NIGERIAN TIDE

Vol. 8 No. 1,904 Saturday 28, 1978 10k

Smuggling on Bonny river

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D-DAY FOR PH VARSITY

THE first Matriculation Ceremony of the University of Port Harcourt will take place today at 9.00 a.m. in the open field in the Academic Area of the university campus.

During the ceremony 330 freshmen who have been registered in the respective schools of studies would formally matriculate and be admitted as students of the university.

₦250,000 TOWN HALL

THE ₦250,000 Abonnema Town Hall, built through communal efforts, will be formally opened today.

A spokesman for the Nyemoni Improvement Society, the body charged with the development plan of the town said that various clubs and organisations in the area are to take part in the opening ceremony.

The Abonnema Town Hall project was started immediately after the civil war in the country and forms the second major project to be undertaken by the community in their development programme.

3 'PIRATES' ARRESTED

by Eleazer Kas-Nwogu

...After hours of gun battle

THREE men believed to be brains behind smuggling from ships at the Bonny river in the Rivers ports complex have been arrested by the police. The men were arrested after a prolonged gun battle with a combined team of police and public spirited civilians.

The suspects were said to have successfully raided a berthed cargo ship on the high seas.

At the end of their operation they tried to return to shore but were attracted to a ship owned by the Rivers State Gulf Fisheries.

As they got to the ship, their movements woke up the captain of the ship who alerted the crew of the presence of "uninvited guests".

The situation attracted the police, and a team led by a police inspector, took swift action by moving to the ship.

A gun battle which lasted several hours ensued between the suspects and the police.

The police with the help of the civilians later overpowered the men whom they arrested with some of their loots.

One of the suspects described as a "hardened criminal" who took refuge in the water, was later arrested in the early hours of the following morning.

The police stated that the men had all made "very useful statements to us".

Among the items recovered from them include gas cookers, television sets and fishing nets.

They may appear in court soon.



DR UDO UDOMA

NIGERIAN PALM PRODUCE BOARD

Press Release

It is announced for the information of the public that the 1978 Palm Produce and Copra Marketing Season is now opened with immediate effect.

Producer Prices are as follows:—

Special Palm Oil	... ₦355.00 per tonne
Technical Palm Oil I ...	325.00 „ „
Technical Palm Oil II ...	311.00 „ „
Palm Kernel	150.00 „ „
Copra	200.00 „ „

The week-numbering which commences from the week between 13th - 19th January 1978 starts with XI.

Chief M. A. Kwokwo,
For: General Manager,
Nigerian Palm Produce Board.

Executive governors for states

THE draft proposals for the election of state governors have been approved by the Constitutional Assembly.

To be eligible for the governorship, a candidate, insists the draft proposal, must be an indigene of the state, that is to say that such a candidate must be able to show that any of his grand-parents or forebears was born in that state.

The same conditions apply word for word for the post of a deputy governor.

Critics close to the Assembly say that the proviso that the governor and the deputy governor must originate from the state is not consistent with the principle of one country.

It can also, they contend, accentuate differences based on "stateism," a situation the present military has been trying hard to contain.

The executive authority of a state shall be vested in the governor, and shall be exercised by him directly or indirectly through officers appointed by him.

It is also provided that the executive authority of a state shall extend to all matters for which the state legislature has power to make laws, including upholding the Constitution.

Again, critics of the executive governors for states contend that, bearing the special circumstances of the Nigerian society in mind, including our previous experiences, this system is likely to promote acrimony, ethnic suspicions and hateful politics.

Other provisions for the structure of the state executive include:

The governor, the deputy governor and the commissioners necessary to carry into effect, the executive authority of the state. In making such appointments, the governor shall be free to choose his commissioners from within or outside the state legislature.

Commissioners must be (a) any Nigerian citizen by birth resident in the state and who has been so resident for a minimum period of three years immediately preceding the appointment or (b) an indigene of the state.

The governor, the deputy governor and their commissioners shall constitute the state executive council. Any member of any legislature in Nigeria who is appointed a commissioner shall automatically lose his seat in the legislature after his appointment as a commissioner is confirmed by the state Assembly. No commissioner shall suffer any of the disqualifications for membership to the state legislature.

Appointments as commissioners shall be scrutinized and confirmed by the state Assembly. Such scrutiny shall be limited to the disqualifications prescribed for membership of the state legislature.

The governor may remove any commissioner at any time. However, if a commissioner falls short of the qualifications prescribed for the office, or commits a breach of the code of conduct, he shall cease to

(Continued on Page 16)

DRUM RUMPUS RESOLVED

TWO kindred families in Ndi Uduma Awoke in the Arochukwu / Ohafia Local Government Authority area of Imo State have agreed in principle to call off their seven-year old enmity and to negotiate for peace which will usher in progress and unity in their community.

This followed the intervention of the local government council in the area.

The two parties had disputed over who had the right to take custody of their ancestral instrument called "Akpan drum".

The drum was used as a signal to summon the inhabitants together. But since the dispute seven years ago, the drum has not been beaten and no summoning of the people had taken place and therefore the people had not come together to plan for their community's development.

Addressing over 1,000 people of the town at peace meeting, the secretary of the Arochukwu Ohafia local government council, Mr E. O. Ndubueze recalled that the town had been noted for her excellent system of administration before the advent of the white-man.

He frowned at the current wave of disunity in the community and called on the elders of the town to find immediate solution to the trouble, so that the people could come together to plan for development.



GIANT HATCHERY BUILT

A HATCHERY capable of producing 10,000 day-old chicks has been built at Rumuola near Port Harcourt.

The equipment is owned by Mr A. A Apata, who is a teacher at the Federal Government College, Rumuola in Obio district. The scheme is designed to boost the OFN programme.

Here, Mr Apata, is seen tending his stock.

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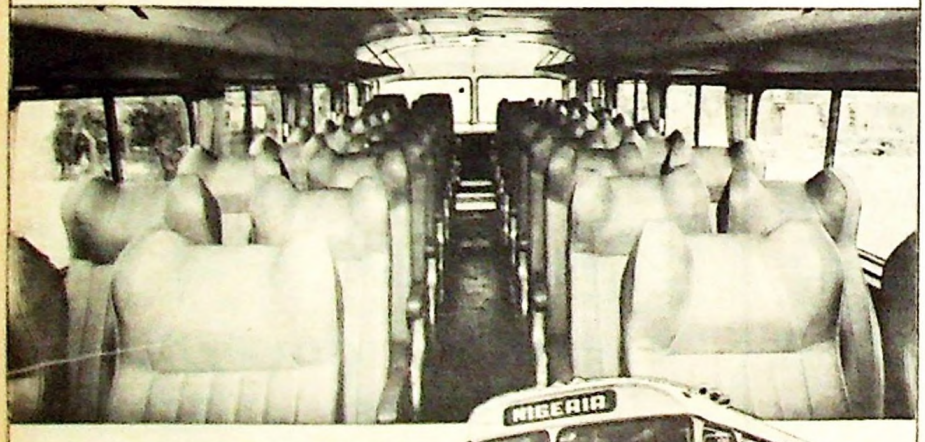



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Low cost houses for all

THE low-cost houses being built by the Bendel State Government are not to be allocated to civil servants alone but also to other categories of workers.

This assurance was given by the Commissioner for Lands and Housing, Prince Patrick Jegbefume, during a tour of low cost housing projects at Oleh, headquarters of Isoko local government.

Prince Jegbefume disclosed that an allocation committee would be appointed in the various local government areas to take responsibility for allocating the houses to qualified individuals.

Accountants body formed in P'Harcourt

The Port Harcourt district society of the institute of Chartered Accountants has been formerly inaugurated in the Rivers State.

Membership of the society are made up of any qualified accountant who should be a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Association of Certified Accountants, Institute of Cost and Management Accountants, Certified Public Accountants, USA, Institute of Municipal and Treasury accountants and registered accountants.

