

# DAILY TRUST

Trust Is A Burden

VOL. 2 NO. 11

THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2001

JIMADA-ULA 6, 1422 A.H.

N50



**HEAD OFFICE**  
General Shehu Musa Yar'Adua House,  
7/9 Bank Road, PMB 2180, Kaduna.  
Tel: 062-245140-9  
Website: <http://www.habibnigeriabank.com>  
E-mail: [info@habib-bank.com.nig](mailto:info@habib-bank.com.nig)

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## THURSDAY COLUMN

Abubakar Jika on:

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## Nobody is above Oputa Commission - Obasanjo

By Suleiman Mohammed

President Olusegun Obasanjo yesterday declared that nobody, no matter how highly placed in the country is above appearing before the Justice Chukwudifu Oputa Human Rights Violations Investigation Commission (HRVIC) now sitting in Abuja.

The president's reaction was in response to a petition filed by Beko Ransome-Kuti are the burning of Fela

Anikulapo Kuti's shrine, popularly called "Kalakuta Republic" in 1978 when president Obasanjo was Head of State. The said shrine housed Fela's mother, Mrs. Fumilayo Ransome-Kuti, who was reported to have been thrown-out by military men during the operation, which allegedly caused her death.

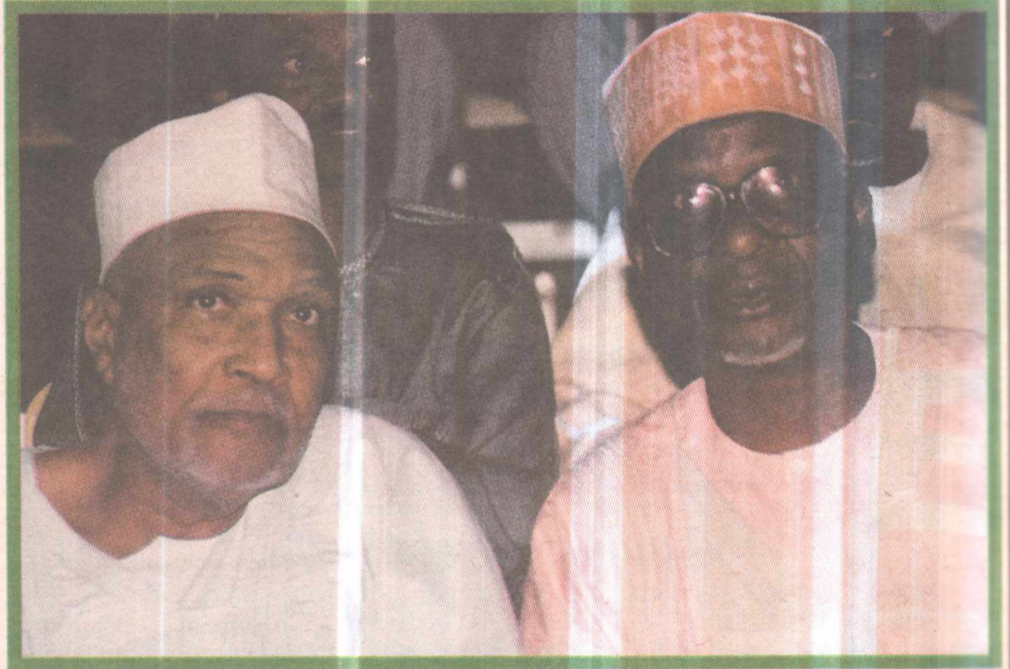
Speaking for the president, his senior Special Assistant (Media and Publicity) Mr. Tunji Oseni, told State House correspondents that President Obasanjo does not consider anybody as being beyond rendering assistance

to the commission "including himself."

"There is nothing spectacular about the petition by Beko Ransome-Kuti. All I can say about that, is that, with the precedent set by the president at the inception of the commission, if he considered that his presence again will help the commission, he will be there," Mr. Oseni declared.

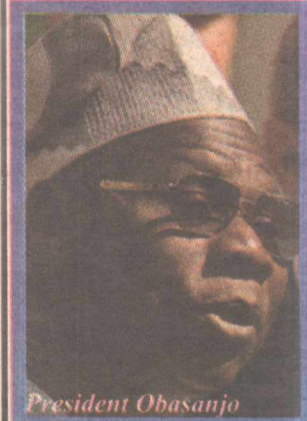
According to him, since the president set up the commission for the purpose of investigating human rights violations, he would not do anything that will affect its operation.

He stressed that the issue *contd. on pg 2*



Alhaji M.D. Yusufu (left) and Alhaji Tanko Yakasai at the Oputa panel Abuja... yesterday.

Pix: Felix Onigbinde.



President Obasanjo

## Haruna explains Benin meeting

Adamawa State Governor, Mr. Boni Haruna, has shed more light on the recent meeting of governors of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), ruled states in Benin.

The governor explained that the meeting was not convened to find a replacement for Atiku Abubakar as the Vice-Presidential candidate in the 2003 presidential elections.

In a statement by his Director of Press, Mr. Sam Lereke, Governor Haruna said contrary to reports by a section of the press, there was no alternative to Atiku Abubakar as the vice-presidential candidate in the 2003 presidential elections.

According to the governor, it is not in anyway tenable for him to be part of a plan to seek an assumed alternative to Atiku Abubakar.

"We affirm that if there is any Nigerian that is suitable for the presidency of

## 1966 COUP ACF accuses Ohaneze of distortion

By Ibrahim Dan Halilu

The Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), has accused the Ohaneze, the socio-cultural umbrella organisation of the Igbo-speaking people of distorting the facts that led to the July 1996 counter-coup.

Leading counsel to the ACF, Yahaya Mahmoud, said this at the Oputa panel proceedings yesterday that the various issues raised by the Ohaneze Ndigo were mere distortions of the events of the July 1996 coup.

### Court stops ID card probe

The Federal High Court, Abuja, has ordered the Federal Government and the National Assembly to halt the implementation of the recommendations of the Senate Committee on Public Accounts on the national identity card project.

This followed the granting of an interlocutory injunction sought by Mr. Nessim Goan who was indicted in the multi-billion naira national identity card project by the Senate Committee

in Nigeria as untrue. He cited exhibit 3, 8 and 9 to dust the Ohaneze petition, pointing out that the coup was organised and led by five army officers from the East.

Earlier in his cross-examination, Barrister Mahmoud had disposed all the claims raised by Comrade Chukwumerijie to the effect that the ACF and the North generally had persistently perpetuated the marginalisation of the Igbo

By Reuben Yunana

After listening to an oral application by counsel to Goan, Professor S.A. Adesanya, trial Judge Okechukwu J. Okeke said the relief granted the applicants on July 13, 2001, to apply for judicial review against the respondents should serve as a stay of proceedings and actions by the respondents.

"Upon the oral application made by the plaintiff/applicant's counsel, Professor S.A. Adesanya (SAN),

Specifically, the ACF took exception to the Ohaneze's position that the July 1996 counter coup was a Jihad.

## Abubakar challenges Oputa panel

Former Head of State, General Abdulsalami Abubakar has accused the Oputa panel of deviating completely from its original terms of reference.

In a petition to the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, General Abubakar, through his lawyers, Summit Chambers, demanded to know if the terms of reference of the

commission has been amended to include other matters.

Apparently worried by the barrage of revelations at Oputa Panel over General Abubakar's actions while he was Head of State, the solicitors wrote: "We have, how-

## Traditional ruler sentenced to death

The Village Head of Dusa in Kankia Local Government Area of Katsina State has been sentenced to death by hanging for the murder of one Haruna Dan-Dambo. This judgement was handed down at the Katsina High Court III, presided over by Justice Yusuf Ibrahim.

The village head, Malam Habibu Mohammed, was arraigned before the judge for allegedly shooting the de-

Comrade Chukwumerijie agreed with the ACF, but added "I do not believe in using that word to describe the coup but I believe it was an exten

ever, noted that our client, who is not a petitioner and has not been specifically petitioned to appear before the commission, has been constantly in the media for allegations which border on anything but human rights violation. "These allegations have emanated not from the

### Hassan A. Karofi, in Katsina

which subsequently resulted in his death. Malam Mohammed also burnt the house of the deceased, destroying his property in the process. The prosecution called witnesses, who could not, however, link the accused to the murder. Justice Ibrahim explained that the accused person's confessional state



## NEWS

sion of the political division inherent in the country as at that time between the NPC, NCNC and AG."

Substantiating the non-Jihad motive for the counter coup, Mahmoud deposed that all the officers killed in Lagos during the coup were from the North.

He questioned the authenticity of the claim contained in the petition of the *Ohaneze* that the Nigerian pogrom of 1967 had led to the malnourishment of over 600,000 Igbo children.

When asked to defend the claim that the creation of states in 1967 by the Gowon administration was aimed at marginalizing the Igbo, Comrade Chukwumerijie said he was aware that there were demands for states by some communities in the mid west and south-east.

During cross-examination by the counsel to ACF, an argument ensued when the counsel sought to tender

**ACF** *contd. from pg 1*

the ACF response to *Ohaneze* petition through the witness.

Justice Oputa over ruled the move and suggested that the counsel do it through his own witness.

At this juncture, Col. Hameed Ali was invited to the witness box to tender the ACF response, following which the counsel to *Ohaneze* took over the cross-examination which lasted for about two hours.

Barrister Anothony Muogbo (SAN) raised two major objection in his cross-examination. Firstly, that the *Ohaneze* witnesses would not be at the commission again to testify the unless the ACF was prepared to offset all their travel expenses since opportunities had presented themselves at Lagos and Enugu sittings for the forum to appear before the commission but failed.

Secondly, he maintained that the July 1966 coup was

not an Igbo coup unless the petitioner wanted the commission to believe that all coups organised and led by people from that a particular section of the country become their own coup.

"Will you call the coup that Buhari led to topple President Shehu Shagari, a Hausa coup?" Barrister Muogbo asked?

The cross-examination galore which adjourned by the commission to today as no possible end to the encounter was in sight.

For the first time since the Oputa commission began sitting, former President Ibrahim Babangida was represented at the commission by his counsel, Yisa A.N., who also appeared for General Garba Duba and Wushishi.

Also General Yakubu Gowon and M.D. Yusufu, the patron and chairman of the ACF respectively were represented by Barrister M.B. Wali.

**Traditional ruler** *contd. from pg 1*

ments tendered to the court as exhibits A and A1, had admitted killing the late Haruna.

In the statement, the accused admitted that he shot and set the house of late Haruna ablaze.

According to the judge, the accused did not deny the statement neither was he threatened or forced to admit his guilt.

The defence counsel prayed the court to set aside the confessional statements as the accused is an illiterate. He also urged that one of the witnesses, a person of authority, had induced the accused to make the state-

ment.

However, Justice Ibrahim dismissed the argument as the statement was not made under duress. He also ruled that no law prevents any person in authority from standing as a witness before any court.

The judge equally said the gun used was recovered and the accused agreed that it belonged to him.

The court, therefore, ruled that the said action is a culpable homicide punishable by death under section 221 of the penal code.

He, therefore, sentenced the accused to death by hanging and gave the him 30 days

within which to appeal.

In a related development the Katsina police command arraigned before a Chief Magistrate Court, one Halliru Dahiru for allegedly killing his brother.

The accused was alleged to have, on June 29, 2001, stabbed Aminu Sani twice on the back which resulted in his death.

The prosecution said the offence was contrary to section 221 of the penal code.

The presiding Chief Magistrate, Lawal Garba, adjourned the case to August 15, 2001 and ordered the accused to be remanded in prison custody.

**Court** *contd. from pg 1*

applicant's motion on notice, for interlocutory injunction staying further proceedings and actions against the respondents.

Hearing on the motion on notice has been fixed for September 27, 2001.

Goan had dragged the Senate, the Clerk of the National Assembly, members of the Senate Committee on Public Accounts and the Attorney-General of the Federation to court seeking an interlocutory injunction restraining all of them, their servants, agents or privies from acting, implementing, carrying out any decision, resolution, recommendations or orders on the report of the National Identity Card

**Haruna** *contd. from pg 1*

this nation next to the incumbent president, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, it is Atiku Abubakar, the Vice-President," the statement said.

The governor reaffirmed his commitment to the

Obasanjo administration and the Obasanjo-Atiku candidacy in the 2003 elections, saying: "We did not go to Benin to look for an alternative to Abubakar, we have confidence in the Obasanjo-Atiku ticket in 2003."

project based on the public hearing conducted by the Senate Committee on Public Accounts.

In the Suit No. FHC/ABJ/M/254/2001, Goan, chairman of Noga S.A. Hydroma International S.A, Afrocontinental Nigeria Limited, Noga S.A as well as Optica S.A. also sought a review of the report of the Senate Committee.

The respondents claim that they were not given a fair hearing at the public hearing and that the committee made orders indicting persons who did not appear at the public hearing as well as "indicting persons who were invited to appear as witnesses without making it known to them."

He further explained the rationale behind the Benin meeting saying that the governors went to Benin to take stock of their activities as PDP governors for the past two years to consolidate their gains and move forwards.

**SSS arrest Katsina-based Islamic scholar**

The chairman of the Katsina State branch of the Izala group, Sheikh Yakubu Hassan, has been arrested by security operatives, for undisclosed reasons.

A junior brother to the Islamic scholar, Alhaji Sabo Hassan told NAN on Tuesday in Katsina, that the Sheikh was arrested in Kaduna last weekend, while on a preaching mission, and was taken to Abuja by the security agents.

He said the security men had earlier arrested him (the junior brother), mistaking him for the Islamic scholar, but released him, when they realised that he was not their target.

He declined to give further details about the arrest, but noted that there had not been any breach of the peace

From Hassan A. Karofi, in Katsina with Agency Reports

in the state as a result of the development, adding that his command was monitoring the situation.

Daily Trust investigation have revealed that the arrest of the Islamic scholar came in the wake of the prevailing controversy over the mode of implementation of the *Sharia* legal system in the state, particularly between the Sheikh group and members of the Association of Performing Artists and Artisans (PAA) in the area.

The artistes has rejected the government's ban on singing, drumming, and praise-singing in the state, claiming that it infringed on their right to freedom of expression and denied them their means of livelihood, but the *Da'awah* group,

which operates under the Izala organisation, insisted on enforcing the ban in all parts of the state.

NAN reports that the disagreement between the two groups resulted in violent assaults at wedding ceremony in Dutsin-ma recently, which created the current disaffection among the artists and members of the Izala group.



Mr. Musiliu Smith, IGP

**Nobody** *contd. from pg 1*

of peace and reconciliation was a global phenomenon that should be encouraged, adding that, if there are request for assistance by the commission, government would oblige in order to enable them perform their duty.

Responding to question on why the commission members met President Obasanjo last week, Mr.

Oseni said, issues discussed were legitimate, and borders mainly on the operations of the commission.

However, he said, it would be wrong for details of the meeting to be made public, because, it may affect the working of the commission. He said, that the panel would likely participate at an international workshop

slated to take place in Europe soon.

He, however, declined comment on whether issues concerning the non-appearances of former heads of state, Generals Ibrahim Babangida, Abdulsalami Abubakar and Muhammadu Buhari were discussed at the commission's meeting with Obasanjo.

**Abubakar** *contd. from pg 1*

petitioners per-sey but from persons who are themselves respondents to allegations of human rights violation by several petitioners."

The petition further exonerated General Abubakar, saying all decisions were taken in his capacity as the Head of State, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria. "We are not aware of any petition personal or private, against the person of General Abdulsalami Abubakar," the petition queried.

It, therefore, advised the Oputa commission to keep within its terms of appointment and also protect other citizens from acts which incidentally, also constitute a violation of their human rights.

General Abdulsalami's petition also regretted the manner the commission allowed allegations bordering on national security to be made before the commission and broadcast on prime time television without the slightest proof or evidence from the petitioners and witnesses.

"It will appear that the evidential burden of proof has not only shifted, but has been completely ignored by the commission such that those whom allegations are made against must now appear before the commission to prove the allegations. This is kafka to the extreme," said

the petition signed by Mr. Gimba A.H. of Summit Chambers, solicitors to former head of state.

The HRVIC has on Monday July 2, 2001, summoned General Abubakar to give evidence on the death in custody of Bashorun MKO Abiola, the presumed winner of the June 12, 1993 elections.

General Abubakar had been named as a witness by counsel to Abiola's son, Kola, Mr. Femi Falana, when the matter was mentioned at the commission's sitting that Monday in Abuja.

But what it was alter revealed that General Abubakar did not receive any summons asking him to appear before the commission, and the former Director of Military Intelligence (DMI), Brigadier-General Ibrahim Sabo, through his counsel, Mr. Oumar Shittien, also requested to have Abubakar summoned.

The commission's chairman, Justice Oputa directed that Abubakar be summoned to appear before it.

The counsel to late Abiola's son, Falana had insisted that Abiola died in Abubakar's custody and therefore, needed to be summoned to answer questions on the politician's death.

Sabo had also insisted at the commission's sitting in

Lagos earlier in the year, that General Abubakar should appear before the commission.

First, Sabo stated that he had certain revelations to make in respect of Abiola's death, but that he wants to make the revelations in the presence of Abubakar. Also, Sabo had at the commission's sitting on July 19, when Abubakar was expected to appear, made certain allegations of monumental fraud and graft against General Abdulsalami Abubakar.

Among the allegations levelled against the former head of state by Sabo include: sharing of \$40 million allegedly donated by unnamed multi-national companies for General Abacha's self-succession bid; short-changing all Provisional Ruling Council (PRC) members by \$450,000 out of a \$500,000 parting gift, among others.

Meanwhile, the commission which was set up late 1999 was mandated by the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, General Olusegun Obasanjo to hear all cases of human rights violations before and after Obasanjo's tenure as military head of state of Nigeria in 1976.

The FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL Yesterday

### FG approves \$7.2m contract for dredging of Nigerian ports

The Federal Government yesterday approved a new contract worth \$7.2 million for the dredging of four ports in the country in a renewed bid to increase maritime trade within the country's shores.

Transport Minister, Chief Ojo Maduekwe, at the end of the weekly Federal Executive Council meeting said the container dredging are to take

Stories by Suleiman Mohammed

place in Calabar port, Tin Can Island port, Apapa port and Roro belt.

He said the job will cost \$600,000 monthly and is expected to be operational for one year (12 months).

Maduekwe, said in the case of Calabar port, the contract will enhance the maritime component of the free export zone in the city.

Other components of the inter-ministerial action programme to rehabilitate the Calabar free export zone are the upgrading of the airports and power situation in the Calabar metropolis.

He also announced that the meeting approved the establishment of the Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolution. "Indeed, the approval is for the enabling law to back up the organ which has been existing since the regime of late General Abacha," he added.

According to him, the organisation will serve to do research and formulate policy affairs, publishing and dissemination of technical papers on the patterns and nature of conflicts and its resolution.

He said, the organ was necessary in view of the role of Nigeria as a big player in Africa.

### FG uncovers \$60m fraud on cocoa export

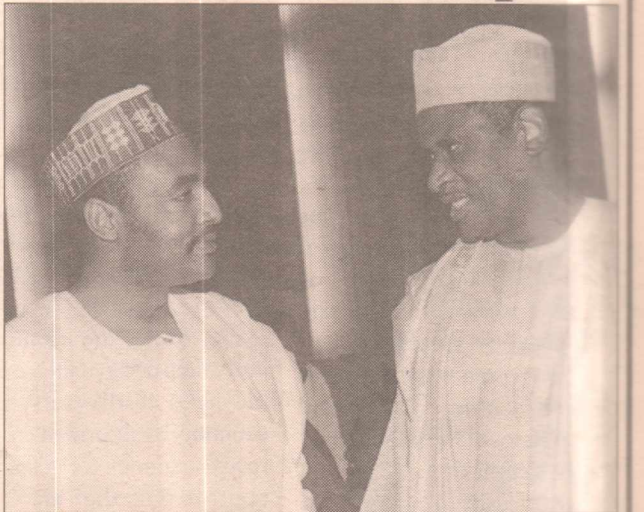
Barely 48 hours after the recovering of landed properties from prominent Nigerians, the Federal Government yesterday released a white paper report on the commission of inquiry on the alleged misuse of \$60 million accrued from the Cocoa export levy account and buffer stock fund.

