauchi)

the provision of social infrastructure for the even development of the Bauchi state saying "what I want to do is to see that whoever is coming after my tenure does not have many things to do other than to build on the solid foundation we have laid. We have virtually everything that needed to be done to develop the state."

He commended the people of Misau for the visit which he said will serve as a morale booster for him to do more for the people of the state because according to him appreciation always gings one up to do more, assuring them that his administration will ensure that the on going Misau water project was completed in good time while the problem of the College for Legal and Islamic Studies will be solved without further delay to enable the students continue with their academic works.

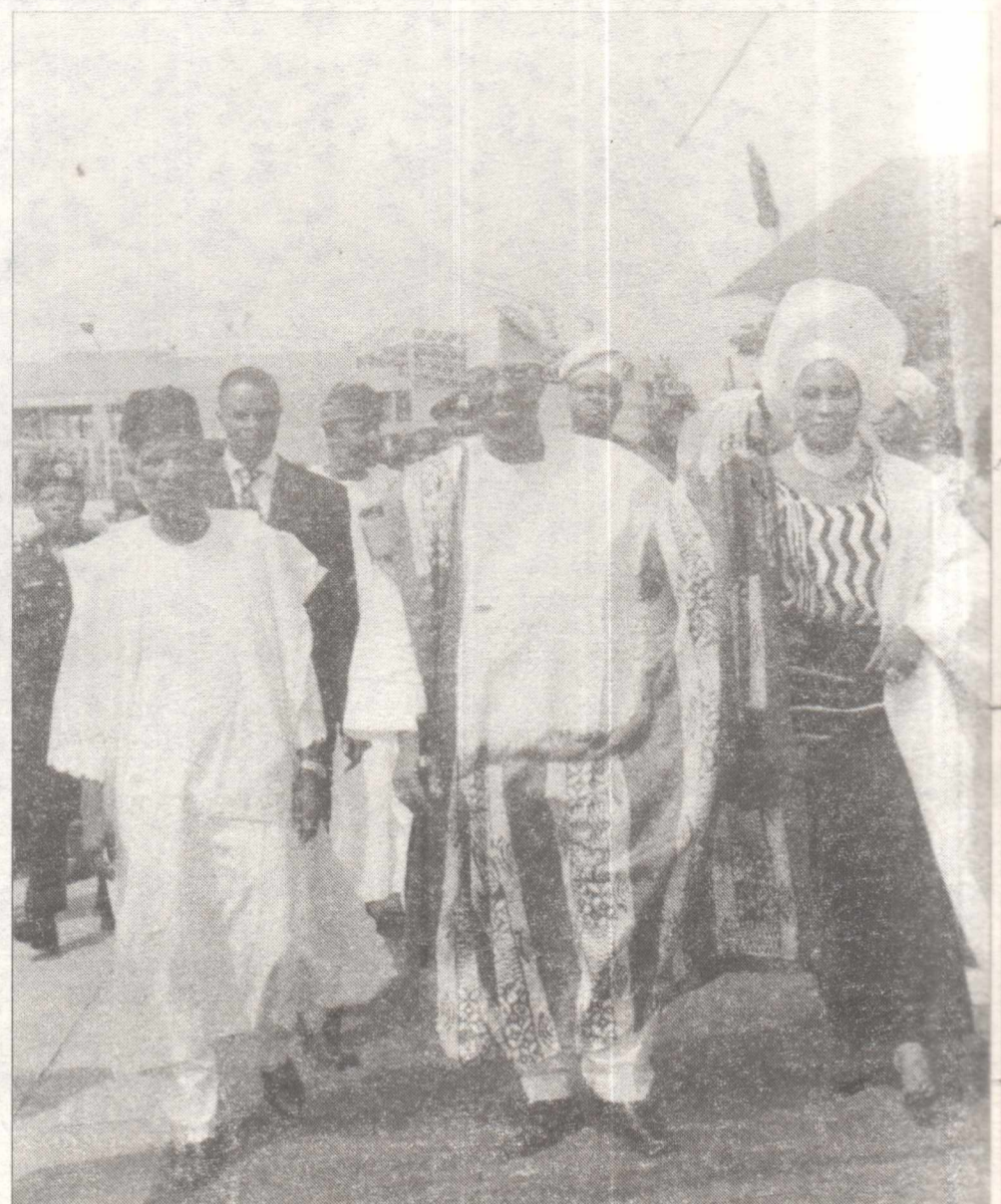
He then commended the people of Misau Emirate for not being partisan in their communal function saying that this has demonstrated that the leadership of the area is up and doing as regards ruling the people calling on

them to keep it up as it will pay up for them in future.

Earlier, the Emir of Misau, Mohammed Manga had thanked the Governor for all the good things his administration has done for the area declaring that the Emirate had never had it so good like now because according to him in the past seven years, the area has witnessed a lot of development.

The Emir added that area can now boast of good road networks while almost all the towns and villages have been connected to the national grid of electricity supply adding also that the Emir's palace as well as primary and secondary schools have been rehabilitated while in some instances new ones were constructed pointing out that as it is now farmers in the area are enjoying farming especially the Fadama II programme which he said has brought a lot of progress to the people.

Though the Emir thanked the Governor for all the projects he requested for more particularly more rural roads that will further open up the area as according to him the people are mostly farmers who need roads to transport their farm produce to the cities.



Governor Ghenga Daniel of Ogun State and his wife at the Airport to receive President Obasanjo who visited the state last week. Pix: Oladipupo Odunewu

# Nigeria needs genuine federal constitution - Former Minister

By Kayode Ajibola, Correspondent (Abeokuta)

Erstwhile Federal Minister of Finance, Dr. Onaolapo Soleyé has called on the Federal Government to review the 1999 constitution to pave way for a genuine federal system of government.

Dr. Soleyé, made the called yesterday while delivering the 30th Anniversary lecture of Ogun State Entitled: OGUN STATE: THE JOURNEY SO FAR; and public presentation of a Book, Ogun State: FROM SLUMBER TO INVESTMENT HUB presented by Dr. Tunji Otegbeye at the June 12, Cultural Centre Abeokuta, Ogun State capital.

He said that the true federation will ensure the stability of a nation, Nigeria and makes military coups d'etat unrealizable.

Dr. Soleyé speaking on the section (IV) of his lecture, observed that the federal government as it is constituted today is too powerful, adding that it was a relic of the military era. The focus of which is "to keep Nigeria one" because of the divisive tendency in the past which led to the civil war.

"But we no longer have regions, only states, thirty six in number. It is "business as usual" orientation for any one to think or believe that my state or a combination of states can attempt to secede in the present situation."

"The possibility of threat of secession or civil war has always been used as a justifi-

cation of massive federal power the situation has changed". He noted.

Dr. Soleyé hammering on the need to reduce power at the centre explained that coup d'etat has always been against the state governments adding that in a true federation, states should be able to combine to foil a coup d'etat.

Soleyé who gave kudos to the past leaders of Ogun State praised the achievements made so far by the incumbent governor of the state Otunba Gbenga Daniel.

The former minister of finance, argued that the entire military apparatus should not be controlled by the federal government alone, according to him, constitutional provisions for such arrangement

should be possible whereby, the military and the police in reach state under control of the state government with full power of the internal use only.

Dr. Soleyé who advised well meaning of the state to come out and contest for elective posts in 2007 general elections, said this was the only means to main the status quo being created by the Otunba Daniel led administration.

Also speaking on the aspect of the Nigerian environment that affects Ogun State, said that the north/south dichotomy was the noise of politicisms who want power at all cost.

"It is the song of those who keep looking back to the good days" of unearned income, of exhibitionism and of myopic patriotism". He declared

## Taxi driver returns missing handset

By Nasir Imam, Abuja Property Editor

A 30-year-old taxi driver in Abuja on Sunday reported the discovery of a GSM handset that a passenger forgot in his taxi.

The taxi driver, Mr. Isaac Olalekan Awe, told *Daily Trust* that he picked three passengers in his red coloured Nissan Sunny taxi cab with registration no. AZ527 RBC around 5pm on Sunday.

His words "na drop I de do o! the people say make I carry them go Airport, as we reach the Airport they com drop but as I comot from dat side I just

turn see dis komputa handset in the back seat of my taxi."

Mr. Awe said that he was surprised to see the handset, a Nokia model, according to him "na dis open and close type"

He said anyone who thinks the handset may be his own should call the following nos with proof of ownership: 08036446757; 08065657657; and 0803681895.

# News



The Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Chief Femi Pedro, in a group photograph with the National War College (NWC) team that visited the governor's office, Alausa, during the team's tour of military and police establishments... recently

## IG warns journalists on alleged police strike

By Shehu Abubakar, Reporter

The Inspector General of Police, Mr. Sunday Gabriel Ehindero, has warned journalists in Nigeria to stop publishing stories on the proposed strike action by policemen or risk being arrested and forced to reveal their source of information.

Mr. Ehindero, who gave the warning when he addressed newsmen in his office Friday, said he regrets that the Nigerian press did not show much concern on the alleged killing of seven policemen in Rivers State, but instead decided to promote stories on the police strike action.

The IGP, who said he wept when he heard that seven of his men were ambushed and shot to death, expressed his regret that Nigerians have little pity for policemen in the country.

"Of late, there have been reports in one or two newspapers referring to an alleged threat of a strike by a group of persons purporting to represent the interests of junior officers of the Nigeria Police. From the nationwide tour of the Deputy Inspectors-General of Police, the purported threat of strike does not exist. It is a fragment of the imagination of a few section of a disgruntled element aimed at causing disaffection within the junior ranks of the police.

"The police authorities wish to unequivocally warn any such persons or groups sponsoring or championing the dissatisfaction or attempting to incite police officers of any rank to desist in their own interest, or else the group might be made to identify the perceived defaulters," the IGP said.

He urged policemen in the country to refrain from the idea of going on strike as all the issues raised in the cause of the threat for the strike were being addressed by the police authorities.



Sunday Ehindero, IGP

## Commissioner urges sanction on Denmark

The Zamfara State Commissioner for Religious Affairs, Alhaji Wakkala Muhammad, has called on Muslims in the country to condemn the Republic of Denmark and its associates over the recent blasphemous cartoon against the Holy Prophet in one of its newspapers.

