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2 robbers face amputation in Sokoto

For the first time since the introduction of Sharia in some northern states, two convicted armed robbers: Sani Shehu, 24, and Garba Dandare, 35, are to have their right hands and left feet

From Sani Umar, in Sokoto with Agency Reports

amputated in Sokoto.

The Upper Sharia Court II in Sokoto sentenced them on Tuesday for their involvement in an armed robbery operation in October at the house of one Alhaji Sakaba Bamaïyi, where they stole electronics worth ₦103,000 and ₦80,000 cash. The duo did not, however, kill their victims.

They were also said to have stolen the beret, belt and bicycle of a policeman who was on duty at the residence of the Assistant Inspector-General of Police.

Prosecuting Police Officer (PPO), Na'Alla Ajibo, told the court that the convicts armed with knives

and other weapons, broke into the house of Bamaïyi, in police uniforms and perpetrated the heinous crime.

The victim, Bamaïyi, informed the court that he challenged the robbers in a "battle" for about an hour during which one of them got injured.

Dr. Jidana Singh, medical

doctor, told the court that he treated one of the convicts.

The convicted armed robbers pleaded guilty and said they would not appeal against the judgement.

The presiding judge, Alhaji Bello Sahabi Tambuwal, had earlier told them that they had one month to appeal against the

judgment.

When *Daily Trust* accosted them for an interview shortly after, the two, showing some remorse, lamented their fate, saying they were destined to suffer the punishment as it was their first operation in the underworld business.

They attributed the

incessant cases of robbery in the state and the country in general to uneven distribution of wealth and unemployment among the youth.

Messrs Sani and Garba will go in history as the first to be found guilty of armed robbery by a Sharia court since its full implementation in some northern states.



Gov Attahiru Bafarawa

INEC conducts registration of voters February

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is to compile a fresh voters' register in February next year.

Sources at the commission's headquarters in Abuja told *Daily Trust* yesterday that the commission will brief leaders of the three registered political parties on the details of the preparations for the exercise when they meet

By Sani Babadoko, Political Editor

today at the INEC headquarters in Abuja.

Ahead of today's meeting, the commission had met with its state Administrative Secretaries on Tuesday and the state Resident Electoral Commissioners (RECs) yesterday.

At both meetings, presided over by the INEC Chairman, Dr. Abel Goubadia, the Secretaries and the RECs were briefed on the preparations for the exercise.

At yesterday's meeting, the commission briefed the RECs on the new Electoral Act, the copies of which were

Contd. on Pg 2



Dr. Abel Goubadia

12 killed in al-Qaeda, Pakistani clash

A fierce gun battle between Pakistani soldiers and prisoners from Afghanistan has left at least six men dead on each side.

The Pakistani authorities said the clash happened when several dozens of al-Qaeda prisoners were being transported in a convoy of buses to a prison in Peshawar, the capital of the North West Frontier Province.

In the ensuing struggle, more than 30 prisoners managed to escape and Pakistani forces have launched a huge manhunt for

Contd. on Pg 2



Former President, Ibrahim Babangida (2nd left) flanked by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) National Chairman, Chief Audu Ogbeh (extreme right), Barrister Laila Buhari (Director, Federal Housing Authority) and Alh. Hassan Mohammed (Ciroman Keffi) during Chief Ogbeh's visit to Gen. Babangida in Minna... Tuesday.

Lack of quorum stalls speakers meeting

By Jibril Daudu

The Conference of Speakers of State Legislatures in the country could not hold yesterday because of lack of quorum.

The Speakers convened the meeting to harmonise their positions and take a common stand on the controversial Electoral Act.

Only eight of the 36 speakers of the State Houses of Assembly were at the Nigerlink Hotel, Abuja, venue of the meeting. A quorum of the 36 speakers is put at 12.

The meeting scheduled for 1p.m could not kick off up to 8p.m because of poor attendance.

All Speakers of the

Alliance for Democracy (AD) controlled states of Oyo, Ogun, Osun, Ondo, Lagos were at the venue while only three Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) states of Niger, Plateau and Edo were present.

While a source at the meeting could not explain the absence of All People's Party (APP) speakers, he said the PDP speakers might have stayed away from the meeting as a mark of loyalty to their party.

"The PDP may have broken the ranks of the speakers and their absence here may be because they do not want to go against their party," he alleged.

Asked whether PDP supports the controversial Electoral Act, he explained that as a party in power, it would naturally endorse the decision of the government.

Meanwhile, the PDP as a party is expected to announce its position on the Electoral Act in a press conference in Abuja today. The newly elected Audu Ogbeh-led executive of the party will attend the occasion.

Also, the eight speakers led by the Speaker of the Lagos House of Assembly, Dr. Olorunnimbe Adeleke, said they would address the press today to state their position on Act, particularly on the contentious provisions of Section 80(1)

and the extension of the tenure of local government councils.

The new electoral law has generated a lot of furore in the past few weeks. Various interest groups across the country have kicked against

Contd. on Pg 2



Alhaji Ghali Na'Abba

NEWS

2003 ALL AFRICA GAMES

Airport expansion to gulp N19.12bn

The Federal Government has awarded a N19.12 billion contract for the expansion of the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, preparatory to the 2003

By Reuben Yunana

All Africa games to be hosted by Nigeria.

The contract, which has been awarded to Julius Berger

Nigeria Plc, is billed for completion in 99 weeks, according to Information and National Orientation Minister, Professor Jerry Gana.

Briefing State House correspondents after yesterday's Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting, Professor Gana said the council approved the contract based on the inadequacy of the airport to cope with the expected influx of air travellers during the games.

He said under the contract, the airport, which has only one terminal building, will have two additional ones constructed.

Four hangars are to be added to the existing two at the airport and the parking lot, which currently has about 280 cars capacity, would also be expanded to accommodate up to 1,500 cars.



Vice-President Atiku Abubakar (l) discussing with the Lamido of Adamawa, Dr. Aliyu Mustapha (r) during the turbanding of the Katukan Adamawa, Alhaji Umaru Hamman, at the Lamido's palace... Monday. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje

20 injured in PDP fracas

No fewer than 20 people were seriously injured yesterday, following the eruption of violence at the inauguration of the executive of the

From Olumide Bajulaiye Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Ogun State.

The inauguration which was held at the party's secretariat, Obantoko, Abeokuta, was marred by intra-party violence in which dangerous weapons like guns and charms were used.

Trouble allegedly started when a rival faction from the Sagamu Local Government Area of the state stormed the secretariat.

Investigations by our correspondent revealed that the polarisation was the making of the two leading contending governorship aspirants (names withheld) from Remo Senatorial Constituency, who are determined to instal their candidates as PDP chairman in the council area.



Gov. Segun Osoba

Speakers Contd from Pg 1

the law describing it as a piece of bad legislation.

A section of the House of Representatives Tuesday gave President Olusegun Obasanjo an ultimatum to withdraw his assent on the bill else they would do no other job when they reconvene on January 22 next year.

They urged President Obasanjo to withdraw his assent to pave way for amendments to be carried out in the bill, including expunging the controversial clauses.

However, the Senate

President, Chief Anyim Pius Anyim has maintained that irrespective of the widespread criticisms that have continued to trail the Act, the Senate stands by its decision.

"We have done our best and we stand by our decision," he said while fielding questions from senior journalists at a Senate Media round-table Tuesday.

He said the Senate had thoroughly followed the procedure and observed the process before it arrived at the clean copy of the Electoral Act.



Professor Jerry Gana

INEC

distributed to the resident commissioners.

The commission also briefed its state officials on preparations for the registration of voters, implementation of the 2001 budget as it affects the commission, allegation of creation of wards by State Independent Electoral Commissions (SIECs) and progress on construction of state INEC offices.

The commission had budgeted N7.3 billion for the registration of voters, which was put on hold because of the delay in the passage of the Electoral Bill which was submitted to the National Assembly since April this year.

INEC had also passed a request for N26.4 billion to the National Assembly through the Ministry of Finance for the 2003 election activities, including the registration of voters.

Daily Trust gathered that INEC had to make the special request because only the sum of N3 billion was provided for the commission in the 2002 Appropriation Bill.

In the request, INEC had estimated that apart from the N7.3 billion for the registration of voters, registration of

Contd from Pg 1

billion for monitoring the activities of the new political associations seeking registration as political parties.

This development may also affect the arrangements by some states to conduct local government elections in April next year as the SIECs are to use the voter's register to be competed by INEC.

The commission, it was gathered, may advise SIECs not to embark on fresh delineation of wards as that is the prerogative of INEC.

At today's meeting, the commission is expected to emphasise to the leaders of the three political parties (AD, APP and PDP) that its duty is to implement the Electoral Act and not debate its contents.

INEC Spokesman, Mr. Segun Adeogun, had told Daily Trust last week that the commission could not be dragged into the current controversy over the law because, "ours is only to implement the relevant portions of the constitution or the act of the National Assembly but not debate or hold opinion on the contents of the law itself," he said.

Nigerian pilgrims stranded in Jeddah

Between 1,100 and 1,500 African pilgrims, including an undisclosed number of Nigerians, are reportedly stranded at Jeddah International Airport, Saudi Arabia.

The pilgrims, who are in the holy land for Umrah (the Muslim lesser hajj), were believed to have been short-changed by airline operators and their collaborators in Saudi Arabia.

A British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) report

From Bamgboye Adelanwa, in Lagos

monitored in Lagos yesterday indicated that Nigerian pilgrims, who were expected in the country last week, could not arrive because their bookings were cancelled at the last minute.

It was gathered that even though most of these pilgrims paid for their return tickets before jetting out of the country, it was

discovered that their reservations were allocated to other pilgrims who had not booked for space, but who were prepared to pay much higher fares.

Most of the pilgrims spoken to expressed disappointment with the conduct of the airline officials and their Saudi collaborators.

Other African pilgrims affected include those from Niger and Cameroon.

Nigeria to sign debt rescheduling agreement

Nigeria is to sign a bilateral debt-rescheduling

agreement with Germany, Austria and Switzerland, the Information and National Orientation Minister, Prof. Jerry Gana, has said.

Briefing State House correspondents yesterday after the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting, Professor Gana said under the agreement, Nigeria's debt stock with Germany, which is about \$2.4 billion would be due for repayment between 18 to 20 years with a moratorium of three years at an interest rate of 5.6 per cent.

Nigeria's debt stock with Austria, which is \$316 million, is due for repayment in 18 years with three years moratorium and attracting a fixed 5.3 per cent interest.

The \$122.2 million debt owed the Swiss government will now be repaid in 18 years with a three-year grace period. The debt will attract a fixed rate of N4.7 per cent.

Gana said the successful renegotiation of the agreement would place the country at a position of

By Reuben Yunana

"normal trade relations" with these countries.

"As of now, the trade relations we have with these countries are on cash and carry basis. This does not give us a breathing space.

"With this kind of agreement in place, trade credits can be given for whatever Nigerians want to import while they are given enough time to move the money there," Prof Gana said.

"As at now most of our people who import have to deposit the money upfront before the goods arrive in Nigeria," the minister added.

Professor Gana further disclosed that the government is in the process of signing a similar agreement with other countries with a view to restoring normal trade relations, trade credit and easing the pressure on foreign exchange and cash position of the country.

Already, he said, relevant documents on the agreement have already been vetted by the attorney-general of the federation preparatory to the formal signing by the finance minister.

Al-Qaeda Contd from Pg 1

them.

The men were captured on Tuesday, while trying to cross into Pakistan from Afghanistan.

Pakistani officials said prisoners in one of the buses attacked the driver and snatched weapons from the security guards.

In the confusion that followed, the vehicle overturned and some of the operatives fled.

Six al-Qaeda men, believed to be foreign fighters, and six Pakistani security officials were among those killed.

The border incident opened near the town of Adda in the semi-autonomous Kurram tribal agency, about 300 kilometres west of Peshawar.

The BBC's Farhan Bokhari, reporting from Lahore said it was the bloodiest clash between Pakistani security forces and

al-Qaeda members since the US-led campaign against Osama bin Laden and his followers began.

He said it is a powerful reminder for Pakistan that the country remains at the centre of the war in Afghanistan even though the Taliban regime has been demolished.

Hundreds of al-Qaeda fighters are believed to have crossed into Pakistan after their camps and hideouts in the Tora Bora region of the White Mountain range came under heavy attacks from US bombing raids and ground attacks by Afghan forces.

Afghan militia took Tora Bora last weekend.

The Pakistani authorities have stepped up helicopter and foot patrols in the border areas, but the tribal zones, known as agencies, are difficult to get to and the government has only limited authority over the region.

NEWS

Prof. Elaigwu advocates 5-year tenure for politicians

The President of the Institute of Governance and Social Research (IGSR), Professor Isawa Elaigwu, has advocated a one-term of five years each to all elected positions in the country.

Professor Elaigwu, who spoke at the institute's annual distinguished lecture held at Hill Station Hotel, Jos, explained that the arrangement has worked in

From Buhari Bello, in Jos

Peru and would check the recycling of redundant politicians.

He described Nigerian politicians as "political contractors" who are obsessed with personal aggrandisement at the expense of the nation and called on the judiciary to check some of their excesses.

The annual

distinguished lecture was aimed at educating the public towards a responsible exercise of their civil duties, with a view to strengthening democratic governance.



Jolly Nyame of Taraba State.

Katsina subsidises hajj fares

The Katsina State Government has subsidised hajj fares for intending pilgrims in the state by N20,000 just as it has extended by three days the closing date for the payment of 2002 hajj fares.

Governor Umar Musa Yar'Adua, who disclosed this when members of the Katsina Islamic Trust Committee, who were on their way to Sudan for a 10-day workshop/seminar, paid him a farewell visit, said government's decision to subsidise the fares was informed by a desire to make things hasty for intending pilgrims.

He expressed his government's determination to ensure a hitch-free 2002 hajj operation for all intending pilgrims from the state as part of its efforts to ensure the comfort and safety of its citizens wherever they maybe.

By this development, the new fares for intending pilgrims in the state are therefore N199,742.20 (minimum fare) and N257,242.20 (maximum fare) instead of N219,742.20 and N277,242.20 respectively as initially announced by the federal government.

From Abdu Labaran, in Katsina

Similarly, the new closing date for the completion of payment of hajj fares is now 24th December, instead of Wednesday 19th December, 2001 as initially announced.

Governor Yar'Adua also used the occasion to commend the federal government for pegging the exchange rate at N115 to \$1 for intending pilgrims in the country instead of leaving them at the expense of market forces.

The Katsina State chief executive also announced that the Ministry of Religious Affairs would soon be established in Katsina State so as to oversee the effective implementation of the Islamic legal system.

Three girls drown in Jalingo

Tragedy befell two families during sallah festivities when three girls drowned in a pond in Gindin Rimi area of Jalingo.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that two of the girls, Nafisatu and Hauwa, aged eight and five respectively, were daughters of a businessman, while Firdausi, 10, was their neighbour.

Sources close to the families told NAN that the girls went missing on Saturday but their corpses were discovered on Sunday when some brick moulders showed up for business near the pond.

One of the moulders, Malam Idi Saleh, told NAN that he and his colleagues were apprehensive when they saw the dresses of the three girls at the bank of the pond. "Then we saw their corpses floating in the pond and immediately alerted a

police inspector in the area who told us to pull out the bodies," he said. He added that the bodies were exposed for a while to enable members of the public to identify them, and that a lady who identified them burst into tears and ran off to inform the parents.

NAN gathered that the mother of the two, who had earlier embarked on a desperate search for her children, collapsed when she learnt of the incident.

When NAN visited the house of the deceased, the grieving mother said her daughters left the house along with their friend without her knowledge, while their father had travelled.

She said that when she discovered that the children had not returned, she went in search of them and even placed an announcement on Radio Taraba.

FG releases N800m for dam project

The Federal Government has provided N800 million for the completion of the abandoned Sabke Dam in Katsina State, the Governor, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, has announced.

The governor disclosed this yesterday when the Emir of Daura, Alhaji (Dr.) Muhammad Bashar, and his entourage paid him sallah homage at Government House, Katsina.

Governor Yar'Adua also disclosed that the consultants and contractors handling the project have promised to complete the work on schedule and are mobilising staff and equipment to the site for the commencement of work.

He also promised to continue mounting pressure on the Federal Government to complete the Zobe dam, another Federal Government project in the early 80s.

Speaking earlier, the Emir of Daura, who was represented by the Galadiman Daura, Alhaji Ahmadu Ahmadu, lauded Governor Yar'Adua's administration for its various people-oriented programmes.

He particularly commended the governor's "honesty, transparency and purposefulness," asserting that "the governor has given a new sense of direction in the governance of the state.

The Emir assured the governor that the Daura Emirate Council would continue to support and mobilise the people to support and cooperate with the government "so that it can serve the people better."

It would be recalled that the multi billion naira Sabke Dam was started by the now defunct Petroleum (Special) Trust Fund (PTF) but abandoned when Obasanjo became president.

Edo NSCIA crisis: Sultan wades in

His Eminence, the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammad Maccido, has waded into the crisis bedevilling the Edo State chapter of the Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs which led to the emergence of a parallel executive of the body in the state.

Daily Trust reliably gathered that the Sultan, who is also the National President of the council, has set up a five-man committee under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness, the Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji Sulu Gambari, to reconcile the Muslim Ummah in the state.

Confirming the story to Daily Trust in an exclusive telephone interview, the vice president of the council in charge of the zone and Oba of Agbede, His Royal Highness, Alhaji W. O. Momodu, said it was "unfortunate that instead of uniting for the cause of Islam, brothers are fighting brothers over power."

When contacted, one of the chairmen, Alhaji Jimoh E. Abubakar, said his executive was elected after the muslim community in the state passed a vote of no-confidence on the Alhaji Abuda-led executive.

He vowed to resist any attempt to dissolve his executive mid-way into its tenure, saying that the emir

From Shehu Abubakar, in Benin City

of Ilorin's reconciliation team should stop the Alhaji Abuda's faction from operating as it is "legal."

Alhaji Abubakar, who still represents the NSCIA state chapter at official functions of the national body, is believed to be enjoying the support of the Hausa and Yoruba muslim communities in the state.

Though Alhaji Abuda could not be reached for comments, a strong supporter of his faction, Alhaj Umar Ehima, told Daily Trust that the former "is the authentic chairman of NSCIA in the state."

Commenting on the crisis, the Chief Whip of the Edo State House of Assembly, Hon. Luqman Muhammad, expressed the optimism that the Emir of Ilorin's team would be able to find an amicable solution to the leadership tussle.

IBB meets PDP

Former Military President, General Ibrahim Babangida, yesterday met the national chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Chief Audu Ogbah, and assured him of his support.

The two met in Minna, Niger State capital, when Chief Ogbah paid a courtesy call on the former president at his residence.

General Babangida assured Chief Ogbah that he was always willing to offer useful advice when sought upon.

He said the growth of democratic institutions, such as political parties, in Nigeria remains the most viable weapon of advancing democracy in the country.

From Kashim Sule, in Minna

The former president maintained that the days of military dictatorship is long gone, warning that the army must stay away from governance.

"I am saying (now) as I said in 1989 that military government is no longer fashionable," he said.

General Babangida, however, called on the PDP leaders to provide good leadership and work hard to strengthen their party.

Earlier, Chief Ogbah had told the former president that the party had noted his contributions and would continue to consult him to benefit from his wealth of experience.

Lagos proposes N52.868bn budget for 2002

Lagos State Governor, Senator Ahmed Bola Tinubu, yesterday presented a budget proposal of N52.868 billion for the 2002 fiscal year to the Lagos State House of Assembly.



Ahmed Tinubu of Lagos State.

The budget tagged "Budget of Pragmatic Consolidation" has N34.866 billion for recurrent expenditure and N18.002 billion for capital expenditure, representing 7.5 per cent increase over last year's N48.915 billion.

Of the total capital expenditure, N650 million was allocated to health while N1.84 billion was allocated to education.

The Ministry of Works and the Public Works Bureau got a joint allocation of N4.90 billion, while N1.0 billion has been earmarked for the computerisation of

From Abdulfattai Olajide, in Lagos

the state civil service. The funding of major multi-lateral and bi-lateral projects will account for N780 million of the capital expenditure.

In the environmental sector, the Lands Bureau and the New Towns Development Authority (NTDA) got a joint allocation of N1.250 billion, while the Lagos State Waste Management Agency (LAWMA) and the state water corporation got the sums of N650 million and N700 million respectively.

On recurrent expenditure, the state has voted N16.269 billion for salaries, allowances, retirement benefits and the take-off grant of the proposed state Pensions Trust Fund (PTF).

According to Governor Tinubu, the bulk of the N18.597 billion set aside for overhead cost in 2002 is targeted at servicing major essential services including refuse clearing, administration of justice, debt servicing, etc.

The estimated ordinary revenue profile of the state, the governor explained, is N41.368 billion comprising on internally generated revenue estimate of N29.368 billion and N12.00 billion expected statutory allocation from the Federation Account.



Shehu Muhammad Maccido.

News Focus

Senate in the past one year

Two-and-a-half years after its inception, the Senate has passed only 27 of the over 154 bills presented to it.

Following its inauguration by President Olusegun Obasanjo on June 4, 1999, the Senate was engulfed in series of crises, leading to the removal of its first and second presidents, Chief Evan Enwerem and Dr. Chuba Okadigbo, respectively.

The crises, which led to Enwerem's and Okadigbo's impeachments for alleged incompetence and mismanagement of funds respectively, were said to have contributed greatly to perceived non-performance of the upper chamber at its early stage.

However, after several unsuccessful attempts to unseat the incumbent Senate President, Chief Anyim Pius Anyim, the upper chamber resolved to pay more attention to its legislative functions, resulting in an improvement in its performance in the last six months.

While only 13 bills, including six on the 2000 and 2001 appropriations and four supplementary appropriations, were passed between June 1999 and June 2001, 14 bills, including two supplementary had been passed within the last six months.

A document containing the number and status of bills before the senate showed that the upper house had rejected only

one bill and had another withdrawn by its sponsor while the remaining were at various stages of deliberation and passage.

Sixty-nine bills were read for the first time during the year, 28 passed the second reading and 14 were passed while 45 motions were endorsed within the same period.

The seven bills passed between June 1999 and June 2001 included those on the Anti-Corruption Commission, Niger-Delta Development Commission (NDDC), the National Order of Precedence, the Police Affairs Service Commission, an Act to amend the national minimum wage and the National Examination Council.

Similarly, the bills passed by the lawmakers in the last six months related to an Act to establish the Federal Road Maintenance Agency, an Act to amend the Ports Decree Number 12 of 1996, the Electoral Bill and an Act to amend the remuneration of former presidents and heads of state.

Others include Small and Medium Industries Development Agency, an Act to provide the statutory allocation of public revenue to local government councils in the federation and an Act establishing the National Examination Council (NECO).

The remaining draft laws include an Act to amend the provisions of the Federal Character



President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Commission, an Act to prohibit and punish unconstitutional take-over of government, service in unconstitutional government and other ancillary matters, and an Act prohibiting the use of sirens on federal highways.

To ensure improved performance, the upper house adopted a legislative calendar to enable it accomplish its work within each legislative session, to enable members know ahead of time what was expected of them and the period set out for it.

The Calabar retreat held early in the year, the nomination and inauguration of members of the National Assembly Service Commission, and the adoption of a new accounting system were some of the measures taken by the house to enhance its performance.