The report, compiled after the panel, headed by Justice Michael Ibim submitted its report last month, indicted some prominent personalities allegedly involved in the fraudulent misuse of the fund generated from cocoa export.

Briefing State House correspondents after the Federal Executive Council meeting (FEC), Minister of Transport, Chief Ojo Maduekwe said names of those involved in the cocoa deal would be released to the public at appropriate time.

Chief Maduekwe stressed that the panel was set up in line with the anti-corruption crusade of the government, and directed to investigate, in details, the cocoa levy account maintained by Nigeria in Union Bank of Nigeria, London.

Similarly, the commission investigated payment on the disbursement of fund from the



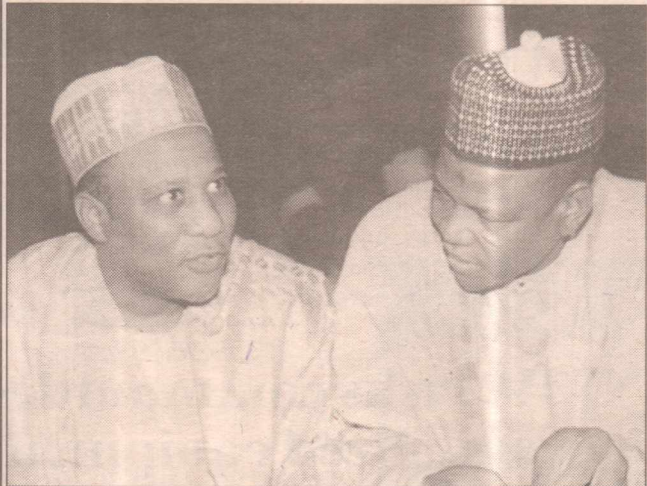
The Minister of Environment, Alhaji Mohammed Kabir Sa'id (left) and Alhaji Sule Lamido, Foreign Affairs, at the FEC meeting yesterday. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodie

cocoa export levy account, and determined the activities of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), in the collection and remittance of the cocoa levy on behalf of the Federal Government.

Chief Maduekwe, who described the findings of the commission as intriguing, expressed disgust at the level of corruption in the country. He said the various

investigations are being carried out to lay the foundation of ethic in the country.

"Without this ethical foundation, we will remain paupers in paradise because our resources will continue to be looted and politics and governance will be seen as opportunity to enrich yourself and not an opportunity to serve."



The Minister of Sports, Mr. Mark Aku (left) and his Communications counterpart, Dr. Mohammed Bello, discussing at the FEC meeting yesterday. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodie

## NEWS

### Tanker drivers threaten to embark on strike

The National Association of Tanker Drivers has given a three-week ultimatum to the Federal Government to address the problems confronting its members or face an indefinite nationwide strike. This was disclosed by the association's National Vice-President, Zone I, Alhaji Sani Inuwa.

According to a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Hausa Service report monitored in Abuja, Alhaji Inuwa stated that tanker drivers "are facing two major problems which are hindering their activities. Sometimes these problems cause accidents or delays in onveying petroleum products to various destinations."

He listed that the first problem, he said is the illegal tax been forced on the drivers

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru



President Olusegun Obasanjo said: "Whenever we load fuel, these councils don't allow us to pass through their areas unless we pay taxes ranging from N5,000 to N10,000. This happens every year. It is unfortunate that

during the military, we didn't pay any kobo but under a democratic government, our members are suffering in carry out their legitimate businesses."

Alhaji Inuwa said that the association has written several letters of complaints to President Obasanjo through his Special Adviser on Security Affairs on the issue, but no response has come the Federal Government.

He, therefore, appealed to the Federal Government to "as a matter of urgency," look into the problem before the expiration of the deadline.

### Adamawa, Borno to demarcate border

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, in Yola

Adamawa and Borno, Alhaji Bello Tukur and Alhaji Ali Abubakar Jatau, respectively, some traditional rulers and other top government officials of both states gathered in Yola on Tuesday to take a final decision on the issue.

Speaking at the meeting, the Adamawa Deputy Governor, Bello Tukur, said the concern of the two governments have agreed to establish a permanent common

boundary that would facilitate effective socio-economic and political development.

He added, however, that "we are not here to determine or put in place a Berlin wall between our states. The boundary we are seeking to put in place is a mere line which defines the limits to which our respective governments should extend the dividends of democracy, and the lines of contact, free flow of commerce and good neighbourliness between our communities on either sides of the divide."

### About 4m war casualties recorded in the 90s - UN report

About four million people are reported to have died in the 1990s as casualties of 46, out of the 49 wars fought across the globe United Nations recently published report has revealed.

According to the report, those wars were aided by uncontrolled illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons by illegal dealers in

weapons and their accomplices.

The report, which came at the end of the ministerial conference of the United Nations held on July 21, expressed concern over the link between terrorism, organised crime, drug trade, and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons.

### Syndicate responsible for illegal recruitment in NIS, says committee

By Hammeed M. Bello

A syndicate with accomplices within the Nigeria Immigration Service, has been identified as the brain behind the illegal recruitment of officers into the service, Daily Trust investigations have revealed.

This is following the report of the committee, headed by the Minister of Internal Affairs, Chief Sunday Afolabi, which was constituted to investigate illegal recruitments into the Immigration Service.

Investigations further revealed that the report of the committee, which has been forwarded by the Comptroller-General of Immigrations, Lady U.C. Nwizu, to the Minister of Internal Affairs, is receiving attention and defaulters within and outside the service are to face the wrath of the law.

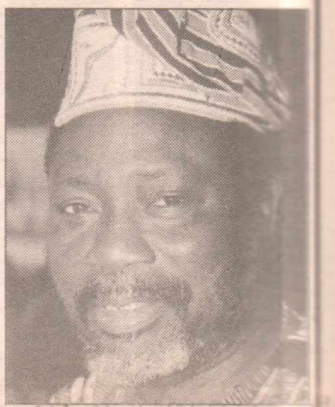
The syndicate, which independently operated from a hotel with the assistance of a serving Inspector of Immigrations, operated from the outside without the knowledge

of the immigration service and were issuing recruitment letters to unsuspecting applicants.

From all indications, the names of some senior officers in the immigration service involved in the illegal transaction are published immediately they are properly identified.

Daily Trust investigations, will be also revealed that the comptroller-general of immigration is determined to expose all senior officers said to be

involved in the deal without regard for their office in an attempt to get rid of bad eggs from the service.



Chief Sunday Afolabi

## NEWS

## Yobe to establish fisheries' directorate

The Yobe State Governor, Bukar Abba Ibrahim has directed the state Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources to establish a directorate for the formulation and boosting of fish production in the state.

The governor stated this at the inaugural meeting of "Back to farm scheme" of Yobe-East Senatorial district at Damaturu, the state capital.

The programme is aimed at providing the basic necessities of life to both rural and urban dwellers and accelerate agricultural production in the state.

It will also produce qualitative and quantitative agricultural products that will supply the natural needs of the people and provide industrial raw materials.

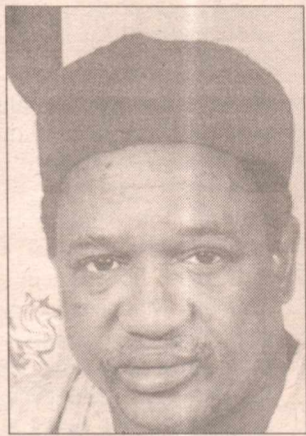
The governor disclosed that in an effort to realize these objectives, N35 million has been budgeted for the provision of fishing gears and boat engines to fishermen.

To encourage agricultural

From Hadiza Abba Musa,  
in Damaturu

production, government has also procured agro-chemicals for distribution to farmers to control the menace posed to farmlands by pests and diseases.

Speaking at the inaugural meeting, the Commissioner of Agriculture and Human Resources, Alhaji Baba Bukar Machina, said "it is in realization of the economic potentials of agriculture and the need to diversify our economy as informed by the recent clamour for resource control that the 'Back to



Gov Bukar Abba Ibrahim

farm' programme has been introduced."

The programme, the commissioner added is specifically aimed at revamping agricultural activities, in order to shift our farmers from subsistence to economic producers.

Bukar Abba, therefore, urged all to assist this noble objectives on agricultural development with a view to making Yobe State self-sufficient and self-reliant in food production, and to become the food basket of the nation.

The Federal Government has presented a cheque of N270 million to the Sokoto State government in fulfillment of an earlier pledge to the state government for the execution of water projects in the state.

The presentation was made by the Minister of Water Resources, Alhaji Muktar Shagari, during a courtesy call on the state Governor, Alhaji Attahiru Dalhau Bafarawa.

Alhaji Shagari stated that the amount was "part

## FG gives Sokoto N270m for water projects

From Abdulfatah Abdulsalami,  
in Sokoto

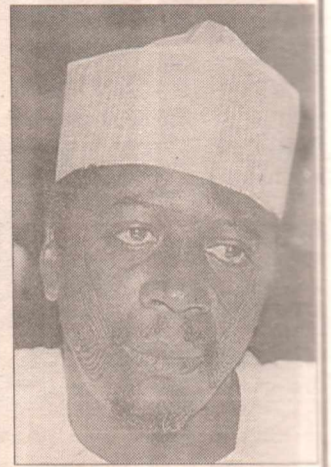
payment of the N500 million promised the state by the Federal Government."

He assured the people of the state of the president's determination to complete the repairs and rehabilitation of Goronyo dam this year, adding that contract would also be awarded for the rehabilitation of Kalimalo Lake.

The minister remarked that "making Sokoto State great is

not the responsibility of the government alone but also the responsibility of all indigenes of the state.

He called on the people of the state to put their political differences aside so that peace would reign in the state and meaningful development would take root.



Gov Attahiru Bafarawa

## Teachers' institute trains 500 in pivotal programme

The National Teachers Institute (NTI) center in Bauchi State, has trained 500 teachers under its pivotal programme between 1993 and 1999, the coordinator of the institute, Ibrahim Aminu, has disclosed.

Inaugurating the institute's new students

union officials in Bauchi on Tuesday, Aminu said 28 pivotal training centers have been established in the state, in addition to 19 NCE and Teachers Grade II centers, with an enrolment of 2,000 students.

He said the NCE programme was aimed at helping teachers who had failed their examinations, while the pivotal programme was a retraining exercise to improve the standard of education.

According to him, the National Teachers Institute has approved the Bauchi State center as a marking center for teachers grade II distance learning programme, as well as the oral English examination center.

"Our center has improved over the years, due to hardwork and the tremendous cooperation of

the state government." He said the centers were being managed with funds generated from tuition fees and other charges paid by students.

## NEPA tasks communities on vandalized equipment

With the recent vandalism of electrical equipment worth N2.4 million at different locations in Cross River State, National Electric Power Authority (NEPA), is asking communities currently in darkness as a result of the incidents to "organize search parties," an official has said.

On July 14, a NEPA transformer serving the Government Reservation Area (GRA) and parts of the Federal Housing Estate in Calabar was dismantled by unidentified persons who reportedly carted away valuable electrical components. NEPA's Calabar

District Public Affairs Manager, Mr. Ken Okafor, said vandalism and theft of lightening arrestors, pot insulators and other vital electrical materials were on the increase in the state.

In a statement made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Tuesday in Calabar, Okafor attributed the power outage in three communities in Akamkpa Local Government Area of the state to the vandalism of NEPA's installations.

"NEPA urges the Awi, Akamkpa, Okom Ita communities as well as GRA and Federal Housing Estate neighbourhood in Calabar to organize search parties now to comb all nooks and crannies with a view to recovering the stolen installations," he added.

## FG may prosecute Lebanese firm for breach of contract

The Federal Government has threatened to prosecute officials of a Lebanese firm, J.M.K. (Nigeria) Ltd for abandoning work on a N2.02 billion road project in Zamfara, after collecting more than N468 million as mobilization fee.

Issuing the threat on Monday at Kaura-Namoda, Zamfara, shortly after inspecting the abandoned road project, the Minister of State for Works and Housing, Mr. Garba Ali, said he would ensure that officials of the defaulting company did not go unpunished.

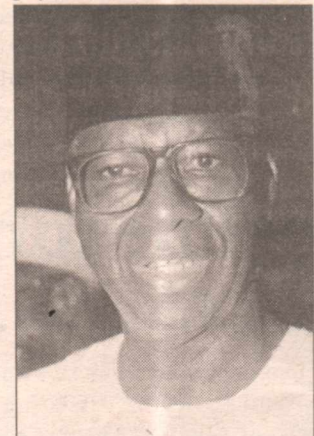
The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reported that the firm was awarded the contract for the rehabilitation of the 125km road in September 1999, and that the road links Kaura-Namoda town in Zamfara with Sabon Birini in Sokoto State, through Shinkafi.

Fuming with anger, the minister stated that since the contract had already been terminated, the Ministry of Works and Housing would

just set in motion, a machinery for the recovery of the N468 million mobilization fee paid to the contractor.

"What I have just seen is criminal. I do not wish to see those behind this shameful act go unpunished," Ali stated, adding "we will get them very soon."

He said in a bid to ensure that contractors, who collected mobilization fees did not abandon work on their projects, the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing had insisted on the use of bank bonds to cover payment of mobilization fees



Chief Tony Anenih

to its contractors.

Ali stated that under the arrangement, it would not be difficult to retrieve money paid to contractors, who abandoned projects after collecting mobilization fees. He also said he did not believe securing refund from defaulting contractors or humiliation, adding that such firms should be made go through the trauma of prosecution to serve as deterrent to others.

## FG moves to reduce malaria cases

In its efforts to bring malaria under control and in consonance with the Abuja plan of action on Roll Back Malaria (RMB), the Federal Government has removed taxes on insecticide-treated bednets (ITNs) and all insecticides for use in the country.

Similarly, government has also reduced tariffs on raw materials used in the local manufacture of bednets from 45 to five percent. The Minister of Health, Prof. Alphonsus Nwosu, made the revelation in his quarterly meeting with heads of international organizations and other collaborative partners in the Nigerian health sector in Abuja, on Tuesday. He also disclosed that President Obasanjo has directed the ministry to ensure the provision of insecticide treated nets to pregnant women and children under the age of five before the second quarter of 2002.

Expressing his ministry's

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

determination to change the health sector for the better, Prof. Nwosu

announced the articulation of what he called, a six-point agenda, which will impact positively on the national health situation.

## PLSG bags award

The Plateau State government has bagged an award from the Nigerian Christian Pilgrims' Committee for the successful conduct of last year's pilgrimage.

The award according to the committee, was in appreciation of Plateau pilgrims' disciplined behaviour while in the holy land as none absconded.

A member of the Christian Pilgrims' Committee, Rev. Father Daniel M. Agber announced the award in Jos, Tuesday during a courtesy call on the state Governor, Chief Joshua Dariye at Government

House, Jos.

He urged other states to emulate the exemplary conduct of pilgrims from Plateau State who he said had done the state



Gov. Joshua Dariye

and the nation proud.

Rev. Agber described Chief Dariye as one of the few governors that have shown great concern for both christian and muslim pilgrims which resulted in the state recording the highest number of pilgrims last year. He disclosed that so far, more than 1,500 intending christian pilgrims have been screened by the committee.

He pointed out that the committee had confidence in the governor and expressed the hope that he will continue with the good work he had started.

Rev. Father Agber, however, expressed disappointment with those who travelled to the holy land under the pretext of pilgrimage only to abscond and look for greener pastures.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

## LOST OF ORIGINAL COPY OF PROVISIONAL APPROVAL OF LAND

I, Bala Ahmed of No.10 Hassan Ahmed Street, Nasarawa, Nasarawa LGC, Nasarawa State has reported the lost of the original copy of Provisional Approval of Land issued for me by the Gwagwalada Area Council, FCT ON 29TH July, 1993.

Any member of the general public that finds the document should please return the same to the owner at the above address. Meanwhile, whoever transacts business with the said document does so at his/her own risk

Signed:  
BALA AHMED

# DAILY TRUST

## EDITORIAL

### Is Nigeria a dumping ground?

Commerce Minister, Engr. Mustapha Bello, said last week that the federal government is working out measures to check frivolous importations into the country. According to him, such measures include taking inventory of all imports into the country with a view to determining their implications on our Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Other measures include the introduction of quota on the amount of foreign exchange to be committed to the importation of items like certain categories of textile materials, fruit juice, biscuits and other sundry products. Also being considered is a higher tariff regime and support for local industries to boost production of high quality goods that can compete on the international market.

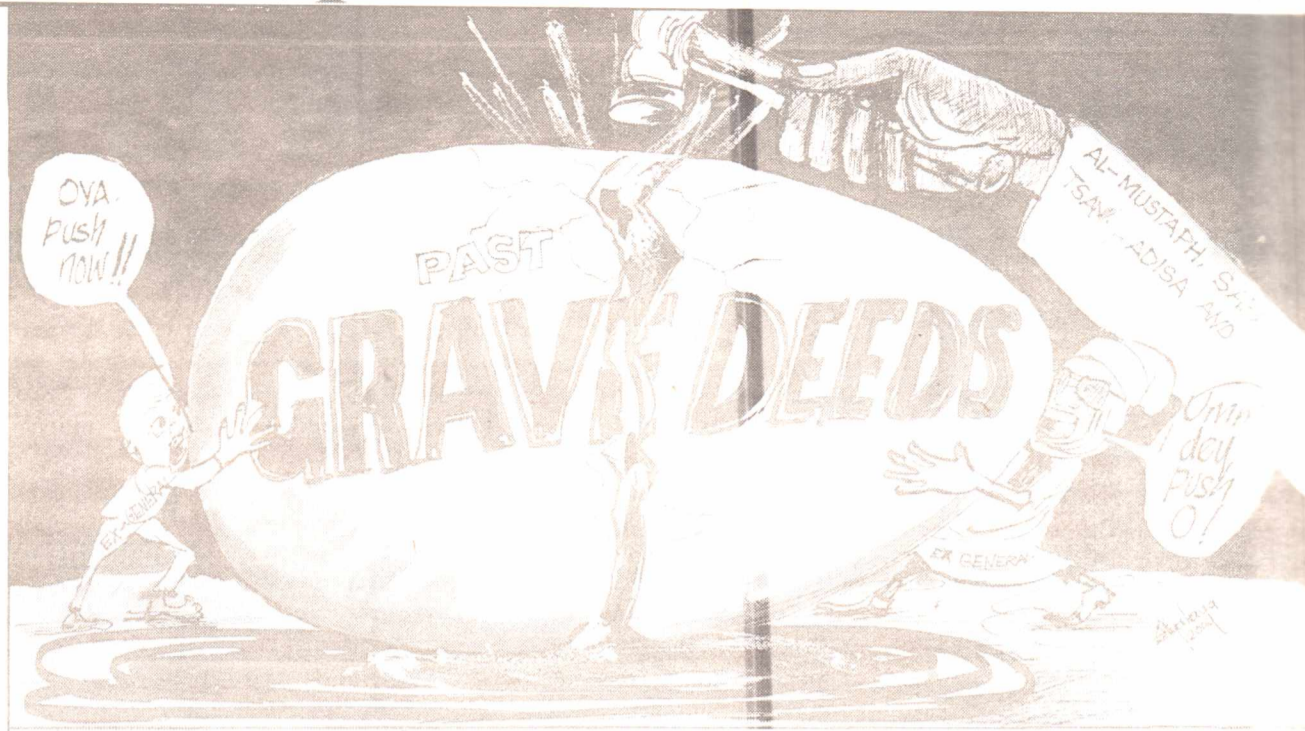
The latest thinking in government circles is no doubt in response to growing resentment by the labour unions and the organized private sector of the manner all sorts of foreign goods are dumped into the country. This is coupled with the collapse of local industries and the attendant loss of jobs.