From Salisu Zakari Maradun, Correspondent Gusau

Alhaji Muhammad made the call in Gusau during the commissioning of twelve houses built by the state's Zakkat and Endowment Board for Orphans and the Less Privileged

He said there was no reason whatsoever for any Muslim in the world to associate himself with Denmark going by what it had done against the religion of Islam.

According to him, there is also the need for Muslim countries to emulate the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by disengaging themselves from any transactions with Denmark.

He also said that unless Muslims become united, the desired goals would not be achieved against the enemies of Islam. In his words, "We have to unite to fight those enemies of our religion."

The commissioner said that Muslims wherever they are should ensure the protection of their religion, even if it means sacrificing their lives to get the blessings of Allah.

Wakkala remarked that the religion of Islam basically

preaches peace, love and unity, "but that does not mean to keep silent when it is attacked by anybody. It is the duty of its followers to stand firm and protect it. We therefore condemn the attitude of Denmark and its leaders," he emphasized.

Earlier in his remarks, the chairman, Board of Directors of the board, Alhaji Sarkin

Pawa Malami, urged the people of the state, particularly the wealthy members, to contribute immensely to the development of Islam.

He said the board would continue to execute charity projects for orphans and the destitute across the state so that they would have a sense of belonging in the society.

### Sheikh Abdullahi

#### Institute wins Hijra quiz

Sheikh Abdullahi Islamic Institute has emerged the winner of 1427 Hijrah quiz organized by Muslim Council of Nigeria (MCON) in Kaduna.

The institute defeated NASFAT Islamic School and four other Islamic institutions to the top position in the final of the competition, which covered Qur'anic recitation.

From AbdulRaheem Aodu, Correspondent, Kaduna Fiqh, Nahw, Imlav and Inshan areas.

Sheikh Abdullahi polled 57 points, with NASFAT on 55.67 points. Anwarus Sa'adat Institute was third with 54.83 points; Ma'ahad Thaqafat trailed in fifth position with 53.17 points, while Hayahuden Islamic School came sixth and last among the finalists on 51 points.

Eleven Islamic institutions across the metropolis entered for the quiz, which is one of the programmes lined up to commensurate the new Hijrah/Rasul (1427) Islamic Year.

Other events scheduled to mark the Hijrah week include career guidance and counseling billed for Thursday at Umar Bin Khattab Islamic Centre, Tudun Nupawa, Kaduna; visits to hospitals and clothing the needy, match parade at the Murtala Square on Saturday as well as night lectures.

The new Hijrah commemoration week will be rounded off on Sunday with the launch and fund raising ceremony billed for Gamji Multipurpose Hall, Kaduna.

PHOTOGRAPH

### Census 2006: Jigawa respondents ignorant of exercise

As the forthcoming national headcount draws nearer, respondents in Jigawa State seem to be ignorant of the exercise, according to Daily Trust investigations.

Investigations in Dutse, the state capital and environs, show that many people interviewed were ignorant of the forthcoming census.

According to a respondent in Dutse, Malam Sani Zai, "although I was aware that the exercise was postponed to March, I'm not aware of any date about the exercise. I know before it was postponed, but I am not aware of any new date for the exercise," he said.

Another respondent, Hajiya Maituwo, said she did not even know about any development on the census exercise.

Similarly, some thought that the trial census conducted late last year was the real one

According to Malam Shamsu Ali, a farmer, "I

From Hassan A. Karofi, Correspondent Dutse

thought the exercise conducted last year was the only one; or is there another one again?" he asked.

When Daily Trust contacted officials of the national census in Dutse on the effort to mobilizing the people, an official who claimed anonymity disclosed that due to the change of the commissioner recently, efforts at mobilization the populace for the exercise would commence later.

Responding to our reporter's questions however, the state's Information Commissioner Abba Umar Kukuma said already, a committee had been set up under the state's Deputy Governor, Ibrahim Hassan Hadejia. "We have set up a committee under the deputy governor, traditional rulers, opinion leaders and others as members and we shall soon continue to actively mobilize our people for an effective headcount," he affirmed.

### Ministry pledges support to Gwagwalada hospital

The Minister of State for Health, Mrs. Helen Esuene, has said that the ministry will continue to support Gwagwalada Specialist Hospital in the Federal Capital Territory to attain its full capacity of 500 beds from its present capacity of 350 beds.

The minister, who stated this in Abuja, said there was the need to upgrade the hospital's status and its personnel and equipment.

She commended the management of the hospital for its ability to get accreditation for residency training programmes for the Department Obstetrics and Gynecology and that of Surgery.

She also commended the hospital's HIV/AIDS programmes and urged the hospital not to relent in its

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma, Reporter

efforts to address the menace.

The minister said also that the ministry would collaborate with the Ministry of Water Resources to address the problem of water shortage in hospitals.

She also stressed the need for health professionals to prepare for a disease she referred to as 'bird flu', which emanated from Asia and Europe in order to save the country.

Earlier in his remarks, the medical director of Gwagwalada Specialist Hospital, Dr. Nandul Durfa, said that the hospital has thirty-two consultants in various fields and over sixty medical officers and other medical staff.

## FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE, GOMBE GOMBE STATE

### STAFF VACANCIES

Applications are hereby invited from qualified and interested candidates for the following positions:≤

#### 1. CONSULTANTS

{ONE each in Histopathology, Nephrology and General Surgery}

- Minimum qualification requirements:- MBBS, in addition to professional qualification of the relevant Postgraduate Medical College or its equivalent registrable with the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria.
- Salary:- HAPSS 15.

#### 2. MEDICAL OFFICERS/RESIDENTS - 06

- Candidates should possess MBBS or its equivalent, registrable with the Medical and Dental Council in addition to having completed the NYSC programme.
- Salary:- HAPSS 12.

#### 3. MEDICAL OFFICER (DENTAL) - 01

- Candidate should possess BDS or its equivalent, registrable with the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria in addition to having completed the NYSC programme.
- Salary:- HAPSS 12.

#### 4. STAFF NURSES/MIDWIVES - 20

- Candidates should possess the NRN and/or NRM or equivalent qualification and who has been duly registered with the Nursing & Midwifery Council of Nigeria.
- Salary:- HATISS 6.

#### 5. RADIOGRAPHERS - 02

- Candidates for this post should possess B.sc Radiography or its equivalent registrable with the Radiographers Registration Board of Nigeria in addition to having completed the NYSC Programme
- Salary:- HATISS 8.

#### 6. MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTISTS [In Haematology] - 02

- Candidates should possess BMLS or its equivalent registrable with the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria in addition to having completed the NYSC programme

#### 7. PHARMACISTS - 02

- Candidates should possess B. Pharm registrable with the Pharmacy Council of Nigeria in addition to having completed NYSC programme.
- Salary:- HATISS 9.

#### 8. COMPUTER PROGRAMME ANALYST - 01

- Candidates should possess B.sc/HND in Computer or its equivalent, in addition to having completed NYSC programme and 5years of experience in computer programming.
- Ability to design/develop software in visual programming environment
- Knowledge of hardware repairs/maintenance
- Ability to implement and maintain VSAT/VOIP Installation
- Salary:- HATISS 8.

**CONDITION OF SERVICE:-** As obtained in other Federal Tertiary Health Institutions in Nigeria.

**METHOD OF APPLICATION:-** 10 copies each of type written applications, Curriculum Vitae and relevant credentials addressed to:≤

**THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR,  
FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE,  
P.M.B. 0037,  
GOMBE,  
GOMBE STATE.**

Candidates should ask three of their referees to submit their report directly to the address above.

**CLOSING DATE:-** Two weeks from the date of this advertisement. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews.

**SIGNED:  
MANAGEMENT**



## THE NATIONAL POPULATION COMMISSION

### ORGANISES

### A ONE - DAY SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP (NORTH WEST GEO-POLITICAL EDITION)

### FOR

### CIVIL SOCIETY FOR ORGANIZATIONS

### ON

### THE CONDUCT OF THE 2006 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

**DATE:** Thursday, 9th February, 2006

**VENUE:** Gusau Hotel, Gusau, Zamfara state.

**TIME:** 9.00 am prompt

**AIM:** To enhance the participation of civil society organizations in the Census 2006 process

#### OBJECTIVES:

- To brief the civil society groups on the level of preparations for the conduct of the 2006 population and housing census, the methodologies and procedures to be adopted
- To sensitize the civil society groups on their expected roles in the conduct of the 2006 population and housing census
- To come out with mutually acceptable mechanisms for the monitoring of the 2006 Census by civil society groups

**PARTICIPATION:** Representatives of civil society organizations from Kano, Kaduna, Jigawa, Katsina, Sokoto, Kebbi and Zamfara states.

**Opening Ceremony To Be Performed By:** His Excellency, Ahmed Sanni Yerima, Executive Governor of Zamfara state

#### PAPERS TO BE PRESENTED:

- The Methodology And Status Of Preparations For The 2006 Population And Housing Census by a representative of the Commission;
- The Role of the Civil Society Organizations in the conduct of the 2006 Population and Housing Census by a representative of

National Orientation Agency / Office of the Special Adviser to the President on Civil Society;

- Modalities For Monitoring The 2006 Census - NPC's Perspective and
- Modalities And Procedures For Monitoring The 2006 Census - The Civil Society Groups' Perspective to be delivered by a representative of the civil societies.

The paper presentations will be followed by a plenary session and discussion after which a communique will be issued.

**YOU ARE ALL CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE EVENT.**

**...BE A PART OF THE FUTURE SUPPORT CENSUS 2006.**

**BE COUNTED**

**Chairman**

**National Population Commission**

**Announcer**

# News

## Tanker drivers, Mopol clash closes Makurdi-Lafia road

A full day of violent clash between lorry drivers, and a unit of the Mobile Police checkpoint along Makurdi-Lafia road at the weekend shut the road for vehicular traffic.

The clash, which began Friday night and ended past 4pm of Saturday, according to stranded passengers, followed a heated misunderstanding between a driver of 911 Mercedes lorry and the Mopol unit, for the refusal of the former to pay N20 gratification.

At daybreak, *Daily Trust* learnt from rioting motorists that for the driver's refusal to pay the gratification, the armed policemen made him to do a frog jump, just as they stripped him naked publicly.