It had also strengthened its committee system to make it more productive and responsive, by increasing the number of committee from 53 to 63.

This is not to say that the Senate had it so good all the year, as the purchase of 1,245 vehicles including 110 units of 406 Peugeot Prestige cars, 18 units of 607 Peugeot cars, three units of 504 Peugeot station wagons and units of 504 Peugeot SR Bestline, one Lexus jeep, one Toyota jeep, one Mercedes 320 E-class 2000 series and a Toyota coaster bus, had led to another controversy within the chamber.

The Senate President

would have been removed if not for the timely intervention of the executive arm of government as some members of the house had already commenced the mobilisation of their colleagues for a probe of the purchase of the vehicles.

One of the major landmarks of the upper chamber within the year was its decision to embark on intensive oversight functions, to verify the performance of the executive arm in terms of project execution and release of funds to ministries and parastatals.

The senators' action, according to their leaders, was intended to convince Nigerians that "we are not in the pockets of the president. We are representing the people and we are committed to providing them with democracy dividends."

At the end of the three-week probe of the executive, the senior lawmakers concluded that "due process," which was introduced by the present administration to ensure discipline in public service, was not being followed by implementers.

They fumed over the failure of the regime to implement the roads, water and rural electricity projects for which N500 million was approved in each of the 109 senatorial districts in the country.

The senators further frowned at the discriminatory release of funds for the execution of people-oriented projects, on the argument that while

N31.4 billion or 101 per cent of the allocation to Defence Ministry this year was released, only N10 billion was given to the agricultural sector.

The heat from the implementation of the 2001 budget recently dovetailed into the proposal by Obasanjo to secure legislative approval to spend more than N780 billion during the next fiscal season.

Finance Minister, Adamu Ciroma, was summoned to the upper chamber on four occasions to justify the continued support of the lawmakers on financial matters when the executive was alleged to be applying military tactics in project decisions and release of funds.

The lawmakers also intervened on several national issues, especially by paying sympathy visits to troubled parts of the country arising from religious, ethnic and other social outbursts that led to massive loss of lives and property.

The recent spate of clashes included those in Kaduna, Kano, Nasarawa, Benue, Taraba, Sagamu, Lagos, Jos and their riverine areas, when Nigerians took up arms against their fellow countrymen.

A special committee headed by former Senate President, Dr. Chuba Okadigbo, was constituted to look into the immediate and remote causes of the conflicts, with a view to preventing similar carnage

in future.

In terms of ethics, the lawmakers need to improve on their image, particularly on issues relating to their responsibilities as representatives of the electorate.

It is unfortunate that the code of ethics developed by the Senate Committee on Ethics, in collaboration with Transparency in Nigeria (TIN), is yet to be given any teeth to bite, in spite of avoidable embarrassing behaviour by some members.

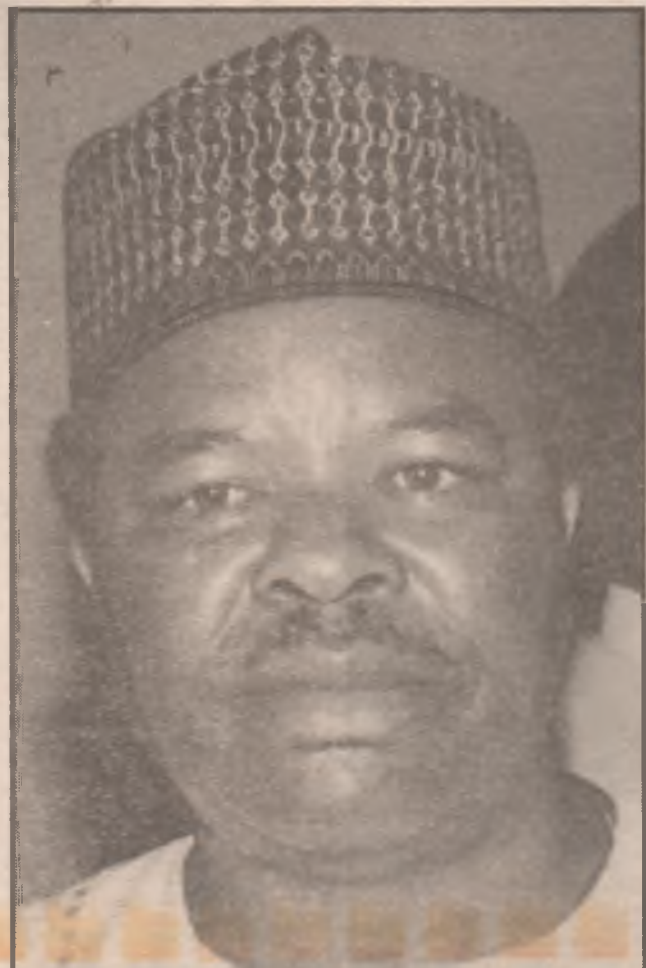
One of the tasks ahead of the senators in the new year, however, is their capacity to ensure the implementation of their constituency projects, since the year 2002 remains critical to the political fortunes of all lawmakers seeking re-election during the next general polls in the country.

Indeed, most of them had confessed that the era of "learning process" had passed, which shows that the people are set to attract more positive legislation from their representatives, especially since many of them undertook exposure tours of some advanced democracies.

In addition, the National Assembly regained its membership of such international legislative bodies as the Inter-Parliamentary Union, commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Africa Parliamentary Union and the World Female Parliamentary Caucus, among others.



Chief Anyim Pius Anyim.



Alhaji Ibrahim Mantu

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Opinion

Party supremacy is indisputable

As a former information officer of the National Party of Nigeria (NPN) in Ondo and Ekiti State, member National Republican Convention (NRC) and founding member of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Lagos State I wish to heartily congratulate the humble leader of the ruling PDP, Chief Audu Ogbe and other executive members for their success at the recently concluded convention in Abuja.

The humble and amiable chairman, I am sure is a man of integrity who cannot be easily influenced by money, I make bold to say, he is capable of organising the party successfully as well as helping the party to achieve its laudable objectives.

Chief Audu Ogbe, former Minister of Communication is no doubt an experienced politician who is still ready to learn from others. He learnt so much from President Shehu Shagari, the vice president, Chief Alex Ekwueme and Chief Adisa Akinloye, the national chairman.

Without digressing so much from the focus of this piece, it will be pertinent to say few words about what President Olusegun Obasanjo said at the convention, especially as it borders on party supremacy,

Take the case of President

By Joshua Ayodele
Shehu Shagari (1979 -1983) for instance. The team, as mentioned above, worked harmoniously for the success of the party and the nation as a whole. There is no gainsaying today, that the party and the team have set a precedent for well meaning would be leaders. The solid foundation laid then gave birth to what is known as PDP today. Ethnic sentiments were consigned to the dunghill.

On the issue of party supremacy, there is a consensus in all democracies the world over, that the party has an undisputable supremacy over everyone. Anyone at all, be it councillor or whatever that has been so elected in this present dispensation ascended to such enviable position through the platform of the party.

For good administration, it therefore behoves anyone that has been so elected under a given party to adhere strictly to the directives of the party. That there are divisions in the ranks and file of PDP today could be traced to people working at cross-purposes.

Contrary to this generally accepted basis of party supremacy, President Obasanjo said "party officials need to be reminded that they are not government officials, appointed or otherwise. Party

officials are remunerated from party headquarters and they must stay away from day to day executive decisions of the government, once the party manifesto remains the guide for the president." That this is coming from the president is to say the least unfair.

A particular case that readily comes to mind is that of one Senator, Chief Lawrence Agunbiade (alias LACO) an honest party leader in Ekiti State that won its local government and a senatorial district for PDP - the only senatorial district won by the party in the South Western part of the country. To date, nothing tangible could be said to have been done to compensate those faithful party workers who delivered the local government council and that senatorial district to the party. Again, the party is yet to do anything to encourage the man to do more.

For the sake of the party's survival, it will not be out of place to enjoin President Obasanjo to give due consideration to party loyalists when it comes to appointments into various positions.

Chief Yekini Adejo, a POP gubernatorial candidate was sidelined for others in Oyo State. Human beings would tend to stay in a place where they hope to get rewards for their work.

The onus is now on the incumbent party chairman, Chief Audu Ogbe, to reverse those anomalies highlighted above. There may be need to also say that while the party should not close its door against would be members, a situation where people are lobbied (or practically begged) with appointments runs contrary to fairness and common sense.

At this juncture also, there is need to state for posterity's sake that buying cars for local government chairmen is totally unacceptable. Efforts should be made to spend taxpayers' money judiciously.

Mr President I am also using this medium to appeal to you that there is need to call to order Chief Olabode George, PDP leader in South West since it is obvious that he knows nothing about politics, Chief Bode George should honourably steer clear of Ekiti State. He should leave the people of Ekiti State alone and if he does not take note, President Obasanjo should be happy that his party is rallying round him because if I were to be in his position, I will be grateful when my people are not far from me.

Long live PDP,
Long live Nigeria
Ayodele is of P. O. Box 179, Akure, Ondo State.

African Union as development strategy

By Emman Ozoemena

African Union is finally becoming a reality after many years of planning, day-dreaming and faulty starts by Africans for the much desired continental body that will not only unite, but also a forum for issues of interest to African people to be thoroughly sorted out, in view of the lacklustre performance and dismal achievements of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The current frenzy about the African Union has its precursor in the recent transformation of the European Union into a strong continental body with the full complements of sovereignty, as it concerns the nation-states in Europe.

The miracle of the European Union from a mere organisational framework to a full fledged sovereignty of commonwealth of states with common monetary policy, educational policy, economic policy and judicial jurisdictions must have aroused the "Sleeping Africans" on the need to move closer to one another in unity rather than serve colonial and metropolitan interests elsewhere in the world. Nearly four decades after the formation of the OAU, there were no concrete achievements in any facets of the continent's life we can proudly point to as derivable from its existence. Well, the reasons for the abysmal performance of the OAU cannot be far to find from the initial drawbacks that characterised its formation.

Although, most African countries that make-up the continental body had just come out of many years of colonial domination and subjugation, in the 60s. The stupor of servitude and inferiority complex was yet to be over as at that material time it floated the OAU. The allegiance of African nations was more to their ex-masters, the Europeans, than to any collective agenda that will ensure freedom in the real sense of the word for their people. They were not ready to cut off the strings of "loyalty and patrimony" to these colonial lords.

African leaders that fought war of independence prior to gaining freedom naturally wanted a vibrant and united African Union that will challenge in all its ramifications, the claims of leadership by the white colonialists. An independent African nation that severs total link with the European slave masters were proposed by this group, then known as the Casablanca Group. But alas, other leaders who got in what in the words of Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, the immortal Zik of Africa, "independence on the platter of gold" were not ready to rock the boat. They wanted the *status quo* to be maintained. It viewed social relations with these erstwhile colonial overlords and adventurists, as what must remain, undisturbed. The Monrovia Group, from hindsight could be blamed for the toothless bulldog that became the OAU in its more than three decades of existence. They dealt the death kernel on the idea of a united Africa; nay African Union devoid of Western control and manipulations. The result of these years of locust in the continent is simply the outcome or rash decisions by the few privileged African political leaders who merely wanted to maintain their links to Europe and North America; so as to sustain their egoistic and hedonistic craves for material acquisitions and vain glory. The revival of the African Union at the threshold of a new millennium is a strong indication that the present generation of African leadership have learnt the lessons of unity as a factor in development, even through the hard way. It is pertinent to ask whether Africans deserved to have been running round the circle all these years, while other parts of the world were busy experimenting with home grown technological, economic, political and social structures, that have become the *avant garde* for development in their various regions. The miracle of the Asian Tigers is a typical example of what happens when a people are resolved to building their nation on paradigm that are indigenous and in tandem with the ecosystem and metaphysical inclination, instead of imported values and ideas.

The over 450 years of rape of African resources, men and materials by the Western metropolitan powers left Africans as a people with wounded psyche and mutilated personality, that invariably produced derelicts and never-do-wells in the cloak of leaders. This might partly explain why Africa can today boast of occupying the lowest ebb in the ladder of development in the world. Poorest nations in the world are all in Africa. Modern technology is also alien to the continent with almost 100 percent degree of dependence on imported goods, despite abundant natural resources buried in her soil.

The collective decision by our leaders in the 60s not to permanently free Mother Africa from the apron strings of the Western hegemony through a vibrant African Union, that is, in the spirit of Pan Africanism philosophy of Marcus Garvey: **Africa for Africans** that would have made the continent intra-dependent nation-states, that rely on one another for educational, scientific and political interaction as opposed to the present over-dependence on the West. We had for decades now existed as mere appendages and footnotes in the calculation of the West. All these are simply because we had leaders who had a poor sense of historiography. Who refused to read between the lines the works of the German philosopher, Hegel, who had asserted in his philosophy of history, that Africa does not exist in space and time as a concrete historical reality, but merely as a satellite of the European countries, especially what he called "the Germanic spirit working to realise ultimate ends of civilization". This position definitely accounted for the scramble for Africa which was signed and sealed in the Berlin Conference in 1886. It is instructive to note that Berlin, a popular city in Germany, had played a vital role in colonialism and racism in the world, the Berlin wall is still fresh in our memories. Hegelian thought from all indications was the Bible of Eurocentric modern civilisation and expansionism in Africa.

Today, we are once again faced with reality of building a union that will rekindle the kindred African spirit or personality to take us to the Promised Land. Our ancestors who are today unhappy in their graves, may once again have cause to smile as the agony of a divided and fragmented Africa will soon become a thing of the past. They may now have cause to be happy that we are beating our feet hard on the ground to the drumbeat of a united Africa, as fears of the white man and his innuendos are but past. But before we shout *uhuru!* Let's pause a little while and ask ourselves why we failed in the past? The grand old sick OAU, what happened that it could not take off? The answers to these questions are not only instructive, but sine qua non for any progress to be made in this new venture of "African Enterprise" (African Union).

Mr. Ozoemena writes in from Wuse, Abuja

Re: Impending tragedy for Kalu

By Emeka Oraetoka

After a careful reading and analysis of Uba Maximus write-up, of November 28th, in *National Interest* on the above subject matter, I am compelled to write a rejoinder on it. Ordinarily, one would have ignored his outburst as one of those pedestrian types but for poor political reading of issues on ground and unnecessary name-dropping, character assassination, records need to be placed in its right perspective.

However, Uba acknowledged that Governor Kalu's administration is the second people oriented government after that of Dr. Michael Okpara, former Premier of the Eastern region. By this fact which is the hallmark of governance it follows that should this people oriented Governor offers himself for re-election into this same office come 2003, the people of Abia State will not hesitate to oblige him. The question here is who will stop him from seeking re-election in Abia State? Considering the positive impact of his administration on the people of Abia State. When has it become an abomination in African tradition to make peace with an enemy? Will PDP as a party afford to lose Abia State just because some appointed people from Abia State at the Federal level in the party do not like Governor Kalu's gut. Why are those so-called Abuja group so afraid to offer themselves for elections in a free and democratic manner in Abia State? Was there a congress election in Abia State in the first place?

If Kalu's traducers are to be believed, they should ask the so-called Secretary General of PDP to go his ward in the state and properly resigned his membership of APP after which he will register with PDP and offer himself for election so as to test his popularity in PDP in a free and democratic atmosphere. That is how it is done in a civilized society like ours.

Uba Maximus should have known that the election of Vincent Ogbulafor as the Secretary of PDP is one disaster too many. No politician worth his salt will wait day longer in PDP because of Ogbulafor's imposition on the party. Some who are there now by the reason of their positions will soon bade PDP farewell. It should be known to Uba that the emergence of Vincent Ogbulafor as secretary of PDP is the real tragedy for Federal forces and PDP in particular. Probably Uba is not aware of the complex plot against the Ibo race just because Kalu calls for Igbo president come 2003. The game plan is to change the whole five Eastern State Chief executives with Ibo quising in Abuja and elsewhere. So it was not a surprise that delegates from Imo, Anambra, Ebony where not allowed or recognised by Ogbemudia led NCPC or do we say that the chief executives of those mentioned state have offended Obasanjo and so need to be taught some political lessons. The whole idea is to

intimidate Kalu and by extension beat the entire East into Submission.

You told us how Jim Nwobodo was routed out of power in 1983 by Federal forces, but you failed to tell us what happened after the ouster of Jim Nwobodo in the old Anambra State then. In case you are not aware, the large scale rigging and imposition of unpopular candidate in Anambra and other parts of the country by the then almighty NPN regime, lead to the military coup, just three months after 1983 election. The fact is 2003 will not be an exception if elections are rigged in any manner by PDP.

Uba, in case you are still leaving in the past, here is tip that will bring you back to reality of our time. It is on record that M K O Abiola of the blessed memory, a Yoruba by tribe won a free and fair election in 1993 and that election was cancelled by the military regime headed by a northerner, and Abiola eventually died in the hand of a northerner, the political equation in the country today is no more skewed against the south - east or the Igbos.

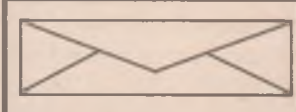
Uba you probably forgot that no transition from civilian to civilian regime has ever succeeded in this country. The failure of this experiment is because of large scale rigging and imposition of unpopular candidates by the past regimes. And if such is tried this time the same fate will befall this regime. It should be known to you that PDP can only replace Kalu in Abia State based on free and fair election no more no less. Any attempt to rig or manipulate the election in Abia State in one way or the other will simply be disastrous.

Your submission that Obasanjo is unforgiving is fallacious and only sought to portray Mr. President as wicked and inhumane. Indeed if we are to believe your words, it means that those that jailed him for plotting a phantom coup in 1995 would have been dead by now. Is Patrick Aziza and co. not as free as air in this country today? A food for thought Uba.

Make no mistake about it as 2003 zeros in, the Almighty Federal forces will surely be sacrificed to appease the Igbo race whose Kalu is its spokesman. Go and mark my word, it is simple and definitive.

The message is simple, if you are bought to do a dirty job by calling Orji Uzor Kalu names and embarking on imaginary news paper threat, it is better you look elsewhere because Orji Uzor Kalu is genuine Igbo idea which time has come.

Oraetoka writes from City Centre, P. O. Box 204 Garki Abuja.



YOUR LETTERS

Open letter to Patrick Okpomo

Greetings and here is wishing you a very merry Xmas and a most prosperous new year in advance. The New Year wish is most relevant, as you will soon realise from what I have to say to you in this letter.

As a public figure you do not need to be familiar with anyone addressing you, commenting on some of your actions or inactions or appealing to you to take a particular course of action. It is more soothing and comfortable, however, if you do have some idea of the person you are dealing with, hence my decision to recall two of our past encounters with the hope that some elements of familiarity will be introduced into the business at hand. Mr. Okpomo, cast your mind back to 1986 and you might recall that we shared some banter, biscuits and drinks in the hotel room of the then chairman of the NFA, the late Air Commodore Ikhazoboh in Mexico City. It was during that year's World Cup and you were then the secretary-general of the NFA. Eight years later, in 1994 to be precise, our paths crossed again. Once again the occasion was a football fiesta but the discussion centred on golf. Remember the African Nations' Cup in Tunisia? Yes, that was it.

Mr. Okpomo, having said this much, methinks it is pertinent at this stage to ask you this question. Why the clamour for you to stay on or better still, why were you in the first place appointed interim secretary after more than a decade away from the turf? Why did you accept? The answer to the first question is pretty obvious and stems rather sadly from the suggestion that in a

country of more than 100 million, some people may still be irreplaceable or at best hard to replace. The position may be far-fetched but the case of the NFA certainly accords it some degree of believability. This is because from the time of your exit to date, the NFA has been experimenting in football administration with dire consequences, or else how can one explain our inability to build on our 1994 World Cup and 1996 Olympic success? The point here Mr. Okpomo, is that you were

brought back to refocus the NFA and make it relevant to the needs and aspirations of millions of Nigerian soccer enthusiasts. You accepted the offer because you believed that the NFA was in a mess and needed to be saved. And you believed you could do it. But did you really believe that this could be done in three months? Maybe you did, maybe you did not. All the same the stark reality now is that you have only felt the tip of the iceberg in the administrative reorganisation and sanitisation of the NFA.

You will agree with me that the consummation of this exercise goes beyond the motion of employing a new secretary-general. Your insistence on leaving as soon as this is done is, to my mind, too hasty and therefore capable of rendering all your recent efforts nugatory. This is especially true when one considers the fact that both the Nations' Cup and World Cup competitions are around the corner. Pray, where will a new secretary general start from? Nowhere, and this is the simple truth which you must face squarely.

**Yakubu ibn Mohammed,
P. M. B. 0146, Bauchi.
Bauchi State**

The Tivs: What next?

This is the million naira question being asked by Nigerians now that the Tivs have fought all their neighbours, some of them three or four times, but failed woefully to realise their ambition of displacing them (their neighbours) in order to accommodate their rapidly growing population. And why would their population not grow rapidly? Their way of life, which is never practised by any human race on the globe, is responsible for this undesirable trend. But if the Tiv man was a person that could learn from history he would have stopped this

attitude especially towards the Jukun, whom he has challenged to battle more than four times in the past 40 years.

In this 21st century, more than 200 years since tribal wars stopped in Africa, and every tribal nationality has since been striving to achieve a lasting peaceful co-existence with its neighbours, the Tivs are still living in the medieval years as projected by one of their leaders in person of one Mr. Paul Unongo who stated in a radio programme recently that the federal government should withdraw all troops from the borders between Taraba and Benue States so that the Tivs could settle scores with the Jukun on the battlefield once and for all.

A permanent solution to this persistent Tiv crisis has to be sought. And in this writer's opinion, this solution would inevitably involve confining the Tivs to their base in Benue State since it is now clear to every Nigerian that they (Tiv) cannot live with other people elsewhere. The constitution of this country does provide for free movement of Nigerians and for one to settle in any part of the country one wishes to; but there is nowhere in the constitution that says tribes with large population should spread to other parts of the country, displace the people they find, kill them and take their land.

Lastly, I wish to advise the self-appointed prominent Tiv sons who have lured their people into this mess to, not only apologise publicly to the rest of the Tiv people, but endeavour to shoulder the responsibility of resettling their people who have gone back home, and who would now be confined to that enclave of the Tiv nation, in Benue State till Christ's second coming.
**Ashuku Angyu Rafin Kada,
P. O. Box 10, Wukari,
Taraba State.**

Re: Where is the real Adamu Ciroma

As a child growing up in 60s and 70s I have watched events in the opposite side of life. I watched some people whom I perceived as my role models - one of such people is Mallam Adamu Ciroma who hitherto is regarded as very principled, honest, and above all a person with transparent heart.

The piece by Sam Nda - Isaiah is quite revealing as it show how some people that majority regard with high esteem would stoop so low as to tarnish the good image they've built for themselves over the years just to be within the parameter of power by all means and at all cost. One cannot easily comprehend that Mallam Adamu Ciroma who I believe is idealistic and is well over 70 years could still be found amidst people who are far more junior to him. There is an adage in Hausa *wanda bai gode wa Allah ba zai ga sakaya* which literally means whoever is not grateful to God will in the end see repercussion. Imagine someone who has been an

editor of the only newspaper in the entire Northern Region, governor of Central Bank, minister in the second republic, minister in a military regime and to put it succinctly a presidential aspirant but, despite occupying these exalted positions is not contented and has to once again take the quota of Yobe State.