Of particular concern to the Nigerian Chambers of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (NACIMA), the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) and the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) is the apparent failure of government to evolve policies to promote the activities in local industries which would in turn push their products into the international market. It is the conviction of watchers of the nation's economy that Nigeria should balance its mass imports with a massive export drive. This, it is believed, would have made relevant the country's membership of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

But then, government had remained adamant, insisting of course, that as a member of the global village, the drumbeat of globalisation and trade liberalisation must be allowed to play out, while the country, along with the rest of the world, dance along. This policy ignores the adverse effect of the falling capacity utilisation (about 20 percent) in the local industries. The latest development is heart-warming because government is taking a hard look at the reality on the ground. That government is also considering assisting the private sector with loans to set up industries that can produce some of these consumables that we import.

We welcome the desire by government to exploit the avenues provided by the United States' government sponsored African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) to push products such as textiles, shoes, solid minerals etc. to the huge US market.

While we commend the government for this decision, we believe that there is still room for improvement. Government can impose a complete ban on some frivolous imports. Those that can be produced in large quantity and high quality. It should at the same time give attention to small and medium-scale industries that process raw materials which can be exported. These will provide more jobs and stimulate activities at the lower scale of the economy.



## THURSDAY COLUMN

### Resource Control: They blinked

By Abubakar Jika

In my *Kadawa, Kura and Resource Control*, I predicted that states agitating for resource control, would, by the time the battle commences find themselves in a no-win situation. I had looked at the political, economic, legal and geographical factors and concluded that the 13 percent on derivation, and NDDC which technically amounts to another 15 percent is the best they would get from the Nigerian union without undermining its fragile fabrics. If you add derivation, which goes directly to the states and NDDC, which is a federal government development intervening agency, you are talking of about 30 percent.

On the scales of worth assessment, the states that have oil and gas constitute less than 30 percent of the Nigerian union. Perhaps about 20 percent. If you add up their shares in the Federation Account when other states are collecting theirs, to the exclusive 13 percent derivation and the exclusive NDDC projects targeted at their areas not less than 15 percent, you are talking of over 50 percent of the revenue. You also need to add federal resource investments in terms of projects such as roads, infrastructures, telecommunications, ports (sea and air), educational institutions including universities, polytechnics and colleges of education that the central government sponsors from its share of the federation account you are talking of over 60 percent of the resources going back to them.

We are working on the actual figures involved preparatory to the much-touted National Conference. At that conference, which we are anxiously looking forward to, we will lay on the table *naira by naira* what the resource control states actually got from all the sources. If they want 50 percent, we may concede that provided they accept scrapping of derivation (13 percent), NDDC (15 percent), shares from federation account that go to their states and local governments, and withdrawal of funding of any type of projects and remuneration of federal establishments in their locations. They are to take over all these. By the time they add up all these, they would realise they are getting more than their share (over 60 percent).

The North, let me repeat for the umpteenth time, is not afraid of a national conference, including a sovereign one. The areas of disputations between the North and the South are firstly, since the current order is a product of our joint participation, what happened to them? Pro-conference agitators argue that they are to remain and serve out their tenures. Fine. But they also argue that the proceedings and conditions of this conference would be "Sovereign". Meaning that no authority should temper with it. Now there is a problem. If you accept the current holders of our sovereignty as outcomes of our joint effort, the document (constitution) that gave them legitimacy has no room for what they are saying. It confers legitimacy only on the National and state Assemblies to make or amend laws.

Secondly, what they are demanding is overthrow of the current order but through democratic means and not military. This can only happen in an anarchical state such as Somalia or Benin Republic of those days. There is an order in Nigeria which is recognised both internally and externally. To alter this order can only be done through the consent of those in charge of the order. And that is where the problems lie.

The South does not see the present holders of sovereignty as inclined towards the restructuring (changing of order) they are clamouring for. To expect the North, which now controls the legislature at both the centre and majority of the states to give up its advantages without a fight is to expect them to commit ethnic or geo-ethnic suicide. So the argument of which came first, the chicken or the egg continues. President Olusegun Obasanjo a Southerner and his Attorney General and Minister of Justice Bola Ige, are not in a position to meet the demands of the South led by the South-West. They cannot inaugurate a Sovereign National Conference because they have no constitutional powers to do so.

That is the position of the North. We do not fear a Sovereign National Conference, but this is constitutionally unfeasible. The day President Olusegun Obasanjo joins this puerile demand he will be impeached. That is the truth. Because it is a flagrant violation of the constitution which legitimises his powers. If the vice president, Atiku Abubakar supports him, both would be impeached and the Senate President, Alhaji Abacha would be impeached. The day the

debates and perhaps proposal for amendments.

I personally do not see how this constitution can be amended before the 2003 elections. Bola Ige may try otherwise but I wish him luck. I hope this dream would turn out to be like NEPA. In my view, the best the Yorubas can hope for is to "eat" their time now. By the year 2003 North either takes over or position the East or South-South to take over and "eat" its time. That brings me to the crucial write-up.

Governor Diepreye Alamieyeseigha of Bayelsa State disclosed in Yenagoa the state capital during the forum organised by the Minister of Information and National Orientation Prof. Jerry Gana that the resource control states have decided to withdraw from the suit instituted by the federal government because it would give the ruling PDP a bad impression.

The governor further disclosed that the conflict offshore-onshore dichotomy between the Federal government and the littoral states had also been resolved as it was discovered that the issue had no provision in the constitution. In other words the PDP states have ditched Bola Tinubu (A) of Lagos State and have embraced what the union can afford to give them for now. In simple English they have blink. This has nothing to do with the North or Northern machinations. The conflict, in my view, was a southern problem. The country is today controlled by the South. The central government has disagreement with some southern states on the issue of resource control. This has nothing to do with us.

The argument on resource control has, as we have not confirmed from the Bayelsa State governor, Alamieyeseigha failed disastrously. It became a non-starter. Thanks to a number one political opponent of the far North Chief Bola Ige who dragged them to the Supreme Court. They were given the chance to prove their case in a competent court. They chose to back out. If you observe, Chief Ige did not beg to settle with them, they sang, they danced, they got tired, got up and went home empty handed except for what was already there. Why did they fail?

First, the entire concept was not their creation. It was Yoruba political agenda sold to them through the media. The general idea appears to be to make the North uncomfortable and boxed in a tight corner. The North was expected to beg for settlement since it is assumed to have no option. Well as reality proved this was not so. The North chose to ignore them. Tell me one credible Northern voice that sought compromise with them or begged them or even attempted to settle with them? None. The Yoruba political elite suddenly realised that resource control is a two-edged sword. The rest as the say, is now history.

Secondly, the assumption that the North is poor and has nothing to offer the Nigerian union is proven to be patently false. In fact the North has its own joker in the resource control palaver. Let me give a hint. Oil, which is what resource control is all about, is scientifically, technologically and historically proven to be found only in SEDIMENTARY BASINS. Nigeria for those who may not know, has SIX SEDIMENTARY BASINS. One of them is the famous Niger-Delta in the South. Of the remaining FIVE SEDIMENTARY BASINS, FOUR are located in the North. Only one is located in the south.

The truth is, while the two explored and exploited known basins are in the south, the four unexplored and unexploited sedimentary basins are in the North.

The future of oil is in the North and NOT in the South. While it is true that the North needs Nigeria to assist it explore and exploit its oil the rest of Nigeria equally needs to keep hold of the North as insurance on the future oil. The known reserves in the South would run out in the next two decades. Where does the South turn to for oil? I am sure it would be the North. We have done our homework.

The clever ones among the South-South leaders have now realised that they need Nigeria as it is presently constituted for four main reasons. First security. The Nigerian federation is the only safety insurance for the South-South against potential predators both far and near them. Secondly, food security. This comes from the North. Thirdly a huge country is obviously better for business, economy and politics than some banana republic. Lastly they know the North has oil and solid minerals. Add these to agriculture and you would know why they are not ready to let the union collapse. This is my view.



## THE SENATE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

AD-HOC COMMITTEE  
ON

THE IMPORTATION OF ADULTERATED PIPELINE PRODUCTS, 1995 TO DATE

### CALL FOR MEMORANDA AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

THE SENATE AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON  
IMPORTATION OF ADULTERATED PIPELINE PRODUCTS INTO NIGERIA FROM 1995 TO DATE

SET UP TO:

- \* ESTABLISH THE PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND SALE OF ADULTERATED PIPELINE PRODUCTS INTO THE COUNTRY FROM 1995 TO DATE,
- \* ESTABLISH THE EFFECTS OF THE PRODUCTS ON NIGERIANS,
- \* ESTABLISH THE EXTENT AND DEPTH OF DAMAGE TO LIFE AND PROPERTY BY THE USE OF SUCH PRODUCTS (IF ANY), AND
- \* RECOMMEND REMEDIES WHERE APPLICABLE.

HEREBY REQUESTS FOR MEMORANDA ON IMPORTATION OF SUCH PRODUCTS FROM INTERESTED PERSONS AND STAKEHOLDERS IN PIPELINE PRODUCTS IMPORTATION, MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION IN NIGERIA.

SUBMISSIONS SHOULD REACH THE CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE ON OR BEFORE 07 AUGUST, 2001 AT THE SENATE COMMITTEE ROOM 13 OR ROOM SB 58, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPLEX, ABUJA, BETWEEN 10.00 A.M AND 6.00 P.M DAILY.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON SUCH IMPORTATIONS ARE SCHEDULED TO HOLD AS FOLLOWS:

S/NO	DAY/DATE	ZONE	TIME	VENUE
1.	MONDAY, 30 JULY, 2001	LAGOS	10:00 AM	SHERATON HOTEL, IKEJA
2.	WEDNESDAY, 01 AUGUST, 2001	PORT HARCOURT	10:00 AM	PRESIDENTIAL HOTEL, P/H.
3.	FRIDAY, 03 AUGUST, 2001	KADUNA	10:00 AM	DEFENCE GUEST HOUSE, KADUNA
4.	MONDAY, 06 AUGUST, 2001	ABUJA	10:00 AM	NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPLEX, ABUJA

**SENATOR ALI MODU SHERRIF**  
CHAIRMAN

**O FRIDAY EFFODUH**  
COMMITTEE CLERK

————— **GEOCOMM** —————

Opinion

Re: Is a woman's voice an *aurah*?

By Muhammad Lawal Is-Haq

I wish to refer to the above question by Hajiya Bilkisu Yusuf of Citizen Communication (*Weekly Trust*, June 15-21, 2001). I am happy that the issue of whether or not a woman's voice is an *aurah* is taken up by no other person than the famous Hajiya Bilkisu. Thus, having gone through the issue she raised, I feel compelled to revisit the subject once more with a view to throwing more light on it according to my little understanding.

In the first place, I agree with the submissions of Hajiya Bilkisu and the instances she highlighted, more especially the conclusion that "the challenge before us as Muslim women is to reclaim our Islamic legacy of acquiring education and using it to serve humanity. In doing this, our voice is not an *aurah*."

I however wish to reiterate that according to the general principle of natural usability and permissibility, in Islam whatever is not prohibited, either expressly or by implication, is allowed (*halal*). This principle is derived from amongst the following authorities: Q2:29, 45:13 and 31:20 as well as the saying of the Prophet (SAW) that: "what Allah has made lawful in this Book is 'halal' and what He has forbidden is 'haram' and that concerning which He is silent is allowed as His favour. So accept from Allah His favour, for Allah is not forgetful of anything".

This Hadith was reported by al-Hakim and he classified it as sound (*sahih*) *Tirmidhi* and Ibn Majah also reported similar Hadith.

It is on this basis that I intend to look into the question of whether or not a woman's voice is an *aurah*.

Let us consider Q33:32 where Allah (SWT) says:

"O ye consorts (wives) of the Prophet! Ye are not like any other women. If ye keep your duty (to Allah), then be not too complaisant of speech, lest one in whose heart is a disease should be moved with desire: but speak ye a speech (that is) just."

This *aya* though directed at the wives of the Prophet has general application to all Muslim women.

There is also a Hadith reported by Bukhari and Muslim in which the Prophet (SAW) is reported to have said that "... the adultery of the ears is listening to that which is forbidden".

From the above, and many more authorities, it could be concluded that there is no express provision to the effect that women's voice is an *aurah per se*. However, if one looks closely to the above referred authorities vis-à-vis the circumstances under which a Muslim woman is expected to work in an electronic media in Nigeria today, as well as other considerations of other related factors associated with the theme at hand, the only logical conclusion is that a woman's voice is an *aurah*. The only exception is if the woman's voice would not be heard, like where she works as an editor, a technician etc.

It is worthy of note that women's voices are very sensitive and should be guarded by them as they guard other parts of their body. Thus, some scholars of *fiqh* concluded that a woman should say her *iqamah* and the recitation of *Fatiha* and *Surah* during her prayers silently even where they are supposed to be said aloud. It is also an important aspect of Islamic jurisprudence that whatever is likely to lead to *haram* is also *haram* in itself. By this principle, if hearing a woman's voice will lead to "some men in whose heart is a disease" (of immoral conducts) into doing whatever is within their means to fulfil their desire towards that woman then the woman's voice becomes an *aurah*, which she must guard.

One needs not be told that one of the, and a very important, criteria of employing a woman to work in our electronic media is her voice. Her suitability or otherwise for the job is usually determined during what they call auditioning. I don't think any woman with a hoarse voice will ever scale the auditioning no matter how brilliant she may be.

However, Islam being dynamic, is not rigid in all its principles. Thus, it is also a well-known principle of Islamic law that: necessity dictates exceptions. Therefore, where it becomes necessary for a woman to speak like in the instances mentioned by Hajiya Bilkisu, and many more circumstances, then a woman's voice could not and is not an *aurah*.

I would like to conclude by reiterating the fact that I am by no means against Muslim women acquiring knowledge "and using it to serve humanity". However, caution must be observed so as not to transgress the limits set by Allah. Any society that allows free rein to its womenfolk is heading for disaster hence the need for moderation. May Allah guide and protect us, ameen.

Is-Haq is of the Al-Haq Chambers, Yandoka Street, Jos, Plateau State

IBB is hope and vision

By Mohammed Nasir Yunusa

I have never met General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida. I only had the opportunity of catching a glimpse of him, from a very close range in September, 1991, at the opening ceremony of the second conference of the Attorney General of the Federation at the then Nicon Noga Hilton Hotel Abuja. This is however, not to say that I did not know the man or that I was not aware of his leadership qualities and the good policies and programmes of his government.

The fact in the issue is whether or not IBB should contest the next Presidential Election to be conducted in the year 2003. In order to ascertain his eligibility to contest, recourse has to be made to the provisions of the 1999 Constitution, which is the fundamental law of the land. Section 131 set out the conditions that will qualify a candidate to contest the election to the office of the President, Commander-in-chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. These are citizenship by birth, attainment of the age of 40 years, educational qualification up to secondary school certificate level or its equivalent, membership of and sponsorship by a registered political party.

He also created humane structures for the elimination of poverty, hunger and diseases by making basic needs and infrastructure available to the people. Educational and employment opportunities were made available to all the citizenry irrespective of your tribe or the section of the country you come from. Safe and portable water was made available to the citizens in both urban and rural areas. NDE, DFRRRI, MAMSER, Peoples Bank and Community Banking System were very laudable programmes that were put in place for the purpose of rescuing the economy from its dependant status to a truly self-reliant economy. This are some of the qualities of the Man IBB.

But why IBB? Nigeria is today passing through a very difficult period of its development. The economy has been hopelessly mismanaged. There is serious threat to the corporate existence of Nigeria as one indivisible sovereign nation, through the formation of cultural and regional association, who are always advocating and propagating the ideals of regional nationalism. Even the nascent democracy is not free from enormous dose of his cups, manoeuvres, intrigues and frustrations that characterized our political processes. The present leadership owing to its legacies of dictatorship and inept governance has dangerously distorted the Federal model as enshrined in the Nigerian Constitution as the basis of peaceful and just multi-ethnic co-existence, which led to the emergence of tyrannical form of the state characterised by over-centralisation of power and impediments to popular participation. Which if not checked may led to mass alienation and anger, ethnic, religious suspicion, conflicts and fears that are capable of threatening national unity and peaceful co-

existence.

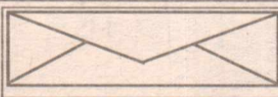
It has become imperative, therefore, to find a true leader that will provide renewed spirit of hope and feeling that will unite and mobilise the Nigeria people to put a stop to all forms of domination, domestic maladministration and oppression. General Babangida has been endowed with the qualities, the charisma, the will, the capacity and the competence to undertake and carry out this Herculean task successfully. He is a leader on whom I have absolute trust to take Nigeria to greater heights. He is an Epitome of hope and vision that will take Nigeria to the promised land.

It is true that IBB is the most vilified of the Nigeria's past leaders who are still alive. His only crime was the annulment of the June, 12 1993 presidential election. Most people erroneously believed that the annulment was the unilateral decision of IBB. They failed to accept the fact that it was a collective decision of the entire members of the Armed Forces Ruling Council. He was therefore singled out as the only culprit who deserved to be 'sacrificed'. It was for this reason, that he took a very bold decision by 'Stepping aside' in order to save the nation from acrimony, imminent chaos, and total collapse. Such decisions can only be taken by a leader with vision and courage who had the interest of the nation at heart. Nigerians should therefore give him another chance through a more legitimate and constitutional means to move the nation forward.

He was a great motivator who encouraged and worked for enhancement of unity in Nigeria, in the West African sub region, Pan African Unity, South-south co-operation and a new just and equitable world order based on the principles of equality of all nations and the rights of all people to development as enshrined in the principles and declarations of the United Nations. In recognition of his diplomatic qualities he was recently sent on a reconciliatory mission to Sudan by the present government in order to mediate between the warring factions in the Civil war that is seemingly endless. He was able to undertake the task with accurate effectiveness. This is the type of leader Nigeria needs.

How can he emerge? IBB can only become the next president through a democratic means as provided in the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Some of the requirements are that the candidate must belong to a registered political party and will have to be sponsored by that party, to be eligible to contest the election under its platform. All the three registered political parties are trailed by crises which if not well managed might lead to their total collapse and perhaps the nascent democracy. They have lost their relevance and credibility, the electorate have lost confidence in them. It is for this reason that the registration of new political parties become necessary. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) should as a matter of urgency, take the necessary steps to register new political parties.

Yunusa, is of 313 Mosque Road, FHA Kubwa, Abuja.



YOUR LETTERS

Is Bola Ige above the law?

If really President Olusegun Obasanjo is sincere about fighting corruption in this country, then Chief Bola Ige should resign now and face the anti-corruption commission because it is now a well-known fact that Chief Ige allegedly mismanaged the N2.3 billion NEPA funds while he was Minister of Power and Steel.