But the attempt to make other defiant motorists go through the same experience

From Hir Joseph, Correspondent, Makurdi

brought the policemen into incurring the wrath of commercial drivers who by then, had mobilised for a reprisal attack. The attack, according to one Mustafa who was enroute Enugu from Sokoto, was fierce, but no lives were lost apart from serious injuries.

"We passed through many states but never did we experience what is obtained in Nasarawa State. Here, the number of police roadblocks far outweighed that of five states put together," cried out Mustafa, who added that what he alone generated into police purse through Nasarawa State roads could

amount to his daily savings.

*Daily Trust* observation showed that the clash, which started around the meeting point between Benue and Nasarawa states ensued a stampede that finally closed down the road with a long queue, which spanned about 10kms.

Benue State police commissioner Mr. Ibezimako Aghanya was contacted for an official comment, but he declined, claiming that the MOPOL unit is not under Benue State command. However, *Daily Trust* gathered that the intervention of the Nasarawa State government brought the rioting motorists to open up the road for onward vehicular traffic.

Following the approval of the proposal for more access roads in Kaduna by the state's Assembly, the Kaduna State government plans to build seven new roads in addition to seventeen other roads and bridges currently under construction.

Governor Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi, who disclosed this to *Daily Trust* when he received in his office a joint delegation from the World Bank and the federal government, said when the twenty-four road networks and bridges are completed, they will ease the transportation of farm produce to urban settlements.

He said the essence of the road network, apart from linking people and places together, was to boost agriculture by making the rural areas accessible to developments and social amenities.

"Rural area accessibility is every important. You cannot provide projects on agriculture or build schools and hospitals

## Makarfi to build seven new roads in 2006

when the area is not linked by road. This is why the government is considering constructing more roads in the state. Thirty-five road networks and bridges have been completed since 1999 till date by our administration; seventeen others are under construction and we have gotten clearance and approval to build seven more roads this year."

He added that the legislators had approved the siting of the roads and that work would soon commence on them. He urged the delegation to start whatever project they have for Kaduna in his tenure so that others can come and build on it.

The leader of the World Bank delegation and senior highway engineer for African

Transport (AFTTR), Mr. Ben Geriene, said Kaduna State had been selected alongside Osun and Akwa Ibom states by the World Bank for assistance in road development in rural areas.

Mr. Geriene said the World Bank project, which will gulp \$50m, had to do with construction of rural roads and is tagged 'Rural Access and Mobility Project' (RAMP).

"This project will be managed by the Kaduna State government with the support of development areas. The relevant areas have been identified and work would soon start. The project is meant to assist people in rural areas where agricultural activities are high. When concluded, the road project will harness the potential that abound in the rural areas," he said.

The project is also expected to boost the siting of cottage industries in rural areas.

## Census: Immigration set to assist NPC

From Lagos, Bola Ojuola

The Comptroller General of Nigeria Immigration Service, Mr. Chukwura Udeh, has said that the Immigration Service is set to cooperate with the National Population Commission (NPC) to ensure a successful census.

Udeh told *Daily Trust* in Lagos at the weekend that apart from their preparedness towards the March census, the Immigration Service had also introduced a new controlled stamp for the Nigerian passport.

According to him, the new stamp, with inbuilt security elements, is to replace the old one and ensure that the stamp is not just what anybody can buy across the counter. The Immigration boss also said that it became necessary to always improve on existing materials for security reasons.

On the issue of prostitution, he said the service was working with other bodies and agencies to fight human trafficking.

He stated that apart from arrest of these girls who travel abroad to engage in prostitution, men of the Immigration also discourage such people from such disgraceful trade.

"We are seizing this opportunity to discourage young Nigerians who are promised employment abroad because such employment may not exist and they may end up in prostitution."

Udeh also noted that the act is damaging the image of the country. He however promised that they will not stop arresting those caught, adding that they will be handed over to appropriate authorities for prosecution.

Meanwhile, he said Nigerians can get their passports within 48 hours as the Immigration service is developing human capacity to ensure efficiency and quality services.



The secretary of ACF, Col. Hammeed Ali rtd, standing making a speech right, Dr. Abubakar Saddique Mohammed, centre, and Lt. General Victor Malu rtd, at the Arewa consultative forum general assembly meeting held in Kaduna. Pix Shehu K. Goro.

## 2007: INEC boss pledges free, fair elections

The chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Moris Iwu, has reiterated the pledge of the commission to conducting free and fair elections come 2007.

Speaking at a courtesy call he paid to the executive governor of Sokoto State, Alhaji Attahiru Dalhatu Bafarawa, Professor Iwu said the commission was making a pledge that by the time 2007 comes and goes, Nigerians would be able to say that "we have had free and fair elections."

Professor Iwu explained that INEC officials were going round the country to explain to the people that they are set for credible elections and that they are highly committed to free and fair elections come 2007, adding that it will be wrong to take any decision without first consulting with the Nigerian people.

"We have done our strategic planning as far back as last year, and we went on

From Abduljai Abdul Salam, Correspondent Sokoto

streets to consult the people whom we believe are the ultimate masters in the democratisation process." He pointed out that they had gone far and wide in sensitising Nigerians on the exercise.

The chairman stressed also that they are fully prepared to sustain this democracy which "our fore fathers fought for," noting that this is the time for them to plan and that they have decided to do it in a very careful and calculated manner.

Professor Iwu said they decided to open a political space to make it possible for the sons of the rich and the daughters of the poor to have equal say and equal stake in the political dispensation of democracy in Nigeria.

In his words, "if those who founded democracy as a concept want it be restricted, they would have simply defined it as the government of the rich by the rich

for the rich, but they did not do that." He stressed that if they wanted it to be elite democracy, they would have said government of the elite by the elite, for the masses, but they did not.

Speaking on the stakeholders forum just completed by the commission, Professor Iwu explained that they had gone round the country to sensitize the citizenry on 2007 elections.

The INEC chairman stated that they examined the past electoral systems in the last twenty-three years and noted that the voters register compilation was not perfect, the methods of voting were not okay and also knew that the results that came out from those elections were not perfect.

Professor Iwu said they therefore abandoned the way of the old and that they had been able to put in place a system that as far as human activities are concerned, would be able to give a fair election. This he noted is the electronic voter register with

a proper electronic authentication of voters' register with proper communication systems through electronic transmission of results of elections.

Speaking earlier, the executive governor of Sokoto State, Alhaji Attahiru Bafarawa, said the assignment for the INEC chairman was enormous, noting that Prof. Iwu is the chief determinant for a credible government come 2007.

Bafarawa noted that he heard him very well on his good plan of action for the 2007 election in this country, stating that the implementation is always the problem and that he should guide against financial problems which he said may hinder the good initiatives.

"If you are financially sound, you will be transparent, and also be accountable." He therefore urged him to do more on the education and enlightenment of the people on the electronic voting system

## NOA prepares for census

From Aideloje Ojo, Minna

The National Orientation Agency (NOA) in Niger State has redeployed twenty-five local government orientation officers for effective mobilisation of the people at the grass roots for the success of the forthcoming census 2006.

In an interview with the *Daily Trust* in Minna, the state's director of the agency, Alhaji Danladi Abdulhammed, explained that the redeployment of its twenty-five orientation officers from one local government area to another within the state was to enable the NOA to carry out its assignments of sensitising the people for the headcount slated for next month.

The NOA boss further explained that the agency had mandated its staff in rural areas to embark on a tour of villages with a view to educating the people on the importance of the census.

Abdulhameed said that the enlightenment campaign in the villages on the census by the agency had become necessary because most of the people were farmers who were likely to go to their farms on census days if not properly informed.

The director also said that the agency was working towards a peaceful conduct of elections in the state in 2007.

He explained that NOA had identified four local government areas that are flash points in terms of electoral disputes and crises.

The director said the agency had already embarked on peace missions to the troubled spots to prevail on the people not to be involved in any form of crisis during the elections. Abdulhameed said that the agency was satisfied with the response of the people on the need to maintain peace and order during campaign for elective posts.

He implored them to avoid being used to cause trouble during elections by selfish politicians.

# 3

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# News

## ALGON holds workshop on disaster management

The Association of Local Government of Nigeria (ALGON) will, in collaboration with the African Disaster Foundation, organise a national workshop

From Suleiman Muhammed, Regional Editor (Lagos)

on safety and disaster management for the 774 local government councils in the country, from 13<sup>th</sup> February 2006.

The workshop, according to ALGON Secretary General Chris Agbobu, is being organised to strengthen the capacity of local governments in safety and disaster management. It will hold in four zones effective from February 13<sup>th</sup> in Abuja for FCT, Plateau, Nasarawa, Niger, Benue, Borno, Adamawa, Kogi, Bauchi and Gombe states under group A.

According to ALGON scribe, Group B, comprising Lagos, Ogun, Ekiti, Osun, Ondo, Oyo, Edo and Kwara states, will take place in Lagos from February 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> while Group C workshop will hold in Kaduna, to be attended by council chairmen from Sokoto, Kaduna, Kano, Zamfara, Kebbi, Katsina, Jigawa, Yobe and Taraba states.

The workshop will also hold from March 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> in Port Harcourt for Group D participants, comprising Rivers, Bayelsa, Delta, Cross Tiver, Akwa Ibom, Enugu, Imo, Anambra, Abia and Ebonyi states.

Chief Agbobu said topics for deliberations include the role of local governments in emergency response and management, safety management and accident prevention, principles of emergency management and planning, among other topics.

The target participants include leaders of state Houses Assemblies, supervising councillors 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, among others.

The workshop became necessary in view of series of disasters occurring across the country with little management capacity of relevant authorities.

## Gidado vows to rid NURTW of corrupt officials

The president of the National Union of Road Transport Workers Union (NURTW), Alhaji Gidado Hamman, has vowed to rid the union of corrupt officials and advised people with fraudulent intentions to take their exit.

Gidado, who spoke with newsmen in Abuja yesterday, said that the union's current reform programme would not accommodate people whose primary goal was to embezzle funds.

Speaking specifically on the union's crisis in Lagos, Gidado dismissed claims by the suspended state chairman that he was being persecuted for attending a political rally.

He said that the headquarters received over 1,000 petitions against the chairman who assumed office in September 2003.