Mall. Adamu Ciroma should by his age now be in the comfort of his home and family like his contemporaries such as Mallam Adamu Suleiman one time Press Secretary to Sir, Ahmadu Bello and later Inspector-General of Police in the 80's Alh. Hassan Lemu, Alhaji Abubakar Kigo, Mallam Ahmadu Kurfi

who are the third generation of civil servants in the then Northern region born in the 30's but who have retired from the civil service. It is time for Mallam Adamu to see the handwriting on the wall that his profile is diminishing.

**Usman Garba Santuraki,
P. O. Box 747, Jimeta - Yola,
Adamawa State.**

A plea for Mohammed Abacha and co.

Please permit me to use your pragmatic and well informed media, to humbly call on the federal government to temper justice with mercy by pardoning and freeing Mohammed Abacha and others held in detention for almost two years now.

It is very worthy to note that, the exoneration of these fellow Nigerians in this democratic dispensation will in no small measure enhance mutual cohesiveness among the diverse geo-political and socio-cultural communities in Nigeria.

It really baffles me and I

wonder why while many political office holders in Nigeria, servicing or retired, have skeletons in their cupboards, the Abacha family or regime remains the most criticised, accused, faulted and castigated. No doubt Abacha like any leader had his shortcomings. Nevertheless, the legacies he left behind are quite glaring and will forever be remembered by Nigerians.

As human beings, we should cultivate the culture of forgiveness. It is by so doing that God, the best to judge, can forgive our shortcomings

too. Finally, may God continue to shower mercy upon all those who have died for the course of democracy. May God too keep Nigeria ever united and infuse into the hearts of our leaders the spirit of sympathy, compassion and justice to serve the general welfare of Nigerian citizens whose condition of Living is daily worsening.

**Mohammed Ibrahim Ogoshi,
Department of Public Administration,
Kongo Campus,
ABU, Zaria.**

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Foreign & Diplomatic

As Chiluba prepares to leave

Soon after President Frederick Chiluba swept to power in a landslide election win in 1991, he was heard to remark to close aides: "Power is sweet".

After 10 years in charge, the former bus conductor and trade union leader, continues to enjoy the taste of power.

So much so that earlier this year, he mounted a campaign to change the country's constitution to allow him to run for the presidency a third time.

He was forced to abandon this plan, after massive opposition from within his own ruling Movement for Multi-party Democracy and from the Zambian public.

But the move did much to damage the president's personal prestige.

Many Zambians saw it as an attempt to turn the clock back - as well as a betrayal of the democratic principles which he had preached since the beginning of his presidency.

"We don't hate you, Mr President," said one shop assistant, earlier this year, "But please just do the right thing, and leave."

When Chiluba was elected, it was amid an atmosphere of elation and euphoria.

His fledgling MMD had trounced the incumbent Kenneth Kaunda and his ruling UNIP at the polls.

It was an audacious victory, which sent shockwaves across Africa.

The charismatic Kaunda had held the reins of power since independence in 1964 -

much of it under one-party rule.

Although he had been forced by popular discontent to hold elections, when beaten at the polls, he ceded power peacefully.

His successor Frederick Chiluba was hailed as one of a new breed of democratically-elected leaders, in a continent where rulers clung on for decades.

Zambians looked forward to a bright, new future.

The new government set about unshackling the country's collapsing economy from stifling state controls. Guided by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, it embraced the free-market market with one of the most ambitious liberalisation programmes in Africa.

With its large copper reserves - some of the biggest in the world - and rich agricultural potential, foreign investors started to eye this poor Southern Africa nation with interest.

But 10 years on, that optimism has all-but evaporated. Many regard Chiluba's rule as a disappointment. The promise of the MMD revolution remains unfulfilled.

So what went wrong? For one, despite being promoted as a new-style African leader, Chiluba began to show some decidedly old-fashioned traits.

Within a year-and-a-half, he had sacked independent-minded colleagues from his cabinet, and began to

"Corruption flourished. Some of Chiluba's cronies, it seemed, were more interested with lining their own pockets, than serving their country.

Within a decade, graft seeped into Zambia's way of life.

"Kaunda's men were pickpockets," commented one Zambian journalist, "But Chiluba's lot are thieves."

The government's sell-off of the copper mines - the country's biggest asset - was botched and scandal-ridden."

surround himself by 'yes' men and women.

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Within a decade, graft seeped into Zambia's way of life.

"Kaunda's men were pickpockets," commented one Zambian journalist, "But Chiluba's lot are thieves."

The government's sell-off of the copper mines - the country's biggest asset - was botched and scandal-ridden.

A parliamentary probe earlier this year, revealed that some of the assets of

ZCCM, the mines' company, simply vanished into thin air, while other valuable properties were sold for a song.

In the meantime, the free-market economy has failed to deliver.

Despite billions of dollars of international aid since 1991, three-quarters of Zambia's population still live below the World Bank poverty threshold of \$1 a day. The much-needed foreign investment to kickstart the economy has not transpired.

A large part of the blame must rest with Chiluba himself. He has often seemed more interested in securing his own position, than improving the lot

of his people.

His attempts to hound his rival and former president, Kenneth Kaunda, out of politics in the mid-90s, tarnished his reputation badly with the international community.

In 1997, Kaunda was accused of conspiring in a failed coup plot and imprisoned.

It took protests from Africa's elder statesmen, Nelson Mandela and Julius Nyerere, to persuade Chiluba to release him.

Then there was the long-running, politically-inspired court case, which attempted to strip Zambia's independence leader of his citizenship.

Many saw the hounding of Kaunda, as spiteful and malicious, by a leader who felt jealous of the older man's popularity, both with the Zambian people and among fellow African leaders.

Chiluba, himself, cuts a curious figure in public life.

He is a 'natty' dresser, with a fondness for expensive, monogrammed clothes, and built-up shoes to improve his diminutive height.

A fervent born-again Christian, his private life has been the subject of much gossip recently. In September, he divorced his wife Vara, to whom he had been married for 33 years.

But although Chiluba may not leave office a popular leader, Zambia has changed greatly under his tenure, and a lot of it, for the good.

The public opposition to his third term bid, shows the Zambians treasure their young democracy, so much so that even in this famously, laid-back country, they are prepared to mobilise to protect it.

Moreover, the freedom of speech allowed under Chiluba, would have been unthinkable for much of Kaunda's rule.

There is a lively, free printed media, which relentlessly - and cruelly - lampoons the country's political leadership including Chiluba. Such public mockery of the presidency is unknown in many other parts of Africa.

Although the free-market has not delivered prosperity, the consensus among the country's political class - opposition and government - is that it is the only way forward.

The goal is to make Zambia's economy work better, not to return to the days of price controls, and the over-weaning state.

Finally, although Chiluba wanted to stay in power, it is to his credit that he did not use widespread, state-sponsored violence to do so.

Zambians only have to look south to neighbouring Zimbabwe, where President Mugabe is trying to bludgeon his way back to power, to see what the alternative might have been.

Chiluba - Zambia's second leader since independence - has opted to go the other route, leaving office peacefully. For this, Zambians can be thankful.

Culled from BBC

Living with fear in Gaza

The Palestinian Authority is keen to show the world the damage inflicted by recent Israeli air attacks in Gaza.

On a rare quiet day for the area, a group of nervous diplomats from Japan, Egypt, Tunisia and Qatar gathered for a tour of Palestinian military and police installations, and a residential area outside the city into which there have been Israeli ground



Sharon

incursions.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's presidential compound just on the outskirts of Gaza City was the first stop. The complex has been attacked from the sea and air on several occasions.

The presidential palace is grand and strangely untouched by the devastation all around it.

We toured one bomb site after another - the army, the police, Force 17 and the navy have been attacked.

According to the Palestinian Authority Israeli forces have caused more than \$21m damage in the last 15 months of the intifada.

At one site, a talkative Palestinian soldier who seemed to be guarding a pile of rubble struck up a

conversation.

He described what it was like coming under Israeli air attack.

"We hear the planes coming and the alarm goes up and we evacuate fast, or there would be dead and injured," the soldier said.

"The worst are the F-16 jets because they can strike at a long distance. And when the missile strikes, someone can be hurt 200 metres (220 yards) away from the point of impact. The F-16s can take you by surprise... it's very difficult to tell the direction of the missile."

As he spoke an F-16 passed high overhead, its oppressive drone seeming to tail it by some distance. All day, jets went by high above, without incident.

Pointing up, the soldier said: "Attacks can happen at any time, but we don't expect them now because the diplomats are here. I'd say we are safe, 70% secure. The diplomats have come from inside Israel so the Israelis know they are here."

Israeli forces also launch regular ground incursions into Gaza.

The most recent was

into the village of Beit Hanoun, which the Israeli army describes as a Hamas stronghold. Thirteen militants were arrested and some homes bulldozed.

The Israeli army destroyed the family home of Salah Shhada, the head of the military wing of Hamas.

Mr Shhada has been in hiding for some time, but his family had somehow been warned and had cleared the house in advance.

But when the Israeli troops arrived, they began by shelling the wrong house.

"The first shell came through the sitting room wall," said Sabah al-Akhras, a neighbour of the Shhada family.

My husband wanted to get out the back of the house, but I told him not to, that they'd kill him. There's a garage under the house so we went into there."

"There was more shelling, so I went out of the side door of the garage holding up my hands. They told us they wanted the Shhada house. I told them we are the Akhras family," Mrs Akhras said.

Mr Akhras was arrested and taken away to Israel. His wife swears that he is not a member of Hamas and that he has papers that allow him to



Arafat

work in Israel.

Neither Mrs Akhras nor any of her eight children were injured, though they have no news of Mr Akhras.

On Tuesday, the funeral was held for a Palestinian border guard killed during the Israeli incursion into Beit Hanoun.

An announcer at the funeral alternated between wishing the mourners a happy end of Ramadan fast and delivering an angry anti-Israeli diatribe.

The streets of Gaza city are quiet. Many of the shops closed, and the celebrations for the feast are muted here as they are in most of the Palestinian areas this year.

Only the children seem irreplaceable, and on a sunny winter's day there were a few family clusters grilling fish on one of Gaza's beaches.

As the sun set, the traffic in the city got heavier and a little frantic as people rushed to get home before dark fell.

Culled from BBC

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Armed men take control of Comoros island

Reports from the Comoros islands off the east coast of Africa say a group of unidentified armed men has landed on one of the islands and seized control.

Journalists contacted by telephone said that the men took over the smallest island in the chain, Moheli, disarming the local police force.

Reports suggested that at least some of the attackers were white and wore masks.

Details of casualties are not known.

The Comoros islands have been politically unstable for several years.

Moheli, together with the island of Anjouan, both declared independence from the rest of the island chain in 1997.

Bulgaria presses Libya on HIV case

Bulgarian Foreign Minister, Solomon Passy, arrived Libya yesterday to discuss the trial of six Bulgarians who have been accused of deliberately infecting nearly 400 children with the HIV virus.

Mr. Passy is expected to meet his Libyan counterpart Abdel Rahmane Chalgham ahead of a court ruling due on Saturday.

The six Bulgarians - five nurses and a doctor - could face the death penalty if found guilty of injecting the children with HIV-contaminated blood.

The medics, who deny the charges, had been working at a children's hospital in the northern city of Benghazi and have been in prison for almost three years.

A Palestinian doctor and nine Libyans have also been charged in the case, in which Libya said more than 20 children have already died.

The accused are charged with "premeditated murder with the aim of undermining Libyan security". All have pleaded not guilty.

Mr. Passy is also expected to hold a meeting with Serif al-Islam, the son of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi and chairman of the Gaddafi International Foundation for Charity Associations, who has agreed to be an observer at the trial.

The trial has provoked strong feelings in Bulgaria after two of the defendants alleged they had been tortured and made confessions under duress.

It has also raised concern among human rights groups who have complained about reports that HIV-contaminated plasma was discovered at a defendant's apartment while she was in police custody, and the refusal of the court to allow expert opinion from Switzerland and France.



From left to right: Opposition leader, Alassane Dramane Ouattara; Rose Guei, wife of Gen. Robert Guei; Simone Gbagbo, wife of Ivory Coast's President, Laurent Gbagbo; Laurent Gbagbo; Dominique Ouattara, wife of Alassane Dramane Ouattara, and Gen. Robert Guei pose for a photograph at the end of the Reconciliation Forum in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

Ivorian reconciliation meeting ends in stalemate

A political reconciliation meeting in Ivory Coast has ended without resolving the major political issue confronting the country.

This is the nationality of the opposition leader, Alassane Ouattara and the related issue of his eligibility to stand in presidential elections.

The organisers of the two-month long national reconciliation forum had recommended that President Laurent Gbagbo recognise Mr. Ouattara's Ivorian nationality.

Ouattara has been excluded from two elections

But in a speech closing the forum President Gbagbo declined to comment on the

issue, saying it was for the court to decide.

The Ivorian Supreme Court ruled that Mr. Ouattara was not eligible to stand in presidential elections last year because of questionable nationality.

His exclusion led to unrest in which at least 300 people, according to official figures, were killed.

For several years now Mr. Ouattara's contested nationality has been at the heart of all major political calculations in the country.

Gbagbo said the courts must decide. Because he is a Muslim from the north, his nationality has become a symbol of religious, national and ethnic

differences.

It is an issue which has turned Ivory Coast from being a relatively successful economic lynchpin of the West African region, into a country where political tension is the rule.

Congo releases child soldiers to UN

The government of the Democratic Republic of Congo has released a first group of child soldiers into the care of the United Nations.

The 235 youths, aged between 15 and 19, had spent three-to-five years as soldiers in the Congolese army.

Carole Baudouin, a spokeswoman for the UN children's organisation, UNICEF, said she hoped all remaining child soldiers, estimated at 6,000, would soon be demobilised.

The move comes amid reported progress in peace talks aimed at ending Congo's war.

International donors are meeting in Brussels to decide how best to respond to what is being described as one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

The first group of children handed in their guns and uniforms at a military barracks in the capital Kinshasa.

"This is the effective start of the demobilisation of all child soldiers," President Joseph Kabila said during a ceremony at the Kibomango Training Centre.

The child disarmament programme was carried out jointly with the UN and the

12 killed in Yemeni attack on al-Qaeda

Yemeni forces have attacked a village east of the capital Sanaa where suspected members of Osama Bin Laden's al-Qaeda network may be hiding.

At least 12 people were reportedly killed when Yemeni police and soldiers clashed with tribesmen in the village of al-Husoun in Marib province, about 200 kilometres from Sanaa.

Tanks and helicopters were deployed in the attack, which involved heavy exchanges of gunfire.

Residents of the village are believed to have refused to hand over a number of suspected al-Qaeda members when asked to do so by the authorities.

US and local forces in Afghanistan are at present mopping up al-Qaeda members there, after the six-week American bombardment defeated the country's Taliban rulers who had been sheltering them.

Bin Laden and many of his supporters are still at large and may have fled Afghanistan.

BBC Middle East correspondent said that, while the numbers involved in the raid in Yemen are small, it is nonetheless highly significant that an Arab government is launching its own military offensive against the al-Qaeda network.

It is unclear whether US forces were involved in the attack on the village in Yemen, but Sanaa has been co-operating with American officials in hunting down Bin Laden's militant network, which the US believes was behind the 11 September attacks in New York and Washington.

The United States suspects that Bin Laden's men were also behind the attack on the USS Cole in southern Yemen's Aden harbour in October 2000, which killed 17 American sailors.

Southern African ministers back Mugabe

Violence associated with Zimbabwe's land reform

programme is declining and the government is committed to holding free and fair elections, according to Southern African ministers.

The ministers also repeated their opposition to sanctions at the Southern African Community meeting in Angola's capital city, Luanda.

Both the United States Congress and the European Union parliament have urged their governments to impose targeted sanctions on Zimbabwe's leaders.

As the ministers were signing their statement, a farm manager was recovering in a Harare clinic after being slashed with a machete.

Duncan Cooke, 25, was attacked by a pro-government militant in northern Zimbabwe, says the Commercial Farmers' Union.

President Robert Mugabe slammed the US move as "repugnant, provocative, and indeed a gross violation of international law" in his state of the nation address to parliament on Tuesday.

He also called for presidential elections planned for next March to be free of the violence which has hit the country in the past two years.

"I wish to urge all Zimbabweans to maintain peace and calm as a norm of our society, and proceed to vote in the self-same atmosphere during the forthcoming presidential elections," he said.

Also on Tuesday, South Africa's ruling party said it will send a delegation to Harare later this week to discuss land reform and the elections.

"We will make it known what we think of what is happening in Zimbabwe and what we think is out of tune," ANC spokeswoman, Nomfanelo Kota told Reuters news agency. She would not elaborate.



Kofi Annan

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

World Report



Italian Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi (right), welcomes Afghan interim leader, Hamid Karzai at the Chigi Palace, the Italian Prime Minister's residence in Rome.

Afghan leader vows to fight terrorism

The new interim leader of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai, has vowed that his new administration will take the fight against terrorism to "its absolute end".

He said he would have Osama Bin Laden arrested and put on trial, given the chance.

Mr. Karzai was speaking in Rome, where he met the country's former King, Mohammed Zahir Shah.

The former king is seen by many Afghans as a unifying figure in the fractured country, and is expected to preside over a loya jirga, or grand council, which is to decide on Afghanistan's future.

Mr. Karzai, a distant relative of the king, said the former monarch had given him much fatherly advice in the meeting.

During his time in Rome, Mr. Karzai also had a meeting with the Italian Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi, who promised millions of dollars in aid, and assistance in setting up a television station.

Mr. Karzai is returning to Kabul by the weekend for the swearing-in of the new interim administration which he will head for six months, paving the way for a two-year transitional government.

Fire hits New York cathedral

Staff at one of the largest cathedrals in the world - St John the Divine in New York - are assessing the damage of a massive fire just a week before Christmas.

The fire broke out in the gift shop adjoining the Manhattan cathedral, but hundreds of firefighters managed to control the blaze before it spread to the main structure of the building.

Part of the roof of the three-story gift shop caved in and flames destroyed sections of the building - but no casualties were reported.

Although there was smoke and water damage, church officials have said that services should resume this week.

BBC correspondent said the fire nonetheless comes as another blow to the spirit of New Yorkers, still reeling from the 11 September terror

Rumsfeld warns NATO of new terrorist threats

United States Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, has warned that European cities could be targets of terrorist attacks similar to those which struck America on 11 September.

Speaking at a meeting of NATO defence ministers in Brussels, Mr. Rumsfeld said Europe should be braced for assaults by terrorists using everything from computer hacking to cruise missiles.

He called on his European counterparts to spend more on developing Europe's defence capabilities and to pool their resources and expertise to counter the terrorist threat.

NATO Secretary General, George Robertson, meanwhile, said the alliance planned to adjust its forces to allow for missions far beyond its own territory, Europe and North America.

The meeting was the first attended by Mr. Rumsfeld since the attacks on New York and Washington. Although it was held behind closed doors, the text of his comments was released to

the media. "We need to face the reality that the attacks of 11 September, horrific as they were, may in fact be a dim preview of what is to come if we do not prepare today to defend our people from adversaries with weapons of increasing power and range," he said.

"As we look at the devastation they unleashed in the US, contemplate the destruction they could wreak in New York, or London, or Paris, or Berlin with nuclear, chemical or biological weapons."

'Pakistan is building up military presence along border'

India's army chief said Pakistan has built up its presence along the border as tensions continued to rise between the two countries following last week's attack on the Indian parliament.

General S. Padmanabhan told the Reuters news agency that India had responded "in an appropriate manner".

India and Pakistan have traded accusations after Delhi accused Islamabad of backing those behind the parliament attack.

Pakistan Foreign Minister, Abdul Sattar said India was making "prejudiced and biased allegations" over the attack, which left 13 people dead.

Indian Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, in an address in parliament, said India was not looking to start a war with Pakistan but that there were elements in that country that were working against India.

He did not spell out what his government's response to the attack would be simply stating that it would take in "the national interest".

The government is under pressure from hardline groups to take strong action including punitive raids on alleged militant bases inside Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

However, opposition members warned the government against launching any action that could lead to war with Pakistan.

On Tuesday Mr. Vajpayee rejected a Pakistani offer to join the investigation, saying India would conduct its own probe.

The Pakistan foreign minister said on television that the Indian accusations were motivated by hostility.

The accusations were made, he said, "to defame the freedom struggle in Kashmir as a terrorist movement".

The attack was the centre of a heated debate in the Indian parliament on Tuesday with Home Minister, LK Advani saying the government was determined to stamp out terrorism.

ODD WORLD Groom-to-be swallows engagement ring

A Norwegian unwittingly swallowed a gold ring hidden in his porridge by his girlfriend as a surprise proposal of marriage.

"Now I am 24 carats heavier," Svein Froeytland told Norwegian local daily *Faerdrelandsvennen*, adding: "It is the inner qualities that count."

Janne Grim, who hid the ring in her boyfriend's porridge at a Christmas party, said she thought her proposal had been ignored before realizing that it had been gulped down unnoticed.

Froeytland went ahead with his engagement by borrowing a ring from one of the guests — while waiting for the original ring to re-appear naturally.

Court fines man for suffering fish

A fish monger was fined almost \$200 (about N26,000.00) by a court in Helsinki for allowing his fish to suffer while on sale at a local market, a Finnish newspaper is reporting.

A 27-year-old veterinarian took fisherman Magnus Ekstrom to court, complaining that his burbot at the Helsinki market hall were still moving their gills and wiggling around on the shop counter, suffering from unnecessary pain.

Ekstrom whacked his fish to prove they were dead, but when the fish continued to flop around the dissatisfied vet called in the police who arrived on the scene with wailing sirens, Kauppalehti said.

"I think I am the only fisherman in Europe...no, in the entire world, that has been convicted with a thing like this. Usually people want fish to be as fresh as possible when it's sold," Ekstrom was quoted Monday as telling the daily.

The fisherman was fined \$41 by a criminal court and forced to pay some \$152 in legal fees.

Beard land's father Xmas in terrorism trouble

Canadian police, taking advantage of sweeping new anti-terrorism legislation, arrested Santa Claus on the grounds that he had a beard, was behaving suspiciously and, in all likelihood, belonged to a underground cell. Or so demonstrators would have you believe.

The "arrest" Monday was stage-managed by local pro-democracy activists who said that the legislation — which the Senate, or upper house of Parliament, was due to start debating later Monday — will destroy many civil liberties.

The law, the brainchild of Justice Minister Anne McLellan, and passed already by the House of Commons, will ban fund-raising by terrorist groups, widen wiretapping authority and allow police to make preventive arrests of people they think would engage in terrorism.

As thick snow fell across Parliament Hill in Ottawa, a small crowd of demonstrators watched an actor dressed as a policeman handcuff a protesting Santa and take him away.

"We're sorry to say that Santa has been put on the list of terrorists and he is being arrested today because of concerns by Anne McLellan that he might be up to no good," said local activist Betty-Anne Daviss.

As Santa was hauled off to meet his fate, fellow demonstrator Ken Johnson said it was clear the suspect was part of a larger organization.

Christmas cards carry coded messages

You may think bland Christmas greetings are totally anonymous but the cards you send could give away more than you bargained for, according to new research.

A University of Leicester study showed that people are far more likely to choose to send cards designed by their own sex, even though they did not know who had made the cards.