It is very unfortunate that when Chief Bola Ige appeared before the Senate committee on public account, he could not give any concrete explanation. Moreover, Dr. Olusegun Agagu, the present Minister of Power, perfectly agreed with the Senate committee that the money was not judiciously managed, a clear testimony that Bola Ige has a case to answer before Justice Mustapha Akanbi's anti-corruption commission.

In fact, even the *Afenifere* and AD can say without fear of any contradiction that Chief Bola Ige is not fair to Nigerians for keeping their money in an unofficial account and leaving Nigerians in darkness. In fact,

this is unfair and uncalled for. Therefore, if people like Bola Ige should remain in Obasanjo's cabinet as Minister of Justice, it means we don't have justice in this country. So I advise Bola Ige to please, in his own interest,

resign and face the anti-corruption commission, because nobody is above the law as far as anti-corruption commission is concerned.

Isyaku A. Jibrin,  
Minna,  
Niger State.

NITEL: Don't isolate Gwarzo

For more than two years now, the people of Gwarzo local government in Kano State have witnessed total isolation by the Nigerian Telecommunication Limited (NITEL). The people are in total isolation, as they cannot use their telephone handsets to call anywhere or be called from anywhere. However, we learnt (though unreliably) that this is a result of the need to cut the former National Security Adviser, Alhaji Ismaila Gwarzo from communicating outside. Even if this is true, the decision is too harsh for the populace in Gwarzo and environs.

Also, in spite of continuous appeals by the people of Gwarzo to the ministry to complete the Gwarzo post office building, which has been neglected for more than twenty years now, nothing is done to the said project. It is good for the ministry to know that more than 10 local governments that do not have any of the said facilities surround Gwarzo local government. As such, they all rush to Gwarzo for the telephone calls and I believe that if the post office were concluded, they will also benefit.

I hope that the Ministry of Communications, in the interest of development, will revisit its decision on these two projects.

Abdullahi Sani Gwarzo,  
Kofar Kudu,  
Gwarzo L. G.  
Kano State.

Prayer for African Union

I indeed the 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2001 must never be forgotten, because it was the day when all African leaders met in Lusaka, Zambia to name the AU to replace the OAU. Our prayer and hope here is for the AU to attain the feats recorded by the European Union.

The AU must address the menace of poverty in Africa, healthcare, agriculture, education and above all security and technology.

We must thank Col Ghadaffi, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, the Ghanaian leader, John Kuffour and other African leaders who masterminded the setting up of the AU.

Finally, the AU must plan for the next coming generation, especially in the field of peaceful democracy and the war against HIV/AIDS. And also, we welcome the idea of a common currency which is bound to boost trade on the continent. Long live Africa. Yusuf Sani Yassanta, P. O. Box 249, Funtua, Katsina State.

# TRUST INTERNATIONAL



## AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

### Mandela to receive radiotherapy

Former South African president Nelson Mandela who has been diagnosed with prostate cancer will receive a seven-week course of radiotherapy.

A spokeswoman said the tumour was "microscopic" and should not reduce Mr Mandela's life expectancy.

No surgery is being contemplated for the 83-year-old elder statesman at the moment.

The Nobel peace prize

winner was probably the world's best known political prisoner, spending 27 years in jail.

In 1985, while in prison, Mr Mandela was hospitalised for prostate surgery and had some tumours removed. They proved to be benign.

He then returned to jail, where he remained until his release in February 1990 - the key moment in recent South African history.

As president of South

Africa between 1994 and 1999, he supervised its transition from white minority rule to full democracy.

He is now retired from active politics, but still maintains a punishing schedule.

He travels frequently around the world, often to collect achievement awards, and his extraordinary popularity remains undiminished.

After celebrating his birthday at the weekend, he was in Tanzania on Monday

mediating a breakthrough in the Burundi peace process.

Three years ago, the Nobel peace prize winner married Graca Machel, the widow of the former president of Mozambique.

Mr Mandela remains a fit and generally healthy man, but is starting to appear more frail.

The prostate is a small gland lying close to the bladder.

This form of cancer is a common condition in elderly men and can usually be treated

successfully, if it is detected at an early stage before it spreads to other organs.

It is the fourth most common global cancer, and may become the most common, as the world population ages.

Archbishop Tutu is another sufferer from the cancer in South Africa, where the incidence rate is 42.78 men per 100,000 of the population.

Just under 26 men per 100,000 of the population die from the disease.

For comparison, the same figures in the UK are 40.24, with a mortality rate of 18.5 per 100,000.

### Activists massacre Algerian family

Suspected Islamic activists in Algeria have massacred three generations of the same family in an attack on a holiday camp to the west of the capital, Algiers.

In one of the bloodiest months in the long-running insurgency campaign by the activists, the number of people killed since the start of July has reached 90.

These latest killings took place near the seaside resort of Tipaza.

According to reports, at about 0100 local time (0000 GMT) on Monday the electricity to the area was suddenly cut.

The attackers then arrived in a convoy of vehicles and moved into the house of the Merabet family, which was apparently deliberately targeted.

The grandmother, mother, teenagers and young children were all killed, seven people in all, in an operation in which the insurgents took their time.

They did not leave until 0300 local time and help did not arrive until five hours later.

The attackers may have been from the same group that on Saturday night killed another seven people in Ain Tagourait, a town just a few kilometres closer to Algiers.

### Congo rejects UN co-ordinator

The government of the Democratic Republic of Congo has rejected the nomination of a British official as the country's UN humanitarian co-ordinator.

The official, Matthew Kahane, works for the UN Development Programme.

BBC UN correspondent said the UN Security Council has been baffled by the refusal, for which no reason was given.

And the council said that while important progress has been made towards restoring peace to the war-torn country, both government and rebels are moving too slowly towards withdrawing their forces.

It reserved its strongest criticism for one of the rebel groups, the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD), over its failure to demilitarise the country's second city,

Kisangani.

"The council finds it unacceptable that more than one year after its demand the RCD has failed to comply with it," Chinese ambassador Wang Yingfar, the council president, said.

Ugandan- and Rwandan-backed rebels have been fighting government troops, supported by Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe since 1998.

The acting American ambassador to the UN, James Cunningham, said he would urge President Joseph Kabila to reverse the decision to reject Mr Kahane.

Mr Cunningham said the lack of a coordinator made it harder to raise money to meet the needs of the Congolese people, who are facing a growing humanitarian crisis.

A western diplomat told the BBC that Mr Kabila has asked

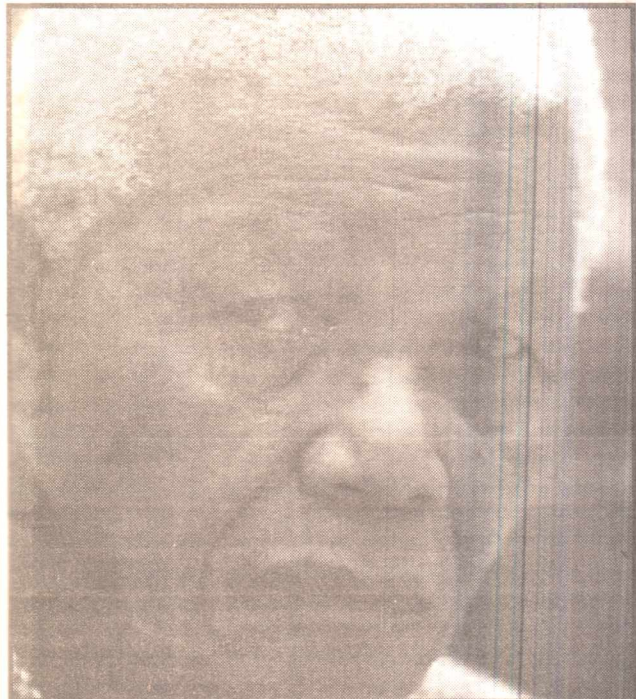
for a list of alternative candidates.

But this is not normal practice for the UN, and instead it seems likely a different individual will be proposed.

The Congolese Government has failed to explain its actions, but some diplomats suggest it may be flexing its muscles at a time when it feels vulnerable to takeover by international agencies like the UN.

Despite the ceasefire and progress towards peace, aid workers said that the Democratic Republic of Congo is still suffering from one of Africa's worst humanitarian crises in decades.

Around 1.4 million of its people depend on the World Food Programme to survive and hundreds thousands more are in need of assistance.



Mandela has been diagnosed with prostate cancer, Mandela's Foundation announced Tuesday.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

### THE COMPANY

Nigeria LNG Limited seeks to engage personnel for immediate employment in the following position:

#### Senior Electrical Engineer

Ref: PE/2001/40

Location: Bonny

#### The Job:

The appointee will amongst others:

- Develop and manage engineering policies, strategies and applicable standards for the Electrical Engineering Section.
- Manage the maintenance activities of all Electrical, Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) and Cathodic Protection (CP) systems.
- Develop, update and enhance the Electrical Discipline Procedures and Work instructions.
- Develop detailed plans for Management of Scheduled Maintenance and Shutdown activities.
- Provide specialist Electrical, HVAC and CP systems for both maintenance and project related activities.
- Undertake detailed performance analysis, fault monitoring and repairs on all major electrical equipment including generators, major electrical motors and variable speed drive systems, power transformers, high and low voltage switch-gears, UPS systems and underground cable distribution system.
- Prepare and manage the Electrical Sections Operational/Capital Budgets and Spare Parts inventory.

#### The Person:

The right candidate must:

- Possess a B.Sc. (Hons) degree in Electrical Engineering obtained with a minimum of a 2nd Class Lower division plus professional qualification (e.g. COREN).
- Not be more than 40 years of age.
- Have acquired a minimum of 10 years relevant post-graduation experience in the Oil or Petrochemical industry, out of which 5 years should have been spent in a senior position in Electrical Operations, Maintenance, Projects and/or New Construction.
- Have significant experience in all engineering aspects line engineering design,

construction, operation and maintenance of the Electrical, HVAC and Cathodic Protection disciplines.

- Possess proven credentials in operation and maintenance of High Voltage Power facilities and experience as Company Nominated Electrical Person.
- Possess a good understanding of all the relevant interfaces with the other engineering functions.
- As part of Management team, be an active team player.
- Be computer literate.

#### METHOD OF APPLYING:

Interested applicants should apply to the:

PERSONNEL MANAGER  
NIGERIA LNG LIMITED,  
P. M. B. 12774,  
MARINA,  
LAGOS.

PERSONNEL MANAGER  
NIGERIA LNG LIMITED,  
AMADI CREEK,  
OFF EASTERN BYE-PASS,  
PORT HARCOURT,  
RIVERS STATE.

PERSONNEL MANAGER  
NIGERIA LNG LIMITED,  
PLANT COMPLEX,  
BONNY ISLAND,  
RIVERS STATE.

PERSONNEL MANAGER  
NIGERIA LNG LIMITED,  
HOUSE 20,  
SHELL TRUSTEES ESTATE,  
MAITAMA - ABUJA.

Forwarding their curriculum vitae (CV) together with photocopies of their credentials attached, to reach the addressee within two weeks of the date of the publication of this advertisement, quoting the references of the position applied for at the top-left side of the envelope. Only short-listed applications will be acknowledged.



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TRUST INTERNATIONAL

World Report



Military rescue workers monitor Gawalmandi bridge and surrounding areas after it was hit by heavy rainfall in Rawalpindi on Tuesday. The rains in Pakistan's northern parts killed at least 170 people on Monday with 30 killed in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Weather officials had warned earlier this month of heavier than normal monsoon rains after almost three years of drought in Pakistan.

French minister admits mercy killings

The French Health Minister, Bernard Kouchner, has admitted that he practised euthanasia when he worked as a doctor. In an interview with the Dutch weekly magazine *Vrij Nederland*, Mr Kouchner said he practised mercy killings during the wars in Lebanon and Vietnam, injecting people who he said were suffering too much. Mr Kouchner - a founding member of the Paris-based medical aid agency, *Medecins sans Frontieres* (MSF) - said passive euthanasia, where doctors suspend treatment of dying patients, occurs frequently in France. The Netherlands will become the first country in the world to legalise euthanasia when a new law allowing mercy killing comes into effect this autumn. Dutch doctors help around 4,000 patients to die each year,

but they still face prosecution if they do not follow strict guidelines. BBC correspondent said Mr Kouchner's remarks are expected to spark a debate in other countries on euthanasia. Mr Kouchner said he had helped various people to die during his career, injecting with morphine rather than administering pills. "When people were suffering too much pain and I knew in advance they would die, I would help them," he said. But euthanasia is a sensitive issue in France, and Mr Kouchner said he has no intention of introducing legislation to allow it. He said if there is to be discussion on any changes to the practice it will focus on protecting the patient. "Euthanasia contradicts medical ethics," he said. "Doctors exist to protect life, not to end it. But if someone

says he wants to die, society has to take that into account." Mr Kouchner has a reputation as an outspoken critic of human rights abuses throughout the world. This reputation was first acquired during relief work in the Biafra war in the late 1960s, in which he criticised aid agencies for failing to overcome administrative obstacles, and his work for MSF since the 1970s. But he is perhaps best known for his stint as UN administrator for Kosovo in the late 1990s.

China deports US scholar

China has deported a Hong Kong professor convicted of spying for Taiwan. Academic Li Shaomin, an American citizen of Chinese origin, was put on a plane to San Francisco yesterday morning. He was convicted earlier this month but the Chinese authorities said immediately that he would not be jailed. Mr Li's deportation came a day after another American-based academic, Gao Zhan, was sentenced to 10 years in Beijing on spying charges. BBC Beijing correspondent said it is no coincidence that the release came three days before a visit by US Secretary of State Colin Powell. Beijing is keen to make the visit a success and repair ties damaged by the downing of a US spy plane over China four months ago. Mr Powell, in Vietnam yesterday for regional security meetings in Hanoi, said he was "very pleased" at Mr Li's release, but would not be drawn on the jailing of the others. "We will talk about that this

afternoon, I am pleased that these cases are now being resolved," Mr Powell told reporters hours before he was due to meet Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan. The US has been stepping up its efforts to secure Gao Zhan's release. State Department spokesman Philip Reeker told journalists: "We are engaged intensively with the Chinese on this to urge the Chinese Government for her early release on humanitarian grounds." Ms Gao, a Chinese sociologist with permanent US resident status, was found guilty of helping Mr Li. Fellow US resident Qin Guangguang was also sentenced to 10 years for spying. "Qin Guangguang and Gao Zhan both collected intelligence for spy agencies in Taiwan, causing a serious threat to China's national security," China's state-run *Xinhua* news agency quoted the court as saying. Also sentenced was

Chinese citizen Qu Wei, who got 13 years. The US reacted with dismay at the news of the convictions, which came three days before Mr Powell is due to visit Beijing. A senior American official travelling with Mr Powell said the US had asked to attend Ms Gao's trial, but the request was refused. "We are concerned about the lack of transparency in the process and the speed with which this was done," said the official, who did not want to be named. Ms Gao's trial lasted four hours according to one of her lawyers, Bai Xuebiao. Mr Bai said he had asked for Ms Gao, 39, to be released for medical care for a heart condition, but had little idea if his request would be granted. Ms Gao's lawyer said the only evidence the government could produce against her was that she had photocopied articles from official Chinese Government publications about relations between China and Taiwan.

Diplomatic Licence

G8 and the rest of US

By Musa Aliyu

Not even the wild protests that saluted the just concluded summit of the world's most industrialized nations could abort the conference of the haves tagged G8 summit. Neither could the death of a protester from police gunshots at Genoa, the Italian port-city venue. Rather, the leaders of the most industrialised economies of the world carried on. Their only frustration was the detraction a handful of anti-globalisation demonstrators caused. Even then, Tony Blair, the British Prime Minister, still basking in the euphoria of his June electoral victory could not make pretensions of his anger over a suggestion for change of venue. It would be tantamount to the inversion of democracy to deny democratically elected leaders of their statuses and the right to meet, he submitted. So the summit held. Topmost on their agenda was globalisation, which Professor Akpan Ekpo, an Economist, dismissed as an extension of imperialism. Many may share his views down south, but the north from which G8 draws membership thinks otherwise. All they want, perhaps, is to reach-out to all and sundry, and open-up all borders for economic prosperity! That hard

Even then the \$50b it pledged to commit in due course to fight poverty is neither here nor there. Extravagant and security-threat expenditures perhaps rank higher in its calculations.

are they wont to argue. G8, when Russia is added to the original 7, made up of the US, UK, Japan, France, Italy, Canada and Germany, may have concluded its summit away from the "craze-stricken mobs at Genoa" courtesy of the tight security it deployed. Its monumental failures, nonetheless, speak volumes. It spoke of cooperation through which it hopes third world poverty would be eradicated. But it also did not forget to address issues of debt relief. In its usual double speak, it only promised to do so in due course. This would depend, however, on the ability of the affected countries to adopt democracy, rule of law and acceptance to work with multilateral institutions like the World Bank and IMF. Even then the \$50b it pledged to commit in due course to fight poverty is neither here nor there. Extravagant and security-threat expenditures perhaps rank higher in its calculations. On AIDS, the G8 is willing to spend its "hard-earned" \$1.3 billion. This is interesting when viewed against its policies of discouragement of African and other third world medicinal discoveries. We are no fools. US case is interesting. It talks of global peace and in one-breath talks of strategic missile defence. It opposes the Kyoto agreement on greenhouse gas emission yet it pledges to uphold it. Who is fooling who?

Court orders cult leader to pay gas victims

The leader of Japan's doomsday cult, Aum Shinrikyo, has been ordered to pay more than \$3m in compensation to victims of a nerve gas attack seven years ago. The Tokyo district court said the blind cult guru, Shoko Asahara, currently on trial for murder, was responsible for masterminding an attack with sarin gas on a provincial Japanese town in 1994. He was also accused of

being behind the better known assault on the Tokyo subway system the following year. For the last six years, Asahara has been on trial for masterminding two sarin gas attacks which left 19 people dead. Relatives of the victims took out separate civil suits. A Tokyo district court judge has now ordered compensation of \$3.7m for the relatives of four of the victims. He ruled that Asahara was behind the first of the attacks in the central Japanese city of Matsumoto in 1994. Members of the Aum cult sprayed lethal sarin gas from a van in a district which housed court officials who had ordered the closure of a sect office. Seven people were killed and more than a hundred others were made ill. The attack led to an investigation which culminated in the better-known onslaught on the Tokyo subway the following year. Twelve were killed and hundreds sickened when cult members unleashed sarin during the morning rush hour. Asahara did not testify at the civil hearing. But at his criminal trial he denied being behind the production of sarin or ordering his followers to commit murder. Four of his deputies have so far been sentenced to death. Aum has since changed its name and has tried to distance itself from its former leader.