The Port Harcourt panel has 21 members.

EDITORIAL

NOT A SUCCESS STORY SO FAR

THE registration of voters for the 1979 General Elections which began throughout the federation exactly two weeks ago is not a success story so far. This is ominous. And the problems are omnitarious. There prevailed a general attitude of indifference to the whole affair from the initial stages in spite of the sustained public campaign mounted by the Federal Electoral Commission. This was explained away by the fact that the people had been off political activities since the military assumed power. Another reason it was thought, might be that some of the eligible voters were strangers to the electoral system, as for example women in the northern parts and the 18-year-olds.

THE obstacles and problems now are not just these of ignorance of the system or apathy. This is borne out by the fact that appreciable progress is not being recorded even in the urban centres whose residents are fairly aware of how crucial the registration is to the whole programme for a return to civil rule. This is all the more reason for concern and worry. It means that the Federal Electoral Commission has to re-examine its original planning or else many eligible voters may not be registered by the end of next month, which is the deadline for the exercise.

THE re-examination should include vaccinating some registration officials against the disease of ease and laziness. In the urban areas, they should work hard enough to register many households during the evening hours when most families are together. They just have to be brisk. In the rural areas, they should spend less time crawling around pubs and make-shift guest houses. Many of them, according to reports, are reluctant to go to places where comfortable transport facilities and the like, are not easily available. In sum, they are not sufficiently committed to their assignment or probably do not appreciate its importance.

ANOTHER obstacle is the widespread fear in the hinterlands that the registration is for the purposes of tax assessment. Taxation is a bug-bear. Every effort should be made, therefore, to correct this wrong impression. This would appear to mean enlisting the assistance of community leaders at all levels who can be trusted by their people. And why not involve the churches and the mosques as vehicles of mass communication and public enlightenment?

FURTHER, the Federal Electoral Commission may have, in the light of all the problems highlighted, to consider extending the deadline of registration by a month or two. It is now very certain that the original deadline is not realistic if the aim is to get the maximum number of people to participate in choosing their leaders, as indeed they should. After all, time is not awfully against it, or is it?

WE ALERTED the Electoral Commission to the complexity of the operations, but it seemed many things were taken for granted. Conservative estimate puts the number of those eligible to register at 40 million or half the population of this country. So, the exercise is not a picnic at all. The task is gigantic, and the Commission should prove equal to the challenge. It cannot afford to fail, for the cost of failure will be too costly to be contemplated.

PUBLIC OPINION FORUM

Stop chieftaincy problems

CHIEFTANCY wranglings in the Rivers State by some people has become a problem to the state government and to the entire daily readers of the Nigerian Tide. It seems that without some people being called chiefs in some parts of the state, they feel dishonoured in their social status, even though they do not deserve such a title.

It has now become very shameful to note that some people in the Rivers State have abused the title "CHIEF" by dragging it into the mud. If someone takes pains to do some research from past publications, published right from the time chiefs were given chance to be selected by their own people, we could see that, that title "CHIEF" has been abused by some people in the Rivers State.

No wonder Chief M. A. Yalah Amaranagwa of Gbaranbiri thought it wise to quit his throne. I quote him from the Nigerian Tide of May 22, 1977 "I am worried over numerous wrangles in the state arising from chieftaincy stools which have accorded chieftaincy institution in the country a very bad image." He expressed great concern over the rate at which all sorts of people make pretensions to chieftaincy, thus, dragging the good name of chiefs into disrepute.

Well, Chief M. A. Yalah acted as a wise and responsible man by giving way to those who are over-zealous to become chiefs by all means.

It will be welcomed if the state government should give recognition only to those who are qualified and put a stop to the apparent recklessness of some individuals in the state who engage in chieftaincy prostitution.

ISRAEL N. MEBOM
Lagos

We need regular services

FOR some time now the people of Opobo Town have been subjected to untold difficulties and hardships as a result of irregular and exceptionally poor postal services to the town. Our mails are left uncleared either at Bori in Bori Local Government area of the Rivers State or at Ikot Abasi in Cross River State for weeks.

It has to be pointed out that Opobo Town is an island formally in the Cross River State and a district headquarter for Opobo district. The populations has grown considerably in recent months because of the establishment by the Rivers State Government of new offices, primary and post-primary schools.

Unfortunately, the efforts of the government are being frustrated by poor social services. The town has only one postal agency which is under the Bonny Local Government Authority and is the direct responsibility of the Opobo District Office.

But it is painful to note that the authorities have not found it desirable to detail one of their many labourers (some of whom are underemployed) to travel to Bori or Ikot Abasi to bring the mails. One is unable to find reasons for the withdrawal of the mail runner who now idles away in the district office as "a cleaner".

I therefore call on the officials of the Bonny Local Government Authority and those of Opobo District Office in particular to make immediate plans for regular postal services to the town.

F. U. O. IBE
Opobo Town

Continue this exercise

I MUST commend the Ministry of Education for the bold measures recently taken to fight corruption in our society.

We have just been made to understand many students of Etche Girls Secondary School, Umuchia, have been thrown out of the school for gaining admission through the back door.

This is to me a lesson to those who are now contemplating to do the same. There are several isolated cases of similar nature in other schools.

If the same measure is extended to other schools many illegal admission of students will certainly surface.

I am not personally against the receivers of bribe but all I am concerned with is the low moral of those people who bribe the principals of schools in order to gain admission.

What the Ministry of Education has just done is the only means by which we can condemn corruption in this respect.

Please continue to fight on.

SABINUS ALANWOKE
Port Harcourt

That prof's address

THE address reportedly delivered to the Association of Engineering Students by Professor Ayo Awojobi at the University of Lagos recently is yet another futile attempt to frustrate our present and future technologists.

One can see from that lecture the Professor's fears which are increasing geometrically. And let it be known to him that by inciting the students to relegate to the background our technologists will not solve the problem. Instead a seed of permanent disunity is sown. Remember the story of a house divided against itself.

The NUNS has decried the government's stand on the issue of technical award and implored it to respect forthwith the dicted institutions. If Professor Ayo Awojobi is changed, I believe, he will also appeal to the conscience of the NUNS to make sure the aim of "division of labour" is achieved.

But it is an open secret that the students of our colleges of technology and polytechnics are already sticking to their guns only ready to strike at the right bargain.

Therefore, even if his recent lecture succeeds in gaining ground in the hearts of members of the Engineering Students Association to oppose the stand of NUNS, the (NATN) would not be pushed to the wall.

CHRIS ONUNWOR
Port Harcourt

Nigerian affairs: Publish "who's who"

NIGERIA needs a yearly 'WHO IS WHO' publication. This book, like the 'Who is Who in Africa', would give the public a fair knowledge of the background of men in the political corridors, and other people.

Typical contents of such a book may include topics like biographies of important personalities in key posts — both at federal and state levels.

I believe this type of publication will go a long way to help students in primary and secondary schools and other higher institutions, in their knowledge of current affairs.

GBARANAWAE COURT
Kono Bo'ue

FIRE: LET'S PRAY

I WOULD like to express my feelings about the frequent outbreak of fire in this country. In fact, this has caused whole nation.

I am appealing to all the elders in this country and the Obas, Emirs, Amayanabos, Obis, Obongs and all Muslim and Christian leaders to join together with one voice and pray to [illegible] to stop the frequent outbreak of fire.

I would implore the elders to also pray against the frequent motor accidents which is also a big problem today.

JULIUS OLA OMOLAJA
Owerri

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

At the time the idea of establishing a university in Port Harcourt was conceived, the creation of a Rivers State of Nigeria was still largely in the realm of mere political dreams.

It may not be generally realised that the establishment of the university of Port Harcourt (the Garden City) is in fact the culmination of a long and sustained demand for one and the report of the Ashby Commission of 1960, recommended, the establishment of an Institute of Technology in Port Harcourt.