The research also showed clear differences in the way men and women design business cards.

Professor Andrew Colman said his findings cast light on what makes up masculinity and femininity. "There's some suggestion that this is just sex roles people are brought up with, but there's an increasing belief in psychology that that doesn't tell the whole story," said Colman.

He also said the study had implications for the greeting card industry. They might be missing out because most of their designers are men, but most consumers are women — who could be put off by male designs.

Philadelphia court overturns journalist's death sentence

A federal judge in Philadelphia has thrown out the death sentence against former journalist and Black Panther, Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Judge William Yohn ruled that Abu-Jamal was entitled to a new sentencing hearing for the killing of a Philadelphia police officer in 1981, but he denied him the right to a new trial.

Mr. Yohn, citing errors in the original penalty phase of the murder trial, ruled that the

new hearing should take place within 180 days, or else Abu-Jamal would automatically be sentenced to life imprisonment instead.

Abu-Jamal is America's most famous death-row inmate - his case has been supported by many Hollywood celebrities and European figures who regard him as a political prisoner of a racist justice system.

His opponents however, see him as an unrepentant murderer.

Abu-Jamal was convicted

of killing Philadelphia police officer, Daniel Faulkner, during a shoot-out in the early hours of 9 December 1981, after the officer pulled over Abu-Jamal's brother for driving the wrong way down a one-way street.

Abu-Jamal, who was wounded in the chest, denies killing the officer and maintains that he was shot whilst running away.

With backing from his network of supporters, Abu-Jamal has launched numerous legal appeals to stall his execution.

RURAL EMPOWERMENT ACCELERATION PROGRAMME

(REAP)



Salute to Great Achievers

The Chairman, Board of Trustees and Founder of Rural Empowerment Acceleration Programme (REAP) in Adamawa State, Mrs Zainab Boni Haruna, wife

of Governor Boni Haruna, on behalf of the board, the management and the staff of REAP,

wish to congratulate two of its board members, Murum Mbula, Chief J.J. Fwah, and Dr Ladi Hamalai, on the conferment of National Honours on them by President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Chief J.J. Fwah was conferred with the Order of the Niger (OON) while Dr Ladi Hamalai was conferred with the Member of the Federal Republic (MFR).

We rejoice with you for this great achievement!



Mrs Zainab Boni Haruna



Chief J.J. Fwah (OON)
Murum Mbula



Signed
MRS ZAINAB BONI HARUNA
Chairman, Board of Trustees, **Dr Ladi Hamalai (MFR)**
and Founder of REAP

BUSINESS DAY

NCC to license second national telecom operator soon

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has announced plans to license a Second National Telecommunications Operator (SNO) in the first quarter of next year.

The Executive Vice-Chairman of the Commission, Engineer Ernest Ndukwe, who made the announcement on Tuesday in Abuja, disclosed further that NCC will also undertake the licensing of Spectrum for Fixed Wireless

By Ahmed Shekarau
Access (FWA) services early next year.

Engineer Ndukwe said while briefing media executives that while the information memorandum for the FWA will be published before the end of this month, that of the SNO will be published by January next year "and hopefully a licence issued by February 2002."

The NCC chief executive further disclosed that the

commission's board has also approved the licensing of joint venture company between NEPA and Eskom of South Africa to take advantage of the excess capacity of NEPA's optic fibre infrastructure in providing Long Distance Carrier (LDC) service to other telecom operators.

He said other Long Distance Operators (LDOs) will be licensed in due course.

According to him, the LDO and the SNO are

critical to the rapid development of telecommunications services, providing transmission capacity for GSM operators, and other value-added network service providers.

In furtherance of the rural telecom access initiative, Engineer Ndukwe stated that the pilot projects of community telephone services would commence early next year.

This, according to him, "is a strategic initiative that

will guarantee improved tele-density and universal access to our rural communities."

Speaking on other developments in the

...says GSM prices will tumble

The Executive Vice-Chairman of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Engineer Ernest Ndukwe, has reassured Nigerians that the prices of Global Services for Mobile Communications

industry, the NCC boss said the government has reduced import duty on telecoms equipment to five per cent, stressing that the commission is at the forefront of a campaign for further reduction or total removal of import duty on information and communication technology equipment to accelerate Nigeria's march towards being an information rich nation.

(GSM) will continue to fall with increased competition in the telecoms market.

Engineer Ndukwe said Tuesday in Abuja that the NCC earlier assured Nigerians at the network debut in August that there competition would drive down prices.

Citing an example of the price of Pay-As-You-Go package which has dramatically plummeted from N30,000 to N16,999 for line and handset, the NCC chief executive assured that this is a sign of what the future holds for telecoms consumers in the country.

He said Nigerians should not expect the operators to fix low prices at the debut of the network in view of the huge investments made to provide the services.

Commenting on the benefits of the mobile telecoms services currently provided in the country, Engineer Ndukwe said the GSM licensing exercise has brought a lot of good reputation for the country as Nigeria is currently being cited as the best example of how GSM licenses should be auctioned.

Besides, he said the growth of the telecommunications industry has contributed to direct job creation "in excess of 10,000 people," with other interdependent ancillary support service groups that have benefited in the exposition such as estate agents, banks and the media, among others.


Also, the NCC boss said the growth of telecoms usership and awareness in recent times has not been restricted to digital mobile and fixed times alone. "There has also been an increase in the number of cybercafes, internet services, card calling, and other value added services," he claimed.

Speaking on NCC's effort to protect telecoms consumers from excesses of some operators in the industry, Ndukwe announced that the commission has established a Consumer Affairs Bureau specifically to address complaints against "any unscrupulous practices by operators."

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PEUGEOT

BUSINESS DAY

ELECTRICITY WATCH

Power still erratic in Gusau - Consumers

As the 31st of December 2001 approaches, power supply in Gusau and other towns in Zamfara State still remains what it used to be, epileptic.



Segun Agagu, Power & Steel Minister.

Investigations by *Business Day* in Gusau, the Zamfara State capital, and some other towns that are connected to the national grid showed that residents still complain over epileptic supply of electricity, particularly in Gusau the state capital and Maradun.

As at the time of filing this report, the two towns have been in total darkness for seven days.

Some residents have blamed the District Manager of NEPA in Gusau, Mr. T. Sama, of sabotage by refusing to complain to the national headquarters of the authority over the situation.

Respondents who spoke to our reporter in Maradun, Gusau and Talata-Mafara on the December 31, deadline to end power outages in the country alleged that it was a political gimmick by both NEPA and the president himself to cover-up their inquiries with regard to ensuring hitch-free power supply in the country.

Alhaji Yahaya Mai-Mai Maradun, the Managing Director of Yahaya Petroleum, Maradun and proprietor of an Arabic School all in Maradun stated that "the power supply situation in the town was becoming unbearable, because for the past seven to ten days, hardly have we been supplied electricity for more than four hours."

Similarly, Alhaji Maiharaji Altine, a journalist with *The Path* newspaper in Zamfara State, told our correspondent that "the issue of maintaining NEPA as a

From Salisu Zakari Maradun, in Gusau

public utility is just like a course because for the past two decades, the power supply situation in the country has always been deteriorating under all the administrations we had in the past 20 years."

Also, one Malam Yunusa who owns a shop along Ahmadu Bello Way, Gusau, decried the frequent power failure, which he said led to the downfall of his business.

Malam Yunusa also explained further that around August to October 2001, he used to earn between N1,500 to N2,000, "but now with this unbearable situation of

NEPA I hardly earn more than N200 a day," he claimed.

Another respondent in Talata-Mafara town, Alhaji Na Ige Soso, a grinding machine operator expressed fears over what he described as "promises and lies."

Said he: "It is easy to make a promise, but difficult to fulfil. This is what is now between us and Mr. President. We have been hearing this for the past many months, in fact immediately he (Mr. President) came to power he promised that NEPA's problems will be solved. But until to now, there is no sign of that."

NEPA instals new transformers in Kano

In its bid to meet the December 31, 2001 Presidential deadline to improve electricity supply in the country, the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) has sent a team of engineers to install new transformers in Kano State. The engineers are also expected to reactivate old transformers.

Governor Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso of Kano State that he had already met with the team of engineers who had taken a tour of the state with a view to assessing the situation.

Governor Kwankwaso who was addressing top government officials during an end-of Ramadan breakfast held at the Government House, Kano, expressed optimism that the people of the state, especially Kano city would soon enjoy uninterrupted power supply.

Meanwhile, investigations by *Business Day* show that there are improvements in power supply since the Ramadan fasting commenced in Kano unlike before the fasting period when it was erratic.

Despite these noticeable improvements, some areas like Kurnar-Asabe, Bachirawa and Rijiyar Lemu areas have consistently witnessed unstable power supply.

Malam Nasir Bala Mohammed who lives in Bachirawa said that "improvements in electricity supply in the area was nothing to write home

From Jamilah N. Musa and Yusha'u A. Ibrahim, in Kano about.

According to him, residents of the area are still bedevilled by low current of electricity supply.

Some other respondents who spoke to our reporters are, however, full of praise for NEPA.

Malam Ado, who is a welder in Giginyu Quarters said that there was improvement in business activities in Giginyu area "because of the relatively stable power supply."

Also, Malam Abdul-Hameed Baffa Adamu, a tailor in Badarawa Quarters said his embroidery work has been enhanced with the recent uninterrupted power supply.

Malam Kabiru Sani, a banker living in Tudun Maliki, was however skeptical about NEPA's performance.



Murtala Aliyu, Power & Steel Minister of State.



NIGERIA DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION SALE OF KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

The Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation wishes to invite offers from interested members of the public for the sale of its Ultra Modern Industrial Kitchen Equipment installed at its Head Office located at Plots 447/448, Constitution Avenue, Central Business District, Abuja.

The equipment on offer are as listed hereunder:-

1	2 No. 1000kg capacity gas tanks equipment	19	2 No. Mareno deep fat fryers
2	1 No. 33m ³ Misa walk in cold room including door / floor light and refrigerator	20	2 No. Ariston electrical water
3	1 No. 36.45m ³ Misa walk in freezer including door / floor light and refrigerator equipment	21	1 No. Hobart meat Mincer
4	1 No. refrigerating unit / compressor for walk in freezer	22	1 No. Joko cutting block
5	1 No. refrigerating unit / compressor for cold room	23	1 No. Mareno hot cupboard with plain top
6	1 No. Elframo dish washing machine with ventilation hood	24	2 No. Mareno hot cupboards with bain marie
7	2 No. Mareno electrical range with ovens (4 burners each)	25	3 No. refrigerated counters with tray slides
8	1 No. Mareno eight burner gas range	26	3 No. Mareno stainless steel feeding table
9	4 No. Mareno refrigerators	27	1 No. rinsing spray unit
10	2 No. Mareno stainless steel tables with under-shelves	28	1 No. stainless steel receiving table with overshelf for basket, cups and glasses
11	3 No. Mareno pot wash sink units	29	2 No. Mareno stainless steel sink units
12	1 No. Hobart mixing machine	30	2 No. stainless steel tables with under-shelves and drawers
13	1 No. Moretti Forni baking oven	31	1 No. stainless steel wall shelf
14	2 No. Mareno boiling pans	32	3 No. stainless steel hoods with light and filter
15	1 No. Hobart Potato peeler	33	2 No. Mareno baking tables
16	1 No. Aurea vegetable mill	34	4 No. stainless steel tables
17	1 No. Sirman slicer	35	4 No. shelving units with 4 shelves
18	1 No. Mareno electrical frying table	36	6 No. Aluminum pots of varying sizes

INSPECTION:

The items will be available for inspection at NDIC Head Office building between 10.00am and 4.00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays only, from now until the close of the bidding period, on 28th January 2002.

BIDDING PROCEDURE:

- 1) Bidding forms can be obtained upon payment of a N10,000 non-refundable bid fee from the office of:

The Director of Administration
Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation,
Plots 447/448 Construction Avenue,
Central Business District,
Abuja.

- 2) Only offers on duly completed bidding forms will be considered.
- 3) All completed bid forms should be returned in a sealed envelope marked "BID FOR KITCHEN EQUIPMENT" and addressed to:

The Secretary
Major Tenders Board,
Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation,
Plots 447/448 Constitution Avenue,
Central Business District,
Abuja.

and delivered to the office of the Director of Administration before 12.00 noon on 28th January 2002. Any bid received after the closing time will not be considered.

- 4) Bids will be opened at the 4th Floor Conference Hall of the Office building by 3.00pm on the closing date (28th January 2002). All bidders are invited to attend.
- 5) A single buyer for the whole lot will be given first consideration.

Signed:
MANAGEMENT

BUSINESS DAY

Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE) Price List as at yesterday (19/12/2001)

COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE
7UP	4.85	5.09	0.24	13	25,324	127,673.16
ABOSELAB	0.72	0.72	0.00	1	4,000	2,880.00
ACCESSBANK	1.30	1.30	0.00	1	1,000	1,300.00
AFPRINT	0.80	0.79	0.01	2	9,686,418	7,55,407.29
AFRIBANK	8.72	8.72	0.00	31	283,795	2,474,110.92
AGIP	34.00	32.60	1.40	43	154,790	5,199,244.54
ALEX	2.80	2.80	0.00	3	3,291	9,214.80
ALUMACO	0.84	0.84	0.00	1	692	581.28
AMICABLE	0.50	0.52	0.02	5	2,021,700	1,051,284.00
AP	19.34	19.34	0.00	11	16,663	322,262.42
ASHAKACEM	22.06	22.50	0.44	18	57,328	1,310,208.00
BAICO	0.71	0.71	0.00	1	200	142.00
BATA	0.38	0.38	0.00	1	5,000	1,900.00
BCC	4.79	4.79	0.00	2	4,000	19,160.00
BERGER	2.72	2.71	0.01	7	6,199	16,447.40
BLACKWOOD	0.78	0.78	0.00	3	1,087	847.86
CADBURY	29.12	29.04	0.08	90	203,575	5,941,668.68
CAP	2.73	2.74	0.01	5	27,624	75,150.24
CCNN	3.07	3.07	0.00	2	2,200	6,754.00
CFAO	3.34	3.49	0.15	11	36,561	126,809.06
CHARTERED	4.35	4.35	0.00	6	25,250	109,837.50
COOPBANK	1.95	1.90	0.05	13	190,398	376,145.06
CORNERST	1.35	1.41	0.06	1	50,000	70,500.00
COSTAIN	0.73	0.70	0.03	7	100,100	71,573.00
CRUSADER	2.70	2.70	0.00	1	3,000	8,100.00
CUTIX	2.66	2.66	0.00	3	15,000	39,900.00
DELGLAS	5.00	5.00	0.00	2	3,525	17,625.00
DNMEYER	10.00	10.50	0.50	8	15,960	166,267.60
DUNLOP	3.43	3.43	0.00	15	17,950	61,667.10
EKOBANK	2.25	2.36	0.11	7	112,991	258,028.76
EKOCORP	3.41	3.41	0.00	2	1,000	3,410.00
ENAMELWA	3.52	3.52	0.00	1	750	2,640.00
ETERNAOIL	1.33	1.31	0.02	1	3,000	3,930.00
FIRSTBANK	24.00	24.00	0.00	194	1,742,968	41,842,732.48
FLOURMIL	15.20	14.99	0.21	57	280,881	4,196,446.61
FSB	8.50	8.55	0.05	40	367,753	3,189,357.62
GOLDBREW	1.01	1.00	0.01	2	25,000	25,000.00
GUARANTY	6.50	6.50	0.00	47	632,375	4,088,990.30
GUINNESS	33.99	34.00	0.01	47	644,611	21,888,101.34
HALLBANK	3.79	3.78	0.01	2	3,000	11,340.00
IGL	4.30	4.22	0.08	16	196,064	829,932.40
IMB	1.00	1.03	0.03	27	424,700	424,910.00
INCAR	1.66	1.60	0.06	1	5,000	8,000.00
INLANDBANK	1.05	0.05	0.00	5	101,000	106,060.00
JBERGER	42.90	44.00	1.10	8	11,500	493,302.00
JOHNHOLT	2.00	1.98	0.02	7	2,833	5,632.53
LASACO	1.52	1.59	0.07	2	16,076	24,343.26
LEVIBROS	27.60	27.40	0.20	69	128,773	3,534,563.40
LIONBANK	5	1.35	0.00	2	2,000	2,700.00
LONGMAN	3.32	5.32	0.00	3	5,000	26,300.00
MANNYBANK	1.25	1.30	0.05	2	10,000	12,750.00
MAY&BAKER	2.70	2.60	0.10	2	14,000	36,400.00
MOBIL	65.00	65.50	0.50	15	5,960	453,900.00
NAL	3.72	3.55	0.17	20	394,300	1,403,362.065
NB	35.02	35.01	0.01	87	384,055	13,449,586.79
NBC	26.20	26.20	0.00	46	68,009	1,784,404.35
NCR	2.00	2.00	0.00	1	66	132.00
NESTLE	65.10	64.00	1.10	22	51,433	3,291,963.05
NIG-GERMAN	3.10	3.11	0.01	1	2,515	7,821.65
NIGERINS	4.33	4.33	0.00	1	2,000	8,660.00
NOLCHEM	27.00	27.00	0.00	41	50,085	1,313,585.30
OWENABANK	2.32	2.31	0.01	9	21,703	50,170.46
PRESTIGE	2.09	2.12	0.03	6	311,400	659,826.00
PZ	10.90	10.49	0.41	57	356,100	3,758,593.20
ROYALEX	4.99	4.85	0.24	1	4,180	19,855.00
SAVANNA	1.00	1.00	0.00	7	123,280	122,748.00
SCOA	2.50	2.60	0.10	2	5,500	13,800.00
SKBEECHAM	2.00	2.00	0.00	6	21,574	43,148.00
TEXACO	62.00	62.00	0.00	13	4,343	273,609.00
TIB	2.18	2.18	0.00	2	151,000	329,180.00
TOTAL	65.00	65.00	0.00	20	16,470	1,068,928.28
TRADEBANK	1.19	1.199	0.00	4	12,116	14,418.04
UAC-PROP	4.45	4.45	0.00	34	169,970	755,611.50
UACN	3.67	3.83	0.16	50	400,209	1,469,965.04
UBA	11.00	10.96	0.04	49	533,030	5,923,103.48
UBN	24.91	24.91	0.00	38	163,194	4,065,162.54
UNIC	1.75	1.79	0.04	16	90,141	161,152.39
UNIDONDCON	16.00	15.55	0.45	17	21,100	342,70.50
UNIPETROL	51.00	52.50	1.50	43	72,092	3,778,376.94
UNTL	4.00	4.00	0.00	1	2,900	11,600.00
UPL	3.29	3.42	0.13	11	54,573	179,905.17
UTB	3.07	3.10	0.03	14	247,513	759,005.21
UTC	0.99	0.99	0.00	5	9,399	9,305.01
VITAFOAM	4.49	4.49	0.00	20	182,200	819,214.00
WAPCO	21.90	22.50	0.60	22	36,323	805,879.00
WEMABANK	3.50	3.49	0.01	38	267,023	925,374.35
TOTAL				1,570	21,930,661	154,253,586.31

Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE) Gainers/Losers as at yesterday (19/12/2001)

Gainers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
UNIPETROL	51.00	52.50	1.50
JBERGER	42.90	44.00	1.10
WAPCO	21.90	22.50	0.60
MOBIL	65.00	65.50	0.50
DNMEYER	10.00	10.50	0.50
ASHAKACEM	22.05	22.50	0.44
7UP	4.85	5.09	0.24
UACN	3.67	3.83	0.16
CFAO	3.34	3.49	0.15
UPL	3.29	3.42	0.13
EKOBANK	2.25	2.36	0.11
SCOA	2.50	2.60	0.10
LASACO	1.52	1.59	0.07
CORNERST	1.35	1.41	0.06
MANNYBANK	1.25	1.30	0.05
FSB	8.50	8.55	0.05
UNIC	1.75	1.79	0.04
IMB	1.00	1.03	0.03
PRESTIGE	2.09	2.12	0.03
UTB	3.07	3.10	0.03
AMICABLE	0.50	0.52	0.02
NIG-GERMAN	3.10	3.11	0.01
GUINNESS	33.99	34.00	0.01
CAP	2.73	2.74	0.01

Losers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
AGIP	34.00	32.60	1.40
NESTLE	65.10	64.00	1.10
UNIONDICON	16.00	15.55	0.45
PZ	10.90	10.49	0.41
ROYALEX	4.99	4.75	0.24
FLOURMIL	15.20	14.99	0.21
LEVIBROS	27.60	27.40	0.20
NAL	3.72	3.55	0.17
MAY&BAKER	2.70	2.60	0.10
IGL	4.30	4.22	0.08
CADBURY	29.12	29.04	0.08
INCAR	1.66	1.60	0.06
COOPBANK	1.95	1.90	0.05
UBA	11.00	10.96	0.04
COSTAIN	0.73	0.70	0.03
ETERNAOIL	1.33	1.31	0.02
JOHNHOLT	2.00	1.98	0.02
BERGER	2.72	2.71	0.01
NB	35.02	35.01	0.01
WEMABANK	6.50	6.49	0.01
AFPRINT	0.80	0.79	0.01
HALLBANK	3.79	3.78	0.01
OWENABANK	2.32	2.31	0.01
GOLDBREW	1.01	1.00	0.01

Summary of Transactions

	OPENING	CLOSING	% AGE CHANGE
MKT. CAP.	641,368,434,587.17	641,053,349,649.01	-0.05
INDEX	10,843.39	10,838.06	-0.05
DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE	No. OF COMPANIES
1,570	21,930,661	154,253,586.31	86

Source: NSE, Abuja Area Office

Market capitalisation closes at N641.05 billion yesterday

Trading reports collected from Abuja Area Office of the Nigerian Stock Exchange yesterday indicated that a total of 21.93 million shares valued at N154.25 million in 1,570 were traded on the floors of the exchange.

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

Price Movement:

The Nigerian Stock Exchange All-Share Index closed yesterday at 10,838.06 a decrease of 0.05 percent. The index opened at N10,843.39, while the market capitalisation closed at N641.05 billion, a decrease of 0.05 percent, it opened at N641.37 billion.

The bears led on the floor with a total of 23 companies losing and 20 companies gaining in their share prices.

Gains were recorded in the Petroleum Marketing, Construction, Building Materials, Chemical & Paints, Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Conglomerates, Printing and Publishing, Banking, Insurance and the Breweries sub sectors.

Unipetrol Plc led the price gainers, as it appreciated by 150 kobo to close the day at N52.50 per share, followed by JBerger Plc appreciated by 110 kobo to close at N44.00 per share.

Other price gainers include WAPCO (60 kobo); Mobi and DN Meyer (50 kobo apiece); Ashakacem (44 kobo); Seven-up (4 kobo); UACN (16 kobo); CFAO (15 kobo); UPL (13 kobo); Ekobank (11 kobo) and SCOA (10 kobo).

Losses were recorded in the Petroleum Marketing, Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Conglomerates, Insurance, Banking, Healthcare, Industrial/Domestic Products, Automobile & Tyre, Construction, Chemical & Paints, Breweries and the Textiles sub sectors.

Agip Plc led the price losers, dropping by 140 kobo to close at N32.60 per share, followed by Nestle Food Plc, which lost 110 kobo, to close at N64.00 per share.