# BUSINESS DAY

## Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE)

Price List as at 25/07/2001

COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE
TUP	6.00	5.70	0.30	17	103,500	590,775.00
ABATEX	1.05	1.00	0.05	1	4,000	4,000.00
ABPLAST	1.10	1.08	0.02	1	6,375	6,885.00
ACADEMY	0.90	0.90	0.00	1	2,000	1,800.00
ACCESSBANK	1.23	1.29	0.06	7	10,168,200	12,515,878.00
ADC	2.59	2.59	0.00	1	250	647.50
AFRPRINT	0.97	0.97	0.00	10	137,337	129,104.89
AFRIBANK	8.80	9.00	0.20	29	114,153	1,003,668.40
AGIP	31.10	30.98	0.12	43	159,983	4,922,812.51
AGLEVENT	1.18	1.18	0.00	1	500	590.00
AIICO	3.30	3.44	0.14	10	88,266	289,698.46
ALEX	2.80	2.80	0.00	1	200	560.00
AMICABLE	0.73	0.73	0.00	1	3,800	2,774.00
AP	19.34	19.34	0.00	21	152,724	2,953,682.16
ASHAKACEM	16.45	16.00	0.45	21	54,965	881,253.00
AVONCROWN	1.54	1.50	0.04	2	4,156	6,234.00
BATA	0.30	0.30	0.00	2	48,416	14,524.80
BCC	4.79	4.79	0.00	5	5,249	25,142.71
BERGER	2.80	2.79	0.01	6	6,750	18,889.00
CADBURY	24.20	23.39	0.81	56	446,674	10,451,945.62
CCNN	3.07	3.07	0.00	2	8,250	25,327.50
CFAO	2.91	2.91	0.00	11	24,570	71,498.70
CHARTERED	8.49	8.07	0.42	71	1,559,233	12,924,820.31
CMB	0.68	0.68	0.00	4	42,800	28,448.00
CORNERST	1.47	1.50	0.03	4	56,400	83,362.00
COSTAIN	1.32	1.32	0.00	4	3,580	4,725.60
CRUSADER	2.15	2.05	0.10	1	1,000	2,050.00
DELGLAS	6.34	6.32	0.02	2	5,300	33,496.00
DUMEZ	2.43	2.55	0.12	1	2,700	6,885.00
DUNLOP	3.30	3.44	0.14	19	187,240	635,808.50
EKOBANK	1.46	1.53	0.07	8	146,534	224,197.02
ETERNAOIL	1.53	1.55	0.02	10	23,830	36,669.90
FIRSTALUM	1.79	1.78	0.01	8	37,897	67,756.66
FIRSTBANK	25.05	25.00	0.05	259	862,329	21,666,236.79
FLOURMIL	14.19	13.49	0.70	58	572,575	7,740,371.46
FSB	6.40	6.60	0.20	51	613,224	3,353,951.80
GOLDBREW	0.58	0.60	0.02	3	12,967	7,750.86
GUARANTY	5.70	5.70	0.00	17	342,432	1,951,862.40
GUINNESS	38.00	38.40	0.40	40	171,381	6,533,203.53
IGL	6.15	6.15	0.00	12	23,961	147,360.15
IMB	1.70	1.70	0.00	26	345,540	583,927.60
INLANDBANK	1.50	1.43	0.07	2	196,874	281,639.16
JBERGER	47.25	49.61	2.36	4	5,900	290,575.00
JOHNHOLT	2.08	1.98	0.10	10	57,832	118,290.56
LASACO	1.10	1.05	0.05	4	353,208	370,868.40
LENNARDS	0.27	0.27	0.00	2	8,000	2,160.00
LEVIBROS	25.00	24.80	0.20	51	118,786	2,939,616.54
LIBERTY	2.30	2.40	0.10	1	1,2000	2,880.00
LIONBANK	1.90	1.99	0.09	3	75,000	143,950.00
LONGMAN	4.53	4.53	0.00	9	52,300	236,919.00
MANNYBANK	1.80	1.80	0.00	6	66,100	119,237.00
MOBIL	64.00	64.01	0.01	19	10,255	656,567.14
NAL	5.20	5.01	0.19	84	854,799	4,401,625.17
NB	27.20	27.10	0.10	44	144,066	3,912,353.16
NBC	20.20	20.15	0.05	40	67,808	1,368,259.15
NESF	997.00	997.00	1.00	1	300	299,100.00
NESTLE	64.00	64.50	0.50	29	456,978	28,658,575.74
NIG-GERMAM	2.70	2.83	0.13	9	20,000	54,156.00
NIGERINS	4.98	4.75	0.23	5	51,059	243,674.25
NIWICABLE	2.17	2.17	0.00	3	2,100	4,557.00
NIYAMCO	3.19	3.19	0.00	1	585	1,866.15
NOLCHEM	31.50	29.93	1.57	29	109,724	3,318,077.21
OKITIPUPA	0.70	0.70	0.00	4	11,500	8,050.00
OKOMUOIL	9.45	9.45	0.00	8	60,000	567,000.00
OLUGLASS	2.31	2.20	0.11	1	5,000	11,000.00
OWENABANK	2.81	2.78	0.03	4	27,762	77,999.34
POLYPROD	0.50	0.50	0.00	3	46,500	23,250.00
PZ	13.99	13.85	0.14	50	100,686	1,379,451.39
ROYALEX	5.61	5.89	0.28	12	78,655	463,277.95
RTBRISCOE	1.25	1.25	0.00	3	3,480	4,350.00
SAVANNA	1.20	1.23	0.03	12	151,962	186,180.02
SCOA	1.90	1.99	0.09	8	12,195	24,175.76
SKBEECHAM	2.36	2.25	0.11	11	21,195	48,818.85
TEXACO	63.99	63.00	0.99	29	68,122	4,293,128.88
THOMASWY	0.70	0.67	0.03	1	10	6.70
TIB	2.63	2.60	0.03	11	536,774	1,361,935.00
TOTAL	67.10	66.00	1.10	11	256,117	16,912,611.70
TRADEBANK	1.04	1.04	0.00	10	6,666	6,932.64
TRIPLEG	1.30	1.30	0.00	3	5,140	6,682.00
UAC-PROP	2.95	2.90	0.05	47	2,822,350	8,218,828.50
UACN	3.40	3.57	0.17	74	766,815	2,718,916.04
UBA	14.46	13.90	0.56	60	253,463	3,574,338.24
UBN	28.13	26.73	1.40	32	170,446	4,556,021.58
UNIC	2.25	2.25	0.00	1	932	2,097.00
UNIDONDCON	16.80	16.80	0.00	2	1,350	22,680.00
UNIPETROL	43.73	41.55	2.18	19	37,252	1,549,433.18
UNTL	3.92	3.96	0.06	23	275,616	1,117,610.27
UPL	3.48	3.31	0.17	1	18,500	61,235.00
UTB	5.00	4.75	0.25	16	152,600	729,816.00
UTC	1.31	1.31	0.00	2	2,565	3,360.15
VANLEER	2.96	2.90	0.06	4	10,000	29,000.00
VITAFOAM	4.45	4.30	0.15	24	226,275	983,208.35
VONO	1.68	1.68	0.00	1	320	537.60
WAPCO	21.30	21.00	0.30	58	146,562	3,101,783.44
WAPIC	1.78	1.80	0.02	5	518,069	932,162.82
WEMABANK	2.85	2.71	0.14	32	236,012	643,817.22
TOTAL				1,785	26,134,212	190,995,312.08

## Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE)

Gainers/Losers as at 25/07/2001

Gainers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
JBERGER	47.25	49.61	2.36
NESTLE	64.00	64.50	0.50
GUINNESS	38.00	38.40	0.40
ROYALEX	5.61	5.89	0.28
AFRIBANK	8.80	9.00	0.20
FSB	6.40	6.60	0.20
UACN	3.40	3.57	0.17
AIICO	3.30	3.44	0.14
DUNLOP	3.30	3.44	0.14
NIG-GERMAN	2.70	2.83	0.13
DUMEX	2.43	2.55	0.12
LIBERTY	2.30	2.40	0.10
LIONBANK	1.90	1.99	0.09
SCOA	1.90	1.99	0.09
EKOBANK	1.46	1.53	0.07
ACCESSBANK	1.23	1.29	0.06
UNTL	3.92	3.98	0.06
SAVANNA	1.20	1.23	0.03
CORNERST	1.47	1.50	0.03
ETERNAOIL	1.53	1.55	0.02
GOLDBREW	0.58	0.60	0.02
WAPIC	1.78	1.80	0.02
MOBIL	64.00	64.01	0.01

### Losers

COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
UNIPETROL	43.73	41.55	2.18
NOLCHEM	31.50	29.93	1.57
UBN	28.13	26.73	1.40
CADBURY	24.20	23.39	0.81
FLOURMILL	14.19	13.49	0.70
UBA	14.46	13.90	0.56
ASHAKACEM	16.45	16.00	0.45
CHARTERED	8.49	8.07	0.42
7UP	6.00	5.70	0.30
UTB	5.00	4.75	0.25
NIGERINS	4.98	4.75	0.23
NAL	5.20	5.01	0.19
UPL	3.48	3.31	0.17
VITAFOAM	4.45	4.30	0.15
WEMABANK	2.85	2.71	0.14
SKBEECHAM	2.36	2.25	0.11
OLUGLASS	2.31	2.20	0.11
CRUSADER	2.15	2.05	0.10
JOHNHOLT	2.08	1.98	0.10
INLANDBANK	1.50	1.43	0.07
VANLEER	2.96	2.90	0.06
ABATEX	1.05	1.00	0.05
LASACO	1.10	1.05	0.05
AVONCROWN	1.54	1.50	0.04
THOMASWY	0.70	0.67	0.03

### Summary of Transactions

	OPENING	CLOSING	% AGE CHANGE	
MKT.	629,242,789,640.65	622,809,736,668.18	-1.02	
INDEX	10,643.17	10,534.36	-1.02	
DEALS	VOLUME	VOLUME	No. OF COMPANIES	
	1,785	190,995,312.08	190,995,312.08	96

Source: NSE, Abuja Area Office

## The bears take-over lead at NSE yesterday

Trading reports collected from Abuja Area Office of the Nigerian Stock Exchange indicated that a total of 54.21 million shares valued at N190.10 million in 1,785 deals were traded on the floors of the Nigerian Stock 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 at 10,534.36, a decrease of 1.02 percent. The index opened at 10,643.17. While the market capitalization closed at N622.81 billion, a decrease of 1.02 percent, it opened at N629.24 billion.

The bulls lost to the bears on the floor, with a total of 23 companies gaining and 25 losing in their share prices.

Gains were recorded in the Construction, Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Breweries, Insurance, Banking, Conglomerates, Automobile and Tyre, Chemicals & Paints, Textiles and the Petroleum Marketing sub sector.

JBerger Plc led the price gainers, at it appreciated by 236 kobo to close the day at N49.61 per share, followed by Nestle Foods Plc, which appreciated by 50 kobo to close at N64.50 per share.

Other price gainers include Guinness (40 kobo); Royalex (28 kobo); Afribank and FSB (20 kobo apiece); UACN (17 kobo); AIICO and Dunlop (14 kobo apiece); Nig-German (13 kobo); Dumex (12 kobo); Liberty (10 kobo) and Lionbank and SCOA (9 kobo apiece).

Losses were recorded in the Petroleum Marketing, Banking, Conglomerates, Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Building Materials, Insurance, Printing & Publishing, Industrial & Domestic Products, Healthcare, Packaging Textiles and the Computer & Office Equipment sub sectors.

Unipetrol Plc led the price losers, dropping by 218 kobo to close at and N41.55 per share, followed by Nolchem, which lost 157 kobo, to close at N29.93 per share.

Other price losers include UBN (140 kobo); Cadbury (81 kobo); Flourmill (70 kobo); UBA (56 kobo); Ashakacem (45 kobo); Chartered (42 kobo); Seven Up (30 kobo); UTB (25 kobo); Nigerins (23 kobo); Nal (19 kobo); UPL (17 kobo) and Vitafoam (15 kobo).

# BUSINESS DAY

## Suspend BA, VA from Lagos-London route, FG urged

The Federal Government has been urged to suspend the operations of British Airways (BA) and Virgin Atlantic (VA) Airways on the Lagos-London route until the government is able to appoint two designated Nigerian airlines for the dual designation on the route to reciprocate the British carriers.

The President of National Association of Aircraft Pilots and Engineers (NAAPE), Mr. Ufot Ekong who made this known during the organisation's national executive council meeting, stated that taking such step would allow for the principle of fair play and equal trade opportunity as entrenched in dual designation agreements.

The NAAPE President noted with dismay that more than sixteen European airlines operate from Lagos to London, which gives more than 50 frequencies out of Lagos weekly to London while not a single Nigerian carrier operates one of these flights.

This capital flight out of Nigeria, according to the NAAPE President when

From Shakirat Abdulmajeed, in Lagos

translated into money shows the enormous capital flight outside the country in this sector.

He argued that the fact that no Nigerian carrier is presently flying into London and other parts of Europe will affect the aviation in Nigeria, stressing that aviation professionals may be forced out of jobs due to dwindling local industry.

Ekong however, warned that unless the federal government takes a drastic measure to regulate the incursion of foreign carriers into the country, local airlines will suffer a decline or wind-up, stressing that the country may return to the old day when only foreigners were in charge of aviation.

The union which faulted the committee set-up by the minister of aviation to articulate modalities of the restructuring of the Nigeria Airways argued that the absence of harbour representatives will create fears of lack of protection among the workforce.

They argued that the activities of some members of the committee including

past Managing Director and Chief Executive of the airline have brought the airline to its present predicament, stressing that some of them may be facing possible indictment in the unpublished report of the Obiorah Nwazota's judicial commission of inquiry into the affairs of the airlines.

NAAPE called for a restructuring and rehabilitating of the national carrier to make it attractive to private sector investment.



Kema Chikwe, Aviation Minister

## NIPC pledges support to ABIDEV

By Ahmed Shekarau

The chairman of the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), Chief Kola Daisi has assured the stakeholders of Abuja Investment/Development Forum and Exhibition (ABIDEV), that the commission would offer every necessary assistance required for the success of the programme.

A statement signed by ABIDEV's Director, Infotech & Distribution, Cornel Eneremadu said, Chief Daisi made the pledge while receiving in audience a delegation of the stakeholders of ABIDEV led by its co-ordinator, Mr. Abel Akinosi.



Kola Daisi, NIPC Chairman

The NIPC boss urged the ABIDEV team to develop a business package that would attract investors into the FCT, taking into cognisance the infrastructures for investment, competitive advantage as well as other attractions of the people in

business.

The NIPC chairman said while government and its agencies should ensure the establishment of the enabling environment and creation of the institutional framework to stimulate investment, the private sector would play the pivotal role of identifying, and nurturing the investment ventures which will create the much needed employment, industrial diversification and wealth for the country.

Earlier, the leader of the team and co-ordinator of ABIDEV 2001, Mr. Akinosi had told the NIPC chairman that the visit to the commission was to acquaint him with the concept of the Abuja Investment/Development Forum and Exhibition and to solicit the commission's assistance to make the forum a success.

He said ABIDEV 2001 is aimed at attracting investors into the FCT. He listed the Organised Private Sector (OPS), Foreign and Domestic Investors, International Organisations, the IMF and the World Bank Group as some of the target participants expected at the forum.

The ABIDEV co-ordinator said investment opportunities abound in several sectors in the FCT. He listed them to include housing, agro-allied, transportation, communication, Banking and Insurance, education amongst several others.

The chairman and chief executive of Diamond Bank, Mr. Pascal G. Dozie has disclosed the readiness of his bank to go global within the next 10 years.

Dozie who declared this in a chat after the end of Diamond's 10th anniversary lecture at Muson Center, Lagos maintained that the bank intends to become a big player in Africa and the world.

According to him: "Now that we have established a strong presence in Nigeria over the last 10 years, the next target is that we are going to focus our vision now on having effective presence in Africa and the world."

He said the move to capture the African continent was recently incepted with

## Diamond Bank to go global - Dozie

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

the establishment of a subsidiary of the bank, Diamond Bank du Benin, in Cotonou, Benin Republic.

Dozie expressed satisfaction with the successes the bank recorded over the last ten years and was emphatic that these successes owe to contributions from the staff, shareholders and some government agencies.

Especially, he was thankful to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) saying that the ebullient financial regulations by these agencies enabled the bank to keep on track.

## UBA Premium Save Account beneficiaries emerge

The United Bank for Africa (UBA) Plc will present cheques to the first set of the UBA Premium Save Account beneficiaries on July 30, 2001 at the Shell Hall, Muson Centre, Lagos.

A sum of N15,000,000 will be presented to 30 UBA Premium Save Account customers who had been randomly selected among the customers and who have saved with the Bank for a period of three months.

For transparency, the Bank's external auditors - Akintola Williams Deloitte & Touche and KPMG (Chartered Accountants) were invited to witness the selection process carried out by the internal selection committee of the Bank on May 18, 2001.

A cash award of N1,000,000 each would be given to ten beneficiaries who had a minimum daily

balance of N250,000 for three months, while 20 customers who had a minimum daily balance of N50,000 for the same period would be given N250,000 each.

The UBA Premium Save Account product was introduced in March 2001 and was designed to assist customers who maintain a minimum daily balance of N250,000 for three months at one level and N50,000 at another for the same period.

The product which was introduced to the public during the last UBA Save for School Bursary Award presentation in Lagos has recorded a tremendous patronage. The product is aimed at providing financial assistance to the Bank's customers to meet their personal and business needs and at the same time reward them for being loyal to the Bank.

## AMEXIM Bank poised to create more businesses in Africa

The American Export-Import Bank (AMEXIM) has stated its determination to create more businesses in Africa.

The bank's official, John Richter said he looks forward to expanding the U.S. government agency's role in sub-Saharan Africa beyond the hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of export guarantees it made there in 2000 - more business than it did in Russia and Eastern Europe during the same period.

A statement issued by the US Embassy in Abuja said Richter told the 10th annual African Telecommunications and Information Technology Conference (AFCOM), held in Arlington, Virginia, that the bank made 125 transactions worth \$914 million in 14 sub-Saharan African countries in 2000.

His job now, he said, is to increase that investment in the development of Africa's infrastructure while carving

out a larger share of the export pie for U.S. business. As it stands now, the United States accounts for only 7 percent of all exports into the African market compared to Europe's 40 percent, the official explained.

To that end, he said, AMEXIM Bank seeks to provide "financing solutions" that enable foreign companies to buy U.S. exports, of which telecommunications equipment is a prime product. "You won't find us in Japan or Europe," he said, highlighting the fact that AMEXIM works only with emerging economies.

As an example of the business AMEXIM did in Africa as all last year, Richter said, "Mauritius Telecom wanted to buy some fiber optic cable to connect to the (African) continent." An American company sold them the cable, Equator Bank financed the deal, and "we provided the loan guarantee to the bank."

## Roro port tightens security to curb pilfering

Bothered by the persistent level of stealing and pilfering at the Roll-on-roll-off (Roro) port, the management of the port has set-up a new security outfit to man the port.

The Traffic Manager 1, Roro port, Alhaji Bala Ahmed who disclosed this in a chat with newsmen said the name of the new security outfit is 'road Marshal' to be operating in Roro port.

"Considering the Roro operation which is mainly responsible for all the imported vehicles into the country, the management cannot afford to rely on the current existing security operatives in the port alone, hence the need to establish another one," he said.

"I discard police and NPA security operatives for

From Tokunbo Oloke, in Lagos

now to try this new ones and see," he added.

Ahmed who said he has been receiving a lot of information from different customers over vandalisation of their cars, said members of the new security team would not go about in uniform.

According to the traffic manager, their duties, among others, is to arrest anyone pushing cars or driving cars without number plate registration within the port premises.

## NIHOTOUR to make Nigeria tourist-friendly

By Osborne Adi JNR

The National Institute for Hospitality and Tourism (NIHOTOUR), Kano, is determined to make Nigeria one of the leading tourist-friendly countries in Africa.

Towards this end, the institute is committed to providing improved and quality service in the hospitality and tourism industry by introducing professional, technical and specialised training as well as postgraduate courses in the hospitality, travel and tourism fields.

As part of this initiative, Mrs. Patricia Yakubu, Abuja Co-ordinator of the institute,

said in a statement that a liaison office/training center has been opened in the nation's capital in a bid to reach out to target operators in the industry. The establishment of the Abuja office is also intended to provide a wider outreach for the institute in its determined effort to attract new entrants into the hospitality and tourism industry as well as developing the manpower needs of existing operators in the sector.