To tackle the Lagos problem, he said the headquarters subsequently organised twelve meetings with all stakeholders of that branch, but could not resolve the disagreements.

Among allegations against the chairman, he said, were the illegal sale of the union's plot in Lagos, his alleged membership of a secret cult and the over-levying of members.

Gidado said that a probe committee set up by the headquarters and chaired by the chairman of the Ogun State branch of the union, Alhaji Tajudeen Baruwa, found the chairman guilty of seven out of the nine allegations against him.

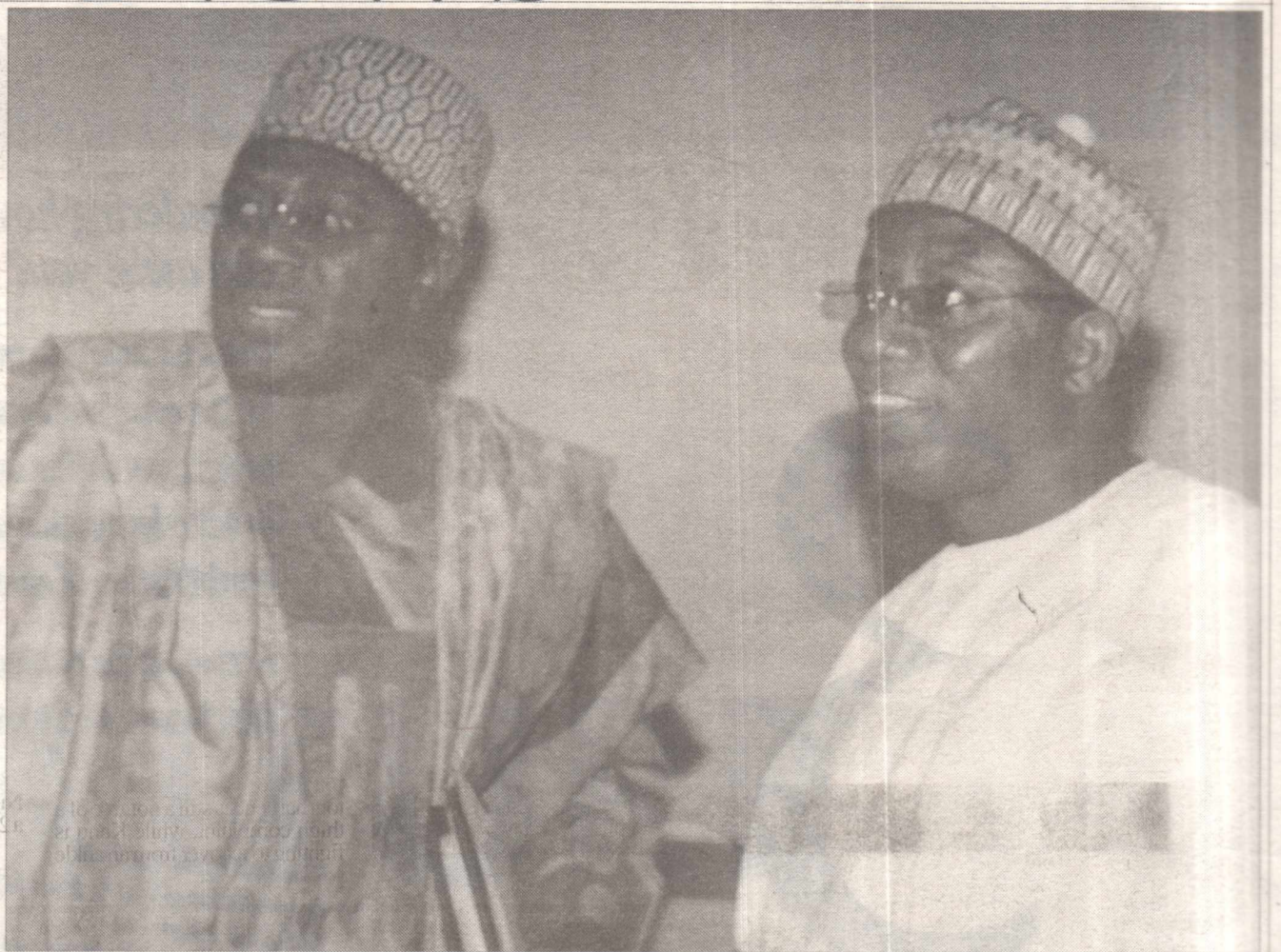
He wondered why the suspended chairman could link his suspension to a rally he attended in August when he was initially supposed to be suspended in May.

"In any case, the union is not against anyone attending a political meeting. Members have rights to belong to any political party, but you can only go there as an individual, not as the organisation," he explained.

He expressed dismay that some members, whose sole aim was to hijack the organisation, were ironically fond of breaking its constitution.

Gidado also spoke on some state officials' insistence on remaining in office long after their constitutional tenure had expired.

"It shocks me a lot that an official will not vacate his office even after the expiration of his tenure. The union's position is clear in this regard. Every one must always go back to the electorate to test his popularity before coming in for another term," he declared.



The Media Trust Limited's Editorial Board Chairman, Malam Is'haq Modibbo Kawu (l), discussing with the Corporate Affairs Officer, Malam Yusuf Ozi-Usman at the just concluded 3<sup>rd</sup> Trust Annual Dialogue in Abuja.

## Katsina judges want more funding

From Lawal Ibahim, Correspondent (Katsina)

Shari'ah court judges in Katsina State have flayed the state government over its inadequate funding of the judicial arm of government, even as they decried the monthly grant of N700, 000.00 allotted to the arm, as opposed to N10m given to the legislative arm of government in the state.

The Shari'ah court judges, led by the association's chairman, Alhaji Hamisu Malumfashi, described lack of funding as a major problem that hinders the effective performance of judicial services generally.

They also decried lack of accommodation in their places of work and the inability of the government to extend its vehicle loan scheme to them and other initiatives to improve their welfare.

erved.

They called on the state's House of Assembly to hasten the passage of a bill on the Criminal Shari'ah Procedure Code that would allow Shari'ah judges to adjudicate criminal Shari'ah court cases in the state. Consequently, they appealed to the emir of Katsina to use his good offices in appealing to the state

governor to give due recognition to the judiciary in the state.

In his response, the Emir of Katsina, Dr. Muhammadu Kabir Usman, assured them that his Emirate would surely forward their complaints to the state government, and called on the judges to discharge their duties without fear or favour.

## PCN commences orientation programmes for medicine vendors

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin, Senior Reporter

The Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) has commenced orientation programmes for the 3,077 newly licensed patent and proprietary medicine vendors for an improved

healthcare delivery in the country.

The council's registrar, Pharm. Ahmed T. Mora, who disclosed this in Abuja during an interactive session with newsmen, called on Nigerians to always access their over-the-counter drug needs in registered pharmacies and obtain basic home remedies from licensed patent medicine shops with the council's sign post.

Pharm. Mora said the council, in its bid to ensure that standards are maintained in pharmacy practice, reviewed the guidelines for the establishment of pharmacy programmes in nation's universities, pharmacy technician training manual, internship training manual, orientation programme for foreign trained pharmacists, as well as the review of the log book for internees.

He said the gazette of the council's regulations 2005 in the Federal Republic of Nigeria official gazette will not only boost the power of the council, but will also put it in an advantageous position to render

better services which will result in improved healthcare delivery system to the Nigerian public.

According to the registrar, the fundamental provision of the new regulations includes the registration of hospital pharmacies, empowering pharmaceutical inspectors and forfeiture of ceased drugs to government, specification of conditions for operating and siting of pharmaceutical premises and the provision of penalty clause for offenders.

Commenting on the significance of the compendium for the minimum acceptable standard for the assurance of pharmaceutical care to the public, Pharm. Mora said "it is compulsory for every pharmacy shop to have the compendium because it is a regulatory work put in place by the council as a way of redefining pharmacy practice and to ensure that the public get the best services".

He said the council had embarked on a massive public enlightenment campaign to let the public know, especially those in the rural areas, of the kind of services they should expect from pharmacists, where and how to access these services.

## Resource control: FG to assist to communities, individuals

From Mohammed Shosanya, Correspondent (Lagos)

The federal government has said that it is putting in place the necessary legal framework that will guarantee greater and sustainable benefits for resource-rich communities and individuals in the country.

This is coming on the heels of incessant upheavals in the Niger Delta over exploitation and environmental neglect of the region by the federal government and multinational oil companies.

Bayo Ojo, Attorney General of the Federation and the Minister of Justice, disclosed this in Lagos in his opening remarks at the International Bar Association/SEERIL regional conference.

He regretted that the issue of resource control has become a subject of much polit-

icization.

"It seems that the heightening agitation for resource control and the perennial restiveness of the oil-producing communities are a metaphor for depicting the neglect and underdevelopment of those communities," he added.

Ojo further defended the federal government's campaign of local content in the nation's oil and gas industry, saying that the drive is aimed at stimulating the emergence of indigenous companies while also encouraging foreign investments and participation in a manner that would bring great benefits to the country from its resources.

Again, this conference is

expected to propose appropriate legal mechanism for actualizing the local content policy which may be a more pragmatic response to the quest for resource control," Ojo said.

The minister also spoke on the ongoing reform in the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), saying that the gesture is designed to improve the lackluster performance of the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA), as well as instill sanity in the power section.

This, he explained, is evident in the inauguration of the National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), the passage of the Electric Power Reform Bill and the establishment of eighteen success-

Various small text fragments and bleed-through from the reverse side of the page, including words like "Again, this conference is", "sor companies", and "advantage position to render".

# SPORTS

## EGYPT 2006 AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS

# Kanu doubtful • Odiah, Ayila too

Nigeria could be without three key players for Tuesday's African Cup of Nations semi-final against the Ivory Coast.

Abdulkadir Muazu, the Super Eagles' team doctor, told BBC Sport that defensive midfielder Yusuf Ayila has been ruled out,

while Chidi Odiah and striker Nwankwo Kanu are major doubts.

Ayila, who plays for Ukrainian side Dynamo Kiev, has been unable to recover from a nagging ankle injury.

"Ayila had been playing with so much pain and it got worse in

our last game.

"We ran some medical tests and they showed he will not be fit for the game on Tuesday," Muazu said.