Other price losers include Uniondicon (45 kobo); PZ (55 kobo); Royalex (24 kobo); Flourmill (21 kobo); Levbros (20 kobo); NAL (17 kobo); May&Baker (10 kobo); IGL and

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- 3rd draw-17th January, 2002.
- 4th draw-1st February, 2002.

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NEWS



Katagum Zone of the PDP held a reconciliation meeting recently. Picture shows Senator Mohammed Bashir Mustapha, representing Katagum Senatorial district (l), Ambassador Jibrin D. Chinade (m) who hosted the meeting, and Alhaji Kanlaha Aliyu after the meeting.

Oshiomhole urges Senate to amend Electoral Act

By Ikenne Emeka Okpani

As the Electoral Act recently assented to by the president continues to generate controversy, the president of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Comrade Adams Oshiomhole, has asked the Senate to quickly amend the Act.

The NLC president, who was speaking during the investiture of the Senate President, Chief Anyim Pius Anyim, as Grand Patron of the Society for International Development, Abuja chapter, Monday night, said it was not too late to expunge the contentious clause.

He described the process of passing the bill as similar to the signing of decrees by military governments, adding that the Nigerian people

should have been allowed to make inputs.

According to Comrade Oshiomhole, unless the act is amended, the president and members of the National Assembly will forever be remembered for enshrining one party system in the country.

"History will be harsh on the Senate and they will always be hunted by crisis of legitimacy throughout their tenure," he said.

The NLC president dismissed as a misconception the idea that Nigeria was experimenting democracy, pointing out that democracy has no alternative.

"It is risky to experiment with 120 million people," he said, adding that for democracy to succeed in

Nigeria, government should be able to build consensus among interest groups.

In his own speech at the occasion, a notable economist, Prof. Dotun Philips, charged the Federal Government to encourage productivity through an acceptable wage system.

In his reaction, the Senate President, Chief



Comrade Adams Oshiomhole

Anyim said the Electoral Act was passed by the Senate in order to protect democracy in the country.

The Society for International Development with headquarters in Rome was established in 1957. It seeks, among other things, to promote international dialogues, understanding and co-operation for social and economic development. The Abuja chapter is chaired by Prof. Jerry Gana, the Minister of Information and National Orientation.

Cleric identifies cause of religious crises

From Abdullahi Bego, in Maiduguri

The Bishop of the Anglican Diocese, Maiduguri, Rev. Emmanuel Kanamani, has blamed lack of effective communication as the cause of ethnic and religious crises in the country.

Speaking at an end-of-year press briefing, Kanamani lamented the way people living together for years could so easily descend to killing one another, saying "these crises could not have happened if dialogue is employed."

Citing the Tiv-Jukun crisis as a "bad pointer for peaceful co-existence in Nigeria," Bishop Kanamani appealed to the Federal Government to quickly take

Sacked workers protest in court

From Bamgboye Adelanwa, in Lagos

The chairman of industrial unions operating in Lagos State, Mr. Ayodele Akele and about 158 others, Tuesday, stormed the Lagos State High Court premises (Ikeja Division) protesting the undue delay in the trial of their case.

But in a swift reaction, the Head, Public Relations and Protocol, Lagos State Judiciary, Mr. Wasiu Oluseye, described the aggrieved workers' action as "unexpected and embarrassing to the state judiciary."

The aggrieved 159 ex-staff of the Lagos State government had gone to the court for redress in a suit No ID/407/2001 seeking reabsorbment.

A press statement dated December 18, 2001, a copy of which was made available to Daily Trust during the peaceful protest, and signed by Ayodele Akele, stated that they went to court with the firm belief that "we will not only get justice, but that justice will also not be delayed or frustrated."

According to him, the case has suffered nine adjournments adding that the trial judge did not show up at all on November 30, 2001, when the judge, Justice Huphonu Wusu, was to give his ruling on a preliminary objection on jurisdiction raised by the Lagos State government. "Why can't we get Justice

in Lagos State or why the delay? After all the court is the last hope of the common man," Akele said.

He added that there is cause to worry because the way the case is going is laying credence to some assertions allegedly made by some senior officials of the Lagos State government to the effect that the aggrieved workers will be frustrated with adjournments.

Reacting to Mr. Akele's press statement, Oluseye said the matter on which Mr. Akele addressed the press was pending before a law court and at a ruling stage.

According to him, "the matter was neither fixed for today nor did it appear on the cause list."

"the trial judge has adjourned the matter, just like others, for ruling and has not communicated a date for the ruling to the parties concerned," Oluseye said.

Ado Bayero condoles cholera victims

From Jamilah Nuhu Musa and Yushau Adam Ibrahim, in Kano

The Emir of Kano, Alhaji Ado Bayero, has sent his condolences to the government and people of Kano State over the recent cholera outbreak that claimed many lives.

The emir, who expressed his sympathy in his Sallah message to the people at Kofar Kwaru ground in the city, prayed for the souls of those who died during the epidemic and urged Muslims to pray against future occurrence of the disease.

Alhaji Ado Bayero further called on the state and local government councils to intensify efforts in the provision of basic amenities such as potable water in order to forestall preventable deaths.

Earlier in his speech, the Chief Imam of Kano, Alhaji Idris Kuliya Alkali, called on Muslims to imbibe the lessons of the Ramadan and continue praying for national peace.

Meanwhile, Daily Trust investigations have revealed that lull in business following the Sallah celebrations is over as commercial activities have resumed in full swing.

Muslim Umma urged to close ranks

From Salisu Zakari Maradun, in Gusau

Muslims in the country have again been urged to work for unity among themselves irrespective of sectarian differences.

The Chief Imam of the Sheikh Abubakar Mahmud Gumi Juma'at Mosque, who gave the advice at the Eid praying ground, said "if there is no unity among the Muslims, there is little that they can achieve."

According to the Sheikh,

"everything is possible if there is unity, but without unity, no single goal can be achieved."

Commenting on the progress of the Sharia legal system in the state, the Sheikh maintained that despite the initial progress "a lot has to be done."

The chief Imam explained that since the implementation of the Islamic legal code can't

be effective when the people are suffering, "I am calling on the government to ensure the provision of all social amenities to the people. People need to eat. This is a fact of life."

The Sheikh also advised the nation's leaders to shun dishonesty in their day-to-day dealings, as everyone of them will give an account of his stewardship in the hereafter before Allah.

NEWS

Kaduna pledges support to traditional institution

Governor Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi of Kaduna State, has said his government will continue to support the newly created chiefdoms and districts despite the state's lean resources.

Makarfi, who made the commitment in his Sallah message to the people of the state Tuesday, said the government placed high premium on traditional institutions in view of their enormous contribution to restoration of peace.

He said the government

From Ibrahim Dan Halilu, in Kaduna

would in this regard build befitting palaces for each of the newly coronated chiefs and district heads to enable them settle down to work.

The Governor also revealed plans to build a conference centre for the Emirs and Chiefs in the state, where they will be holding regular meetings.

Governor Makarfi, who spoke at length on the need for peaceful co-existence in the state, at the Emir of

Zazzau's palace said peace meetings would be facilitated by government for traditional rulers to meet quarterly to discuss areas of conflict, adding that the meeting will also encourage exchange of visits by the traditional rulers in order to promote understanding of one another's culture and traditions.

In a related development, a renowned Islamic scholar has called on Muslims to use their votes in the forthcoming elections to enthrone God-fearing and selfless people as their leaders.

Sheikh Yusuf Sambo Rigachukum, who made the



Gov. Ahmed Makarfi

appeal in a sermon during the Eid-Fitr prayer in Kaduna, warned elected office holders not to take Nigerian electorate for granted, pointing out that "they have now been enlightened and can distinguish between good and bad leaders."

"If you think you can get elected to a mass wealth, buy expensive cars, build mansions

and spend lavishly, let me warn you that this era is over, as Nigerians can identify a good leader Sheikh Rigachukum warned.

He called on government to shelve its plan for increasing the price of petroleum products, stressing that the increase would only worsen the harsh condition most Nigerians are

already in. Instead, the scholar argued, government should look inward for solutions to the nation's economic problems rather than relying on the West for solution. He warned of the dire consequences of increasing the prices of fuel, which he said was not in the interest of the nation and its people.

Community leader calls for religious tolerance

The Chairman, Northern Communities in the Eastern States, Alhaji Mohammed Ali Kwande, has called for religious tolerance between Christian and Muslim faithfuls in the overall interest of national peace and stability.

Alhaji Kwande who made the call in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital, pointed out that it was God who put both Christians and Muslims in Nigeria, adding that since God in His infinite mercy has brought us together, let us strive to live in peace and harmonious coexistence."

The Northern leader attributed the cordial relationship between Muslims and Christians in Rivers State to the exemplary leadership of the state Governor, Peter Odili and his team.

Alhaji Kwande, therefore,

called on religious groups in other parts of the country to borrow a leaf from the Rivers example.

The chairman further called on youths in the area to continue channelling their energies into beneficial projects instead of perpetrating acts capable of endangering public peace as obtains in other parts of the Niger Delta.

Governor Akume stresses importance of discipline

As the Benue State chapter of the Nigerian Legion commenced their Annual Three-week Armed Forces Remembrance Day: the State Governor, Mr. George Akume has stressed for discipline and purposefulness, espe-

From Mike Elaigwu, in Makurdi

cially now that Benue State is undergoing a period of trial.

Akume, who made the appeal during the launching of Armed Forces Remembrance Emblem at the Ibrahim Babangida Square, Makurdi, also called on the general public to support the families of those that sacrificed their lives for the nation's corporate unity.

The governor commenced the ex-servicemen's level of discipline inspite of unnecessary provocations arising from the ethnic cleansing of Tiv people from Nasarawa and Taraba states.

In his remarks, the state Chairman of Legion of ex-servicemen, Benue State chapter, Col. Ochogu (rtd.) called on the Federal Government to withdraw all military personnel from Benue State as the peace has now returned to the areas in dispute.



Gov. Akume

Panel to probe students rampage

Following the recent students rampage at the Government Secondary School, (G.S.S.)



Gov. Dariye Riyom, in Plateau State, a seven-member committee has been constituted to investigate the circumstances that led to the crisis.

The committee, which has a week within which to submit its report, has Mr. Z.T. Bentus, the Inspector of Statistics from Barikin Ladi zone as Chairman and the Vice Principal (Administration) of the school, Mr. Hworo John as Secretary.

Other members of the committee include the Edu-

From Buhari Bello, in Jos

cation Secretary, Riyom local government, Mrs. Hwongchung Majaki, Director of Works of the local government, Mr. Gambo Idris, the School's PTA Chairman, Mr. David Tok Sele.

The rest are Mr. Musa Chuwang Botfang, Principal G.S.S. Rahossand, Mr. Emmanuel Damboyi of the Nigerian Standard Newspaper.

The committee has as its terms of reference, to uncover the remote and immediate causes of the rampage and the motive behind the attempted murder of the principal.

It is also expected to identify the students directly or indirectly involved in the rampage and ascertain the extent of damage to property as well as to suggest ways of preventing such uprising by the students in the future.

Meanwhile, all SS3 students of the school have been directed to report to the school immediately.

Secession threat: Shut up! Igbo Forum tells - Ojukwu

By Emmanuel Ande

The Odenigbo Forum, a pan-Igbo cultural association has advised the Ikemba Nnewi, Chief Odumegwu Ojukwu, to stop making unguarded comments on sensitive issues that can throw the nation into crisis.

National President of the Forum, Chief Martin Okeke, who gave the advice yesterday in Abuja, while speaking to newsmen on the dangers posed to national stability by advocates of secession counselled the ex-Biafran leader to commit his energies to more productive projects.

His words: "Secession advocates are people who have little or no respect for the good people of this country. They are the worst enemies of democ-

racy and they hate the peace we now enjoy."

"It is carelessness to talk of secession in a democratic government that cares so much for its people. It is lack of concern for the future of the society."

The Odenigbo president said if those talking about secession have forgotten the grave damages visited on their people in the past, they should calculate the harm their recklessness would bring to the innocent masses.

Mr. Okeke said further that it is sad when elders like Ojukwu should be discussing the way forward, they are busy advocating for war.

"It is senseless for an,

elder statesman and traditional title holder like Chief Ojukwu to be engineering youths who are struggling to survive to engage in unprofitable ventures.

"It was the same Ojukwu who pushed Igbos into the 1967-70 senseless civil war that is out again to foment another trouble at the detriment of the Igbo youths."

Mr. Okeke queried that if the Igbos could not win the civil war in the 60s, what was the guarantee that they would win now that Nigeria's military is more sophisticated.

Commenting on the issue of Igbo marginalisation, the Odenigbo President said, it was a thing of the past as this government is now very fair to them.



NEPA

NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

VICE PRESIDENT TO COMMISSION ABUJA POWER STATION ON FRIDAY 21 DECEMBER

The Management of the National Electric Power Authority wishes to inform all invited guests that the earlier postponed commissioning ceremony of the 15 Megawatts Abuja Emergency Power Station will now take place on **Friday 21 December at 9:00 a.m.**

The Ceremony will be performed by *His Excellency the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria* **ATIKU ABUBAKAR.**

Venue remains the same: Geometric Company Site GARKI II (Sharp Corner) Abuja.

All Guests are expected to be seated by 8:00 a.m.

Please be punctual.

Signed Management.



NEPA

NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

ABUJA GETS MORE POWER

AS

His Excellency, Vice President

ATIKU ABUBAKAR

Commissions the 15 Megawatts Abuja Emergency Power Station

Date: Friday, 21 December 2001

Venue: Geometric Company Site,
Garki II (Sharp Corner) Abuja.

Time: 9:00 am Prompt.

The Project built by indigenous expertise of a team of Engineers from the Geometric Power and Renatech International LLC, is part of several concerted efforts by the Federal Government to uplift the lot of Nigerians through steady supply of electricity in the country.

As NEPA continues to take giant strides and remains on course to achieve Mr. President's mandate of 4000MW by December 31, 2001 history is again about to be made.

Take a look at our most recent successes:

- On Friday, 7 December, Two Units - ST4 and ST6 - at the Lagos Thermal Station, Egbin which had been out of service for over 10 years were recommissioned to the national grid with a combined total output of 440MW. Today, all six units at the Egbin Power Station are working full blast, thanks to be unparalleled commitment of Mr. President.
- On Monday, 10 December 2001 His Excellency the President Olusegun Obasanjo performed the first firing of the 2x138 MW Afam V Power Station at Afam, near Port Harcourt in Rivers State.

More power generating units from our various power stations across the country will soon come on stream again to beef up supply



Things are sure getting better.

Come witness this epoch-making event.

To God be the Glory

Merry Christmas!

Signed: Management



NEPA

...providing power for national growth

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, ALH. IBRAHIM DAWAKI OF No. 34, Umaru Muhammadu Road, Sokoto, do hereby declare the lost of my Certificate of Occupancy, Plot No.139 KATAMPE EXTENSION FCT/ABJ/SO.1417 which I discovered missing. Please if it is sold to anyone or in possession of anyone, he should bear in mind that it is a stolen property. The Person who bought or in possession should surrender it to the department of Land & Survey administration, MFCT. Failure to comply will attract legal action against the holder now or in the future, when he comes up to make claims.

SIGNED
ABUBAKAR SHAABAN



Edited by Kevin Ebele Adinnu

Bus shortage hits Abuja - Page 22

Abuja gets another emergency power plant - Page 22

Lugbe estate residents decry power outages - Page 22

Ramadan and Eid-el Ftr in FCT - Page 23

Works ministry headquarters to be demolished

In a renewed effort to rid the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) of illegal structures and correct some errors in its masterplan, the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing headquarters located in Mabushi, an Abuja suburb, has been earmarked for demolition.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Federal Capital Territory (MFCT), Dr. Babangida Aliyu, disclosed this while addressing directors of the ministry.

Aliyu said President Obasanjo had directed the ministry to demolish all illegal structures in the FCT and the Works and Housing ministry's buildings are part of the structures that would not survive the demolition exercise.

He pointed out that the buildings would be demolished because they are not in line with the masterplan of the FCT.

It would be recalled that when President Obasanjo recently visited Julius Berger Plc during his tour of the FCT, he directed the firm to demolish any structure that

By Emmanuel Ande

obstructed their construction of a ring road from Aso Radio FM junction to Garki, stressing that no compensation would be made in that regard.

The president said it would be wrong to continue with past mistakes, saying, it was time to tell those concerned that it is all over,

Refuse litter Abuja roads

Refuse bins in several parts of Wuse in the Abuja city centre are overfilled and appear to be begging for clearing.

A drive round the district by *Abuja Trust* yesterday showed that many bins in Mombassa Street in Zone 5, Gabes Street in Zone 2, Lusaka and Mbabane Streets in Zone 6, Bissau Street, and Makeni, all in zone 6, a street opposite the only primary school in Zone 2, and those just in front of the FRSC office in Zone 2, to mention a few, are overdue for collection.

The overfilled refuse bins have defaced affected parts

adding, "we'll tell them no, no, otherwise people will destroy the city."

"We will do what is good for this country. I am not going to pay for corruption," the president declared.

Despite appeals by the Permanent Secretary, Dr. Babangida Aliyu, that compensation should be considered for those who were legally allocated plots of land at wrong sites, President Obasanjo insisted that there

would be no compensation.

Abuja Trust gathered that the location of the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing in Mabushi is an abuse of the masterplan, since the place was not meant for such structures.

It was further learnt that serious plans are going on in the Ministry to get temporary places for its staff whose offices will be affected by the demolition exercise.



Engr. Abba-Gana, FCT Minister.

By Austine Odo and Hammeed M. Bello

of the district, hitherto noted for its relative cleanliness, when compared to the suburbs. This is giving many residents a cause for worry, even as they believe that the agency responsible for refuse collection in the city may have already started the Christmas holiday.

But residents who spoke to *Abuja Trust* said the trend has not just started, as they said they were used to the ugly sight of overfilled rubbish bins staring at their dining tables.

"This is part of us now," Flora, a resident of Yauonde in Zone 6, told *Abuja Trust* yesterday, "it is no longer strange, when they want to clear it, let them clear it, if they don't, we don't, we've got nothing to do."

Apart from the ugly sight, rats and birds scatter the overfilled refuse across the roads, thereby increasing the risk of obstruction of traffic as well as environmental danger.

Fourteen year-old Angela Nebua who lives in Wuse zone 4, told *Abuja Trust* that her daddy's dog last week brought home a dead hen from one of the

heaps of refuse and kept it in their kitchen, where she mistook it for part of the evening meal.

"I boiled water and peeled off the feathers thinking it was the type mummy used to bring home for dinner. When my mummy saw it she threw it away. She gave Murphy, our dog, a beating for bringing it home." Argela told *Abuja Trust* yesterday.

Elsewhere in the city, residents of the satellite town of Kubwa are complaining about the heaps of refuse, which continue to build up even as occasional efforts are made to clear them by the Bwari Area Council.

Worst hit are the NYSC Orientation Camp junction, Kubwa village market road, Biazin junction and phase three junction.

Apart from household rubbish and wastes that litter the areas, children and adults who lack toilets in their homes go to the refuse hills at night to defecate.

In Dutse Alhaji, the haphazard nature of the streets, and the absence of proper sanitary facilities, have made the settlement rough and rugged.

Used table water packs, banana and orange peels compete with pedestrians on major streets in Dutse-Alhaji.

Last week, *Abuja Trust* sighted a caterpillar and a tipper evacuating refuse on Kubwa express junction.

The mission of the evacuators could not be readily ascertained as their vehicle departed before *Abuja Trust* got to the spot.

However, it was gathered from those they left behind that the evacuation might not be unconnected with the ongoing rehabilitation of roads in Kubwa and Dutse Alhaji.



The Federal Ministry of Works and Housing headquarters in Mabushi.

PHOTO COURTESY

Abuja Trust

News

Bus shortage hits Abuja

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

Shortage of commuter buses has hit Abuja following the diversion of commercial buses by drivers to long distance journeys for people travelling for the Christmas celebrations.

In most motor parks, commuters were seen waiting endlessly to board buses to their respective destinations.

A driver who spoke to *Abuja Trust* explained that many of his colleagues had diverted their buses for long distance journeys, especially to the eastern part of the country.

"Moreover, those who have not put their vehicles for long distance journeys are in the mechanic shops trying to put them in shape for such journeys," he said. The situation, he said,

had resulted in the shortage of commuter buses in the metropolis.

According to him, the shortage will not be adverse as most residents of Abuja are travelling for the celebrations.

A passenger who spoke with *Abuja Trust* at one of the bus stops in Zone 4 complained of non-availability of buses to take people to work.

"Usually we don't spend up to five minutes to pick a bus here but since this week, one spends more than 20 minutes here," she said.

Meanwhile, the development is favouring taxicab operators, especially those who operate drop services. One of them said he makes as much as N2,500 to N3,000 daily, after buying fuel.



Commercial vehicles at the Area One junction in Garki, Abuja. All seem to be heading out of town for the festivities.

Pix. Felix Onigbinde.

Abuja gets another emergency power plant

As part of efforts to end load shedding in Abuja, NEPA signed a third emergency power plant agreement on Monday to generate additional 20 megawatts (MW) of electricity.

The new plant, to be installed by Aggreko Ltd., will be sited in the city's central area.

The first two plants, capable of generating 15MW each, were sited at Katampe and Garki.

NEPA's General Manager for distribution and marketing in the Abuja zone, Mr. Edward Ikwu, told newsmen in Abuja yesterday that the new plant would be inaugurated before the end of the year.

NEPA Managing Director, Joseph Makoju signed the agreement on behalf of the authority, while Mr. Patrick Williams, the Managing Director, signed for Aggreko.

Ikwu said the emergency power plants in Abuja became necessary to ensure stable power supply to high-rise buildings and structures such as Sheraton and Nicon Hilton hotels and the Three-Arms Zone, which regularly host the nation's guests.

The power plants are expected to complement NEPA services to the city until December 2002 when the transmission lines from Shiroro to Abuja will be ready.

"Once the Abuja-Shiroro line is ready, Abuja will be self-sufficient and all heavy consumers in the city will be

relieved," Ikwu said.

He said efforts were being made to ensure that electricity generated by the power plants was effectively distributed as new

transformers had been installed in the satellite towns of the capital city.

The general manager added that efforts would be made to ensure that power

outages ended in Abuja this month in consonance with NEPA's mandate to generate 4,000MW of electricity and end power outages by December 31.

Council chairman calls for dualisation of Zuba-Lokoja road

By Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman

The Chairman of Abaji Area Council, Hon. Hassan Sokodobo, has called the attention of the Federal Government to the urgent need of dualising the Zuba-Lokoja highway.

The chairman made the call following a motor

accident on the road on sallah day. "The Zuba-Lokoja highway is one of the busiest in the country. The road passes through the heart of Abaji town, you all know this, and residential

buildings are very close to it.

"Vehicles on the highway often engage in high speed, and most of them maintain such speed even when they get to Abaji town where children and people frequently cross the road."

"In fact the road is the major link between the FCT and the Southern part of the country. When President Olusegun Obasanjo visited Abaji Area council on the 4th of December, we seized the opportunity to tender the request for the dualisation of the road and he did promise to look into the case."

The accident, which occurred at about midday on sallah day, the chairman said, was an example of the frequent phenomenon on the road, mainly because of the heavy human traffic and the single-carriage nature of the road.