The institute has been carrying out series of seminars, workshops as well

as tailor-made courses and short-term course in conjunction with other reputable organisations like the Industrial Training Fund (ITF).

NIHOTOUR, the apex institution and professional career ladder for the hospitality and tourism industry in West Africa was established in 1988.

The agreement for the establishment of the institute was signed between the Federal Government of Nigeria and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in 1987.



Ojo Madueke, Transport Minister

# Star Feature

## Fear and laughing in South Africa

*Pieter-Dirk Uys son of a German-Jewish mother and an Afrikaans father uses theatre to provide a powerful message about HIV and AIDS. He recently made a successful outing at London's Tricycle Theatre.*

Few people could show the South African Parliament what not to do with a banana and a condom-and get a standing ovation. But political satirist and provocateur Pieter-Dirk Uys did just that with a special parliamentary performance of his one-man show called *Foreign Aids* earlier this year. And at London's Tricycle Theatre recently, audiences are responding as enthusiastically to the play, in which Uys transforms himself into a handful of characters- or caricatures-to expose the

hypocrisy and ignorance surrounding Africa's AIDS crisis. His onstage incarnations include Dr. Thaboo MacBeki-any resemblance to South African President Thabo Mbeki is entirely intentional-who exclaims: "My mind is made up! Do not confuse me with facts." There's also ex-stripper Bambi Kellerman, who believes that "racism is easier to catch than AIDS." In between characters, Uys tells sobering stories from the AIDS frontline: of schools that refuse to install condom-dispensing machines because they don't want to encourage sex; of the urban legend that raping a virgin cures the disease. The son of a German-Jewish mother and an Afrikaans father, Uys, 56, began his career as a playwright in the early 1970s but found his work banned. Undeterred, he donned a frowzy dress and created his famous alter ego, Evita Bezuidenhout, the saccharine-sweet wife of a conservative



Pieter-Dirk UYS

politician-and used her character to lampoon apartheid's absurdities in farces like *adapt or Dye* and *Skating on Thin Uys*. His *Evita* not only escaped the censors- she soon had the nation eating out of her well-manicured hand.

After the end of apartheid, Uys found plenty to satirize in the new designer democracy." In 1995, he was back onstage with *You ANC Nothing Yet*, followed by *Truth omissions* in 1996. "I had to be careful to offend everybody equally," he explains with a twinkle in his eye. Still, times had changed in South Africa, and two years ago, Uys decided to hang up his wigs in his home town of Darling, 100 km north of Cape Town. "I felt the moral high ground had been leveled," he says. But then, concerned by the "AIDS is from Venus and HIV is from Mars" stance of the government, Uys found himself on the road again, this time visiting impoverished schools with a free and very frank show about safe sex called *For Facts' Sake*.

*Foreign Aids* is not just a consciousness raiser. It's also a fund raiser for charities close to Uys' heart, like Wola Nani, a refuge for HIV-positive teenage mothers. Next year, he plans to add a further 400 schools to the 160 he has already visited. Before then, he will take *Foreign Aids* to the Netherlands and possibly to New York. His comic treatment of a deadly serious subject has not escaped criticism, but Uys is unrepentant. "If just one child remembers something that will save his life, that's got to be worth it."

## Q & A

**A comedy about AIDS? What's so funny about a virus for which there is no cure:**

Nothing! Just as there was nothing funny about apartheid. The word comedy is misleading. I don't make jokes about AIDS, I aim to make people laugh at their prejudices and confront their fears. Humor is a great weapon, an extraordinary leveler. You can counter all the misinformation with humour.

**I assume you're referring to President Thabo Mbeki's controversial stance on AIDS?**

You know, 99% of the world knows that HIV leads to AIDS. We're governed by the 1% who don't. If we don't confront AIDS, 70% of our people will die. In the old South Africa we killed people, now we're letting them die. What's worse? And even when they try to get it right, they get it wrong. Last

year the Department of Health gave out 44 million free condoms with instructions in 11 languages stapled to them! That's 44 million death warrants!

**You're a white, middle-aged, man telling predominantly black school children about safe sex. Why do they listen to you?**

Firstly, I'm not a parent I'm not a teacher or a preacher. I'm an entertainer with a box of tricks. Secondly, I chat

with them as equals, using words they understand. When 10-year-old boys are becoming fathers and nine-year-old girls are selling their bodies for food, you can't say to them: "Sex for adults. Do your homework!" We all have to play a game of blind man's buff with our eyes open. We're all just people who are terrified of dying from love.

*Culled from TIME*

# Star Feature



Nane Annan U.N. first lady

## Woman of the world

*Nane Annan can easily be called the U.N. first lady. She is the wife of Kofi Annan, the U.N. Secretary-General. She is a lawyer and artist and has a keen interest in children. She has given her husband immense support all these years since they first met in Geneva some 20 years ago.*

**N**ane Annan watched last Friday mixed emotions as the United Nations General Assembly unanimously elected her husband, Kofi Annan, to a second five-year term as Secretary-General. The Swedish-born lawyer turned artist has made no secret of her concern that the U.N.'s demanding top job has taken a toll on her husband but, she says, "in spite of the heavy responsibilities, he seems to be thriving, and I did support him in making himself available for a second term." Annan is painfully aware of the steep price that a

**By Aisha Labi**  
life devoted to public service can command. Her uncle, Raoul Wallenberg, the diplomat who saved the lives of thousands of Jews in Nazi -occupied Hungary, disappeared in 1944, the year she was born. Although she never knew him, "the absence of Raoul was always present in my life," she says. "His last letter from Budapest was to congratulate my mother, his sister, on my birth."

As the U.N.'s first lady, Annan has no official role within the organization, but she travels the world with her husband and, she says, "making visible what

the U.N. is doing around the world is deeply gratifying." Among the issues she has focused her attention on is the education of children, in particular girls. "Of over 100 million children not in school," she says, "Two-thirds of them are girls." The proceeds from a book she has written to introduce children to the U.N. go to benefit UNICEF, the U.N. children's fund.

Annan's own privileged childhood as a member of one of Sweden's most prominent families helped prepare her for the peripatetic life she now leads. Her father is an international

judge, and the family lived in Sweden, France, Italy and Morocco. She practiced law for 16 years, serving as an associate judge in Sweden and later as a legal officer with the UNHCR in Geneva, but in recent years has focused on art. "To start painting was not an easy choice," she says, "but it was a privilege to immerse myself in something that I loved." The depth of her feelings for Kofi-the marriage is a second one for both-is unmistakable. Last week, at the U.N.'s headquarters in New York, as the world watched a statesman basking in the acclaim of the international community, Nane Annan's thoughts were intensely personal. "I thought of that moment when we first met 20 years ago in Geneva."

### Q & A

*You've made the education of girls a priority. You yourself hold a law degree but no longer practice law. Do you feel any guilt about not putting your credentials to full use?*

I practiced law for about 16 years, so I feel I have paid my dues. The issue of girls' education is close to my heart. In developed countries, girls' education is about realizing ourselves. In other parts of the world, it is about survival-physical, economic and political. The recent AIDS conference at the U.N. reminded us that women and children disproportionately bear the burden of the disease.

*You worked on legislative projects in Sweden related to immigration and discrimination. Do you feel that advances have been made in this regard?*

The Swedish Commission on Ethnic Prejudice and Discrimination for which I worked in the late '70s was set up as a response to discrimination. This is certainly something all of us need to work more on and why the upcoming U.N. Conference on racism, which will be held in South Africa in September, is of such significance.

*Why did you decide to become a full-time artist?*

Painting and an interest in art were always part of my life, when I was growing up. I drew during breaks, at weekends, sometimes even at night.

*How has your husband's popularity affected your private lives?*

One of the reasons I did support him in his decision to make himself available for a second term was seeing people's reaction to him. It may be the truck driver who drove past us yesterday leaning out of his window, or the homeless man we met in Central Park last week who shook his hand. Is it also the countless letters from people around the world putting their trust in him.

*Culled from TIME*



## Ohiare: Farming for 40 years

Muhammed Salami Ohiare hails from the North Central part of the country, from Adavi Local Government Area of Kogi State to be precise. He was born in 1954. The mere mention of his name suggests someone who hails from a family that is pre-eminent in farming.

Daily Trust gathered from him that his grand father's name Ohiare, a name by which he is popularly known and addressed today, could never have been a coincidence. "Ohi" in my dialect means "the head" in terms of Social Status. "Are," means farm. The two were combined to form "Ohiare", which means the head of farm."

"This is a name I am very proud of today, because, you see, many young men these days do not like to identify with farming; They don't want to be called farmers. I take pride in being addressed as a farmer because farming made up a significant part of my life." Muhammed Salami is fair in complexion and he is of average height.

In 1961, at the age of 7, Ohiare got enrolled in the then Native Authority Demonstration School, Okene. But even before this age, the young man had taken to farming in his words. "I started farming before I got enrolled in primary school at the age of 7, and you know apart from western education then, we had a way of developing ourselves. Though I was very small I was fascinated by the tales of my grandfather, Ohiare who was a great farmer. My farming activities were on a very small scale but enterprising."

Indeed as a very small boy operating on local tools then, Ohiare couldn't have ventured into large-scale farming. Nevertheless, apart from assisting the household, the proceeds from his farm served a substantial purpose in the primary education of a boy whose father's responsibility as a polygamist prevented him from having an adequate share of his entitlements as a child. He said "Apart from the reason of my father being a polygamist, he also had other financial responsibilities in his extended family which prevented him from giving every child of his adequate attention."

Though Ohiare was preoccupied with farming at a very youthful age, he did not stop at that. He joined a

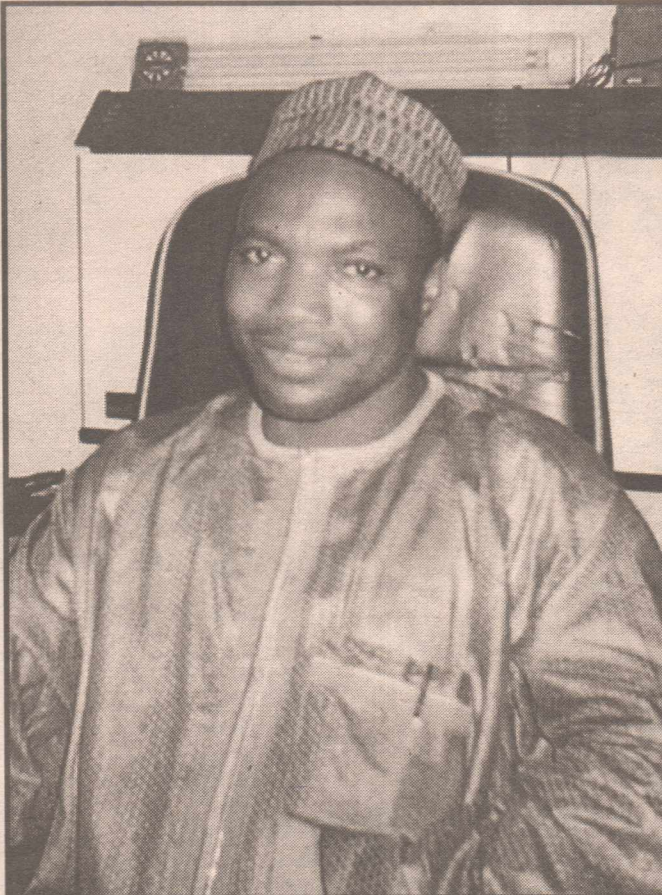
By Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman

team of friends to learn how to weave native caps and even produce rubber stamps "training myself to be skilled in handicraft in addition to my academic engagements was a thing of joy to me during my very youthful age. This was still with farming in the background. In fact, if I was not at school, I would be in the farm. If not, then I would be at home weaving caps."

"I became so perfect and absorbed in cap weaving that I also went commercial with it like my farm activities. As for the rubber stamp, I used to produce it for individuals, native authorities and business enterprises. I sold the first Cap I produced for 13 shillings. This was a lot of money then in the early 60s you know."

By 1968, Ohiare the young farmer wrote a Common entrance examination which fetched him admission into the then Okene Secondary School, now Abdul Aziz Atta Memorial College. The demand of the new academic environment interrupted the farming activities of Ohiare, but that was only briefly because as a young man, he was determined to forge ahead with his noble occupation. Ohiare resumed farming during his second year in the secondary school. This time around, on a fairly large scale.

As a student of Agric, the young boy took his practical experiences of the farm to capture marks in the classroom and took back his knowledge of its theory in the school to



Muhammed Salami Ohiare

improve on his farming. An advantage that won for him the prize for the best student of Agric in 1972 at offa Grammar School where he acquired his secondary education. Ohiare was only acting out his name by this process of combining farming along side education. By 1972, immediately after his secondary school, he joined the then Kwara state college of technology, bagged his advanced level GCE and, by 1975 proceeded to Ahmadu Bello University where in 1978 he had a B.Sc degree in Quantity Surveying.

Ohiare was among the team of graduates who concluded their national

youth service in 1978. As a youth Corper with the Bauchi state ministry of health, he was offered appointment by the ministry upon completion of his service. But Ohiare did not believe that such offer was capable of casting his dreams for him. It thus appeared that the young man was nostalgic of his farming activities. Said he "I declined the offer and left for Lagos in 1979 where I picked up appointment as the first quantity surveyor in the Nigerian Airport Authority. After a period of six months, I joined the then federal ministry of housing and environment where I participated in the National Housing Scheme by

conducting feasibility studies and preparing tender documents. At that time, Abuja was just taking off as the new federal capital. By February 1980, I transferred to Abuja and took up a job with the then Federal Capital Administration, presently FCDA for a period of 9 years. Meanwhile between 1981 and 82 I briefly went back to A.B.U. Zaria for my masters degree in construction management.

As if farming had really taught this man that there couldn't be anything better than being on his own, by 1989, Ohiare resigned from FCDA and went back to the farm!

But how about his contacts and experiences in the public sector? Ohiare said "within the period I worked in the public sector, I met with people whose goodwill I had. You know that was primarily because I had always rendered the best of me to whoever I found myself working for and whatever I am doing. When I resigned in 1989, the first thing I went into was farming. I was not rich enough then to have an advanced mechanised farming, but I enjoyed the support of friends. As a device I began to visit my former employers and some local government Area within the FCT to ask for contract jobs. Over a period of time I had built my capital base but unfortunately I reduced emphasis on farming, with construction works now taking a larger part of my time."

Ohiare noted that he is still in love with farming but "it was gradually that my mind became attuned to construction works, and indeed my profession as a quantity surveyor had a profound influence on my decision. I simply found myself having to practise my profession."

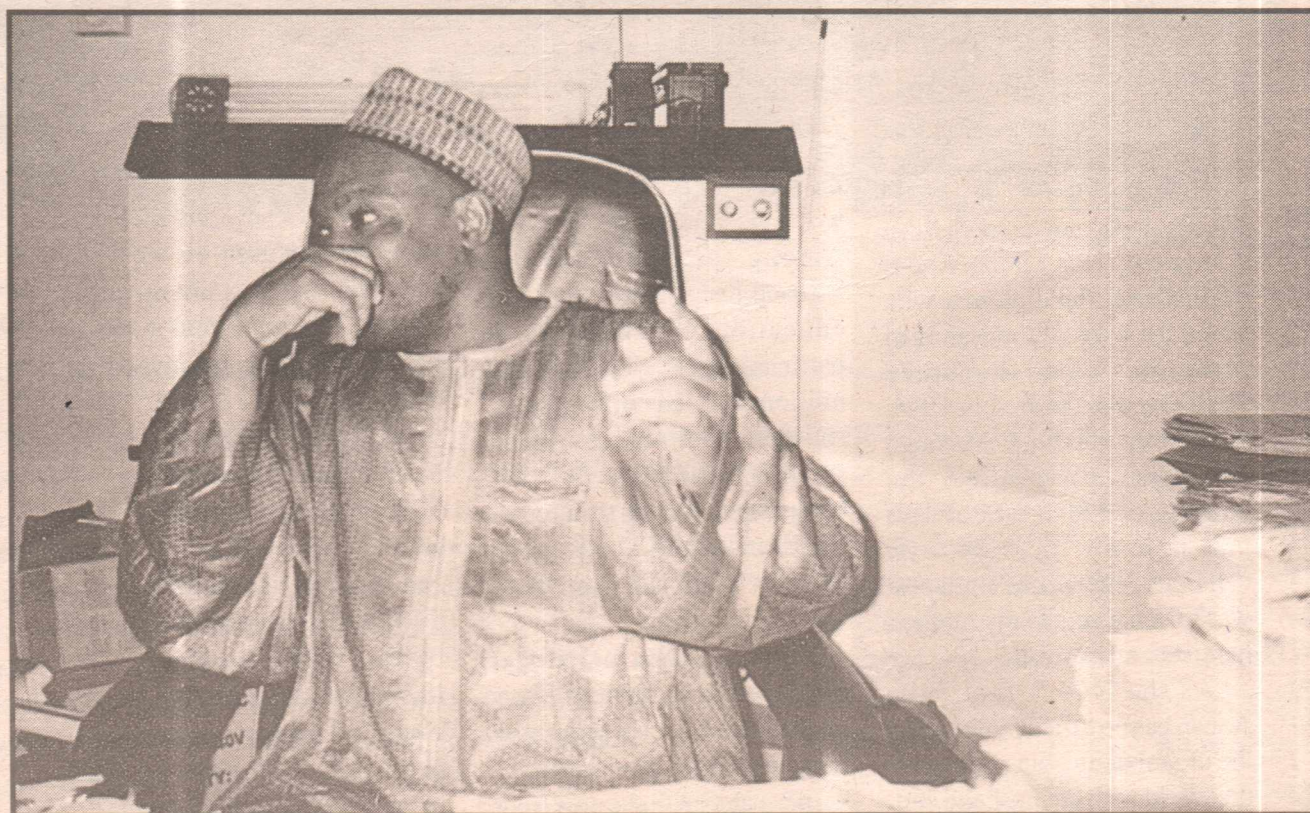
A polygamist, just like his father caring for a number of children and extended family members, Ohiare did not decline sharing his ordeals of life with Daily Trust.

"The first difficulty I went through in my life was when my mother took ill after being separated from my father. By then I was in the secondary school, thereabout 16 years. Unfortunately for her, she had no direct brother who could be of assistance. So, she was all-alone, and that actually caused her serious agony. Infact I have very strong attachment to my mother. I was so touched that even though I was small, I had to intensify my farming activity to give the little support that I could. In fact I told my mother then not to worry, that within a period of 5 years I would settle her and build a house for her which I am proud of being able to do today even though not within the period I anticipated."

"In fact there was a time when my former employer i.e. the Nigerian Airport Authority offered to sponsor me abroad for further studies, but I declined the offer because of my mother's problem."

"Another challenge was from my father. He had many children and extended family members he was catering for. So occasionally, I used to have some set backs in getting my school fees when I was in secondary school, but somehow I survived it because of my farm works and other handworks. Moreover, I occasionally would go out for manual labour like assisting in the building of mud houses for people. These were the major ordeals I had passed through in my life. Others are quite minor which I overcame by the grace of God."

A Muslim who believes in love and hardwork, Ohiare advised young men not to allow themselves to be deceived that there are alternatives to hardwork. He does not consider himself a rich man but one upon whom Allah has bestowed, like every other person, the strength to work and earn his livelihood. He is still rather pleased to be addressed as a farmer.



Muhammed Salami Ohiare

Pixs by Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman

NEWS

# Plateau Govt subsidises pilgrimage

The Plateau State Government has subsidised fees for both Muslim and Christian pilgrimages to the holy land in the state by 30 percent.