Early in 1975 however, the Federal Military Government announced the establishment of seven new universities and university colleges, including the university college of Port Harcourt.

While the Federal Military Government's action in deciding to establish a university institution in Port Harcourt was laudable, few people could understand why the new institution was not granted autonomous and full-fledged university status ab initio.

From its inception, the university college of Port Harcourt had an autonomous administration with full representation in the committee of vice-chancellors and principals of Nigerian universities and university colleges.

Rightly or wrongly, it was feared that the apparent inequality of the status of the new institution would place it under the tutelage of one of the older universities with which it would be in special relation.

It was most gratifying that the Federal Military Government early in 1977 decided to correct the anomaly in the status of the new institution by granting full university status to it as well as the other university colleges with effect from 1st October, 1977.

Following the establishment of the university college of Port Harcourt early in 1975, the Federal Military Government announced in September of the same year the appointment of a distinguished Nigerian scholar, Professor Donald E. U. Ekong, as the institution's first Principal and he moved into Port Harcourt in February, 1976.

Professor Ekong, with the active support and co-operation of the Rivers State Government, immediately set up a liaison office along Aba Road, Port Harcourt, and started negotiations for the acquisition of land for the permanent site of the institution.

He forthwith embarked on staff recruitment and by 1st October, 1976 sixty academic appointments had been made including six Professors and an Arts Director, thirty of which had assumed duty.



PRO. DONALD E. U. EKONG.
Vice-Chancellor

AIMS OF THE UNIVERSITY

On 28th and 29th October, 1976, the pioneer staff of the University College of Port Harcourt held inaugural meetings to discuss the academic policies and programmes of the new institution.

A Provisional Senate and Boards of the respective Schools of Studies (Humanities, Educational Studies, Social Sciences, Biological, Chemical and Physical Sciences) were constituted at these meetings to consider the various academic proposals by the Principal and the academic staff.

It was agreed from the beginning that the University College, Port Harcourt, should not simply copy from existing universities but should develop its own academic policies and programmes from basic principles and planned to be sensitive to the country's needs.

Following the deliberations at these and subsequent meetings of the Provisional Senate and Boards of the various schools of studies, the provisional senate on 25th March, 1977, approved the Statement of Academic Policies for the University College of Port Harcourt.

The academic objectives of the university of Port Harcourt, as formulated in this statement, are: "To contribute to national development, self-reliance and unity through the advancement and propagation of knowledge and to use such knowledge for service to the community and to humanity."

To this end, (a) "Degree programmes shall be provided with the objective of producing persons who are well grounded in contemporary culture, have sound knowledge of one branch of learning, and are intellectually well equipped to make an effective contribution to national development, self-reliance and unity.

(b) "Research facilities shall be provided for staff and students to undertake research relevant to the total development of Nigeria.

(c) "Continuing education programmes shall be provided for the benefit of persons in the various sectors of the economy and in the public service, with a view to increasing their efficiency and productivity through knowledge of advances relating to their work.

(d) "Programmes shall be provided to assist the community in which the university is situated to benefit from the facilities provided by the institution".

ACADEMIC ORGANISATION

A far-reaching innovation was-a-vis traditional academic organisation in Nigeria is the establishment of schools of studies consisting of related disciplines; there are therefore no faculties or departments.

The objective of this form of academic organisation is to eliminate departmental parochialism and to facilitate "the development of broad-based and integrated degree programmes" consistent with the general objectives of the institution.

Thus, for instance, "the School of Social Sciences shall train not so much economists, political scientists, sociologists, etc, but rather social science graduates who without prejudice to their major interests and expertise in any branch of the field of study shall be well grounded in the area of the Social Sciences generally and well trained in its basic principles and methodology".

The Dean of the school, in consultation with the directors of studies, is responsible for the administration and overall academic leadership of the School of Study.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME OF STUDIES

At present the following schools of studies and disciplines have been established with effect from the 1976/77 session:

(i) **School of Humanities** major disciplines — History, Language and Literature. Minor Disciplines — Creative Arts and Philosophy.

(ii) **School of Biological Sciences:** major disciplines — Botany, Zoology, and Microbiology.

(iii) **School of Chemical Sciences:** major disciplines — Biochemistry, Chemistry, and Applied Chemistry.

(iv) **School of Physical Sciences:** major disciplines — Geology, Mathematics (with Mathematics, Computer

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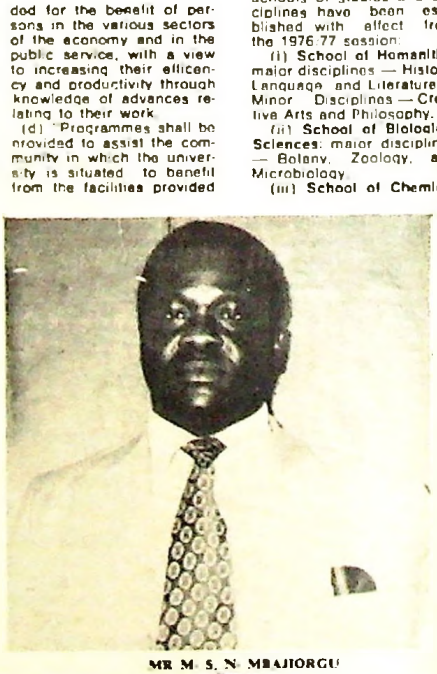


MR M. S. N. MBAJIORGU
Bursar



MR MESHACH ENAKEBAKPOR AKPE
Registrar

Focus on University of Port Harcourt

(Continued from page 4)

Sciences or Statistics emphasis), and Physics

V) School of Social Science Major Disciplines — Economics, Business Studies, Political and Administrative Studies, Sociology, and Geography

vi) School of Educational Studies Major Disciplines — Education and the teaching subjects offered in other schools; Minor Disciplines — Health and Psychology

The University of Port Harcourt will establish the Schools of Engineering and Medical Sciences as well as an Agricultural Research Centre before the 1981/82 Session.

One very significant aspect of the degree programmes is the introduction of Community Service Courses directed towards service to the community.

The objective of the projects is to involve both staff and students in a practical way with some of the problems of society as well as with efforts to provide solutions to them, and to inculcate and develop in both staff and students a consciousness of their responsibilities to society and the gratification of service to others.

The projects are practical in nature, require the application of some of the skills being acquired in the degree programme for service to the community, and generally involve manual work.

They are credit-earning and are an essential requirement in all degree programmes.

The University offers a four-year degree programme. There is no "direct entry" into the degree programme. In exceptional cases admission may be granted into the university on a transfer basis from another University.

School of Basic studies

There is also a one-year School of Basic Studies which is established as an integral part of the academic programme of the University.

The School admits candidates from schools in the Rivers State and offer educationally backward areas of the country, including mature candidates, who have been selected through the University's competitive entrance examination, but have inadequate qualifications for the programme of studies which they wish to pursue at the University.

This particularly is for candidates who wish to read scientific subjects but have had inadequate scientific preparation in post-primary institutions.

Such candidates admitted into the School of Basic Studies are required to take five subjects, including English Language and at least one science subject or elementary Mathematics.

Those who sit and pass the University Matriculation examination at the end of the year are admitted into the first year of the four-year degree programme.

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

The mode of instruction is the course system which provides flexibility for dealing with the variety of students with differing backgrounds and interests.

ACADEMIC YEAR

The Academic Year of the University of Port Harcourt runs from 1st November to 31st July. For purposes of teaching and examinations, the academic year is divided into two semesters as follows:

(a) First Semester - 1st November to 28th February; March is a holiday period.
(b) Second Semester - 1st April to 31st July.

ADMISSION POLICY

(a) The basic entrance requirement into the four-year degree programme is the West African School Certificate with credit in five subjects or equivalent qualifications.

(b) The general objectives of the Admission Policy of the University shall be:

i) To provide opportunity for outstanding meritorious students;

ii) To contribute to the educational development of the part of the country in which the university is situated;

iii) To ensure that in the student body as many people possible are drawn from all parts of the country.