According to the Assistant Area Commander, FRSC, Abaji, Ibrahim Sarki Abubakar, "People tend to have diverted from Mokwa road to this one when going to the western or eastern parts of the country. This situation tends to increase vehicle traffic on this road, and that has been a major cause of accidents on the road," he said. Mr Ibrahim Sarki also appealed to the Federal Government to take the dualisation of the Zuba-Lokoja highway as an urgent matter.

Lugbe estate residents decry power outages

By Leke Adelere

The Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) new housing estate, Lugbe Residents Association has decry the incessant power outages being experienced in the estate due to the siting of an industry in the estate.

The protest by the residents was contained in a letter presented to the Council by the association chairman, Mr. Omotosho Afolabi, on Tuesday on behalf of the residents.

According to the letter, the association requested the council authorities to order the immediate exit of the fabricating industry from the estate because it was the genesis of the power outages and as the estate is not an industrial one.

The residents said the estate had witnessed more than three major blackouts due to the activities of the industry whose equipment always affect power supply to the estate, and in most cases, destroy the only transformer and cause

damages that could not be rectified immediately and throw the place into perpetual darkness.

A representative of the Tobeia Fabricating Industry denied that the company is a full fledged industry but a small-scale enterprise contracted by the Estate Managing Company in-charge of the estate, to fabricate windows and doorframes needed in the estate.

He pleaded that if the request of the residents is granted, it may be difficult for him to operate from outside as his services were dearly required, judging the rate of construction going on in the estate.

The Vice Chairman of AMAC, Engr. Chris Ekpunobi who stood in for the chairman ordered the Tobeia Fabricating Industry to leave the estate within 48 hours, failure of which the safety of his equipment and staff on site may not be guaranteed as the company may incur the wrath of the estate residents.

Engr. Ekpunobi used the occasion to inform the residents that the council was set to improve the standard of facilities in the estate ranging from electricity transformer, good road network, steady water supply and the security situation when allocation system improves.

He therefore, urged the residents to be vigilant, conscious of their security always and report any activity of criminals noticed in the estate to the police.



Engr. Makoju, NEPA MD

Abuja Trust

People

Ramadan and Eid-el Fitr in FCT

Although the Ramadan fast and Eid-el fitr celebrations have come and gone, reminiscences of their positive moral teachings are still fresh in the minds of muslim faithfuls. **Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman of Abuja Trust** takes a look at the pedagogic significance of the festivals in this piece. *Read on.*

Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic year, has just been completed. It was a holy month for Muslims across the world.

It was a month that brings unique moral and spiritual succour. In Ramadan, true believers engage in *Al-Sawm* (fasting).

Following the completion of the fasting last Saturday, marking

the end of *Al-Sawm* for the year, Muslims from all walks of life converged at various locations across the world to say the Eid-prayers and observe *Sadqatu-l-Fitr* (charity of fast breaking).

In Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory, the festivity of the completion of the month of Ramadan was a great delight. From the low to the high places, people exchange social visits.

Humanitarian services were intensified, with children, specifically made to feel intensively the joy of parental care, and indeed the care of friends and well-wishers.

For the children, as far as last Saturday was concerned, there was no difference between boy and girl; between man and woman; between black and white; between you and me; between my parents and your parents. Deep sense of trust and oneness took precedence.

Writing on the fasting during the month of Ramadan, Hamuda Abulati has this to say: "When Islam introduced this matchless institution, it planted an ever growing tree of infinite virtue and invaluable products."

He elaborated on the spiritual meaning of fasting: "It teaches man the principle of sincere love because fasting is done out of deep love for God, and only those who loves God knows really what love is.

"It equips man with a creative sense of hope and an optimistic outlook on life, because the man who fasts is hoping to please God. It imbues man with a genuine virtue of effective devotion, honest dedication and closeness to God, because when a man fasts, he does so for God

unselfishness, because when he fasts, he feels the pains of deprivation but endures patiently. Truly, this deprivations may be temporary, yet there is no doubt that the experience makes him realise the severe effects of such pains on others who may be poor.

It is an effective lesson in applied moderation and will power. The person who observes his fasting properly is certainly the man who can discipline his passionate desires and place himself above physical temptations. Such is the man of personality and character, will power and determination.

It provides man with a transparent soul to transcend. A clear mind to think and a light body to move and act.

Fasting equally sows man a new way of wise savings and sound budgeting. Because normally when he eats less quantity, he spends less money and effort. It enables man to master the art of mature adaptability. We can easily understand the point once we realise that fasting makes man changes the entire course of his daily life. When he makes such changes, he naturally adapts himself to a new system and moves along with it. In the long run, this develops in him, a wise sense of adaptability and self-created power to overcome the unpredictable hardships of life.

Fasting grounds in man discipline and healthy survival. When a person observes the regular course of fasting in

fasts, he feels that he is joining the whole society in observing the same duty in the same manner, at the same time, for the same motives and to the same end.

Fasting is a God's prescription for self-reassurance and self-control for maintenance of human dignity and freedom for victory and peace, Hamud concluded.

All these benefits require only abstaining "completely" from food, drinks, sexual intercourse and smoking at specific intervals during the month of Ramadan. Utmost humility, patience and sincerity with extra-ordinary caution in the use of the senses, the mind, the tongue is also required.

Above all, the piety that becomes of the one who observes the rules abounds again to one who, in the best of his knowingness, observes the rules.

Now, the month of Ramadan is over, the question that follows is should such things as love for one another, humility, patience and cautious use of our sense and the moral uprightness which fasting seeks to implant in us be forsaken when the ninth month is completed?

Mallam Yaro Dangujig says no. "The virtues that fasting and indeed the holy month of Ramadan seek to imbue in man are meant to stay. Even when the Ramadan month is over, fasting may not be over. It can take place again and again for



The Chief Imam of Abaji at id-el-fitr prayer.



A congregation of muslims in Abaji during the Eid-el-fitr prayers.



Mallam Yaro Dangujig.

Pix: Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman.

The virtues that fasting and indeed the holy month of Ramadan seek to imbue in man are meant to stay. Even when the Ramadan month is over, fasting may not be over.

and for His sake alone.

"There is no mundane authority to check man's behaviour or compel him to observe the fasting. He keeps it to please God and satisfy his own conscience." Fasting as a result of this, Hamuda said, cultivates in man a vigilant and sound conscience.

Fasting enforces in man a sense of patience and

consecutive days of the holy month and in the holy months of the consecutive years, he is certainly applying himself to a high form of discipline and a superb sense of order.

It originates in man the real spirit of social belonging, of unity and brotherhood, of equality before God and before the law. This spirit is the natural product of the Fact that when a person

the same spiritual and moral benefits. Fasting is, as a matter of fact, a key to the impossible.

Lessons are learnt adaptations are made, piety is built, and when the Ramadan is over, merriment follows but behold, every muslim should strive to fortify the piety he/she had sought to build on completion of the Ramadan month.

Abuja Trust

News you can use

Useful address in Abuja

Embassies and High Commissions

S/N	Embassy/High Commission	Addresses	Telephone number
1.	Australian High Commission	3A Bobo street, off Gnaa Str. Maitama Abuja	4139910, 4139911
2.	British High Commission	Plot 364, Shehu Shagari Way, Maitama	413-2010/1
3.	High Commission of Canada	3A Bobo Street off Gana Str. Maitama	4139910
4.	High Commission of the Gambia	Plot 25 Ontario Crescent off Mississipi, Maitama	4138545-46
5.	Ghana High Embassy	Plot 301 Olusegun Obasanjo Way Area 10 Garki P.O.Box 2025 2345184	
6.	Jamaica High Commission	Plot 1317 A/B Zone off Udo Udoma Crescent Asokoro	3148016
7.	Pakistani High Commission	Off Yakubu Gowon Crescent, Asokoro	3141650
8.	High Commission of Uganda	Off Gana Street, Maitama	4134828
9.	High Commission of Zambia	Plot 30, Lobito Crescent Wuse II	4131256-8
10.	High Commission of Zimbabwe	Plot 2908 Enphrates Str. Off. Aminu Kano Crescent Wuse II	4137996, 413-7554
11.	South Africa High Commission	Plot 676, Vaal Str. Off Rhine Str. Off IBB Way - Maitama	523-3862:3246
12.	Embassy of Belgium	Plot 67, Mississippi Str. Maitama	4137930
13.	Embassy of Benin Republic	Plot 2858 A Danube Street Off IBB Way, Maitama PMB 5057, Wuse	
14.	Embassy of the Republic of Chad	10, Mississippi Street Plot 152 Maitama	413-0751
15.	Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China	Plot 343, Bamako Street, Wuse	523-6105/6/7
16.	Emb. of the Democratic Republic of Congo	Plot 940 Azores Street, Off Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse II	4131107
17.	Embassy of Cuba	Plot 1154, Danube Street, Off IBB Way Maitama	41232149
18.	Embassy of the Arab Rep. of Egypt	Plot 1256 Off Amazon St Maitama	5232602
19.	Embassy of France	32 Udi Str. Off Aso Drive, Maitama	5235506, 5235501

International Agencies

World Bank

Asokoro District
Abuja

Economic Community of West African States

ECOWAS Secretariat, Plot 6 Yakubu Gowon Crescent
Asokoro District, Abuja.
09-2343005

Uganda High Commission

Plot 347, Bamako Street,
Zone I, Wuse District, Abuja.
Tel: 09-523424-5

United Nations Abuja Office,

Aguiyi Ironsi Street,
Off Shehu Shagari Way,
Maitama District,
Abuja.

Association of Foreign Diplomats in Abuja

13 Kainji Crescent, Maitama, Abuja.
09-5235557, 5230960,

Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)

17 Ontario Crescent, Off Mississipi Street Maitama - Abuja

Banks and other financial institutions

Access Bank Limited

MedifeHouse, Plot 2135
Herbert Marcaulay Way
Zone 6, Wuse District
P.M.B 502 Abuja. Tel 09-523,
"89-91

African International Bank Limited

3 Ogbomoso Street
Area 8, Garki P.M.B. 148
Abuja Tel 09.2342940-1

Afribank Nigeria Plc.

(Garki Branch Office &
Zonal Headquarters)
Kaura Namoda Street
Area 3; Garki
PMB 75, Abuja
Tel 09-2343896

Allstates Trust Bank Limited

Plot 230, Suez Crescent
Off Herbert Marcaulay Way
Cadestral Zone A2
Zone 4, Wuse - Abuja

(ii) Afribank Plc (Cash Point)

Nicon Noga Hilton Hotel
Maitama Abuja
Tel 09-523181

Nigerian Assurance Bank

Plot 2104, Festival Road
Gidan Isa Area 10, Garki
PMB 62, Abuja
Tel 09-2341900

Co-operative Development Bank Limited

6, Ogbomoso Street, Area 8
Garki - Abuja
Tel 09-2346130

Bank of the North Plc

Kaura Namoda Street Area 3
Garki
P.O.Box 7001
Tel 09-2341906

Broad Bank

Plot 2104, Festival Road
Gidan Isa by UTC Junction
Area 10, PMB 3561 Garki
Abuja
Tel: 09 - 2344312,
2344300, 2344313

Centre Point Merchant Bank Limited

Plot 2087 Herbert Marcaulay
Way
Zone 5, Wuse - Abuja
Tel 5238758

Eko Int'l Bank

Plot 618 Ihjala Close
Area 8, Garki - Abuja
09-234712

Chartered Bank Limited

Plot 596 Ringim Close
Area 7, Garki PMB 337
Abuja Tel: 2346232-5

Citibank Nigeria

2, Yola Street, Area 7,
Garki - Ab!ia
Tel: 09-2343225-6

Establishments

Supreme Court of Nigeria Central Area District Three Arms Zone Abuja.	National Automotive Council 4 Okeke Street, Area 2 Section 2 Garki. P.M.B. 320. Abuja Tel: 09-2340994
National Directorate of Employment (NDE) Plot 1529 Everist House Nouakchott Street Zone I Wuse District P.M.B. 104 Abuja.	Children and Women Hospital Central Area District by Airport Road, Abuja
Pharmaceutical Research Institute - Idu. P.M.B. 21 Abuja. Tel: 090-803219	Strategic Grains Reserve Blk. I Manzini Street Zone 4 Wuse - Abuja Tel: 09-5231217
Federal Urban Mass Transit Agency Plot 152 Tunis Street Off Bissau Road Zone 6. Wuse - Abuja. Tel: 09-5233286	National Library of Nigeria (Headquarters) Festival Road, Area 10, Garki P.M.B. 1- Abuja Tel: 09-2346773-4 User & Reference Library Festival Road. Area 2 Section I. Garki - Abuja
Industrial Training Fund (ITF) Abuja	Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) Head Office Area II - Garki P.M.B. 198 Abuja Tel: 09-2342917-8
Nigeria Communication Commission Plot 19 Aguata Close Garki II - Abuja. Tel: 09-2344589, 2344592	Petroleum (Special) Trust Fund (PTF) Plot 802, Airport Road Central District Area P.M.B. 5007, Abuja.
News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) Benue Crescent, Area I Section 1, Garki P. MoB. 7006, Abuja Tel: 09-2341189, 2344901	Nigerian Shippers Council Shelter Plaza Opposite Ibro Hotel Zone 5, Wuse Abuja. Tel: 09- 5230653, 5239026
Voice of Nigeria (VON) Area 3 Garki - Abuja Tel: 09-2343196, 2344016	Pipelines and Products Marketing Company Limited (A Subsidiary of NNPC) Eket Close, Area 8 - Garki P.M. 459, Abuja.
National Productivity Centre Plot 1498. Abidjan Street Wuse Zone 3, Abuja.	National Youth Service Corps (National Directorate) J.S. T arka Street, Off Festival Road, Area 3 Garki, P.M.B. 138, Abuja Tel: 09-2341465, 2341438
Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) (National Secretariat) Suleja Road. Bwari, P.M.B. 189, Abuja Tel: 09-5232747	Securities Exchange Commission Plot 2001, Tafawa Balewa Way, Area 7, Garki - Abuja Tel: 09.2346272-3
Aluminiwn Smelter Company of Nig. Ltd. Plot 1265. Amazon Street Maitama District, Abuja Tel: 09-5237265-6	Nigeria Education Bank P.M.B. II Garki Abuja Tel: 09-5231059.5231704
National Sugar Development Council Area II - Garki P.M.B. 299, Abuja.	National Agency for Drug & Food Administration Council (NAFDAC) Plot 1057. Ikeja Crescent Area 2 Section 1, Garki P.M.B. 5023 Abuja Tel: 09-2346380, 2346405, 2346406.
Nigeria Airways (Head Office) Ogbomoso Str. Area 8, Garki, P.M.B. 6 - Abuja. Tel: 09-2346218 Main Office: UTC Complex Festival Road Area 10, Garki, Abuja.	National Maritime Authority (NMA) Maritime House, Plot 1970 Michael Okpara Street, Off Herbet Marculay Way, Wuse - Abuja Tel: 09-5237016-8
	Nigerian Mobile Telecommunications Limited 3 M-Tel Street, Off Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse II Abuja. Tel: 090-409065

Just arrived Abuja? Are you bothered about where to relax and organise yourself? Below are some of the hotels, suites and guest houses in the city, depending on the depth of your pocket:

Where to stay in Abuja

Rate/Standard Room	Hotel/Guest House	Address
N1,000 - N3,000 per night	1. Duhu Guest Inn. Ltd.	Plot 21/29, Ladi Kwali Way, Zone 4, Wuse
	2. Amanda Guest Inn.	Ibrahim Sani Abacha Estate, Wuse Zone 4,
	3. Elyte Guest Inn	Zunguru Close, Off Jos Street, Area 3, Garki
	4. NUJ Motel	NUJ National Secretariat, Area II, Garki
	5. A. Avison Hotel	Plot 456, Kontagora Close, Area 3, Garki
N3,000 - N5,000 per night	1. Amana Suites	Off Michael Okpara Street Zone 5, Wuse
	2. Arewa Suites	Central Business District, Tel: 52338925-3
	3. Dayspring Hotel	Juba Street, Zone 6, Tel: 09-52338714-5 Area
	4. Savannah Suite	3, Garki, Abuja. Tel: 09-2340090
N5,000 and above	1. Sheraton Hotel & Towers	Maitama, Abuja FCT., Tel: 09-52302325
	2. Agura Hotel	Area 10, Garki. Tel: 09-2341758
	3. Bolingo Hotel & Towers	Area 10, Garki. Tel: 09-2344701-00
	4. Chelsea Hotel	Central Area, Abuja FCT.
	5. Nicon Hilton	Maitama, Abuja. Tel: 09-4130801

For the record

Electoral Law 2001 (VII)

(4) In this section: "offensive weapon or missile" includes any cannon, gun, rifle, carbine, revolver, pistol or any other fire arm, bow and arrow, spear, cutlass, knife, dagger, axe, cudgel, or any other thing capable of being used as an offensive weapon or missile, including teargas, acid, and any inflammable substance capable of injuring a person.

CLAUSE 99 (1) No political campaign or slogan shall be tainted with abusive language directly or indirectly likely to injure religious, ethnic, tribal or sectional feelings.

(2) Abusive, intemperate, slanderous or base language or insinuations or innuendoes designed or likely to provoke violent reaction or emotions shall not be employed or used in political campaigns.

(3) Places designed for religious worship, palaces of traditional rulers, army formations or barracks, police station, public offices and educational institutions shall not be used-

(a) For political campaigns, rallies and processions; or

(b) To promote, propagate or attack political parties, candidates or their programmes or ideologies.

(4) Masquerades shall not be employed or used by any political party, candidate or person during political campaigns or for any other political purpose.

(5) No political party or member of a political party shall retain, organise, train or equip any person or group of persons for the purpose of enabling them to be employed for the use or display of physical force or coercion in promoting any political objective or interests, or in such manner as to arouse reasonable apprehension that they are organised, trained or equipped for that purpose.

(6) No political party, person or candidate shall keep or use private security organisation, vanguard or any other group or individual by whatever name called for the purpose of providing security, assisting or aiding the political party or candidate in whatever manner during campaigns, rallies, processions or elections.

(7) Notwithstanding the provision of subsection (6) of this Section a candidate at an election may keep or use a private security or individual for his protection during campaigns, rallies or processions.

(8) A political party or person who contravenes any provision of this section is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction-

(a) In the case of an individual, to a fine of N50,000 or imprisonment for a term of 6 months and

(b) In the case of a political party, to a fine of N50,000 in the first instance, and N100,000 for any subsequent offence, payable jointly by the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Political Party at the National, State, Local Government Area, Area Council or Ward level, as the case may be.

CLAUSE 100: (1) No candidate, person or group of persons shall directly or indirectly offer or aid in offering inducement in any form whatsoever to a person at

a political campaign for the purpose of corruptly influencing that person or any other person to support or refrain from supporting a political party or candidate.

(2) No candidate, person or group of persons shall directly or indirectly give or offer to give any money or valuable consideration to any person during a political campaign in order to induce that person or any other person to support or refrain from supporting a political party or candidate.

(3) No candidate, person or group of persons shall directly or indirectly threaten any person with the use of force or violence during any political campaign in order to compel that person or any other person to support or refrain from supporting a political party or candidate.

(4) No person or group of persons shall accept inducement, money or valuable consideration from any person, candidate or political party in order to compel that person or any other person to support or refrain from supporting a political party or candidate.

(5) Any person who or political party which contravenes the provisions of this section is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction-

(a) In the case of an individual, to a fine of N100,000 or imprisonment for a term of one year, and

(b) In the case of a political party, to a fine of N250,000 in the first instance, and N500,000 for any subsequent offence, payable jointly by the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the political party at the National, State Local Government Area, Area Council or Ward level, as the case may be.

CLAUSE 101: No candidate, person or group of persons shall directly or indirectly threaten any person with the use of force or violence during any political campaign in order to compel that person or any other person to support or refrain from supporting a Political Party or candidate.

CLAUSE 102: Where a Political Party ceases to exist in accordance with any provisions of this Act, a person elected on the platform of the Political Party in an election under this Act shall remain validly elected, complete his tenure, and for purposes of identification, be regarded as a member of the Political Party under which he was elected, but such a person cannot stand for re-election in the name of that political party.

CLAUSE 104: Any Political Party registered by the Commission in accordance with the provisions of any law in force immediately before the coming into force of the 1999 Constitution shall be deemed to have been duly registered under this Act.

CLAUSE 105: (1) A registered Political Party which through any person acting on its behalf-

(a) During the twenty four hours before polling day advertises on the facilities of any broadcasting undertaking; or

(b) Procures for publication or acquiesces in the publication, during the period described in paragraph (a) of this subsection

of an advertisement in a Newspaper, for the purpose of promoting or opposing a particular Political Party or the election of a particular candidate;

CLAUSE 106: A candidate who directly or through any person acting in his behalf-

(a) During twenty four hours immediately preceding during the period described in paragraph (a) of an advertisement in a newspaper for the purpose of promoting or opposing a particular registered party or the election of a particular candidate; is guilty of an offence against this Act and on conviction shall be liable to a fine of N50,000 or to imprisonment for six months.

CLAUSE 107: A person other than a Political Party or a candidate who procures any material for publication for the purposes of promoting or opposing a particular Political Party or the election of a particular candidate over the radio, television, newspaper, magazine, handbills or any print or electronic media whatsoever called during twenty hours immediately preceding or on polling day is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine of N50,000 or imprisonment for six (6) months or to both.

CLAUSE 108: (1) A person, print or electronic medium who broadcasts, publishes, advertises or circulates any material for the purpose of promoting or opposing a particular Political Party or the election of a particular candidate over the radio, television, newspaper, magazine, handbills, or any print or electronic media whatsoever called during twenty four hours immediately preceding or on polling day is guilty of an offence under this Act.

(2) Where an offence under subsection (1) of this section is committed by a body corporate every principal officer of that body is equally guilty of an offence under this Act.

(3) Where any person is convicted of an offence under this section he shall be liable:

(a) In the case of a body corporate to a fine of N500,000 and

(b) In the case of an individual to a fine of N100,000 or to imprisonment for 12 months.

CLAUSE 109: Any candidate, person or association who engages in campaigning or broadcasting based on religious, tribal, or sectional bias for the purpose of promoting or opposing a particular Political Party or the election of a particular candidate, is guilty of an offence against this Act and on conviction shall be liable to a fine of N100,000 or imprisonment for twelve months or to both.

PART IV
PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CLAUSE 110: (1) The conduct of elections into the offices of Chairman, Vice Chairman and a member of a Local Government Council

and the recall of a member of a Local government shall be under the direction and supervision of the State Independent electoral Commission (hereafter called the "State Commission") in accordance with the provisions of this Act using the Register of Voters compiled and the polling units established by the Independent National Electoral Commission and any other enactment or law, regulations, guidelines, rules or manuals issued or made by the State Commission not being inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.

Provided that where election to any of these offices had been held before the coming into force of this Act for a period of less than the four years prescribed under this Act, an election shall not be conducted into that office for the remaining period before the General Elections, and the holders of such offices shall continue in office until the next General Elections.

(2) The powers exercised by the State Commission in respect of elections to the Local Government Councils in a State under this Act shall, in respect of the Area Councils in the Federal Capital Territory, be exercised by the Commission.

CLAUSE 111: (1) There shall be elected for each Local Government in the Federation a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman.

(2) There shall be elected from every ward in a Local Government a Councillor

CLAUSE 112: (1) Subject to the provision of this section, the Commission shall divide each Local Government Area into such number of wards not being less than 10 and not more than 20 as the circumstance of each Local Government Area may require.