The state Governor, Chief Joshua Dariye, announced this when he received in audience a delegation of officials of the National Christian Pilgrims Committee from the national secretariat, Abuja, at Government House, Jos, Tuesday.

He stated that although government was not supposed to be involved in sponsoring pilgrims to the holy lands, the poor financial situation of the people had made government to provide the needed assistance to further strengthen and encourage them in performing their religious obligations.

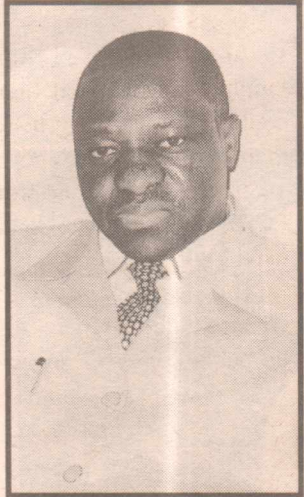
The governor noted that it would be unfortunate and a tragedy for any pilgrim to come back without being reformed or transformed to a better Muslim or Christian

From Buhari Bello, in Jos

after performing the religious exercise.

Earlier, leader of the delegation, Reverend Father Daniel Agber, said that over 1,500 intending Christian pilgrims in Plateau State were being screened by the Christian Pilgrims Committee from the national secretariat.

The clergyman described Chief Dariye as a dynamic,



Gov. Dariye

hardworking and intelligent young man whose good leadership skills was a source of strength to the growth and development of the state.

He commended the governor's re-engineering programme, noting that it was already transforming the entire state.

According to Reverend Father Agber, his committee recently embarked on a nation-wide sensitisation tour to enlighten and educate the various levels of government on the need to sponsor more pilgrims to the holy land.

The State Assistant Comptroller of Prisons, Sokoto Central Prison, Alhaji Abdulrahman Alhaji Shafa, has disclosed that 36 inmates would sit for the 2001 external General Certificate of Education (G.C.E.) while 16 would sit for Junior Secondary School's Certificate Examination (JSCE).

He stated this during a courtesy call on the chairman of Sokoto North Local Government, Alhaji Jibo Mazuga, yesterday.

Alhaji Ashafa said that two inmates were currently studying at the State College of Education and Usman Danfodio University Sokoto.

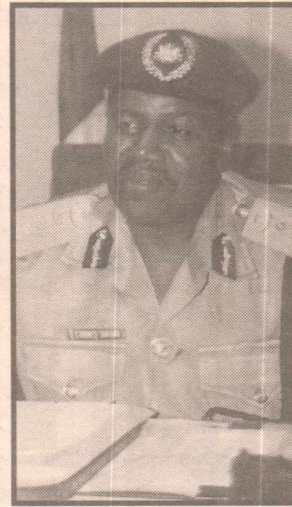
He explained that the sewing machines and Qur'ans donated by Sokoto North Local Government to the inmates would be utilised accordingly.

The comptroller said

# 36 prisoners to sit for GCE

From Abdulfatah Abdulsami, in Sokoto

about 47 inmates of the prison would soon graduate from the Quranic institute while another 10 would soon sit for the Trade test.



C-G Prisons, Alh. Ibrahim Jarra

Alhaji Abdulrahman used the occasion to call on individuals, philanthropic organisations and local government councils in the state to assist the prison with furniture and other academic materials that would be useful to inmates sitting for these examinations in the prison.

Speaking earlier, the executive chairman of Sokoto North Local Government, Alhaji Jibo Mazuga appealed to the society at large to interact freely with inmates to integrate ex-prisoners into mainstream society instead of ostracising them.

He also commended the laudable efforts of the officers and men of the Nigerian Prison, Sokoto for doing their best to see to the total reformation of inmates in the prison.

# Balewa/Bogoro crisis: Bauchi sets up commission of inquiry

The Bauchi State Government has set-up a 10-member commission of inquiry into the disturbances in Tafawa Balewa and Bogoro Local Government Areas which occurred in June this year.

The commission's terms of reference are amongst others; To investigate and determine the immediate and remote causes of the disturbances and also offer solutions to avoid further occurrence;

To identify persons connected with the disturbances and recommend appropriate actions to be taken against them;

To inquire whether any

From Ado Abdullahi Hazzad, in Bauchi

person or group of persons propagating political or other beliefs contributed to or participated in any way in the disturbances and

To examine any matter incidental to the assignment of the commission and make appropriate recommendations.

The commission, which is expected to submit its findings and recommendations on or before Monday, 22 October 2001, has Justice Bala Umar as its chairman, other members include a one time secretary to the Bauchi State Government, Alhaji

Idris Bamai; a retired permanent secretary to the Bauchi State civil service, Mr. G.A. Tenebe, a retired deputy commissioner of police, Alh. Ahmed Giade.

The State Acting Governor, Alh. Abdulmalik Mahmoud, charged the commission to be fearless and leave no stone unturned in getting to the root of the problem.

He assured no matter how highly placed, any person or group of persons if indicted by the commission would be made to face the law.

The acting governor further called on the people of

Bauchi State, particularly those directly affected by the disturbances, to co-operate with the commission in order to find lasting peace.



Gov. Mu'azu

# Legislators want Benue LGs to withdraw from ALGON

The Benue House of Assembly has called on local government councils in the state to withdraw their membership of the Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON) for what the house called, "the unwholesome" activities of the association.

The call followed an observation by a member representing Adoka/Ugboju constituency, Mr. Augustine Effa, on the floor of the House, on the deduction of N 4 million from each local government in the country for the purchase of jeeps to

beef up security in all the council areas.

The assembly members also noted with concern, the attempt by ALGON to deduct at source, N1 million from each local government in the country to purchase shares in privatised companies and parastatals.

The legislators pointed out that the councils were in dire need of money to execute projects and to alleviate the problems of the people in their respective areas.

The house, therefore, urged councils in the state to relinquish their membership of the association in the interest of the people.

# Immigration deports 7,000 in C/Rivers

More than 7,000 illegal immigrants were deported from Nigeria by the Nigeria Immigration Service between January and June this year in Cross River State.

During the period, the command admitted about 8,000 immigrants and issued 725 passports to deserving

From Bassey Ita, in Calabar

Cross Riverians for overseas trips.

Assistant Comptroller-General and Zonal Coordinator of the service in Zone E, Owerri, Mrs. Rose Uzoma, said the illegal immigrants used the control posts, seaports and airport in the state to get into the country.

Mrs. Uzoma, who paid a courtesy call on the Cross River State Governor, Mr. Doland Duke, thanked him for allocating 30 hectares of land at Ikot Eneobong in Calabar to the Immigration Service for the building of its staff quarters.

Responding, the governor said the government would support moves by the Immigration Service to reg-

ister all foreigners in the state.

Duke, who also called for joint effort in combating child trafficking by all government agencies, solicited the services of the Immigration Service at the Bebi Air-strip, at Obanlike Local Government Area when it finally takes off.

He also promised to donate more land to boost the operations of the service in the state.

# Chairmen faulted over agitations for four-year tenure

The people of Ogba, Egbema, Ndom, Omuna and Andoni Local Government Areas of Rivers State have faulted the current agitation by council chairmen and councillors in the country for a four-year tenure.

This was contained in their memoranda to the Joint Committee of the National Orientation Agency (NOA), and the state Ministry of Justice which was in their areas

From Wisdom-Uduok Patrick, in Port Harcourt

for the review of the 1999 constitution.

The committee was also told to limit the tenure of all political office holders in the country to three years and raise the academic requirement for counselorship aspirants.

The committee, which visited Ogba, Egbema, Ndomi, Omuna and Andoni

stated through its spokesperson, Mrs. Aleruchi cookey-Gam, who herself represented the state Attorney General, that they were happy by the response of the people toward the making of the new constitution.

The joint committee of the National Orientation Agency and the Ministry of Justice commenced a state-wide public enlightenment campaign to explain the draft review of the much criticised 1999 constitution.

# I recognise Saraki's leadership - Gov Lawal

Governor Muhammad Lawal of Kwara State, has reiterated his recognition of Dr. Olusola Saraki's leadership in the All Peoples Party (APP), but blamed sycophants for misconstruing his progressive activities in the state.

He was speaking while receiving the National Traders and Market Leaders Council of Nigeria (NATMALC), Kwara State chapter led by Iyalaje of Kwara State, Alhaji Abebi Akolile, at Government House, Ilorin recently.

Governor Lawal promised to complete the coun-

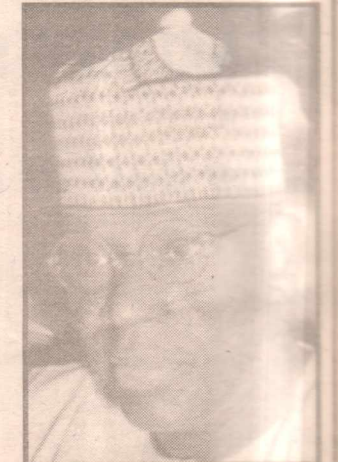
From Abdul-Laro, in Ilorin

cil's on-going market and provide assistance for five others while N1 million and a 15 seater bus was donated to the council, with a pledge to revive its co-operative union for financial empowerment.

On the Poverty Alleviation Programme in the state, Alhaji Lawal affirmed the commitment of the government towards assisting the populace with at least N50,000 monthly for 10 members from each of the 16 local government areas of the state.

Earlier, the council

commended the laudable and progressive achievements of Governor Lawal, pledging its continued support for the administration.



Gov. Lawal

# Italian economic delegation to visit Nigeria

A delegation of the Nigeria-Italy Chamber of Commerce is to visit Nigeria soon Briefing President Obasanjo in Rome on the activities of the Chamber at the weekend, Engineer Antonio Parlavacchio, leader of the five-man delegation, stated that he admired Nigeria's capacity for hard work.

By Suleiman Muhammad

He said having worked in Nigeria himself for years in the past; he was determined to come back to the country under the current dispensation.

He added that he is encouraging Italians to come to Nigeria, adding, "the Nigeria-Italy Chamber of Com-

merce is also working to encourage Italian banks to come and establish branches in Nigeria.

Responding, President Obasanjo said Nigeria would give every assistance to the chamber.

He further told them that visa for visits to Nigeria would now be given within 48 hours.



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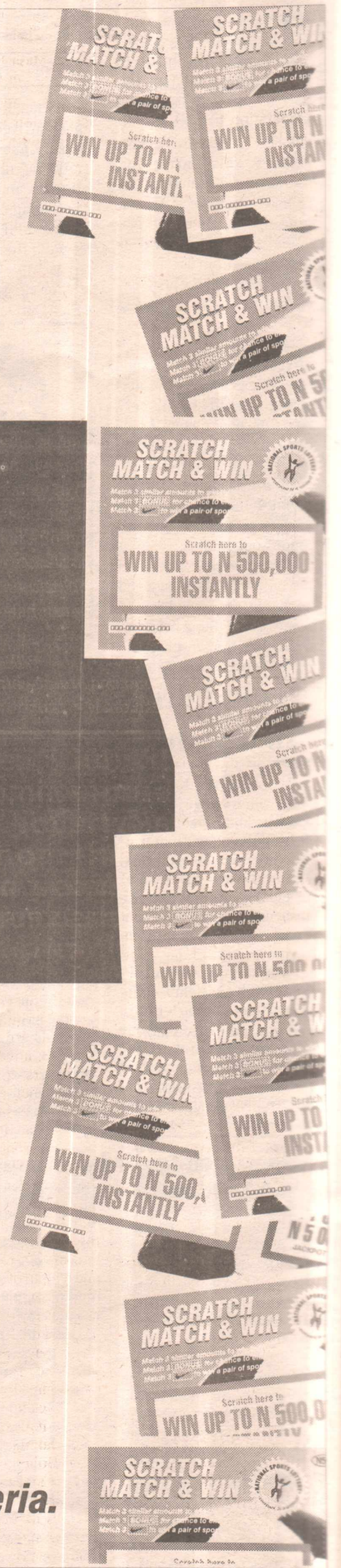
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# INSIDE POLITICS

## PDP is in disarray, says NSA

National protem chairman of the National Solidarity Association (NSA), Alhaji Sale Jambo, has described the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) as a party in disarray, which cannot stand the onslaught of a disciplined and organised political association.

Alhaji Jambo, who gave this verdict in Kano, also cited the statements credited to President Obasanjo and Prof. Jerry Gana to the effect that PDP is "as good as dead."

"President Obasanjo himself said PDP is a coalition of strange bed-fellows, that they are insincere and Prof. Gana, I suppose, has recited the requiem-mass by the graveside and what remains is for you and me to put earth-to-earth, dust-to-dust to bury the PDP," he stated.

He dispelled rumours that

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Kano

NSA is a northern political association and mentioned many southern politicians who are members of the party including his deputy, Clement Akpangbo, adding that he recently commissioned the Lagos State party office.

"Our party is pan-nationalistic," he stressed and refuted allegations that IBB was sponsoring NSA, challenging those making the allegations to provide evidence to that effect.

He also berated those alleging that the former military president is the sole presidential candidate of the association. "Babangida is an enigma, and therefore whether Babangida is in politics or not in politics, he becomes a recurring figure, that you cannot stop," he insisted.

Alhaji Jambo, who came

out strongly in defence of retired military officers' participation in politics, said there were intelligent, highly trained young officers who were forced out of the military, and who should be allowed to exercise their fundamental human rights of association by

joining political parties.

On the merger between NSA and National Frontier, the protem chairman said plans have reached advanced stage for the merger, adding that NSA's registration as a political party is a forgone conclusion. "We have met all the constitutional requirements for registration, all that remains is to go to INEC and register as a political party," he explained.

## Waziri advises on political tolerance

State governors have been called upon to hold regular meetings with representatives of the three political parties in their states, in order to promote tolerance and political understanding.

The special adviser to the president on intra-party relations, Alhaji Mahmud Waziri,

From Abdulfatah Abdulsalami, in Sokoto

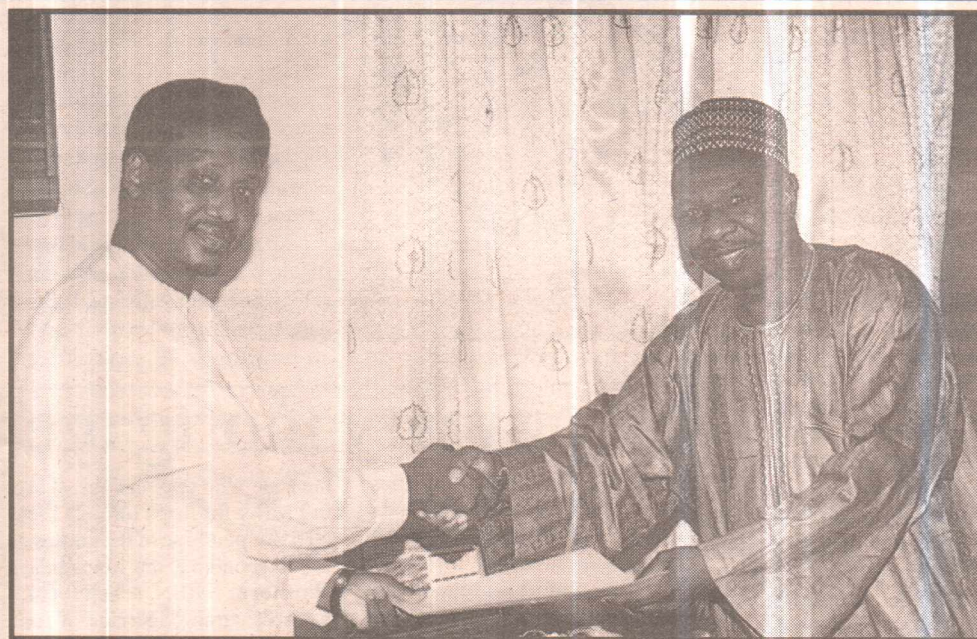
made the call during a courtesy call on the Sokoto State Governor, Alhaji Attahiru Dalhatu Bafarawa.

Alhaji Waziri said he was in the state to educate and enlighten members of the three political parties to see themselves as partner in progress.

He advised that for the country to establish a lasting democracy and block the military from seizing power, the political class needs to cultivate the habit of tolerance and harmonious relationship among the existing parties.

The special adviser disclosed that the President Obasanjo and the Federal Government were interested in a peaceful transition to the next republic, especially the conduct of free and fair elections in 2003 devoid of intra-party crisis.

Speaking earlier, the Sokoto State Governor, Alhaji Attahiru Bafarawa, welcomed the group of Sokoto and commended President Obasanjo for his initiative of maintaining peace at the next general election.



Chadian Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Ousman Djidda, presenting results of the last Chadian election to the national chairman of Alliance for Democracy (AD), Alhaji Adamu Ahmed Abdulkadir, when the envoy paid a courtesy visit to the AD chairman in his office in Abuja...recently.

## PRP to investigate Kankia council

The unregistered Peoples Redemption Party (PRP) said it would soon carry out an investigation into the activities of the Kankia local government council in Katsina State, to verify whether they are in conformity with party objectives.

The national chairman of the party, Alhaji Balarabe Musa, made the disclosure at a press conference in Katsina.

According to him, "PRP still maintains its free education policies and any of its elected leaders that fails to carry out the party's objectives would not be tolerated."

He said that since it had just been brought to the notice of the party that the local government chairman, Alhaji Ibrahim Tafashiya, was not discharging the ideals of the party, "the party would carry out a thorough investigation into the allegation."

Balarabe, who spoke on efforts of the party to get registered, pointed out that the party intended to revert any state under its control or at the national level to free education from primary to tertiary levels.

He explained that "disci-

pline and selflessness would continue to be the watchword of the party."

Alhaji Musa was in Katsina at the weekend to relaunch the party, said the chairman of Kankia council, Alhaji Tafashiya is the only chairman elected under the platform of the PRP in the state.

## Oyo AD expels four members

Oyo State chapter of the Alliance for Democracy (AD) has expelled four of its members over alleged anti-party activities.

According to a statement jointly signed by the state

From Yinka Oladoyinbo, in Ibadan

chairman, Chief David Adesola and the secretary of the party, Mr. Lasun Adebunmi, the expelled members were said to have ran foul of article 16, section

2 of the party's constitution.

The affected members include Mr. Sola Ogunbode, a former local government chairmanship aspirant, Alhaji Wahab Odusina, Alhaji Kola Gbadamosi, a former board member and Mr. Charles Obisesan.

The expelled party members were also accused of disloyalty and disrespect for constituted party authority in the state just as the statement alleged that the expelled members have not been attending party meetings since the inauguration of the present administration.

The statement further directed the expelled party men

to desist from parading themselves or act in any form whatsoever as members of the party.

It was, however, gathered that the expulsion was effected on the members as a fallout of a rally recently organised by the *Afenifere* Youth Forum in the state, where the regime of Alhaji Lam Adesina was indicted over many wrong doings.

Alhaji Gbadamosi, who was until recently the chairman, Oyo State Housing Corporation, was allegedly relieved of the post because of his ambition of becoming the state governor, come 2003.

## Lam declares re-election bid

Governor Lam Adesina has declared his interest in seeking a second term as governor of Oyo State. He made his ambition public while addressing supporters and members of the Alliance for Democracy (AD) at a political rally held at Olubadan Stadium.

Addressing the mammoth crowd that attended the rally, the governor declared that the national executive committee of his party, Alliance for Democracy (AD) has ratified his bid to vie for a second term in office, in order for him to complete the work he has started.

He said: "We have put in place many programmes to improve the lot of the commonman and also to make their lives better, we need to nurture it to completion."