"It's unfortunate but he needs to rest and not aggravate the situation."

Defender Odiah, who has played in every game at the tournament, is still a not free of a thigh complaint, while Kanu is fighting to recover from an ankle problem.

"Kanu and Odiah are still

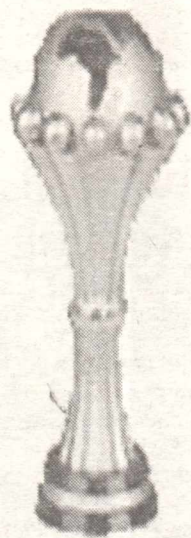
having treatment and I cannot say categorically whether they will play against Ivory Coast or not.

"These are certainly not better times for us but we'll see how we can manage the situation," Muazu told BBC Sport on Monday.

Should Odiah fail to recover, Esperance of Tunisia defender Obinna Nwaneri is expected to replace him.

Tuesday's game is a repeat of the semi-final at the 1994 tournament in Tunisia, which Nigeria won 4-2 on penalties after a 2-2 draw at the end of extra time.

Nigeria went on to win their second African title, beating Zambia 2-1 in the final.



## Calf injury rules

### Dindane out

Ivory Coast attacker Aruna Dindane is out of the African Nations Cup finals and has returned to his French club Racing Lens with a calf injury, Ivorian officials said on Monday.

The 25-year-old striker did not play for his country at the tournament in Egypt.

He returned to France before the start of the event after the death of one of his five-month-old twin daughters before rejoining his team mates before Saturday's quarter-final win over Cameroon in Cairo.

But Dindane was not considered for the match because of the calf injury picked up during a pre-tournament training match against German club VfB Stuttgart in Abu Dhabi.

Coach Henri Michel told reporters on Monday that Dindane's brief return to the squad after attending his daughter's funeral in France had been a boost for the team but that the injury would take several weeks to heal.

He said it was better for Dindane to seek treatment at his club.

The Ivory Coast play in Tuesday's Nations Cup semi-final against Nigeria in Alexandria.

## Eagles, Elephants tussle for final ticket

By Patrick Andrew, Asst. Head Sports Desk

The Super Eagles and Elephants have a gruelling contest that must produce a winner today for the Saturday's final of the 25th African Cup of Nations. Both survived 120 minutes of energy sapping quarter-final pairings which ended on penalty shoot-outs.

Both teams are not only evenly matched in all departments but also lethal with prolific players who possess varying championships experience. Besides, there is the hunger to beef up their Nations' Cup silverware collections with the utmost prize: the prestigious trophy.

The Elephants parade a crop of fleet footed players who have exhibited more than the resolve to lift the trophy by overcoming tournament's favourites, the Lions of Cameroon. With Chelsea goal poacher Didier Drogba on the prowl along with

PSV ace, Arouna Kone leading the offensive and Arsenal defender, Kolo Toure in the centre of defence, the Elephants are quite capable of posing a serious threat to the aspiration of the Eagles to assuage their teeming fans for failing to berth at the World Cup in Germany.

But then, the Eagles are complex squad difficult to predict because of the quality of the bench. They are bunch of youths with the zest for glory who have convincingly established that they harbour no ambition but the conquest of Africa.

Skipper Austin Okocha, who has been out of action, will return to provide visionary passes which have been lacking in the team. His inclusion should buoy up the vim in Obafemi Martins and Ayo Makinwa and John Utaka to deliver the goals.

The Eagles though will have a depleted side with Yusuf Ayila, Chidi Odiah, super sub, Nwankwo Kanu are injured an may not play, while Joseph Enakhire is suspended for card offence.

Eguavoen and Henri Michel, who is the only foreign coach still in the race and hoping to prove that Elephants' World Cup qualification is not a fluke, will deadlock in the game of wits to secure victory.



Aerial contest...Super Eagles central defender, Joseph Enakhire, left, with Tunisia's Riadh Jaidi. Suspended Enakhire will be joined in the dugout by three other starters, Nwankwo Kanu, Yusuf Ayila and Chidi Odiah

## Drogba takes semi-final centre stage

Didier Drogba will step firmly into the African Nations Cup spotlight on Tuesday when he leads Ivory Coast in their first African Nations Cup semi-final appearance in a more than a decade.

The Chelsea striker is now firmly established as the star attraction at the tournament in

Egypt with the Ivorians meeting Nigeria in Alexandria to play for a place in the final.

Drogba overshadowed Samuel Eto'o, his rival for the African Footballer of the Year award later this month, in scoring the decisive penalty to put Ivory Coast into the last four in a dramatic shootout victory over Cameroon in Cairo on Saturday.

For team mate Kolo Toure, Drogba presents a potentially decisive edge in the first competitive meeting between Ivory Coast and Nigeria since the 1994 Nations Cup semi-final won by the Nigerians on penalties.

"Drogba is a really great player and he is something special. We are really proud of

what he is a doing for the team.

"It's going to be a very hard game. But now we are in the semi-finals, anything can happen. We've got our chance," said defender Toure.

Drogba will lead the Ivorian attack against a young Nigerian side that includes several emerging talents with the potential to match Drogba's profile in the future.

While Ivory Coast are headed to the World Cup in Germany and seeking affirmation of their future potential at the Nations Cup, Nigeria are looking for redemption for past failure.

Coach Augustine Eguavoen said failure to qualify for Germany remained a strong motivation for success in Egypt.

"We want to compensate for missing out on the World Cup and also for not winning the Nations Cup for a long time.

"We had a little luck in getting through to the semi-finals but I've always said that you need some luck in tournaments like this," Eguavoen said.

Nigeria eliminated 2004 champions Tunisia on penalties in Port Said on Saturday.

"It's going to be a very hard game, very physical, but we will be on an equal footing because both of us have played extra time," Ivory Coast coach Henri Michel told reporters in Cairo prior to his team's departure for Alexandria.

## Egypt wait on Mido for final push

Egypt are hoping that national idol Mido can fire the hosts into the African Nations Cup final when they take on Senegal today.

Laid low by a groin strain suffered in their win over Ivory Coast more than a week ago, the Tottenham Hotspur striker is expected to play some part at Cairo's International Stadium.

Coach Hassan Shehata told Egyptian soccer website Filgoal.com on Sunday that Mido had recovered from his injury but stopped short of guaranteeing him a start on Tuesday.

Mido would line up with strike partner Emad Motcab, relegating 39-year-old warhorse Hossam Hassan to the bench - despite his goal in their 4-1 quarter-final win over DR Congo.

Mido, idolised in Egypt and

goal at this tournament against Libya, will not be the only one returning for duty.

Mohamed Aboutrika, who also scored against the Ivorians, is back after serving a one-match suspension and rejoins Shehata's five-man midfield.

Ahmed Hassan, with two goals against the Congolese, and the slick-passing Mohamed Barakat provide the real forward movement to Shehata's machine, which must now cross the path of Senegal's giant midfielder Pape Bouba Diop.

As impressive as Egypt can be going forward, particularly when roared on by nearly 80,000 fans, their three-man defence has a tendency to panic even when light pressure is applied.

Senegal can certainly provide that, as Abdoulaye Sarr's men showed when they came from behind to beat Guinea

3-2 in the quarter-finals without El Hadji Diouf, who should be fit for Tuesday.

Diouf's usual strike partner Henri Camara has pace and a clinical finish while playmaker Diomansy Kamara has been impressive all tournament.

Though they had to battle against the Guineans, having already lost two of their three group games, Sarr is convinced his team are riding an upward curve. "We're back to our usual form...and we will continue to improve," he told reporters. "Game by game, as our fitness levels go up, we can only get better."

Up in Alexandria, Nigeria's semi-final against Ivory Coast is likely to be a tough battle of attrition. Further south, with two strong attacks taking on two suspect defences, Cairo could be the place to be for goals.

# Sports

## EGYPT 2006 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

### Penalty curse haunts Cameroon again

**T**wice within four months missed penalties have catapulted Cameroon out of a major competition and this time striker Samuel Eto'o has taken on the role of villain. Eto'o scored with his first



Eto'o's kisses the ball before ballooning his spot kick against Ivory Coast

penalty in Saturday's shootout against Ivory Coast but missed his second, enabling Didier Drogba to shoot his side into the African Nations Cup semi-finals.

In October, the Barcelona striker was involved in a public slanging match with Pierre Wome over the miss against Egypt which cost Cameroon a place at their fifth successive World Cup.

Cameroon, needing a win to qualify, were held 1-1 at home after Wome missed a penalty deep into injury-time.

Then, as now, it was Ivory Coast who benefited, qualifying for the 2006 finals in Germany.

Wome was bundled out of the country after the match and overlooked for the Nations Cup. He said he had taken the kick because nobody else wanted to.

However, Eto'o gave a different version.

"Why didn't I take the penalty? I went to take it but Wome came up to me and said he was really confident of scoring," he said at the

time. "There is only one remedy for it all and that is to do well in the African Nations Cup, to give everyone who is suffering with us now a great lift."

How those words must be haunting Eto'o now.

Until Saturday, he had led by example in Egypt, scoring five goals to take Cameroon through the group stage with a 100 percent record and often dropping back to midfield to inspire his team.

Against Ivory Coast, however, he managed only one real effort on goal as the sides drew 1-1 after extra time.

He strode forward confidently to take the first penalty of the shootout and scored comfortably and, after each team converted their first 11 kicks, he was forced to step up again.

Possibly having lost concentration during the 20-minute gap between kicks, he skied his effort over the bar, allowing Drogba to fire the Elephants into a semi-final against Nigeria.

The defeat leaves a

question mark over the future of Cameroon's Portuguese coach Artur Jorge.

Despite being at the helm when Cameroon failed to qualify for Germany, Jorge had an unbeaten record going into the tournament in his first foray into African football.

"I'm not thinking about the future, the future belongs to God," he said after Saturday's elimination.

Cameroon have been a dominant force in African football since the 1990 World Cup, when the Roger Milla-inspired side beat Argentina on the way to the quarter-finals.

Since then, they have regularly qualified for the World Cup and won two Nations Cup tournaments despite almost non-stop behind-the-scenes bickering and chaotic administration.

Being forced to watch from an unfamiliar position on the sidelines could finally provide a much-needed wake-up call for the country's football administrators.