(2) The boundaries of each ward shall be such that the number of inhabitants of the ward is as nearly equal to the population quota of the ward as is reasonably practicable.

(3) The Commission shall review the division of every Local Government into wards at intervals of not less than 10 years and may alter such wards in accordance with provisions of subsection (1) of this Section to such extent as it may consider desirable in the light of the review.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (3) of this section, the Commission may, at any time, carry out such a review and alter the wards in accordance with the provisions of this section to such extent as it considers necessary in consequence of any amendment to Section 3 of the Constitution or any provision replacing that provision or by reason of the holding of a National Population Census or pursuant to an Act of the National Assembly.

CLAUSE 113: A person shall be qualified for election under this part of this Act if-

(a) he is a citizen of Nigeria;

(b) he is registered as a voter;

(c) he has attained the age of 25 years;

(d) he is educated up to at

least the School Certificate level or its equivalent;

(e) he is a member of a Political Party and is sponsored by that Party; and

(f) he has produced evidence of tax payment as and when due or tax exemption for a period of three years immediately preceding the year of election.

CLAUSE 114: (1) A person shall not be qualified to contest a Local Government election under this Act if-

(a) subject to the provisions of section 28 of the Constitution, he has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of a country other than Nigeria or, except in such cases as may be prescribed by the National Assembly, has made a declaration of allegiance to such a country;

(b) under any law in force in any part of Nigeria, he is adjudged to be a lunatic or otherwise declared to be of unsound mind;

(c) he is under a sentence of death imposed on him by any competent court of law or tribunal in Nigeria or a sentence of imprisonment or fine for an offence involving dishonesty or fraud (by whatever name called) money laundering, drug related offence, or any other offence imposed on him by such a court or tribunal substituted by a competent authority for any other sentence imposed on him by such a court or tribunal;

(d) within a period of less than ten years before the date of an election to the Local Government, he has been convicted and sentenced for an offence involving dishonesty or he has been found guilty of a contravention of the Code of Conduct;

(e) he is an undischarged bankrupt, having been adjudged or otherwise declared bankrupt under any law in force in any part of Nigeria;

(f) he is a person employed in the public service of the Federation or of any State or Local Government (other than a person holding elective office) and he has not resigned, withdrawn or retired from such employment 30 days before the date of election;

(g) he is a member of any secret society;

(h) he has been indicted for embezzlement or fraud by a Judicial Commission of Inquiry or an Administrative Panel of Inquiry or a Tribunal set up under the Tribunals of Inquiry Act, a Tribunal of Inquiry Law or any other Law by the Federal or State Government which indictment has been accepted by the Federal or State Government, as the case may be;

(i) he has within the preceding period of 10 years presented a forged certificate to the State Independent Electoral Commission; or

(j) he has been dismissed from the public service of the Federation or a State;

(k) he has been elected to such office at any two previous elections.

(2) Where in respect of any person who has been-

(a) adjudged to be a lunatic;

(b) declared to be of unsound mind;

(c) sentenced to death or

imprisonment; or

(d) adjudged or declared bankrupt,

Any appeal against the decision is pending in any court of law in accordance with any law in force in Nigeria, subsection (1) of this section shall not apply during a period beginning from the date when such appeal is lodged and ending on the date when the appeal is finally determined or as the case may be, the appeal lapses or is abandoned, whichever is earlier.

(3) For the purpose of subsection (2) of this section, an "appeal" includes any application for an injunction or an order of certiorari, mandamus, prohibition, or habeas corpus, or any appeal from any such application.

CLAUSE 115: (1) Election to all Local Government shall be held on the same date and day throughout the Federation.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section or of any other law, guideline, notice, circulars or regulations as from the commencement of this Act, General Elections to Local Government shall be held not earlier than 29th March 2003/

(3) By-elections to fill vacancies that occur in Local Government of a State shall be held within 30 days from the date of the vacancy occurred.

(4) The date mentioned in subsection (1) of this section shall not be earlier than sixty days before and not later than 30 days before the expiration of the term of office of the last holder of that office.

(5) Where a vacancy occurs less than 3 months before the day on which the Local Government stands dissolved there shall be no by-election to fill the vacancy.

(6) Where a vacancy occurs more than three months before the day the Local Government stands dissolved there shall be a by-election to fill the vacancy not later than 30 days from the date the vacancy occurred.

(7) Voting shall be open-secret ballot.

CLAUSE 116: The procedure for filing nominations and the casting and counting of votes for Local Government Council elections shall be the same as is applicable to other elections under this Act.

CLAUSE 117: (1) If after the expiration of time for the delivery of Nomination Papers and the withdrawal of candidates for election of Councillors under this Act only one candidate remains duly nominated, that candidate shall be declared returned unopposed.

(2) If after the expiration of time for the delivery of Nomination Papers and the withdrawal of candidates for election of Councillors under this section more than one candidate duly nominated, a poll shall be taken in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(3) Where in an election to the office of Chairman-

(a) at the close of nomination one of the candidates has been nominated, the State Independent Electoral Commission shall extend the time for nomination by 7 days;

(b) at the close of nomination one of the candidates has been nominated, the State Independent Electoral Commission shall extend the time for nomination by 7 days;

(c) at the close of nomination one of the candidates has been nominated, the State Independent Electoral Commission shall extend the time for nomination by 7 days;

(to be continued)

Arts & Entertainment

Africa has a dynamic identity -Dr. Frances Harding

Dr. Frances Harding who lived in Nigeria for over two decades, lectures at the Africa dept of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Recently, she was at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, to attend the 15th convention of the society of Nigerian Theatre Artists, where, in an interview conducted by Tadaferua Ujorha, she comments on the nature of work at the Africa department, her interest in drama, the concept of identity, and more. Excerpts:

What goes on at the Africa Department of the School of Oriental and African Studies?

I am a lecturer in African Drama in the dept of African Languages and cultures, school of Oriental and African Studies which is part of London University. We teach six African languages, including two Nigerian languages which are Hausa and Yoruba. We teach African philosophy, African religion, we also teach African literatures in English and African

literatures in African languages, and African oral literatures. I teach the performance Arts of Africa. In that I look at many different ceremonies, and occasions for performance. I also look at the media. I look at the professional fictional film, and the television, radio, and the new video market.

Comment on your orientation

Originally, I am from Scotland, that is Edinburgh in Scotland. I initially went to Drama School, and shortly after that I came to Nigeria with my husband for the first time. I worked at a college in Lafia, which then was called Saint. Augustine's college, Lafia. I was the Drama teacher there. Since that time I just stayed with African drama. I first came to Nigeria in 1963, as I said, earlier, together with my husband. As a young teacher, I was expecting my first baby, and he was born in Akwanga, and then I had two more children who were also born in Akwanga. Then I went home for a few years. When the children were older, I was able to start coming to Nigeria, and I wrote my doctoral thesis on

the Kwagh-Hir performance of the Tiv of Benue State.

The convention has been exploring the concept of identity, what is your perspective on this.

The concept of identity is very important in this global community, that we all live in. As we move around and we are asked who we are, and where we are from, this concept asserts itself. The question of African identity to me, is the question of African identities, and certainly the question of Nigerian identity depends very much on whether one is asking it with reference to geographic space or ethno-linguistic reference, or to your stage in life. Because there is ones identity as a young person, and another as an elder. There are other identities, which we can call upon. We can call upon our professional identity, or we can call upon our religious identity. So I think we have multiple identities.

Is African studies a feasible concept in the New World Order?

Yes, the study of Africa, and the study of the world by African people, forms an essential part of the global perspective. It has to extend into every aspect and experience of African life,



Dr. Frances Harding during the interview



Traditional dancers at Afolahan square, Jalingo, during President Olusegun Obasanjo's two day official visit to Taraba state.

What is the staff strength of the Africa dept.

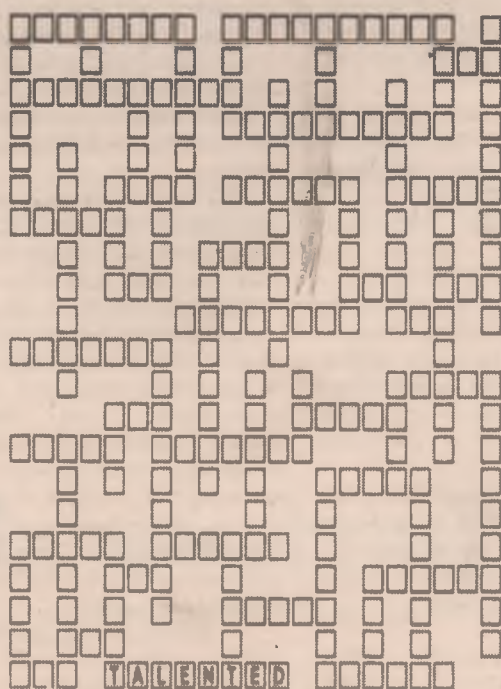
About half of the staff at the dept are people who are of African descent. There are Southern Africans, Ghanaians, and Nigerians. The rest of us all have extensive experience within Africa. The students that we have, have all come to learn from us and with us, because of a specifically stated interest in Africa. So we explore through academic perceptions, and any experience we get to share

with visitors from Africa, we use very fruitfully. We also have language specialists, so part of our academic contribution is to be able to translate these languages, and if we don't know the language, then we know someone who does know the language, since Nigeria alone has about 500 languages. Even these have been recorded, not the languages themselves in this case, but the number of languages.

Theatre Goer

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 3 LETTERS | 5 LETTERS | 8 LETTERS |
| AHA | ACTOR | DRAMATIC |
| ARE | ADAPT | FARCICAL |
| ART | COMIC | IMITATES |
| ASK | ECLAT | LAUGHTER |
| CUE | ENTER | MANAGERS |
| EGO | EXITS | TALENTED |
| ETC | EXTRA | VILLAINS |
| LED | GALAS | |
| LIE | REACT | 9 LETTERS |
| OFF | STATE | BACKSTAGE |
| TIS | UPSET | EMOTIONAL |
| WHY | YOUTH | GREENROOM |
| | | MELODRAMA |
| 4 LETTERS | 6 LETTERS | |
| ACME | DESIGN | |
| CAST | EXOTIC | |
| DEBT | JOKING | 10 LETTERS |
| DROP | ONE-ACT | CHARACTERS |
| ROLE | STALLS | REHEARSALS |
| SAYS | SUPERB | STAGECRAFT |
| SETS | | TRAGEDIANS |
| SHOW | 7 LETTERS | |
| STIR | ALL-STAR | |
| THEY | ENCORES | |
| | EPISODE | |
| | EVENING | |
| | VARIETY | |

PUZZLE 83



Traditional dancers from Kaltungo

Features

African ministers dialogue on water resources

Water sustains and it is the key, to all life processes. Its utility for domestic industrial, agricultural hydroelectric power generation, scientific and technology applications, are well known.

The absence, or the lack of it, destroys not only man and his activities, but also the entire ecosystem.

Water is abundant in Africa on a regional scale. Although a few African countries have high annual average water per person, many are already experiencing scarcity of this resource, and many more would face same, unless urgent measures are taken to address the problem.

Already over 300 million Africans do not have reasonable access to safe water, and no fewer than 17 African countries with populations of over 400 million people are expected to face a water crisis by the year 2010.

With recurring droughts

By Ahmed Tahir
and chronic water shortages in many areas, a majority of African countries and their people, pay an increasingly high price for water or the lack of it. The highest prices often paid by the poor in terms of money to buy small quantities of water, expended calories to fetch water from distant sources, impaired health, diminished livelihoods and even of lives.

Aquatic species, habitats and ecosystem are also at risk. With increasing water demand throughout Africa to support greater agricultural productivity, industrial expansion and urban growth, more water to meet human needs means a loss for maintaining aquatic ecosystem, and the many other species and environmental services they support.

To find a lasting solution to the water problem facing Africa, ministers responsible for water in

Cameroon, Ghana, Lesotho, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Senegal and Zambia have already begun consultations aimed at strengthening ministerial and policy level dialogue on the water crisis in Africa.

The goal of such an alliance according to Alhaji Muktari Shehu Shagari, Nigeria's water resources minister who is also the co-



Muktari Shagari, Minister of water resources

ordinating chairman of African ministers responsible for water, is to improve the management of trans-boundary water resources, and eliminate water as a key source of regional instability among others.

The co-ordinating ministers at their second round of informal consultations in Abuja, recently resolved to hold meetings with other African ministers of water, on the need to put in place stronger mechanisms for policy dialogue on Africa's water crisis.

The aim of such a United Forum Alhaji Shagari said, include:

To keep the state of Africa's water resources under review and promote desirable actions of common interest to the continent.

Facilitating international co-operation through the co-ordination of issues relating to water policies, and action amongst Africa countries.

Supporting transnational co-operation on water-related issues through development of common positions on matters of global concern, as well as co-operation in implementation of environmental conventions and international agreements.

Encouraging mechanisms that will promote best practices in water policy reforms and water recourse management.

Providing a forum for dialogue with UN agencies and other partners for dialogue on water programmes.

Developing a political strategy for arresting the water crisis in Africa; and keeping under review the financing of the Africa Water sector.

The ministers are also expected to provide a co-ordinated policy forum on ongoing initiatives by the United Nations Environment programme

(UNEP) and the United Nations Centre for Human settlements (UNCHS) on fresh water management. This includes information on appropriate technologies such as recycling and wastewater reuse, desalination, and rainwater harvesting among others. The application of these technologies has since been limited by lack of information on approaches available, and as well as their workability.

Develop and execute a regionally agreed Strategic Action of shared surface and ground water resources as access to water from any of these shared surface and ground water could provoke conflict in the near future.

Finding solutions to land-based sources of pollution such as sewage, nitrates and industrial waste, as polluted water is estimated to affect the health of about 1200 million people and contribute to the death of 15 million children under five every year worldwide.

A peek at Mswati's large family and small Kingdom

King Mswati 111 has not had much peace of mind since he was first married, and neither has he had any peace on the political front. The latest upset centres around the death of four of his close associates in the past week, amid rumours that they were bewitched.

The 33-year old King who has been on the throne since the death of his father in 1986 also fell ill earlier this year. He was understood to be suffering from stress.

Mswati admitted then that it could be difficult to cope with the pressure of work. "I find very little time with my family most of the time. I normally work until 11pm and this makes me feel stressed because I'm being over-worked, but I have to do everything possible to satisfy my people," he told me in an interview at the Ludzidzini royal residence. King Mswati has been described as being arrogant like his 19th century forefathers, King Mswati I and King Mswati II.

Swazi history tells us that these two kings ruled Swaziland for less than 10 years each because of their "aggressive" attitude towards family conflicts in the royal household. The reigning monarch has certainly refused to move on the growing calls by restless pro-democracy activists to hold multi-party elections and reform Africa's last absolute monarchy. One of

By Bhekie Matsebula in Mbabane

their leaders is in detention awaiting trial. At a time when most of Africa shunned the then apartheid regime in neighbouring South Africa, the kingdom invited the late racist South African President, PW Botha to King Mswati's coronation.

He also has to battle with complex family affairs, involving the seven official wives he married through Swazi custom and tradition.

The king now has two more fiancées to look after, in addition to his wives and 15 children. "It has been our advice to the king that he must concentrate on one thing at a time."

"He must stop mixing family affairs with national issues because that's the thing that caused the stress he suffered early this year," said a senior Prince who is very close to the king.

King Mswati has over 200 brothers and sisters and he has the task of taking care of them all, financially and otherwise.

He depends on the profits from the royal-owned company, Tibiyo TakaNgwane, which was established by the late King Sobhuza II to provide for his offspring. On the social front, King Mswati has had to contend with repeated controversy surrounding his first wife, Queen LaMbikiza

(born Sibonelo Mngomezulu).

She defied a royal tradition that the queen could not have a public job when she trained as a lawyer, and is now an advocate of law at the high court. Royal sources say that she is trying to ensure that her first-born son, Prince Lindani, succeeds to the throne. They say that she always refers to him as "His Majesty" in front of the king. What is most interesting is that the young monarch is aware that the people around him, especially the Swazi National Council, that advises him on various political, economic and traditional issues sometimes mislead him.

On his return from this

year's New York World Summit on HIV and AIDS, King Mswati said that the council had made him sign a decree that nearly cost Swaziland dearly internationally.

Decree No 2 of 2001, announced the banning of newspapers, stopped the courts hearing matters that are already with the king, and contained many other controversial issues.

"I must admit that when I signed this decree (Decree No 2 of 2001), I did not read it at all. I just signed it," he told journalists soon after his arrival.

He has also crossed the Swazi National Council by his openness to the press. The Council tried to screen him from awkward questions, but he responded

by banning the advisory body from his press conferences.

Although the decree was reversed, some of his opponents are languishing behind bars while others are in exile.

While some accuse him of arrogance, he is always seen with a smile on his face, and despite his royal position, maintains the Swazi custom of bowing to his elders.

With over 25% of his subjects HIV positive, King Mswati is engaged in a number of HIV and AIDS campaigns locally, regionally and internationally.

He is in the process of recording an album by world-renowned musicians like Michael Jackson to raise

funds for AIDS orphans in Africa.

He has travelled extensively in search of funds for the more than 70,000 AIDS orphans in Swaziland.

His trips have yielded good results, including a promise to build a new orphanage in Siteki in eastern Swaziland.

Before King Mswati went into seclusion in preparation of the Incwala (fresh fruit-eating) ceremony to be danced later this month, he made it clear that when he returns, he will introduce major changes in government and the traditional structures.

This could spell bad news for some of those who are currently his closest advisors.

"He also has to battle with complex family affairs, involving the seven official wives he married through Swazi custom and tradition.

The king now has two more fiancées to look after, in addition to his wives and 15 children. "It has been our advice to the king that he must concentrate on one thing at a time."

"He must stop mixing family affairs with national issues because that's the thing that caused the stress he suffered early this year," said a senior Prince who is very close to the king."

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3	Half Page (Accross)	7.25 X 3 Cols	40,920.80	47,371.95	54,575.60	67,485.40
4	Quarter Page	7.25 X 3 Cols	19,911.33	22,438.80	28,296.90	51,620.00
5	10" X 6 Cols	10" X 6 Cols	44,442.90	47,775.60		80,200.00
6	10" X 5 Cols	10" X 5 Cols	37,740.24	39,454.20		68,170.00
7	9" X 6 Cols	9" X 6 Cols	35,315.32	36,446.35		57,994.50
8	9" X 5 Cols	9" X 5 Cols	32,300.28	33,922.55		46,355.60
9	8" X 6 Cols	8" X 6 Cols	30,190.00	31,295.00		44,530.70
10	8" X 5 Cols	8" X 5 Cols	23,767.05	25,357.50		38,150.50
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THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

NIA PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE EXAMINATION - March 2002

NIA FINALS II (DIRECT ADMISSION) EXAMINATION - March 2002

NIA FINALS II & NIA FINALS I EXAMINATIONS - September 2002

PRE-QUALIFICATION

Applications are invited from graduate Architects who fall under any of the categories below and wish to be pre-qualified for March 2002 Professional Practice and Finals II (Direct Entry) examinations as well as September 2002 NIA Finals II and Finals I examinations.

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES

- NIA PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE EXAMINATION - MARCH 2002**
- Associate members of the Institute who would have had a minimum of two years supervised post-qualification practice by March 2002
 - Graduate Architects from NIA-recognised institutions Overseas with a minimum of two years supervised post-qualification practice (Six months of which must have been spent in Nigeria)
 - Candidates who have passed the NIA Finals II Examination with a minimum of 2 years cognate work experience by March 2002
 - Candidates in all cases must be currently resident in Nigeria and also currently fully involved in the practice of Architecture under the supervision of a member of the NIA with a minimum of three years membership.
 - Applicants in all cases must be associate financial members of NIA. Candidates must indicate Associate membership number on the Examination forms.

NIA FINALS II (DIRECT ADMISSION) EXAMINATION - MARCH 2002

This Examination is for candidates with M.Sc (Architecture) or its equivalent awarded by Nigerian or foreign Universities whose Architecture programmes are not accredited by the Nigerian Institute of Architects. All applicants who studied abroad will be required to submit their detailed transcript for assessment. Candidates who have passed the R.I.B.A. Part II or its equivalent may also apply. Candidates must have obtained the degree at least nine months prior to March 2002.

3. NIA FINALS II EXAMINATIONS - September 2002

Open to holders of B.Sc (Architecture) degree with honours from accredited University with at least one year working experience and candidates who have passed the NIA Finals I exams at least one year prior to March 2002.

4. NIA FINALS I EXAMINATION - September 2002

The exam is open to holders of HND (Architectural technology) and B.Sc (Architecture) from unaccredited Universities who must have completed their NYSC program by September 2001.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Application Forms and a booklet on the "Conditions for Admission into the Examination" are obtainable from the NIA Secretariat in Lagos upon the payment of ₦500.

Candidates are advised to study the booklet before completing their forms.

Candidates application forms are to be submitted with the following:

- a non-refundable examination fee of ₦10,000, ₦7,500 and ₦5,000 cash or MICR Bank Draft for PPE, Finals II and Final I Examinations respectively.
- Logbooks duly endorsed by your Supervising Architects (Finals II Direct admission candidates are exempt).
- Transcript sent directly to the Institute from your institution of study.
- A form completed by the Supervising Architects (PPE only).
- Photocopies of educational certificates (WASC, Diploma and Degrees) and NYSC Certificates.
- All applicants must have their certificates sighted by a Council member.
- Two Nos. recent Passport photographs (portraits not accepted).
- 8 Nos. Self-addressed and stamped 8 x 4 envelopes.
- Affidavit for discrepancies in names on certificates (if any)
- A duly completed full membership form for PPE candidates and associate membership form in the case of final II candidates

NIA Examination Preparatory Seminar is compulsory for all candidates. The Seminar will be held from 7th - 8th March 2002.

EXAMINATION DATE

The NIA Professional Practice and Finals II (Direct Entry) Examinations will be held from 11th - 15th March 2002.

EXAMINATION CENTRES

The PPE will be held in four centres, LAGOS, KADUNA, ENUGU and ABUJA. Candidates must indicate on their Application Form the Centre at which they wish to sit for the Examination.

Finals I & II Examinations will be held in Lagos and Abuja.

CLOSING DATE

Completed Application Forms must be submitted to:

The Hon General Secretary,
The Nigerian Institute of Architects
J.K. Randle Memorial Hall
2 Island Club Road
Orlilan, P. O. Box 178, Lagos

(SGD)
ARC S. T. ECHONO
HON GENERAL SECRETARY



SPORTS



Poll reports Henry to FA

Referee Graham Poll has reported Arsenal striker Thierry Henry to the FA following an "unseemly incident" at the end of the controversial showdown with Newcastle United at Highbury.

The French World Cup winner had to be physically restrained from confronting the Hertfordshire official - and now looks certain to face misconduct charges when Poll's report has been viewed at Lancaster Gate.

Poll sent off a player from each side in Newcastle's 3-1 win that sent the Geordies to the top of the Premiership.

Ray Parlour was sent off for a second caution and Newcastle striker Craig Bellamy also saw red after his flailing arm caught Ashley Cole in the face.

Arsenal were also incensed after Poll awarded a late penalty for a foul by Sol Campbell on substitute Laurent Robert, with television replays suggesting that

the England defender had played the ball first.