(c) There shall be no limit to admission to the University except that candidates admitted under the "mature student" rule shall not be less than 30 years of age in the year of their admission.

EMBLEM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT:

The emblem of the University of Port Harcourt consists of the national flag symbolising the national character of the University; a rising sun in yellow and an opened book above it, symbolising enlightenment, deep blue underneath the opened book representing the colour of the university; and a traditional boat with sails and a helmsman sailing on a light blue sea depicting self-reliance.

Beneath the emblem is the motto of the university: **FOR ENLIGHTENMENT AND SELF-RELIENCE.**

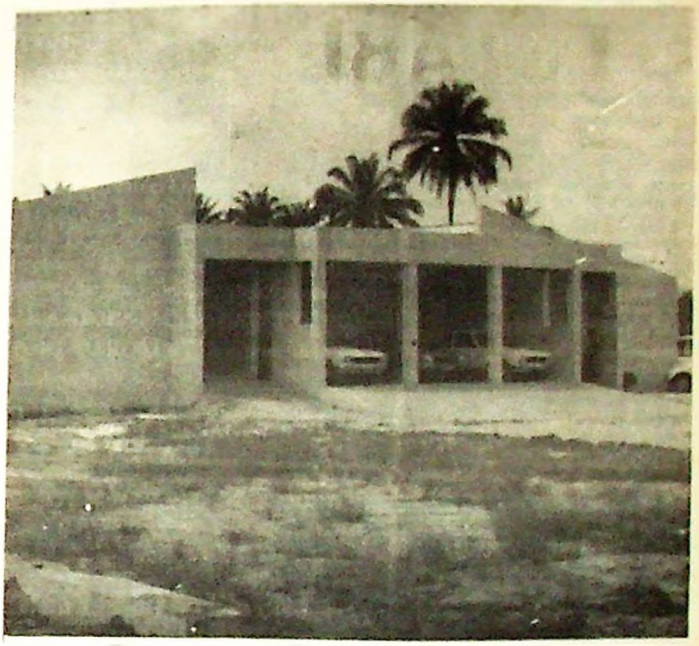
Apart from the newly constructed but unoccupied buildings intended for a Trade School at Choba, which were made available to it by the Rivers State Government the University of Port Harcourt inherited no basic infrastructure and so had to start literally from scratch.

We are grateful to the Rivers State Government for, without these buildings now constituting the temporary academic area, the university could not have taken off last October.

The permanent site of the University consists of 4,046.86 hectares of land at Choba along the East-West Road, some 15 kilometers to the south-west of Port Harcourt.

It is adjacent to the temporary Academic Area.

The University immediately began to develop a part of the permanent site as an Emergency Site in order to provide accommodation for students, staff and administrative offices.



Front view of the Administration Block at the emergency site



Mr G. B. AFFIA Director of Library

> *"The mode of instruction is the course system which provides flexibility for dealing with the variety of students with differing backgrounds and interests."*

In less than a year, a swampy area of virgin bush has been turned into a promising University campus.

It is a matter for joy that the plans and facilities speedily but carefully thought out and executed enabled the new University to open her gates to her first set of freshmen on Monday, 24th October, 1977 as schedule.

An important development is the Senate Statement of Policy on Student Welfare and Governance. The objective which is "to create the environment that affords the student maximum opportunity to derive from his education the highest quality of personal fulfilment, professional attainment, social responsibility and service to the community."

The students are involved, through the Students Union, wherever practicable, in the administration and management of University affairs.

The overall co-ordination of student welfare services is entrusted to a part-time Dean of Student Affairs. The Dean is a senior member of academic staff and, by virtue of his office a member of Senate to which he is responsible through the Vice Chancellor.

In addition, there is a Student Welfare Committee with Vice Chancellor or his nominee as Chairman with the primary responsibility for overall welfare of students.

Full-time Wardens, (non-academic staff) are appointed to assist the Dean of Student Affairs in the administration and management of the Halls of Residence while an Administrative Secretary is appointed by the Registrar to assist the Dean in the day to day administration of student services.

The University of Port Harcourt regards the administration and management of student welfare as well and guidance and counselling of students as important as the administration and management of academic programmes.

(Continued on page 6)

Focus on University of Port Harcourt

(Continued on page 9)

First Matriculation Ceremony

TODAY Saturday, 28th January, 1978, the University Port Harcourt will matriculate its first set of students.

The Matriculation ceremony was originally scheduled for Saturday, 2nd December, 1977, five weeks after opening on 24th October, became of the delay in releasing the results of the West African School Certificate Examination and the consequent late arrival of freshmen.

A total number of 360 pioneer freshmen who registered in the following Schools of Studies will be matriculated:

Humanities	— 61
Social Sciences	— 61
Educational Studies	— 50
Biological Sciences	— 61
Chemical Sciences	— 42
Physical Sciences	— 59

Pessimists who doubted the wisdom of establishing the University of Port Harcourt and feared the difficulty in attracting qualified staff as well as finding suitably qualified candidates particularly from the Rivers State, have been proved wrong.

The admission of the first set of students, reassures that out of over one thousand candidates who did well in the entrance examination, there were several hundreds including the two candidates with the highest scores) from the Rivers State.

However, admission was offered to only about 400 candidates because of limited residential accommodation for students.

A few candidates have been offered places subject to their being able to find their own accommodation in Port Harcourt.

Staff recruitment has equally been remarkably successful. The University has been able to recruit academic staff not entirely from older Universities in Nigeria but by attracting suitably academicians from abroad and from other parts of the country.

Up to the month of January 1978, the academic staff strength of the University is 84 including 9 professors. Of the 84 only 10, representing less than 14 per cent, have come from other Nigerian Universities.

The 84 also include 14 young Nigerians who are products of the University's one-year Master's Degree Staff Development and Training Programme, trained in Universities in Nigeria and abroad.

Of the 9 professors, only 4 have come from other Nigerian Universities, the rest having been recruited from distinguished Universities abroad.

Postgraduate Programme and Research

Young as it is the University of Port Harcourt has attracted a number of staff who are experienced in research. Vigorous research schemes are being developed, with special emphasis on the interdisciplinary programmes based under the title of Niger Delta Studies.

Plans are also being developed for pilot programmes in postgraduate training in areas where experienced staff are sufficient to provide proper supervision.

Future Development of the University of Port Harcourt

The master plan for the physical development of the permanent site of the University of Port Harcourt has been completed and construction work will start later this year.

The University of Port Harcourt has certainly made a good start.

Port Harcourt, as Nigeria's second largest sea port with a railway terminus and an airport.

It is the centre of the oil industry, the second most industrialised city in Nigeria, and the heart of the great and historic Niger Delta.

There can be little doubt therefore that the new University of Port Harcourt will, in fulfilment of its motto "For Enlightenment and self-reliance" rise from its humble beginning to become a citadel of higher learning in Nigeria, as well as a leading institution in the University world as a whole.

Principal Officers

VICE CHANCELLOR PROF. D. E. U. EKONG

Professor Donald E. U. Ekong was born in 1933. He graduated with first Class (Hons) degree in Chemistry at the University of Ibadan in 1957 and obtained the Diploma Chemiker and Dr rer. nat. at Heidelberg University in Germany in 1962.

After undertaking postdoctorate research at the University Chemical Laboratory, Cambridge University, England, in 1962/63 he joined the academic staff of the Chemistry Department of the University of Ibadan in 1963 as a Lecturer and rose to the rank of Professor of Chemistry in 1969.

Professor Ekong was not only a teacher and researcher at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, but also an active participant in University administration. For two years he was a member of Council of the University of Ibadan.

In 1973 he was appointed the Principal of the Calabar campus of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. While at Calabar he was appointed chairman of the council of the College of Science and Technology, Calabar.