### Essien explains Egypt absence

Chelsea midfielder Michael Essien said he was disappointed at having to miss the African Cup of Nations for Ghana.

The 23-year-old was part of the original squad but subsequently ruled out with an ankle problem two weeks before the start of the tournament.

"The arrangement was to join the team, but unfortunately I got injured, so everything changed," Essien told BBC World Service's Fast Track programme.

Ghana failed to make it past the group stages at the Cup of Nations.

They lost 1-0 to Nigeria in their opening game, but beat Senegal in the second, before surprisingly succumbing to Zimbabwe in their must-win final match.

"I think did they did their best, but it just wasn't enough," added the Chelsea star.

"I watched the first game against Nigeria. They did their best, but unfortunately lost."

"In the second match we did very well, and in the last, we were just unlucky."

Some supporters have called for the resignation of national team coach Ratomir Djukovic, but Essien believes they should be patient.

"I know the Ghanaians are frustrated, but he was the first ever coach to guide Ghana to the World Cup finals. There were also three key players who were missing from the Cup of Nations squad," he said.

Looking ahead to Germany 2006, the midfielder said he was eager to make amends for missing the Cup of Nations.

"I need to prepare myself for the World Cup," he said.

"I have to be ready for it and I'm willing to play in the friendlies leading up to the event."



Essien

## Who cares who finishes third?

*'Nobody remembers who came in second.'*

**T**hat is a line habitually uttered by players and coaches to underline their desire to win every time they run on to the pitch.

Now if coming second is to be frowned upon, what on earth is the point of the third place play-off at the African Cup of Nations?

This is the match that will take place between the two losing semi-finalists on 9 February, exactly 24 hours before the final.

Forget all the hot air about 'playing for our pride' - the third place play-off is the match from hell, offering the

By Farayi Mungazi, BBC Sport

reward no one really wants.

There can be no doubt that the disappointment of being knocked out at the semi-final stage far outweighs the desire to play for a consolation prize that few will ever talk about anyway.

Fighting for a bronze medal is nothing like battling it out for the top prize, and any player who tells you that he is keen to be third best is lying through his false teeth!

For watching neutrals, a third place play-off is as pointless as a pair of slippers in Antarctica. I mean, what is this game supposed to prove?

When victory clearly means very little to the team that achieves it, can you blame coaches for sending out, as they invariably do, their second string sides to go through the motions?

The truth is that you only get fireworks and real excitement when both teams

are going for the main prize, and not doing their best to appear interested in a meaningless fixture.

This is why these play-off matches tend to produce dire spectacles, as most of the players are reluctant and unmotivated and, quite frankly, would rather be somewhere else.

I personally think it is unfair to ask players still dreadfully disappointed by their semi-final defeat to muster up some enthusiasm for what is effectively an exhibition game.

There are instances where finishing third is a goal worth pursuing, such as at the men's African basketball championship.

The two finalists - plus the

team that wins the third place play-off - qualify for the World Championship.

But what is the prize for winning the battle of the bridesmaids? Being remembered as the team that finished third?

You can hype, Don King-style, a third place play-off up to the heavens, but the reality is that this match is a waste of everybody's time.

This is why I can think of many better ways of spending 90 minutes than in absolute boredom watching a bunch of unmotivated players doing their best to run down the clock.

I have a suggestion, therefore, for Caf: dump this passionless affair and spare everyone the agony.

## Eguavoen clears Nwaneri

**C**oach of the Super Eagles, Augustine Eguavoen, has said that Nigerians should not worry over the suspension of stopper, Joseph Enakari, for Tuesday's semi final tie against Cote d'Ivoire at the Africa Nations Cup.

Enakari, who has been an ever present in the heart of the Eagles defense since the tournament started, picked up his second yellow card of the competition during Saturday's penalty shootout victory over

Tunisia, and so will have to sit out Tuesday's match in Alexandria.

But Eguavoen believes the sidelining of the Dynamo Moscow of Russia central defender is no cause for alarm.

The Eagles chief tactician said: "Nigerians should not be afraid that Enakari will not play in the semi final."

"I believe we have a capable replacement in Obinna Nwaneri."

"Nwaneri was African champion with Enyimba and this is an African competition, so there's no big deal."

"Moreover, the reason why 23 players were registered is for teams to be able to call on replacements, so there is no problem."

## Kaita to replace injured Ayila

**S**parta Rotterdam midfielder Sani Kaita is expected to get his first taste of action in the African Nations Cup when he is thrown into the deep-end as a replacement for injured Yussuf Ayila in today's semi-final against Ivory Coast in Alexandria.

Eagles team doctor Abdulkadir Mu'azu confirmed Dynamo Kiev ace Ayila is nursing a nagging ankle injury

and will therefore miss the semi-final.

Ayila trained alone when the Eagles worked out at the Harras El-Hedoud Stadium on Monday evening.

However, another injury concern Nwankwo Kanu trained with the rest of the squad and so also CSKA Moscow fullback Chidi Odiah.

Odiah strained a muscle around his groin in the

weekend's penalty shootout victory over Tunisia in Port Said and had to be replaced in extra time but appears to have regained full fitness in time for the Ivory Coast clash.

The arrival of the Eagles in Alexandria was delayed by fog as local organisers of the competition insisted it was too dangerous to embark on the over two-hour bus ride from Port Said unless visibility improved.



**HAPPY**  
*birthday*

**HE IS**  
**55**  
**YEARS**

**MALLAM BELLO IBRAHIM GWANDU** (MFR, FCIT)  
**TURAKIN GWANDU**

| We thank God for your life and wish you  
| many more fruitful years on earth. |

COURTESY  
COMMITTEE OF FRIENDS IN LAGOS

# Sports

## C'wealth Games: AFN insists on Mobil trials

Athletes who failed to participate in the forthcoming Mobil Track and Field Championship will be excluded from the list of Nigeria's contingent to the Commonwealth Games scheduled for Melbourne, Australia next month.

The Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN) reiterated this warning yesterday through the first vice chairman, Elias Gora stressing that participation in the fiesta is precondition for selection to the Games.

"Whoever wants to bear the banner of Nigeria at the

By Patrick Andrew, Asst. Head Sports Desk

Commonwealth must take in the Mobil Track and Field Championship that will hold this weekend. No, they must not only participate but also meet the minimum standard that we have set for them".

The former Secretary General of the Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) said AFN's insistence on participation is to allow proper assessment of the athletes using individual performance as the benchmark to consideration. He

was of the view that special consideration for any athlete creates unnecessary laissez-faire attitude and does not therefore ginger even the favoured athlete to produce the best performance.

Gora said that the federation does not want to encourage jamboree at the Games noting that the

desire is to feature athletes with medal hopes.

The AFN he further said decided to insist on participation because past experiences where some established athletes were given special consideration and allowed to take part in championships without trials did not produce the expected results.

The federation had expressed disdain for the performance of the country's contingent to the World Athletics Championship in Helsinki, last August, where the entire team failed to win any medal.

On the disparity in the allowances for both the foreign and home based

athletes, he said he is not aware of such development. "If there is, it is only the technical committee that would be in the position to speak on such matters".

Lately the federation had insisted on the exclusion of Olympic medalist, Enefiok Udo-Obong for performing below expectation at the Helen of Troy. But fellow athletes have rallied round their colleague stressing that he be given a chance to compete for a place in the contingent.

The Mobil Track and Field Championship is fixed to begin on Thursday at the National Stadium, Abuja. The federation plans to use it to select the final list of track and field athletes for the Commonwealth Games. Earlier, 42 athletes were invited to camp for the Games but non-release of funds halted a co-ordinated camping programme. The government however released N800m for both the preparation for and participation at the Games.

## D'Tigress determined to excel

The draw for the 2006 FIBA World Championship for Women was made in Sao Paulo, Brazil last week but the reaction to the groupings will surely linger until the last jump ball is taken in Brazil by September.

Nigeria was drawn into a nail-biting Group C alongside the USA, Russia and China but the D'Tigress have decided to accept their fate with all smiles. For them determination will see them through.

"The coach of the team Scott Nnaji burst into a lengthy laughter as soon as we got in touch soon after the event in Brazil. Like most Nigerians he says he would lead out a team to play good basketball irrespective of what countries they will face at the preliminaries. And he capped it up in pigeon English like this: "God dey, we go survive."

His captain Mfon Udoka who has played quite a lot amongst the Americans while in school and the leagues believes it all means working extra hard if Nigeria would make any impact in the South American country. But like her coach there's surely a comic side to the draw.

"I think we definitely got the worst of luck. Two super powers in the world of basketball in the same bracket? Wow, China is not easy either. Guess we have our work cut out for us for sure."

For teammate Mercy Chikri says it is a great opportunity for the team to make a name.

"I believe it is a great opportunity for us. Little is probably expected from us, but what is important is what we expect from ourselves. The height of our expectation and success thereafter will be determined greatly by the degree of our preparation."

By Ismaila Umaru Lere, Assistant Editor, with Agency Reports

grace of God, to prepare. No matter who we face, we mustn't settle for mere participation.

"We must be ready to compete. The support of the whole country in every way possible is essential and by the grace of God we will represent Nigeria (and Africa) with all our might" Mercy said.

For Patricia Chukwuma, one of the surviving members of the team that first won the Africa cup and then retaining it in Abuja it is all about facing challenges.

"There is nothing to be worried about. They are players like us and we are going there to play ball. So whatever name they are called everyone on the court will be human."

The D'Tigress beat the whole of Africa last December to pick a world cup ticket. Their runners-up, Senegal is the other African representative. The Senegalese will battle in Group B with Australia, Canada and Lithuania.



D'Tigress captain Mfon Udoka believes the team has to work extra hard if Nigeria would make impact in Brazil

## Tamuno eyes slot

As the Nations athletes get set for the Commonwealth games trials coming up at the National Stadium, Abuja, this week, one of Nigeria's top sprinters, Tamunosiki Atorubido has declared that nothing will stop him from clinching a slot in the Australia bound team.

The track star said it will be his first championship this year and he is fully prepared and ready to storm the tracks and prove his talent.

Tamunosiki said he would want to hit a top 20 slot as the Commonwealth trials in Australia.