However, Poll claims while the match was a difficult one to referee, he felt he made the right decisions.

"It was a very hot atmosphere.

"We had a very unseemly incident as we came off the field of play which I have reported to the Football Association.

"I thought it was a very, very difficult game to referee. I didn't think the attitude of the players helped me a great deal and I felt that I did what I had to.

"When you see things, you have to act on them and that's what I did."

Poll added: "Thierry Henry will be the subject of a lengthy report to the FA which they will have in the morning."

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger said he had failed to see the incident after the final whistle involving Henry.

"I don't know that he did. I

was back down the tunnel after shaking hands at the end of the game.

"It is not my job to judge what people do. I am not a policeman."

But Wenger said he would stand by the Premiership's leading scorer.

"If Thierry Henry is charged with anything I will stand up for him."

Wenger refused to be drawn on the performance of Poll: "I've made up my mind not to talk about the referee. Every word I would say would not be very nice."

His opposite number, Bobby Robson said Bellamy did not warrant his dismissal, but added the match was an intense affair.

"It was an enthralling match between two aggressive sides who could both have gone top."

"It was a championship match and not an easy one for the referee."

"Craig Bellamy is adamant he didn't do anything to warrant being sent off."



Henry was intent on berating Poll after the match.

Orlando's Hill to undergo third ankle surgery, out a season

The season is over for Grant Hill, who needs surgery — again — on his troublesome left ankle.

Hill, a six-time All Star who joined the Orlando Magic two seasons ago, played only 14 games this year and has been in medical limbo for the past 12 games. A year ago, he played in just four games before undergoing ankle surgery.

"I'm disappointed for the fans and my teammates," the 29-year-old Hill said in a statement Tuesday. "Hopefully, this will lead me down the road to recovery. I will continue to remain optimistic as I face this latest challenge."

He will have a bone spur removed by Dr. Mark Myerson in Baltimore on Wednesday.

The Magic signed Hill to a seven-year, \$93 million contract in August 2000, hoping he and another high-priced acquisition, Tracy McGrady, could return them to prominence.

But since joining Orlando, Hill — billed as one of the NBA's best and brightest during his six years in Detroit — has missed 90 of the team's 118 regular-season games.

This season, Hill averaged 16.8 points, 4.6 assists — both career-worst — and 8.9 rebounds.

The Magic have struggled as

well. The team barely recovered from a slow start last year to make the playoffs, losing in the first round. And this season, Orlando has a 12-14 record.

"We all feel badly, as Grant was a big part of our plans this season," Orlando general manager John Gabriel said. "What's more important, however, is to improve the overall health of Grant's ankle joint and allow him to return."

The Magic got another dose of bad news Tuesday, when they learned McGrady is questionable for their game against Utah on Wednesday. McGrady, the league's fifth-leading scorer with 26 points per game, strained his back during a loss at Seattle on Sunday night.

Magic team physician Dr. Joe Billings said Hill could resume physical activity by next summer.

Myerson, who performed bone-graft surgery on the ankle in January, also will check and reinforce the site of the original stress fracture.

Hill first injured his ankle late in the 1999-2000 season while with the Pistons. Despite offseason surgery, the Magic thought he was a worthwhile gamble and signed him to the maximum possible free-agent deal.

"We were very confident,

we liked the X-rays that we saw, he was on schedule to full recover," Gabriel said. "(The surgery) just did not take at the end."

Myerson will remove the spur, which measures about 2-3 millimeters, and small holes will be drilled in the bone where the original stress fracture took place. Those holes will then be filled with a protein that will reinforce the bone and quicken the healing process.

"It looks like this bone spur is causing stress to his fracture site," Billings said. "The question is, do you just take care of the spur or do you actually look at the fracture site?"

"The doctors are confident that this procedure will address the underlying cause of Grant's ankle problem and give him the best chance to get healthy," Gabriel said.

Gabriel said he hoped the team would rise to the challenge of winning without Hill, like it did last year.

A week after Hill's second surgery, the Magic's record stood at 14-20, a season-worst six games under .500. However, Orlando rallied to finish the season 29-19 and earned the seventh seed in the playoffs.

"This team is better for being together another year, and we feel like they'll respond just fine," Gabriel said.



SPORTS

Holyfield camp cries foul

Heavyweight boxing's reputation suffered yet another blow at the weekend with the controversial drawn WBA title bout between John Ruiz and Evander Holyfield.

Most experts barring the ones that matter - the judges - had little difficulty declaring challenger Holyfield the winner.

The credibility of top-level pugilism has again been brought into question by Monday's newspapers.

The Independent has most to say, reporting Holyfield "made Ruiz look like an old, plodding neophyte in a bingo parlour".

The Indy reveals Holyfield's lawyer, Jim Thomas, has called for an investigation because the one judge who adjudicated in Ruiz's favour once worked at the Boston Globe, one of Ruiz's hometown publications.

Where there is smoke ringside, Don King can usually be found fanning the fire. Thomas lambasted King, Holyfield's promoter, for not "second-guessing" the choice of judge.

In typically self-effacing fashion, King counterpunched with: "Don't you dare, don't you dare try to vilify me. Holyfield wouldn't be here if it wasn't for me."

The Times was more indifferent - "When it was over, many were wondering, what was the point?" - but, as King knows too well, there is no such thing as bad publicity in boxing.

From the ring to the merry-go-round, The Star brings to light the financial ruin facing Stan Collymore if he is successfully sued by the Spanish club he deserted 34 days into his contract.

It is the latest episode in the wretched career of journeyman Collymore, who could be forced to cough up £7m worth of damages to Real Oviedo.

Collymore "walked out on the club in March when he de-

ecided to quit the game, despite signing a four-year deal".

The club arrived at the figure based on his approximate value in the transfer market. In their estimation, it must be added.

Nasser Hussain wins plaudits from former England cricket captain David Gower in The Sun.

"Hussain is now established as one of the best captains in world cricket," decrees Gower in the wake of England's improved performance in the drawn second Test against India.

Gower makes constant comparison between Hussain and fraught counterpart Sourav Ganguly, observing that "whereas Hussain has the respect and confidence of England's players, Ganguly is often bypassed in tactical discussions".

A triumphant England showing in the third and final Test will no doubt see Hussain's stocks rise further.

On a day of few scoops, The Daily Express stands out with a report involving a weekend incident at Sheffield's 84-75 win over Leicester in the basketball.

Court commentator Mike Shaft "stood down at half-time" after angering umpire Mike Howells to the point where he refused to referee the second half if Shaft remained at the mic.

The Express reveals Howells "accused Shaft of making insulting personal remarks about him", claims denied by both the announcer and the club.

But with Howells holding all the aces - and the whistle - sanity prevailed and Shaft voluntarily withdrew his services.

Former Dutch coach, Louis van Gaal, has again been linked with becoming Manchester United's next manager.

Van Gaal, 50, resigned as manager of Holland three weeks ago following their failure to qualify for the 2002 World Cup.



van Gaal

Van Gaal in Man Utd link

United are looking for a coach to replace Sir Alex Ferguson when he retires at the end of the season.

Van Gaal is the only one of the high-profile coaches being considered who is not currently under contract.

The Daily Express claim that representatives from Old Trafford have contacted Van Gaal's agents within the last week.

United have made an early move because German side Hertha Berlin are keen to make Van Gaal their new boss, according to the report.

Van Gaal was expected to

return to former club Ajax when Co Adriaanse was sacked recently, but the job now looks likely to go to Ronald Koeman.

Van Gaal's reputation was dented when Holland failed to qualify for the World Cup.

But he created the last great Ajax side and led them to a European Cup win in 1995.

He also reorganised Barcelona and led them to the Spanish title in each of his two years with them.

And he himself has said: "I can imagine that a club like Manchester United would be interested in Louis van Gaal."

Rivaldo set to miss Barca's last game of 2001

Rivaldo is likely to miss Barcelona's final match of 2001 against Espanyol on Saturday.

Barca said in a statement that the Brazilian is still suffering from a groin strain that kept him out of last weekend's 1-0 win over Villarreal and would "almost certainly" miss the Catalan derby.

Swedish defender Patrik Andersson is definitely out of Saturday's game after suffering a concussion in a 2-2 draw with Celta Vigo on December 9.

Barcelona are currently struggling in seventh place in the Spanish first division, four points behind leaders Real Madrid.

Nations Cup

Onigbinde expresses fears on preparation

By Patrick Andrew

If the Super Eagles performed below par in the Nations and World Cups championships it would not be due to the technical incompetence of the technical crew currently tinkering the team; Chief Festus Onigbinde has declared.

Instead, the renowned soccer technocrat said lackadaisical approach to preparation instituted by the system would largely be responsible.

Chief Onigbinde observed that indigenous technical crew are as competent as their foreign counterparts, and that given desired support and free rein to operate, they could attain success.

"The way Nigeria prepares for major tournaments leaves much to be desired. Nigeria assembles players in patches and often without sufficient time to assess and test the mental fitness of each player," he said noting that these preparation hiccoughs were the bane of poor perfor-

mance.

The former Trinidad and Tobago technical adviser observed it was the same technical crew who successfully rescued Nigeria from the descent to World Cup elimination and as such has demon-

strated enough technical depth to win even international acclaim.

Onigbinde contended that it was important to set up a sound technical department in the NFA that would work assiduously with coach Shuaibu Amodu-led technical crew for needed technical

support in the quest to conquer the world in football.

He allayed fears about England, Argentina and Sweden noting that by virtue of qualifying for the mundial each country was capable of winning the World Cup hence "there is no soft group," he said.

...backs reorganisation of NFA

The former Trinidad and Tobago technical adviser, Chief Festus Onigbinde, has lauded the Sports Minister, Ishaya Mark Aku, for embarking on the surgical personnel and administrative restructuring of the NFA.

Chief Onigbinde described the exercise as a desirable cleansing that was long over due considering the decay that had set in for decades.

The former Super Eagles handler said the minister by such bold step, had identified with the aspirations of many who were at pains over the deplorable conditions that had been prevalent in the NFA.

Onigbinde, who was al-



Aku, Sports Minister

leged to have rejected offers to serve the nation on principle said, the operation of the civil service rules in the football house was largely respon-

sible noting football has gone beyond mere social outlet.

The soccer technocrat said, it was manifest want of administrative foresight that the leadership of the NFA continued to insist on running the secretariat on civil service precepts and absolute dependence on government.

Onigbinde acknowledged though that dependence on government for some funding may not be entirely eliminated in view of the poor economic terrain but contended that outright dependence was ridiculous.

Chief Onigbinde, who attended the written interview for the declared vacant post of NFA technical director,

however, said the approach adopted by the minister to fill the vacant post was inadequate.

"It is ridiculous to set aptitude test for people with decades of proven performances," he said while admitting that the written test was rather tough and too academically inclined.

He would have wished that questions be based on purely technical and administrative matters instead of the corporate drift it too.

Nonetheless, Onigbinde said the development was a move in the right direction adding that with the foundation laid, in future better and more responsible approach would be adopted.

Parma sack Passarella after losing streak

Argentine coach Daniel Passarella was sacked by Parma on Tuesday after only five league games in charge of the struggling Serie A side, all of which they lost.

Parma announced the decision on its official website on Tuesday and said a member of the club's coaching staff, Gedeone Carmignani, would take temporary charge of the side for yesterday's game at Torino.

Parma appointed Passarella, the captain of Argentina's 1978 World Cup-winning team, on November 6 following the dismissal of previous coach Renzo Ulivieri.

But the former coach of the Argentine and Uruguayan national sides was only able to secure wins in the UEFA Cup and the Italian Cup.

Passarella, who played in Italy for Fiorentina and Inter Milan, faced a tough series of games in which to turn around Parma's season, with three of their five league defeats coming against Juventus, AS Roma and AC Milan.

But Sunday's 4-1 hammering by Atalanta, proved to be the final straw for Parma president Stefano Tanzi.

Italian media reports have linked former Parma coaches Nevio Scala and Arrigo Sacchi with the job.

Sacchi was briefly in charge of the club last season before quitting because of stress.

Parma are facing their worst ever season in the Italian top flight. Since winning promotion to Serie A for the first time in 1990, Parma have never finished outside of the top seven.



Duke's Jason Williams, right attempts to dunk the ball over Kentucky's Jules Camara during the second half of the Jimmy V Classic on Tuesday in East Rutherford, N.J. Williams led all scorers with 38 points as Duke beat Kentucky 95-92.



Barcelona's Brazilian Rivaldo (R) tries to keep control of the ball against Celta de Vigo Brazilian Vagner during their Spanish first division soccer match at Barcelona's Nou Camp stadium...recently.

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EDITORIAL

Stopping the slide to one-party state (1)

There is a heated debate going on in the country that was triggered by the Electoral Law, especially its Section 80, Subsection 1 which states that new political parties shall only be allowed to participate in general elections provided they "first participate in the local government elections and win at least 10 percent of the councillorship and chairmanship positions throughout the federation spread among two third of the state of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory to be eligible to participate in the federal and state elections". The Presidency allegedly smuggled this portion into the bill in connivance with the principal officers of the National Assembly.

While on one divide, the All Peoples Party (APP), the Alliance for Democracy (AD), the 36 state governors and the new political associations seeking registration are saying the Electoral Law is a legislative fraud and an executive coup against our nascent democracy, the PDP-led federal government insists, through its well-oiled propaganda machinery, that the law is an objective and fair legislation devoid of any interference from the executive. But shout as the government may, the signs are clear that Nigeria is on the road to a one-party state.

In retrospect, however, it would appear the journey actually started on May 29, 1999 when President Obasanjo started poaching from rival parties.

The APP chairman, Alhaji Mahmud Waziri, was made a special adviser on inter-party relations; another party member, Chief Ben Obi, was appointed special adviser on security matters while the defeated gubernatorial candidate of the APP in Abia State, Prince Vincent Ogbulafor, emerged as Minister for Economic matters (Presidency). He is today PDP's national scribe.

From the AD, its leading ideologue, Chief Bola Ige, became Minister of Mines and Power even as Mrs. Dupe Adelaja, daughter of Senator Abraham Adesanya was appointed Minister of State for Defence. In time another AD top-notch, Chief Chukwuemeka Ezeife, also came onboard as political adviser to the president.

If Nigerians saw nothing alarming in these seemingly innocuous appointments, it was because they placed too much premium on Obasanjo's second advent, clothed, as it were, in messianic pretensions.

And when Senator Wahab Dosunmu and his fellow travellers in the National Assembly decamped from the AD to the ruling PDP sometime this year without vacating their seats, not a few accusing fingers were pointed at the Presidency and the government appointed Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for masterminding it. And the federal government's denial of the charge was tepid, to say the least.

However, if the undue positioning of the PDP for electoral advantages come 2003 had been seen as ominous by all lovers of democracy, the passage of the Electoral Bill and the hurried, assent to it by President Obasanjo has been roundly criticised as undemocratic, self-serving and fraudulent.

We cannot but agree more as the unholy legislature-executive alliance, especially with regard to the smuggling of the sinister clause into the Bill, is a coup against democracy, political pluralism and the Nigerian people. For not only does it unfairly short-change Nigerians; the controversial law threatens the flowering of the tree of democracy by deliberately constricting the political space.

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THURSDAY COLUMN

Agenda for Northern media

By Adamu Muhammad Nababa*

There is no doubt that the media in every society is important – if not an absolute necessity. In this age of reason, or the lack of it, the wide communication gap between one man and another is almost completely narrowed, whereby modern gadgets of communication between people living far apart have made this link not only possible and faster, but is done with ease and comfort. Therefore today, all forms of communications – both individual and corporate – is not only done through telegrams or telephone mails or fax, but also through e-mail and the web. And these are also done with remarkable efficiency and sophistication. Certainly Professor Marshall McLuhan's position that the world has become a global village cannot be contested at all.

These instruments of communication are what serve as impetus to the invulnerability of the media anywhere in the world today. In other words, the media as an organised process of the dissemination of information, education and entertainment is intrinsically married to these instruments of communication – the telephone, fax, e-mail and the Internet.

No society today moves even an inch closer to development without a viable media. So the media is no longer an option but an absolute necessity for any people who feel they have a common cause to foster; or a way of life they may want to sustain; or a religion they may want to promote; or a culture they may want to preserve; or a business interest they may want to protect. Any society, or public figure of high standing who ignores the place of the media today, does so at its or his own peril.

Northern Nigeria has never been exceptionally smart in appreciating the fact that the media, or the acquisition of a viable one, has been the major instrument of development today. This is to say, Northern Nigeria, as an entity has never been able to successfully use the media as a weapon to fight back at its detractors. Hence the North is always on the defensive. At every stage of its development, the North is either stunted by it – for lacking a virile media, or fought off its detractors completely unarmed. And so we fail.

It is not the lack of resources, or manpower or the absence of the enabling environment, but it is, indeed, the lack of the will to rise by the relevant people, to the challenge to achieve a collective aspiration.

The North, besides always scoffing at modernisation in general, and because of a firm belief in stultifying traditions, has also failed to understand or differentiate between modernisation and westernisation. If we have to resist the overwhelming impact of westernisation – or western education in particular – we shouldn't do so to the charm or mesmerising effect of modernisation on our lives. The media is one of such aspects of modernisation that we must court for friendship or get engaged for eternal marriage.

Very promising publications had sprouted in the North but died in their formative years. They died mostly when they were full of life and without any sign of ailment. Such kind of death – as in real life of a person who has died – is always devastating as our plight today when only one publication could give us succour and consolation that we are after all, not all dead woods. And this is none other than the Media Trust Limited, publishers of *Weekly Trust* (Kaduna) and *Daily Trust* (Abuja). The sudden death of two publications in the North stands out as the most catastrophic – *The Democrat* newspapers (Kaduna) and *Citizen* newsmagazine (Kaduna).

There were publications in the North like *The Sentinel* newsmagazine (Kaduna), *Just* magazine (Kaduna), *Hotline International* newsmagazine (Kaduna) and *Telex International* (Zaria) which are practically out of circulation today. *Crystal International* Abuja is alive and kicking but not yet a strong reference point. There were newspapers, too, that have been dear to us but have died as well. *The Reporter* (Kaduna) and *Today* (Kaduna). Other publications had made their debuts, but that was all, like *Lightning*, they quickly faded out, and there are *The Millennium* newspaper (Kaduna) and *Newsguard* newspaper (Kano), *Conscience* newsmagazine (Kano) and *Nigeria Outlook* newsmagazine (Kano) are still alive and trying to make sure grass doesn't grow under their feet.

Private publishing houses in the North are looked at essentially by supposedly potential investors as mere money guzzlers without any prospect of instant dividends. But such ventures are not – and should not – ideally be taken as money spinning businesses. The money is there; it tumbles in only gradually, but surely. Most importantly, the aspiration of a people could be protected and promoted better, or at least be saved from callous blackmail and outright distortion by detractors. And the absence of a viable media will only put the people at the mercy of those who have it, to write the history of people in any way they wish or to present us in the prism they want us to be seen.

Those who realised the implication of lacking a media organ had set their publishing empires which make money for them and

at the same time promotes and protects their interests. The late Chief M. K. O. Abiola has become a classical example of a business mogul who knew how to put his money where his mouth was. If the late Abiola failed to be an astute politician, he was at least an astute businessman. He set up the Concord Press Nigeria Ltd. in 1980 for purely political reasons and to support his towering business. By setting up the paper, he fought the late Awolowo's party, the UPN and his paper, *The Tribune* for his party, the NPN. And when he quite politics in 1982, he turned his paper against the NPN machinery which frustrated his attempt at contesting for the presidency in 1983.

When the late Abiola bounced back into politics in 1993, a decade after bidding it goodbye, the paper having survived, he prosecuted his political campaign largely on the pages of the Concord newspapers. The papers were able to provide the needed publicity required by the June 12 crisis up to the stage of making it a Yoruba affair and consequently, a war fought only by the late chief who also died in the attempt to claim a floating mandate.

It is significant to note that when the late Abiola set up the Concord Press, it was said that except for two things, the management could go the whole hog to make a strong presence in the polity. These two things were said to be his professed religion – Islam – and of course, his business. These two, he said, should not be attacked.

The North has never woken up from its slumber as in November 1999, when African Research and Development Agency and Universal Ideas in collaboration with about eleven private media organisations in the North, organised a two day conference on the: *Reporting the North: In search of Objective Media*. The difficulties facing the North due to lack of viable media were fully highlighted by top-flight journalists and academics from the North. It was really a soul-searching conference where everything was laid bare, solutions proffered and donations made. It is hoped that the far-reaching resolutions in the communiqué should bear fruit by now, that dream, those declarations at that great event should not be allowed to fade away from our memory.

It is just as Mallam Abubakar Jika said in a suggestion paper he issued at the conference that "It is obvious to both the elites and masses of the North, that their interest in the Nigerian federation would be seriously undermined unless and until they find virile and objective media to be heard, seen and reckoned with".

True, the North should not continue to be at the receiving end. We must change. We must be able to stand up, and even stand akimbo to blow our own trumpet. The late Sardauna, of blessed memory, had told us that if you don't blow your own trumpet, nobody will blow it for you because everyone would be busy blowing his. And there is this parable of the American nation in the struggle for change where a stern judge who warned his country that it had not yet changed "because many thought that it did not need changes – but because that this was an illusion of the damned. America had to change – . . . because its 28 million black citizens would no longer live supinely" so also the North. We have to change, quickly, we would no longer live supinely!

It is pertinent to ask the whereabouts of the cream of Northern journalists who made the profession tick and glow, and to also ask what must have happened to their voices that once ruled the airwaves and the inkpot that was always running. Easily remembered is the formidable *Citizen* team which I am very proud of. I know Kabiru Yusuf is still active and doing the best one can expect from a professional at the Media Trust Ltd., Mohammed Haruna is now a columnist at the *Daily Trust*. What of the amiable iron journalist, Bilkisu Yusuf? Why the silence? And where is the master of humour and wits, Adamu Adamu? After PTF, what next?

At the *Democrat*, I must ask Abdulhamid Babatunde, who inspired me to love the profession and then encouraged me to go to school. I did. After the *Democrat*, why the silence? Where is Abdulkarim Albashir? The master researcher? Where is Gausu Ahmad? Sale Nari Maina? And where are famed broadcasters, the Getsos, Gali Sadiq and Hauwa Baba Ahmed? It seems, like the politics of today in Nigeria, the generational shift has hit the Northern media as well. But we want legacies that can outlive the pioneers.

Governments in the North are not doing much to establish strong media organisations besides setting up small TV stations for themselves and newspapers that can hardly pass the test of serious newsletters or official bulletins. Except for *The Tribune* newspaper (Kano) no state government in the North has been able to float a newspaper worthy enough. *The Triumph* newspapers might have its problems but it has never been out of business, there seemed to be an inbuilt survival instinct in the company. So for about twenty years now, it remained the only state owned newspaper in Northern Nigeria that could be taken seriously.

Finally, we may as well ask, why have our top-flight bureaucrats, politicians, businessmen and royal fathers failed or refuse to take the gauntlet and launch themselves into the publishing world? Where are Mai Deribes, the Dangotes, the Dantatas, the Chanchangis, the Dankabos et cetera? What is the reason for preference to invest in cement and rice, airways and haulage and not in the media? If these could bring money, the media would also bring money and security. It is time to diversify by giving the media a try.

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