In September 1975, he was the first Principal of the University College, Port Harcourt, and on 1st October, 1977, he became the first Vice-Chancellor of the autonomous and full-fledged University of Port Harcourt.

As a distinguished scholar of national and international repute, Professor Donald E. U. Ekong participated on several occasions by personal invitation, in various international conferences, symposia, seminars and workshops.

His varied experience within and outside the country, including new University institutions.

He is married with four children.

REGISTRAR: MR. MESHACH ENAKERAKPOR AKPE.

Mr Akpe was educated at Government College, Ughelli, University of Ghana and Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA. He holds the degrees of B.A in History and M.A. in Public Administration.

After a period as a school teacher in Warri, Bendel State, he joined the administrative staff of the University of Ibadan in 1967 as an Administrative Officer, subsequently becoming an Assistant Registrar in that University and a Senior Assistant Registrar in the University of Benin.

At the time of his appointment in 1976, he was Deputy Registrar of the University of Benin. He is married with seven children.



PROF. E. J. ALLAGOA
Dean, School of Humanities

BURSAR: MR M. S. N. MBAJIORGU:

Mr Mbajiorgu was educated in the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology, Ibadan and the University of Lancaster, England.

He is an Associate of the Association of Certified Accountants of England, and Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria.

He also holds the M.A. degree in Accounting and Finance. He has served for many years as an Auditor in the former Eastern Region, rising to the post of Chief Auditor in the public service to the former East Central State.

He has also been part-time lecturer in Auditing and Accounting at the University of Nigeria and since July, 1975 has been a member of several panels investigating the affairs of some government agencies in the former East Central State.

At the time of his appointment in 1976, he was on secondment to the Co-operative Bank of Eastern Nigeria Ltd as Chief Inspector. He is married with nine children.

DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY: MR G. B. AFFIA

Mr Affia was educated at the Qua Iboe Mission Secondary School, Elinan, the Hope Waddell Training Institute, Calabar, and the University of Ibadan.

He holds the B.A. degree and the Diploma in Librarianship. He served for many years in the Lagos University Library rising to become the Chief Cataloguer in the Library.

At the time of his appointment in 1976, he was College Librarian in the College of Technology, Calabar. He is married with five children.



PROF. CLAUDE AKE
Dean, School of Social Sciences



PROF. F. A. ONOFEGHARA
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WEEKEND COMMENTARY



FAUX PAS!

ORDINARILY, it would have been thought superfluous or probably presumptous for one to emphasise the importance of accuracy in news reporting on which editors and columnists generally base their free comments. But during my time at one newspaper or the other including the old soldier at Commercial Avenue Yaba, and the octopus at Kakawa Street, Lagos, I was always reminded of this elementary requirement of journalism—accuracy as to facts.

BUT NAMES are also facts, and it was, therefore, odd how careless some leading newspapers in Lagos were in reporting the recent fire that wrecked parts of the country's major oil installation at Apapa.

These newspapers were so persistently inaccurate in elementary matter as names that they left an impression of carelessness or slovenliness which is a pity, for the papers have actually achieved for themselves, both editorially and commercially, the status of "market leaders".

AND NOW to the point. The New Nigerian reported that the affected oil depot belonged to the Nigerian National Oil Corporation (NNOC). It went on to give the name of the general manager of NNOC as Mr. Dapo Shyllon. The New Nigerian's report was lifted by an international news agency and syndicated throughout the globe.

The Daily Times in its editorial of Tuesday, January 24, referred to the "NNOC petroleum storage depot" in drawing attention to the rash of fire-out breaks in the country. Which was all wrong.

SHALL we then get the facts straight? The Nigerian National Oil Corporation does not own a single oil installation or depot or chemical formulation plant at Apapa, or a petrol filling station anywhere that I know of.

TO THE best of my knowledge and belief, there are two installations in the area: one belongs to National Oil and Chemical Marketing Company Limited (NOLCHEM) known as "National" for short; the other belongs to British Petroleum usually called "B.P.". National Oil and Chemical Marketing Company Limited is no part of the Nigerian National Oil Corporation.

ON THE contrary, it is a company jointly owned by the Federal Military Government and Shell—a member company of the giant Royal Dutch Shell group—following an agreement signed by representatives of the FMG and Shell Nigeria Limited on April 1, 1976, in Lagos.

UNDER THE agreement, the FMG acquired sixty per cent interest leaving forty per cent with Shell. And in accordance with the agreement the company became known as National Oil and Chemical Marketing Company Limited as from July 23, 1976. Also as a result, the familiar Shell emblem was replaced by the Eagle, the proud emblem of our dear fatherland. The general manager and chief executive of the aforesaid jointly owned oil marketing company since May 11, 1977, is Mr. Dapo Shyllon. Or has he been seconded to the Nigerian National Oil Corporation?

WELL, these inaccuracies may not matter to the new breed but to old timers like this columnist, they are quite humiliating, for they can, and do, carry the imputation of lack of knowledge of things worth knowing by any reporter and sub-editor in this country particularly now that everyone in our society seems so concerned about Nigeria's "oil doom".

BUT do you know that all the oil companies maintain full-time and well-fed press officers, by whatever name they may be designated, and that their primary job is to oil the relations between the press and their companies, particularly in matters like this and that this process does not usually exclude a couple of drinks and good lunch?

COMPANIES, and oil companies particularly so, can do their own images a power of good, as well as contributing to common understanding, by getting their relations with the Press on a sound footing.

Journey so far

by



LLOYD AJUDUA

REGISTRATION of voters for the 1979 general elections is currently going on and with it comes a general awareness that we are becoming swift in our journey towards civilian rule.

Various community leaders, including highly respected personalities like the Sultan of Sokoto, Sir Abubakar, the Chief of Kagoro, Alhaji Sir Usman Nagogo, Emir of Katsina and the Emir of Kontagoro, Alhaji Saidu Namasku, before the exercise came out in full force and campaigned for people to turn out and register.

One campaigner whose statement is also worth giving serious thought is Alhaji Yusuf Dantsoho, Chairman of Kaduna Local Government Council who said among other things that it would be an act of sabotage for anybody to do anything to discourage people from registering in his place of domicile.

"The registration is a Nigeria-wide affair and nobody should leave his place of abode for his home state for registration", the head of local government in Kaduna said.

Alhaji Yusuf, knows what he was saying. As National Publicity Secretary of the banned NPC, Alhaji Yusuf knows, as well as most of us do, that people used, in the First Republic to steam to their home constituencies to register for the election or even census exercises.

And that was the beginning of the undoing that brought us to where we are today.

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MAN OF THE YEAR

The NEW NIGERIAN newspaper is regarded in many circles as an authoritative journal. This is because apart from the boldness of the editorial staff, the paper is known to cross check every bit of information, ensuring that anything it published is the absolute truth, as far as human lapses can allow.

This is why they hardly carry corrections and stubbornly cling to any fact they believe to be

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COLD FACTS OR SINISTER FICTION?

The following story, alleging "at least" a dozen incidents of piracy on Nigerian waters during the last three months of last year, appeared on page 16 of the issue of January 23 of the American magazine TIME:

THE PIRATES OF LAGOS

"Masked marauders are looting cargo ships at anchor. "It was after midnight. They came up on the port quarter. They used grappling hooks and then came up the ropes...

"Thus began a modern pirate story, as told by American Seaman Harold Spille, 34, a crewman aboard the S.S. *African Dawn*. The setting: the overcrowded and sweltering port of Lagos in oil-rich Nigeria, where the *African Dawn*, one of about 100 vessels, was waiting to unload its cargo of American goods to be displayed at the Lagos trade fair.

As four masked raiders appeared at the rails, a seaman on watch was able to frighten the marauders away. After that, the captain kept his ship's engines running every night, once proceeding as far as sixty miles up the coast.

The crew stood special watch during the thirty-two days that the ship waited for docking space and during the twenty-two days required for unloading.