Similarly, former 100m National Champion, Oluwole Ojo declared his readiness for the trials which will be held in Abuja. Atorubido said he will represent his country at the forthcoming Commonwealth games in Melbourne, Australia.

According to him, he has prepared well for the trials which will be held in Abuja.

While others are of the belief that the trials will be a mere formality, he said he will be competing in the trials in the hope that they will be successful because he has prepared well for the trials.

He stressed that as a retired soldier, he understands the importance of discipline in any endeavour he wants to succeed and that he will not engage in any act of indiscipline. He said he will continue to work hard to improve his performance in the trials.

## Shooting federation moves to Abuja

The Nigeria Shooting Federation, one of the 31 federations expected to relocate to Abuja, has resumed in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

The federation moved its offices from the National Stadium, Lagos to its new office at the National Stadium, Abuja, yesterday. Even as other federations are expected to move within the next few months.

The federation's new office is located at the National Stadium, Abuja. The federation's new office is located at the National Stadium, Abuja. The federation's new office is located at the National Stadium, Abuja.

The federation would allow easy supervision from the ministry as well as enable closer contact between them according to the secretary director of

sports development, Dr Umar Bindi, who was recently posted to the Ministry of Science and Technology. The ministry he had said would all associations to use of its facilities on a regular basis. The ministry he had said would all associations to use of its facilities on a regular basis.

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## Atansiela dispels Obisis feud

Assistant is my assistant, he gives me pieces of advice and we work together, there is no misunderstanding, in my job, we disagree to give.

# Sports

## EGYPT 2006 AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS

# Enyeama: I received divine intervention during shootout

that he won in Tunisia two years ago. Nigeria will face Cote d'Ivoire in Tuesday's first semi final clash in Alexandria.



Enyeama...receiving divine intervention?

**H**ero of Nigeria's quarter-final victory over the Carthage Eagles of Tunisia, goalkeeper Vincent Enyeama has told hotspportslive.com that he received divine inspiration during Saturday's match which helped him in propelling Nigeria into the semi finals of the ongoing African Cup of Nations.

According to Enyeama, he knew he needed something ex-

tra to keep Nigeria in the tournament after she missed two of her first three kicks.

"Honestly speaking Saturday's performance was beyond my ability. I received divine inspiration during the shootout because without it we would have crashed out.

"Before every kick I offered a word of prayer to God to guide me into guessing right the direction of their (Tunisia) kicks. So I

owe my performance to God."

Enyeama stopped a penalty from Tunisia's best penalty taker, Jose Clayton early in the first half to preserve Nigeria's 1-nil lead and amazingly saved three during the shootout to hand Nigeria her 12th Nations Cup semi final place since 1976.

The Bnei Yehuda of Israel goalkeeper is already being tipped to retain the Best African Nations Cup Goalkeeper Award

## Nsofor fires warning

**C**hievo Verona star Obinna Nsofor has vowed to score again to help the Super Eagles qualify for Friday's Nations Cup final ahead of the Elephants of Cote d'Ivoire as the two West African rivals clash on Tuesday in the semifinal at the El-Hedod Stadium in Alexandria.

Nsofor was the hero in Saturday's clash against defending champions Tunisia, when he grabbed Nigeria's 100th goal in the history of the African Cup of Nations.

And the 18-year-old striker has told KICK OFF that he would not shy away from scoring if fielded against the Ivorians.

"Of course, I'm looking forward to the game against Cote d'Ivoire.

This is going to be a massive game for us and I hope I'm picked again," he told KICK OFF.

"The most important thing is that we are ready to take them on.

It's going to be a great game and as a striker, I hope to score."

Nsofor further stated that the beauty of the Super Eagles at this tournament is that the team is unpredictable, because the coaches continue to deploy the players based on tactics and the calibre of the opposition they are meeting.

"We have a very good squad and that is why the coaches have used each one of us to our maximum advantage.

I would be glad to play against the Ivorians because I know this going to be a big game for us.

The most important thing though would be for us to win whether I score or not."

## Nwosu counsels Eagles

**A**s Nigerians continue to jubilate over the qualification of the Super Eagles for the semifinal of the 25th edition of the Cup of Nations taking place in Egypt, a former international Henry Nwosu and other notable football figures have cautioned the team against underrating the Elephants of Cote d'Ivoire, their opponents in today's semifinal.

Nwosu, a member of Nigeria's 1980 Cup of Nations-winning squad thanked God in an interview

with Kick Off "for the courageous performance shown by the Nigerians against the Tunisians" and advised the Eagles' handlers "to talk to our defence not to gamble with Cote d'Ivoire for they have players that are very skillful on the ball and can cause problems for them."

Nwosu who once played for one of Ivorian leading club side, Asec Mimosas of Abidjan said: "I know the Elephants very well for the start their games slowly and open up fast in the midfield. Yobo should not gamble in the game for Drogba knows him very well in the Premiership. Enakarhire should learn to jump and head the ball. Taye Taiwo should mark his opponents very well, for the Tunisians exploited his weakness to attack Nigerians in their quarterfinal game."

In all he said: "Nigeria should not have problem with the Elephants for they see us as their masters. We have to teach those lessons in the game, if not they may take the initiative from us and start teaching us lessons."

A former national chief coach Tunde Disu told Kick Off, "We should not make the mistake of underrating Cote d'Ivoire for they deserve respect for knocking out a team like Cameroon out of the competition."

He advised Coach Austin Eguavoen and his lieutenants to devise a strategy that, "Will not allow Drogba to play but our defenders should watch their tackling,

that will make them give out penalty to their opponents. I know that any team meeting Nigeria in this competition will be afraid. We should not allow them to settle before we knock them."

Dosu Joseph was emphatic to Kick Off that "our boys stronger than Cote d'Ivoire and they should not

have much problem beating them. But their victory over Cameroon is a great psychologically advantage to them."

Dosu who was a member of the Atlanta Olympics winning team advised the Eagles "to concentrate and play their game for even the Cup is within their reach."

## Yobo thumps up Nwaneri pairing

**S**uper Eagles on-the-field captain at the Africa Nations Cup in Egypt, Joseph Yobo, has said that he does not think his partnership with Obinna Nwaneri when the Nigerian team take on Cote d'Ivoire today will diminish their defensive strength.

Following a second yellow card of the tournament to Joseph Enakarhire during the Eagles victory over Tu-

nisia in the quarterfinal last Saturday, the Dinamo Moscow of Russia strongman is ruled out of the semi final tie with the Ivorians.

But despite playing alongside Enakarhire in the heart of the Eagles defence since the Nations Cup started, Yobo believes he will be at home with Nwaneri.

"I don't have any fears for Obinna. He's played a couple of quality matches for Nige-



### Why I didn't take penalty - Lawal

**U**tility star Garba Lawal stayed away from taking a penalty during the shootout against Tunisia because he has failed from the spot during training.

"I have not scored as regularly as I would love to from the penalty spot and it was only on Friday that I was able to convert two of my kicks. But that was not good enough and so I did not feel very good or confident during the penalty shootout."

However, 'Chindo' said he would have had no choice but to step up and take his own kick if it had meant all the players in the team had to do so as was the case in the other quarterfinal clash between Cameroon and Cote d'Ivoire.

## Mikel: Ferguson awaits FIFA verdict

**M**anchester United coach, Sir Alex Ferguson has revealed that he is eagerly awaiting FIFA's verdict on the prolonged John Mikel Obi transfer case, saying he

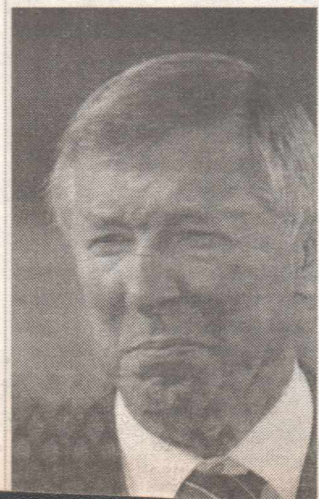
has profound belief that the decision will go in favour of the Old Trafford club.

"To be honest, we haven't heard a thing from Fifa," Ferguson revealed, and added: "It's worrying us.

Fifa said they would rely on the court decision and the court decision was in our favour." The coach, fondly called Sir Alex, also had some words of praise for Mikel.

Ferguson said: "He's a marvellous player, a really fantastic player." When asked if Mikel could still wear United's red shirt, rather than Chelsea's blue one, Fergis said: "I hope so.

I think we have the right, without question. I think we have to sit that boy down, away from all the pressure, and threats he's



## Drogba: God to decide semifinal

**C**helsea star striker Didier Drogba has said God will determine who will reach the final of the African Nations Cup between his team Cote d'Ivoire and the Super Eagles.

Drogba scored the penalty goal that catapulted the Elephants to the last four at the expense of hard-fighting Cameroon and afterwards told Egyptian television that God will decide the finalists for the 2006 Nations Cup.

"We played against a very

was great to win and qualify for the semifinal. And now against Nigeria, everything is in God's hand who will reach the final between us," he said.

Elephants coach Frenchman Henri Michel said their victory over the Indomitable Lions has shown that they merited their ticket to Germany 2006.

Cote d'Ivoire were drawn in the same qualifying tournament for the World Cup with Cameroon and lost both home and away to the Indomitable Lions.

ria where he did tremendously well. He was Joe's partner in the away World Cup qualifier against Zimbabwe where I learnt he emerged the Man of the Match.

"I've played with him a couple of times too with good satisfaction. We were together in Kigali and he was my partner in Port-Harcourt against Gabon. He did well with me also in the match against Zimbabwe in Abuja.

"So, I'm confident to say there won't be any problem of understanding between us.

"It's good that he's played a couple of matches in this tournament. That will help his confidence more than anybody can. Obinna has played a lot of big matches in the past and I don't foresee any problem in our match against Cote d'Ivoire.

"Of course, we're going to miss Enakarhire as a member of the team. He's played four games and did well. He had gotten fully into the tournament, fitness wise, and mentally.

"But I know we've got three quality centre-halves in this team. I expect Nwaneri to slot in well though I still believe the yellow card given to Joe was too harsh."