Armed with guns and matchets, pirates have been plundering ships like the *African Dawn* for months in Lagos' harbor and with considerable success.

At least a dozen were attacked and looted during the last three months of 1977 alone. In mid-November, all fourteen crewmen aboard the Danish freighter *Lindinger Ivory* were wounded during an attack; the ship's captain was killed and his body thrown overboard.

A week later, a pirate band raided the Spanish vessel Josefin, injuring the captain and several crewmen. In December, pirates boarded a Soviet ship, but the Russians were armed and killed all seven attackers. The captain radioed Nigerian authorities that "some bodies appear to be floating in the harbour," then steamed away without even unloading his cargo.

In retaliation for the attacks, the Danish Seamen's Union has refused to let its members sign on with any cargo ships bound for Lagos, and West German owners have asked the Nigerian Government for guarantees of safety for their vessels'

No worldwide boycott of Nigerian ports by merchant seamen is yet planned, but officials of the International Transport Workers Federation in London expect to decide later this month whether to recommend further action by member unions.

What particularly infuriates the shipping lines and their crew is that the pirates are excellent shoppers: they always seem to know exactly what they are looking for—cargoes of Japanese cameras and electronic equipment, Swiss watches and German appliances. "The pirates know everything about your cargo, including where it is stored," complains Seaman Spille. Worse, he says, "the Nigerian Navy is never seen at night"— though the Navy insists that it conducts 24-hour coastal patrols.

At first, Nigerian authorities tried to blame the piracy on gangs of "clandestine immigrants" from neighboring countries. Some Lagos newspapers hinted that the Danish captain had been killed as the result of "an attempted mutiny." Now, however, there are signs that the Nigerian authorities are beginning to take the international criticism seriously.

Police have raided several fishing villages implicated in the smuggling trade, and the government has condemned the wave of piracy as "an act of terrorism against Nigeria." And, it might have added, against some visitors as well."

NOW, is this story substantially true, or is it another fabrication designed to tarnish the image of Nigeria?

Plain TALK



by KWAKU JOFFA

THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION

On Thursday last week, the Daily Times reported that more than 4,500 students might be sent out of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka if by the end of month they did not pay up their fees for the first and second terms of this session.

The figure, according to the report, represented 70 per cent of the students population — on both Nsukka and Enugu campuses.

Their plight followed the cancellation of the Federal Government Loan Scheme.

The loan scheme was thrown out after the Federal authorities had declared tuition free for all students in higher institutions of learning.

Some of the affected students at Nsukka, according to the Daily Times report, had advertised their pleasure property for sale so as to beat the January 31 "pay-orquit" deadline.

Earlier, the students union of the university had reacted sharply to the Federal Government's cancellation of the scheme.

Mr Chudi Nwazurike, union president described the government's action as hasty and myopic, and showed evidence of poor planning and insensitivity to the plight of students in Nigerian universities.

In his view, the loan had raised students aspiration for higher studies because it covered fees, text books and equipment expenses.

Mr Uwazurike argued that the students should have been informed of the cancellation by the end of the last session to enable them make alternative private arrangements for their fees during the long vacation.

He lamented that some students had already withdrawn from the university because of the Federal Government decision while others had become so upset that they could no longer concentrate on their academic work.

Apparently, the Federal Government was compelled to scrap the loan scheme because of the present state of the country's economy. If this is so, then it was certainly a myopic act which did not take into consideration the nation's economic development.

It is true that in certain countries, mostly the capitalist ones, education is not considered as a right. Like most things in every capitalist system, the door for education is opened principally to only those who can pay for it. In this situation, therefore, a brilliant chap without the means is left to struggle for education while a dullard whose parents have the means sees only the sky as his limit.

This is an unfortunate situation which I think should not be allowed in a developing society like ours. If we sincerely want to develop our nation, it is imperative that we give priority to education.

It means each child who gives an indication that he is able to benefit from education should be given every encouragement by the government. In short, in our society, we should regard education as a right and not a privilege which must be reserved for only a few.

In this wise, one is forced to express regret that the Federal Government had seen it fit to increase fees in our post-primary institutions a hundred fold. In this period of inflation one would expect the government to make it impossible for exploiters to milk the workers of this country.

Unfortunately, by increasing fees in our institutions, the government has unwittingly given the impression that it is in support of the exploitative tendencies of certain individuals who are apparently taking an undue advantage of the prevailing world economic situation.

Taking all these factors into consideration, I strongly believe that Mr Gani Fawehinmi, founder and chairman of the Free Education Association of Nigeria is certainly among the few rare breed of Nigerians, both living and dead today.

Mr Fawehinmi when even the government is making it rather difficult for some of our students to continue with their education has come out boldly to save the situation. In a reaction to the plight of the Nsukka university students, he has donated (N1,000) one thousand naira to help alleviate their sufferings in their predicament.

That is not all, Mr Fawehinmi has also promised that he would endeavour to send more money to the University of Nigeria, Nsukka before the end of this month — the deadline for the expulsion of the students.

In making the donation, he observed:

"I am highly disturbed by the fact that majority of those who continue to bear the brunt of the Federal Government's lopsided policy on education are sons and daughters of poor parents.

"The battle line must, therefore, be drawn with all constitutional weapons at our command."

I am certainly at one with these observations.

I do not know if Mr Fawehinmi is interested in the presidency, come 1979, but I can assure him that without his asking, my vote is his.

Surely we need more Fawehinmis in this country if our dream of a new and better society should ever materialise.

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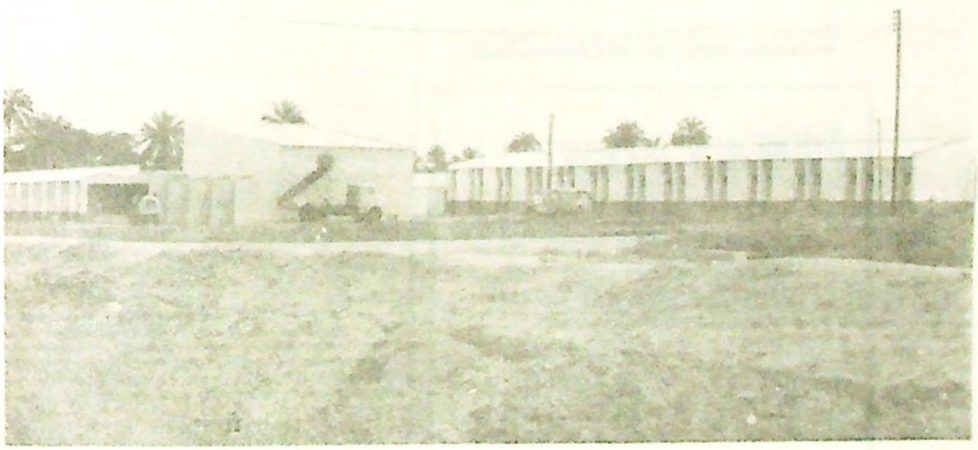

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SUNNY—I, formerly known and addressed as Mr Sunny Green, now wish to be known and addressed as Mr Emmanuel-yekiem Atanye Green. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. Rivers State Ministry of Works and Housing, Greater Evangelism (Nig) Crusade and General Public please take note Mr E. A. Green.

APPAH—I, formerly known and addressed as Miss Fortune Tarigebere Appah, now wish to be called and addressed as Mrs Fortune Tarigebere Benson. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. Central Bank of Nigeria Ltd and the general public take note. Mrs Fortune T. Benson.

NYENKE—I, formerly known and addressed as Mrs Beatrice C. Nyenke, wish to be called and addressed as Mrs Beatrice C. J. O. Obiandu. Former documents bearing my former name remain valid. Schools Management Board, Teaching Service Commission and the general public to take note Beatrice C. J. O. Obiandu.

OKUREGWU—I, formerly known, called and addressed as Miss Ngozi Comfort Okuregwu, now wish to be called and addressed as Mrs Ngozi Comfort Ukaoha. Documents bearing my former name remain valid. Schools Management Board and the general public should take note Mrs Ngozi C. Ukaoha.

NWOKOGBA—We were formerly known and addressed as follows:—
1. Samuel Chukwumeka Nwokogba
2. Mrs Believoth Nwokogba
3. Blessing Adaku Nwokogba
4. Charity Chimezeyenwa Nwokogba
5. Shedrack Onyekachi Nwokogba.

now wish to be called and addressed as
Samuel Chukwumeka Nwocha
Mrs Believoth Nwocha
Blessing Adaku Nwocha
Charity Chimezeyenwa Nwocha
Shedrack Onyekachi Nwocha

All documents bearing our former names remain valid. Ministry of Education, S. M. S. Ikot Ekpene, C.T.T.C. Ndele, and the general public please take note. S. C. Nwocha on behalf of the family.

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PRESS STATEMENT

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

I refer to the publication in the *Nigerian Tide* of Wednesday, January 25, 1978 page 16 entitled "500 CST Students pack out of Hostel – 24-hour quit order" and publish the text of the Rector's letter addressed to the students of Basic studies on 16th of January, 1978 for the information of the discerning public.

16th January, 1978.

CST/REC/185/Vol. I/III.

Students of Basic Studies,
c/o A. K. E. Woodman,
College of Science & Technology,
Port Harcourt.

SCHOOL OF BASIC STUDIES STUDENTS ACCOMMODATION

I refer to your letter dated 16th January, 1978 and confirm that all students who were not living in College hostels before the 30th of November, 1977 should prepare to vacate the hostels if and when the former occupants return.

The accommodation of the whole of the students of Basic Studies in College hostels was an emergency measure adopted solely for the protection of all students who were allowed to continue with their studies after 30th November. It was not intended to oust those who had been allocated rooms in the hostels at the beginning of the session.

The College is striving hard to get the emergency hostels ready for occupation. Students will be considered for allocation as vacancies occur in these and other hostels.

I must stress that this decision affects **all students who were not previously allocated rooms in the hostels, not only students of Basic Studies.**

W. J. Wakama
Rector

cc: Deputy Rector
Registrar
& Chairman, Master of Halls.

I also wish to inform the public that the total admissions into the School of Basic Studies are not even up to 500 students and so the information that 500 of them have been ordered to pack out from hostels is grossly incorrect.

REGISTRAR
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
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With deepest regret we announce the untimely death of our dearly beloved Husband, Father, Brother and Friend



SOLOMON B. EREKOSIMA
(AGED 35)

which sad event took place at the General Hospital Port Harcourt on 24th January 1978. after a brief illness.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENT.

Body leaves Port Harcourt Mortuary by 10 a. m. on Friday 27th January, 1978 for Abonnema Wharf to Buguma. Christian wake keeping from 9. p.m. till dawn. Burial on Saturday 28th Jan. 1978 by 12 noon.

May His Soul Rest In Peace

CHIEF P. G. WARMATE
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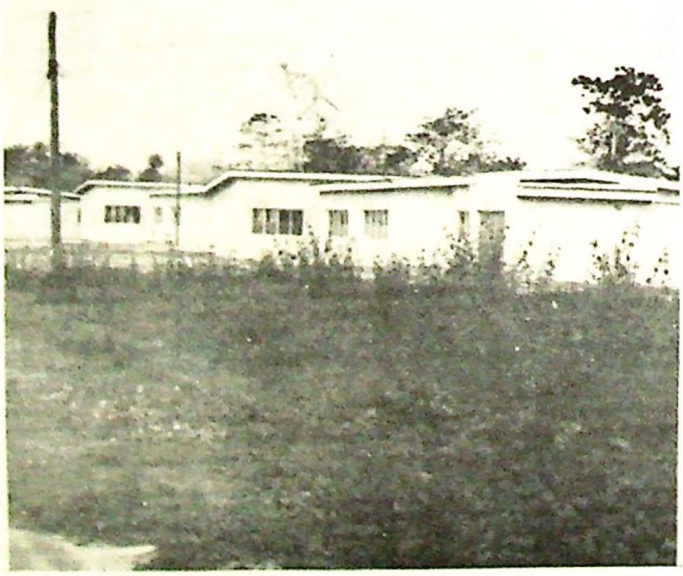

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P. O. Box 1029, Port Harcourt.

CHEDIAK CUP: IBAA ARE 4—0 WINNERS

GOVERNMENT Secondary School, Ibaa, current holders of the NTC Cup, this week swalloped St. Joseph's Secondary School, Umuaturu, Etche, by 4-0 in the John Chediak Cup football Competition played at the County Grammar School, Ikwerre-Etche playground.

St Joseph's set the pace from the kick-off, but were in command for only five minutes without earning any pay-off.

And when Ibaa took control they played more purposefully and were rewarded in the tenth minute when their inside right had no difficulty in finding the left extreme of the St Joseph's net for the curtain-raiser.

This goal spurred the NTC Cup champions into more action as they mobilised concerted forays into their opponents' half.

Then tragedy struck St. Joseph's as their goalkeeper got injured and was carried out and the match was held up as the latter walked out contending that they had no substitute goalkeeper to continue.

With this the play was held up to the end of the first half.

However, play resumed in second half with another referee! And in six minutes of this half, inside right Igwe for Umuaturu, with only the goalkeeper to beat, painfully shot into the waiting hands of the goalkeeper.

By the tenth minute it was clear that the Umuaturu boys were virtually finished as their stamina to resist the flurry of Ibaa's attacks waned.

In the 20 minutes to the end of the game, Ibaa boys netted three more goals in succession, apparently at will.

SPORTS EDITOR'S NOTE: Two referees for one match, more so in a cup-tie? It's strange. Maybe the rules governing this premier game are taking a right about turn.

Champions dethroned

NATIONAL Bank of Lagos have dethroned the Oba Cup defending champions, Stationery Stores, beating them 7—6 in the final played at Lagos State Temporary Stadium.

To achieve this feat the new champions first had to force a deserted 2—2 draw before winning 5—4 in penalty kicks for the decider.

Two refs for a cuptie!

Rivers boxing fixed for Feb 13

A NEW date has been fixed for the Eighth All Rivers State Amateur Open Boxing Championship. It is February 13—18, 1978.

Aimed at getting the state champion boxers, the registration rules still stands that zonal boxers should accompany their entries with a registration fee of 50k (fifty kobo) sent to the Secretary, Rivers State Amateur Boxing Association, Mr E. T. Wellington through their zonal Sports Council secretaries, or direct to the afore-mentioned.

According to a press release by the association, the extension of time is "aimed at giving more room to participants."

The release further stated that only six clubs had so far paid their affiliation fees.

They include L. K. Boxing Club, Lions Boxing Club and P and T Boxing Club all of Port Harcourt.

Others are Aboada Boxing Club, Lions Boxing Club of Tombia and the Kings Boxing Club of Buguma.

Also in another release, the Rivers State Table Tennis Association states that the former Christmas Open Table Tennis Championship has now been replaced by "Nigeria Petroleum Refining Company Open Table Tennis Championship."

The championships will be held from February 14 to 17.

The events of the championship are as follows: Men's team event—N1.00; Women's team events—N1.00; Men's singles—50k; Women's singles—50k; Men's double—N1.00 per pair; Women's doubles—N1.00 per pair and senior mixed doubles—N1.00 per pair.

Others are Intermediate boys singles—25k; club singles—25k; boys doubles—25k; Girls doubles—50k; Mixed doubles—50k; Junior boys singles — 10k; Junior girls singles—10k; Junior boys doubles—15k; Junior girls doubles—15k and junior mixed doubles—15k.

Age limit for each category are, senior—18 years and above, Intermediate—13 to 18 years and eight to 13 years for junior.