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## EDITORIAL

### Patriotic disagreement

Quite clearly, what seems on the surface to be the current three-sided disagreement between the National Assembly, the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission [RMAFC] and the Central Bank of Nigeria [CBN] is actually a four-sided affair. With the protagonists, equally divided into two camps of two members each, are the three bodies mentioned above and the Obasanjo administration itself as a whole. The bone of contention is the 33 US dollar per barrel crude oil benchmark which the federal executive has chosen to use for its calculations of the 2006 national budget, which the CBN is understandably staunchly supporting and which both the RMAFC and the legislators are equally understandably not too happy with.

Both the Obasanjo administration and the Central Bank monetary would appear to have leaned too far backward in being conservative and overly cautious in adopting a curiously low and pessimistic estimate of what world crude oil prices are likely to be on the average for this year. This, in itself, would not be sufficient cause for great alarm on the part of the lawmakers and the Nigerian public, were it not for the fact that both the National Assembly and the RMAFC are already justifiably suspicious of the actions and motives of the federal executive in the matter of national monetary policy, which they see as being unlawfully monopolised by the Obasanjo Administration.

An executive arm which too often embarks on expenditures without mandatory prior approval by the legislature, and which hoards information about the nation's economic lifeline, the oil industry, for no more ostensible justification than to be as opaque as possible in matters concerning the national income, certainly calls for extra vigilance and suspicion on the part of the legislative arm and other watchdog institutions like the revenue commission. And it is this perpetual suspicion and mistrust of the trio of the federal government, the CBN and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) which has led to the rash of disagreements and accusations of short-changing the nation, especially by the RMAFC, every once in a while.

Daily Trust sees no way around this mistrust and constant suspicion so long as the president continues to manage our oil income by himself alone, without the assistance of a petroleum minister, and continues to dip his executive hand into the national cash box every now and then, without the constitutionally mandatory prior approval of the national legislature.

We have no quarrel with a healthy measure of conservatism and caution in estimating what world oil prices are likely to be in the immediate future. We would be strongly inclined to put greater faith in the executive's estimates of what that price level is likely to be when it makes budget proposals. But the same opacity which has been breeding suspicion of unconstitutionality and larceny on the part of the presidency, as well as our past national experience with corrupt political leadership, make it mandatory for us to give our sympathy to the NASS and the RMAFC in this current disagreement.

No amount of hand-wringing by the CBN over fears of the effect of oil prices not maintaining as healthy and buoyant a level as our lawmakers estimate, can justify the huge budget deficit which the government has built into the 2006 budget. This is more so when there are always conflict between the legislature and the executive when time comes to account for and equitably share excess petroleum income. The CBN should therefore keep its bean-counting worries to itself in this instance, and allow the main players in the determination of the nation's annual budget to perform their constitutional duties.

As for the National Assembly, we strongly urge it to continue to stand firmly on its insistence that constitutionality and due process be duly observed and upheld in the design and implementation of our national budgets.

For notwithstanding the great noise which people in power make about transparency and accountability, it is in the misuse of budgets that great crimes against the people are most often perpetrated.

Nothing can be worse than for one arm of government to fold its arms and watch another arm of government get away with fiscal and monetary mayhem all in the name of reform, and a transparency which does not extend to how the nation makes its wealth and spends its income. On this crucial score alone, we think that the disagreement with the administration on the Budget 2006 oil price benchmark speaks very well of the NASS and the RMAFC. It is a healthy and patriotic kind of disagreement.

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# DAILY TRUST

## TUESDAY COLUMN

Tuesday, February 7, 2006

### Kwankwaso: What manner of minister?

By Ujudud Shariff  
ujushariff@yahoo.com

Bearing in mind the intricate circumstances in which he has found himself in recent weeks forcing him to issue out a statement through one of his aides denying anything to do with the brutal murder of Hajija Sa'adatu Rimi, the late wife of Alhaji Muhammad Abubakar Rimi, Engineer Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso is fast making the image of himself as a dogged fighter but without a cause. As I do not know for certain whether he actually sponsored this murder, I cannot also swear that he was not involved. But we have to leave this subject for the future as the police are still investigating. Nevertheless, one can but only express surprise over why he assumed that he was the "big man" from Kano shouldering big responsibility in Abuja whom Rimi alluded to as the sponsor of his wife's murder. Though he is the highest political officer from Kano State as the Minister of Defence, there are three senators and a federal permanent secretary from the same Kano that can also be described as "big" men.



Alhaji Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso, Defence Minister

Our primary concern in this discourse however is the disturbing news making the rounds in Abuja on how this former Kano State governor is ferociously fighting to undermine his own state government and by extension his own people. Only on January 16, 2006, the Defence Minister wrote a letter to the ministers of aviation and communication urging them to come together and deliberate on his request to the president to get the Nigerian Air Force to take over the Kofar Na'isa Tracking Station land from the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) in Kano. Tongues are wagging in these two ministries on why Kwankwaso is so desperate for the Air Force to take over the few hectares land along the Bayero University Road in the heart of town. Because this land is lying between the Sharada residential area and the walled city, there have been attempts by the state government to acquire and distribute it for residential purposes. Since the early 1990s under Governor Kabiru Gaya, the process of acquiring the land from the federal authorities began but without success. The defence minister also continued this effort when he was the state governor (1999 to 2003) when Mrs Kema Chikwe was the aviation minister. On receipt of his request letter, she was said to have constituted a committee to study the request but somehow could not complete the process up till the time she left the ministry in 2003. But sometime last year or so, Governor Ibrahim Shekarau dusted the files and continued where his predecessors stopped in the struggle to acquire this land that was no longer useful to the aviation authorities since their equipment were moved to Mallam Aminu Kano Airport way back in the 1960s. According to the story, Mallam Shekarau kicked off his request when Alhaji Isa Yuguda, the former Minister of Aviation paid him a courtesy visit at Government House, Kano. The minister asked the governor to put the request for the take-over of the land in writing. On getting this letter, Yuguda passed it to NAMA, the owners of the land for their advice. After their study, they informed the minister that they actually do not need the land but they can forfeit it to the state government if they could be given another land of the same size. This the minister communicated to the state government that they agreed in principle to give out the land in exchange for

a land of similar size.

It was at this stage while Yuguda was waiting for the response of the Kano State government that Kwankwaso on hearing of this arrangement was said to have rushed and reported Yuguda to the president. Only God knows what he told the president but Yuguda was summoned by the president to explain how he gave out the federal government's land without authority. This Yuguda explained as narrated, saying he was waiting for the response of the state government before he could adequately inform the president. The matter ended as the president was satisfied that due process was followed. I do not want to bore you with the details of the encounter between Yuguda and Kwankwaso when the former confronted the latter on why he did not contact him first before reporting him to the president. Suffice it to mention that politics has now crept into an otherwise simple issue: Why should the ANPP government be the one to acquire and allocate out the land instead of a PDP government that Kwankwaso earlier headed? It was after this encounter that on August 10, 2005, Kwankwaso wrote to the president requesting him to approve the transfer of this land to the Nigerian Air Force from NAMA instead of giving it back to the Kano State government. In a letter titled "Request for the Transfer of K/Naisa Tracking Station (NAMA) land in Kano to the Nigerian Air Force" with reference AE/HMOD/81/ABJ, Kwankwaso began by stating, "Your Excellency may wish to recall that I had the privilege of discussing the above subject matter". He further continued to adequately describe the land in question: "The land at K/Naisa Tracking Station is a prime land located at the heart of metropolitan Kano. The land is under NAMA, Federal Ministry of Aviation and was acquired in the 1950s by the US government and was then used by the National Aviation Surveillance Agency (NASA) as observation centre. It was subsequently transferred to the Federal Ministry of Communications and later Aviation. The federal government has fenced the land, erected and installed useful communication infrastructure. Of recent, many parties including the state government have been jostling to acquire this prime piece of land. It is in view of these developments that I requested the Nigerian Air Force to examine the land and the infrastructure and advise government on its appropriate utilisation. The NAF has responded (see Annex 1) to express the service's desire to utilise the piece of land for the installation of operational and training facilities. The site has been found most suitable for mounting some surveillance tracking devices and communication platform needed for air operations such as:- a) Cable Navigation Surveillance System; b) Air Traffic Services and c) Simulator training on Total Radar Coverage...." The crux of the matter is that our Minister of Defence is using all manner of tactics including distorting the truth to mislead the president not to transfer the land to the Kano State government. He would rather the state government and the thousands of people that are to benefit from the residential plots and such other services as schools, hospitals, police stations, etc that are to be provided in the land. What manner of a minister do we have supposedly representing the state in the federal cabinet? Since he could not get the land when he was the governor, he would rather have the state loose everything.

Equally worrisome is how he arm-twisted the Air Force to indicate an interest in a land that they do not need and that is deep inside the city. The Nigerian Air Force does not need any land for such services far from the airport where they have their 303 Training school, and barracks. Secondly, I do not think the Air Force would want to instal their equipment right within the people. I am therefore very worried how the president is being misinformed and misled and in the process get him blamed for everything that goes wrong in this country, especially in Kano State. Somebody should please inform the president to be careful not to be dragged into the politics of vindictiveness and egocentrism as being exhibited by Kwankwaso. The president should please ask Mrs Kema Chikwe and the Ministry of Aviation whether or not about three years ago Kwankwaso requested for the transfer of the same land to the Kano State government. He should also ask NAMA their opinion about the same land and whether they object to any exchange. As for the Nigerian Air Force, whether they actually need this land or are simply being pressurised by their minister to indicate interest as the initiative came from him? In the final analysis, let no one forget that all lands in the country are vested in the office of the state governor where they are located as far as the Land Use Decree is concerned. The president only controls the land in the Federal Capital Development Authority, Abuja.

In conclusion, let us re-emphasise again that the interest of Kano like that of Nigeria is bigger than the interest of any individual. As such, we urge the federal government to discard the manipulation of Kwankwaso just because he is fighting Shekarau to deny the people their right to good shelter. We also advise Kwankwaso to drop his negative posture, because at the end of the day, it is not Shekarau that he is fighting but the whole people of the state. He should realise that it is this kind of attitude that is at the back of all his problems in the state that made him the only PDP governor to have lost in the whole country in the last 2003 elections. And by extension, it is responsible for the unpopularity of President Obasanjo and the PDP in the state. The president and the national headquarters of the PDP should be aware that victory in Kano would continue to elude them with these kinds of arrogant and vindictive tendencies.