US Tennis Results

ALL seeded players left in the US professional indoor tennis championship in Philadelphia went through to the last 16 today.

RESULTS

Bjorn Borg (SWE, seeded 1) Bt Tom Okker (Hol) 6-2 6-1; Emanuel Orantes (SPA,3) Bt Erew Mcmillan (SAF) 6-4 7-5; Brian Gottfried (US,1) Bt Marty Riessen (US) 6-3 6-4; Vitas Gerulaitis (US,4) Bt Jeff Borowiak (US) 6-1 6-3; Rosenkanner (US,10) bt Zeljko Franulovic (YUG) 7-6 6-4; Ken ROSEWALL (AUS,12) Bt Balazs Taroczy (HUN) 7-6 6-3.

Peter Fleming (US) Bt Mike Cahill (US) 6-3 7-6; Jimmy Connors (US,1) Bt Adriano Panatta (ITA) 6-3 6-2; Eddie Ramirez (MEX,7) Bt Ray Moore (SAF) 6-4 7-6; Harold Solomon (US,74) Bt Antonio Zugarelli (ITA) 6-3 6-4.

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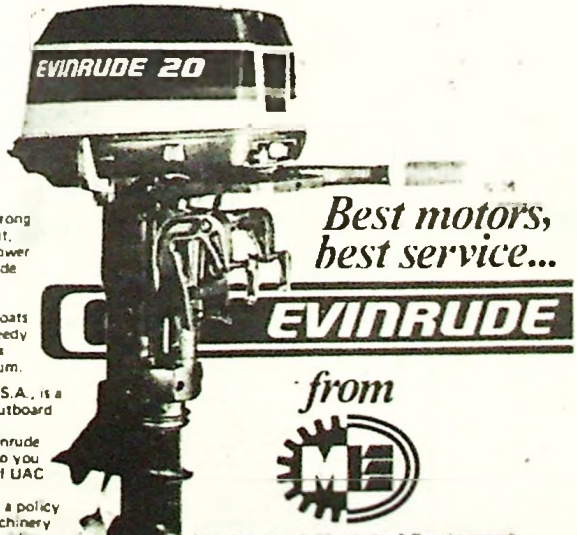

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NIGERIAN TIDE

Saturday January 28, 1978.

EXECUTIVE GOVERNORS

(Continued from page 1)

be a commissioner. The state Assembly shall withdraw its confirmation of such a commissioner.

The deputy governor shall carry out such functions as are assigned to him by the governor. In addition he shall be the deputy chairman of the state Executive Council.

The duties of the office of the governor shall be performed by the deputy governor whenever the governor for any reason whatsoever is temporarily unable to perform his duties or is away from Nigeria.

If the office of the governor of a state becomes permanently vacant by reason of death, resignation, physical or mental incapacity or removal from office by impeachment, the deputy governor shall assume the office of the governor.

He shall then nominate a deputy governor who will be scrutinized and confirmed by the state Assembly.

The office of the governor of a state shall become vacant under the same conditions as stipulated for the office of the President except that in the case of resignation under his hand a governor shall deliver the letter of resignation in person to the President of the state Assembly.

1979: what FEDECO must do —Kulo

The Federal Electoral Commission (FEDECO) has been called upon to provide adequate transport facilities and registration materials for the successful registration of voters for the 1979 elections.

The call was made by the chairman of the Rivers State Newspaper corporation, Chief I. S. Allison-Kulo, during a tour of Buguma in the Degema Local Government area of the Rivers State.

Chief Kulo explained that the measure would enable registration officers to move into the remotest parts of the state to carry out the registration of voters.

Chief Kulo who was on tour of some communities in the state to appraise the circulation machinery of the 'Tide' group of newspapers also held discussions with members of the communities he visited with a view to ascertaining their impressions on the papers and if possible to increase the scope of their market.

The Kalabari communities expressed their appreciation to the corporation in the manner its papers were supplied to their area but appealed to the good offices to ensure prompt dispatches.

Replying, the chairman thanked the people for their patronage and assured them that he would look into their complaints.

No new state now, says study group



DR B. IDONIBOYE-OBU

NO Rivers State member of the Constituent Assembly has the mandate from the people to carve out another state from the Rivers State as presently constituted. But if the time should ever come for this matter of creation of more states in the Rivers State, the people of the state whose future would be involved in that exercise should be consulted.

These were some of the observations made by the Rivers State Study Group — a group whose membership is drawn from all the divisions in the state and is dedicated to the corporate existence of the Rivers State — at a press conference in Port Harcourt.

Among those present at the press conference were Chief (Dr) I. J. Fiberesima, Chief T. M. Ada-Kobani, Chief B. A. D. Alikor, Dr E. Idoniboye-Obu and Dr O. E. Osundu.

The group stated categorically that some members from the Rivers State in the Constituent Assembly were making frantic efforts towards the demand for more states in the Rivers State simply because other states in the federation were doing so.

This, the group pointed out, was wrong because such people had not been mandated to do so.

The members of the study group associated themselves with other Nigerians "who honestly feel any constitution for this country must be more liberal in its guidelines for the possible creation of more states in this country."

Nevertheless, "we do not share what we consider as the erroneous view of some people that the Constituent Assembly in itself can create more states now".

The group expressed the hope that no member of the Constituent Assembly from the Rivers State would take any action "which in the long run might turn out to be embarrassing to those concerned".

"If any member assumes that his presence in the Assembly gives him the right to move a motion for the creation of more states in this country then he is simply acting ultra vires", the study group noted.

It stressed that members of the Constituent Assembly "were only given the mandate to hammer the principles on which our constitution should operate in the interest of peace and an indivisible Nigeria".

ANAMBRA PLANS MORE HOUSES FOR WORKERS

THE Anambra State Housing Development Corporation has taken further steps to provide more residential accommodation in the state by signing another N7.2 million contract for the construction of 240 housing units.

₦7.2m for 240 units

According to the corporation, the contract, signed with the representatives of 37 indigenous contractors in Enugu was for the building of 168 housing units at the corporation's estate extension in Enugu, while 72 units would be built at the Onitsha estate.

Signing the contract on behalf of his corporation, the chairman of the state Housing Corporation, Dr M. A. Ogakwu, appealed to the contractors to endeavour to ensure that work on the project was completed within six months.

He reminded the contractors that their assignment was of vital importance to the people and promised that payment would be made according to how work on the various stages of project were completed.

A spokesman for the contractors, in response to the chairman's statement at the occasion, assured the corporation of the contractors' determination to ensure the timely and successful completion of the project.

He expressed the hope that the corporation would live up to expectation by making payments for work completed at all stages in order to facilitate progress and quick completion of the projects before the scheduled time.

Earlier, the state Ministry of Education and Information had awarded another contract for the construction of a primary school at the Trans-Ekulu Estate in Enugu at a cost of ₦200,000.

IJAW CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
P.M.B. 5833,
PORT - HARCOURT.

There will be a very important general meeting of the Ijaw Cultural Association on Sunday, 29th January, 1978, at Township School, Moscow Road, Port Harcourt, by the NEPA District Office at 3 p.m. prompt.

Matters of vital importance affecting the Welfare and Destiny of all Ijaws wherever they may be will be discussed.

Agenda will be as decided during the last meeting.

Come One! Come All!!

Protem Publicity Secretary.

.. In Brief

Washington

THE population of the United States has grown one per cent each year since 1970 and reached 216,300,000 last July, new statistics of the Census Bureau show.

New York State has been losing one half per cent of its inhabitants annually and if this trend continues, will have three less representatives in the National Congress.

Hamburg

SOME 16,000 dockers at eight West German ports, including Humburg and Bremen, were on strike for the second day yesterday in support of a pay claim.

The stoppage, which left three ports unaffected, began after mediation broke down between dockers' leaders seeking a nine per cent rise and employers who offered 5.7 to six per cent.

No moves were apparently under way as yet for solving the dispute.

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