Speaking at the occasion, Chief Bola Ige, the attorney-general and minister of justice, urged all the different factions in the party to drop their gauntlet and embrace each other. He emphasized the need to maintain peace in the party and work together to be able to emerge victorious in the 2003 general elections.

Chief Ige, who was a former governor of the state assured the people that the party (AD) will improve upon its performance in the months ahead.

From Samson Ojo, in Ibadan

However, *Daily Trust* investigations revealed that the days of easy ride to power in Oyo State, as it was in May 1999, when AD won the state on a platter of gold are over.

The voices of opposition against the Alhaji Adesina-led government are now becoming louder and AD stalwarts are having sleepless nights on how to consolidate their strategies to remain in power.

Bracing up for the battle ahead, the Peoples Democracy Party (PDP) also held a rally at the Mapo Hall, two

weeks ago that was well attended. Significantly, *Daily Trust* learnt that the two personalities at the center of the crisis rocking the party in the state, Chief Ayoade Adejo and Senator Rasheed Ladoja openly embraced themselves.

This, a source said, is a historic event that has sent jitters down the spine of AD members in the state.

Another pointer to a keen battle ahead in 2003, is the recent cross-carpeting of Senator Yemi Brimo-Yusuf (Oyo North) from the AD to PDP which is another minus for the ruling party in the state.

## House issues deadline to committees on submission of reports

The House of Representatives has directed its various committees conducting public or investigative hearings to submit their reports not later than one week to the resumption of the plenary sitting of the House on August 22, 2001.

The deputy chairman, business and rules committee, Rep. Ita Enang, who gave the directive said that early submission of the reports would enable the House plan ahead before its resumption.

"We want to get back to work as soon as we resume.

We want to conclude work on the reports at least one month after our resumption," he said.

He said that the House is expecting reports from the committees on petroleum, environment, special duties, works and housing and that of power and steel.

Enang said that the House had already received the report of the committee on aviation on the public hearing conducted on the removal of the former chairman of the National Aviation Management Agency (NAMA), Chief Rochas Okorocha.

## Foreign debt: Sen. Anka accuses creditor nations of conspiracy

The chairman, Senate committee on local and foreign debts, Senator Yusha'u Mohammed Anka, has alleged that the Paris Club and other foreign creditor nations have conspired to blackmail Nigeria to succumb to the yearly servicing of its huge and controversial foreign debts.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* in Kaduna, Senator Anka said creditors, in their strategy of getting Nigeria pay its debts had decided that if the debts were not serviced yearly, they would stop accepting letters of credit from Nigeria.

He said that the details of the collaboration was disclosed by the presidency when the National Assembly refused to endorse the allocation of over N56 billion in the supplementary budget for debt servicing.

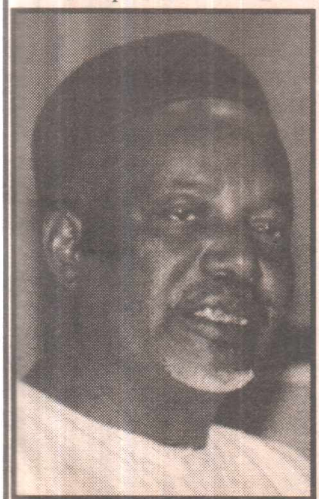
Senator Anka explained that the refusal of the National Assembly to endorse

From Ibrahim Ka-Ahmasih, in Kaduna

the amount for foreign debts servicing was not intended to unnecessarily confront the presidency, but was informed by the fact that there were more pressing problems in the country that required such funds.

However, he said, when they were confronted with the details of the foreign creditors' conspiracy against Nigeria by the presidency, the National Assembly had no option but to endorse the N56 billion allocation to service the debts.

"For instance, if you want to buy machinery to equip NEPA which may cost about N10 billion, you have to pay cash and that is not easy for the nation so the majority of the lawmakers later accepted that we should continue to service our foreign debts," the Senator stated.



Alh. Balarabe Musa



# HABITAT (Housing and Environment)



## Demolition cannot solve the problem of illegal structures in the FCT

As the Federal Government is bent on getting rid of illegal infrastructures in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), an Abuja based Estate Consultant and Barrister-at-law, Mr. Estine Okolo has carpeted the government over the planned demolition of structures.

Mr. Okolo, also a principal partner of Pet-Pal Estate Management, Surveyors and Consultant said the demolition option is an attempt to rob people of their properties as government was the architect of the distortion of the Abuja master plan.

Said he: "The illegal structures around have actually contributed to the distortion of the Abuja master plan. But again, I want to say the distortion started from the policy makers in the country."

According to him, since the government conceived the idea of having a federal capital in 1976, apart from the constitution of the Akinola Aguda Panel that recommended what is known today as the FCT, the subsequent government policies witnessed the distortion of the master plan.

He explained that "the ever changing policies of the government on daily basis; you realised had actually played a greater part in the distortion of the Abuja master plan. There are certain structures, which have not been in place when the city centre was

**By Tashikalmah Hallah**  
designed.

Structure like shops, bus stop, are not in place or not available which the original planners ought to have known that these things are needed in a city like this," he added.

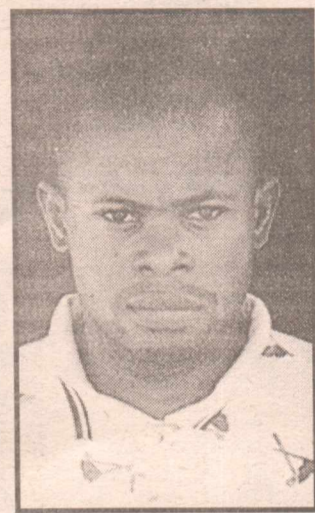
Mr. Okoli also said that the planners should have envisaged that the population will increase and could have provided enough spaces or they could have prepared for it.

"And they should have taken example from that of Lagos. Definitely, people will move into the city and this is exactly what is happening."

Because of the over population he said, people have resorted

in building illegal structures and has pitied them with the government.

He blamed the people who "manage our affairs" in the FCT for allocating plots of land and



Mr. Estine Okolo

other properties fraudulently, saying, government should investigate the allocation of land and the citing of projects in the city and published its findings.

According to him, this would serve as a deterrent to future illegal allocation of lands.

On the recent government pronouncement to demolish illegal structures in the FCT, Barrister Okolo explained that the action would only create problem instead of solving it.

Said he, "it is not the solution. I would rather suggest that the government should appropriate machinery in motion to settle the inhabitants of various illegal structures. It is the primary responsibility of government to provide adequate housing to the citizen."

The government should first of all build massive housing schemes to rehabilitate these people, then go on with the restructuring of the city," he added.

## Yobe to float primary mortgage institution

In spite of the criticism that has been trailing the National Housing Fund (NHF), the Yobe State government has expressed its readiness to explore the good potentials of the NHF Scheme as the surest way of Nigerians owning their own houses.

This was disclosed by the Yobe State Commissioner for Housing and Property Development, Alhaji Ibrahim Umar when he called on the Managing Director of the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN), Alhaji Kassim Musa Bichi in Abuja.

According to Alhaji Umar,

the NHF is not only the surest way of providing accommodation for the citizenry but also at the cheapest cost.

The commissioner while calling for the total understanding of the scheme also advised Nigerians to embrace it.

He disclosed that as part of the efforts by his state to access the NHF scheme, the state government has concluded arrangement to float a state owned Primary Mortgage Institution (PMI) to enable contributors from Yobe State access to the fund.

The commissioner who was accompanied by the Managing Director of Yobe State Housing and Property Development, Alhaji Ahmad Moda Geidam also advised Nigerians to be patient and give the NHF a chance, as he was optimistic that the scheme will succeed and therefore enjoined contributors to apply for the loan under the scheme.

To enhance this, he said, the Yobe State government has sold 1000 houses to civil servants in

the state with applications, sent in FMBN for loans through the NHF for purchase of the houses.

Responding, the Managing Director of FMBN, Alhaji Bichi has re-assured Nigerians of its determination to succeed in making the National Housing Fund achieve the purpose for which it was established.

Alhaji Bichi explained that the bank has put in place a system which is ready and able to meet the housing aspirations of all NHF contributors who want to access the NHF loan facility.

Alhaji Bichi while applauding the Yobe State government's stride in the provision of houses to its people also called on Nigerians to embrace the scheme as it is the surest way of acquiring houses.

He said that the scheme has taken the interest of both the low and medium income groups, and therefore advise registered contributors to the fund to come forward and take NHF loans to enable them purchase, build, expand or renovate their houses.

Alhaji Bichi has meanwhile

## FG will not scrap National Housing Fund - Minister

Minister of Works and Housing, Chief Tony Anenih has disclosed that the federal government is not favourably disposed with the call by Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and others for the scrapping of the National Housing Fund (NHF).

The minister made this known at the workshop on "Real Estate Credit Analysis and Management" organised by Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBA) and Mortgage Banking Association of Nigeria (MBAM) said however that the govern-

**From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos**

ment is looking on ways to reorganise the fund.

The minister who was represented by Mr. Samuel Oluwole Adegunde, explained that: "irrespective of calls by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and other interest groups for the National Housing Fund to be scrapped, the federal government under the present democratic dispensation is determined to implement the fund."

Also, Alhaji Kassim Musa Bichi, Managing Director/Chief Executive Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN) in his paper entitled "Estate credit in the Nigerian Banking and Finance Industry: An over view" warned that the NHF cannot solve the real estate needs of Nigeria now and in the future.

Said he: "But the medium term outlook for the economy suggests that securing additional laudable funds on a large scale for the housing sector may not be possible without an integration of the housing finance market and the capital market."

He said, although funds cost higher in the capital market, but with stable interest rate it could provide the needed stability in the mortgage market.

Bichi, however, urged the power-that-be to strengthen the nations bond market, saying that lack of virile bond market is harming the entire financial market and making banks the octopus they needn't be.

Mr. Catherine A. Ajayi, CIBN Director in her contribution entitled "Spreading corporate financial statements and interpretations of ratios for mortgage lending decision making." She urged mortgage experts to employ ratios and other information in order to make appropriate mortgage lending decisions.

Earlier the Minister had disclosed that since inception a total sum of N5.8 billion has been collected into the NHF and that 1.8 million contributors have been registered, adding that N13 million has been refunded to 4,019 contributors who have attained the age of 60 years.

Also, according to him, the N375 million approved loans has been disbursed through 20 primary mortgage institutions to 631 contributors to enable them buy or build their own houses.



Gov. Bukar Abba Ibrahim

over N613.5m have been received out of which N307,844 has been disbursed to 587 contributors who have met the qualifying criteria.

## Kogi government revokes contracts for housing projects

The Kogi State government has revoked the contracts for some projects at the Michael Olabayo housing estate, Lokoja, and black-listed 12 contractors for either abandoning the projects and for not complying with building specifications.

The state commissioner for works and housing, Malam Abdulazeez Idoko, said in a statement that in spite of several warnings, some of the affected contractors went ahead with their "shoddy jobs," while some abandoned the projects awarded to them for months.

The statement named the contractors as Imac Enterprises, Abidaf (Nig.) Limited, Davask Enterprises, David Kayode Taiwo, Hadiza Int. Limited, and Matema (Nig.) Limited.

Others are Innocent Usman, Sunfit Engineering Works, Israel African Int. (Nig.) Limited, Ibilaiye (Nig.) Limited, M.G. Construction Limited and Ven-

ture Quest Limited.

The statement warned the contractors to stay away from the project site, adding that henceforth, none of them would be considered



Gov. Abubakar Audu

for contracts by the state government.

It advised eight other contractors to resume work immediately or have their contracts revoked.

They are Alhaji Tijani Ajor, UMC Construction, AAY and Sons, Princess Ventures, Stanet Ventures, Aisoni Solomon Enterprises, Mamys Investment and Blue Line (Nig.) Ltd.

## Over population has turned Nigerian cities to slums - Odili

The major assignment of the presidential committee on housing and urban development is to prepare a working document that will serve as a guide in checking poor housing and urban development in Nigeria, Governor Peter Odili of Rivers State has said.

Odili, stated this while receiving the chairman and members of the committee on Housing and Urban Development led by Sir Fortune Ebie in Port Harcourt.

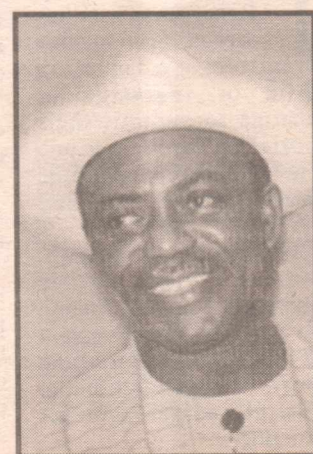
The team, who were in the state to assess housing projects embarked upon by the state government, argued that the most important legacy that could be left for Nigerians was the culture of planning ahead of time.

Odili noted that unplanned growth in population and human traffic have reduced most of the nation's

**From Wisdom U. Patrick, in Port Harcourt**

cities to mere slums.

He stressed that, now was the time to lay foundation with which to build a programme that would outlive this present generation and also make our cities have the potentials of competing with the rest of the world.



Gov. Peter Odili



# HABITAT (Housing and Environment)



Minister of State for Environment, Dr. Imeh T. Okopido, has expressed the readiness of the Federal Government to clean up past chemicals wastes in the Niger Delta in order to bequeath safe and clean environment to the country.

Dr. Okopido said this while declaring open the first meeting of the regional team for Africa of the GEF/UNEP regionally-based assessment of the persistent toxic substances held at the conference centre, University of Ibadan, Oyo State.

The minister, noted that chemicals and chemical products are important to mankind and sustenance of life on earth, also added that the ministry was determined to reduce atmospheric pollution and climate change contribution from gas flaring in the Niger Delta.

He also expressed optimism that the present administration's effort at stemming the tide of environmental pollution in the oil producing areas would soon paid off, saying "continuous dialogue with the oil industries continue to ensure the final termination of gas flaring by the year 2004."

The minister, however, regretted the lack of awareness in developing countries of Africa about the health risks and threat to lives associated with the misuse and abuse of chemicals in

## FG to end environmental pollution

From Yinka Oladoyinbo, in Ibadan

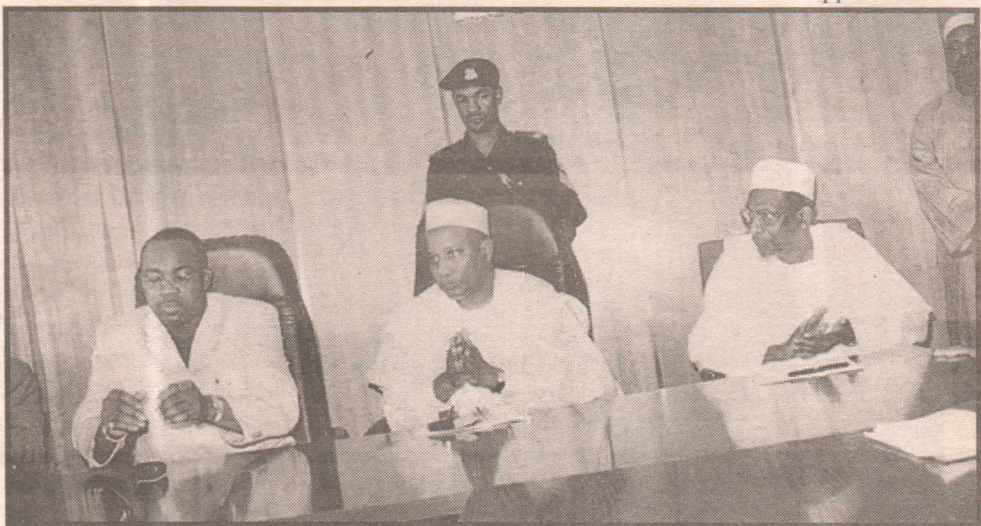
various farms. He added that the problem was further compounded by the non-availability of appropriate legislation and sound management of chemicals, adding that this has led to chemical pollution and concomitant health haz-

Africa, saying "chemical trade in African is an all-corners affairs. Persons without any modicum of the knowledge of chemistry, market, retails, handle and use toxic chemicals."

He, therefore, hinted that the ministry has embarked on chemicals tracking by monitoring warehouses and outlets for

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ibadan, Professor Ayodele Falase, in his welcome address noted that the institution in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment had achieved remarkable achievements in the area of recycling of used engine oils, recycling of plastics and conversion of ceramics.

He then appealed to the



Minister of Environment, Alhaji Mohammed Kabir Sa'id (middle), Per. Sec. Eng. D.B. Usman at the inauguration of the National Solution Committee of the year 2001 environment friendly industry award, in Abuja... recently.

ards in developing countries, assuming priority at national, regional and global dimensions.

Dr. Okopido also lamented the nature of chemical trade in

safe handlings of storage and disposal of imported hazardous chemicals. This he said has led to the interception of a host of banned and expired chemicals.

ministry to accord it a priority in providing a reasonable and regular funding to the Federal Ministry of Environment FME - U.I linkage centre.

## Endemic birds, animals flee Lekki Peninsula

Animals and birds are migrating in droves from the Lekki Conservation Project, near Lagos, due to over-encroachment and massive construction work on the peninsula, the project manager, Mr. Alade Adeleke, has alerted.

Adeleke told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) recently in Lagos that the increase in the rate of unplanned construction activities, if unchecked, could "degenerate into an environmental problem."

He explained that "unplanned urban expansion programme on the peninsula, is restricting the expansion of the Lekki conservation project."

The officer regretted that some species of birds, which flocked to the peninsula in their large number, "are now fleeing because of over-encroachment and unplanned development in the area."

Adeleke recalled that the project, which used to be a forest of buffalos could no more boast of a single specie of the wild animal.

"The last one (buffalo) was killed about 40 years ago," he said.

Adeleke said that the project was also losing some of its endemic reptiles because a substantial portion of its swamps had been taken over by developers, leaving it with few crocodiles, monitor lizards and about 100

birds. The manager regretted that the project had lost all its endangered "Sitatunga," a specie of antelope due to unsustainable use of resources on the peninsula.

"With the assistance of a non-governmental

organisation based in Calabar, we are trying to re-introduce the specie," he said

While appealing to the Lagos State government to ensure an integrated planning in the development of the peninsula, Adeleke said that the project had provided a lot

of opportunities for school children to learn more about the country's ecosystem.

More than 60,000 school children have visited the Lekki conservation site under its educational conservation and awareness scheme.

## DEPOWA moves to protect the environment

By Hammeed M. Bello

In appreciating the beauty of nature and the need to save the environment from depletion, Defence and Police Officers Wives Association (DEPOWA) has constituted a paramilitary organisation called "Green Corps" to help protect the environment.

The Green Corps, whose motto is "Save our environment," has been constituted to provide auxiliary labour in the area of horticulture and environmental sanitation in the military barracks, Defence Headquarters, Ministry of Defence and all military and police for-

mations.

Coordinator of the Green Corps, Wing Commander V.O. Ekanem, told *Daily Trust* that members of the corps are drawn from school leavers in the barracks who needed to be encouraged to be good citizens and to discourage them from drug abuse, robbery and all social vices.

She added that the National President of DEPOWA, Mallama Fatima Ogohi, wife of the Chief of Defence Staff, had stressed the need to consolidate on the role of officers wives in the professionalisation of the military in a democratic society.

While advising the young corps members on the need for them to be good citizens, the Director of Administration at the Defence Headquarters, Colonel M.A. Umar, told them not to take the Green Corps as their ultimate goal but to strive hard to use it as a stepping stone to further their educational pursuit.

When asked as to whether or not DEPOWA is a moribund organisation like other women groups, Wing Commander Ekanem said that the present crop of DEPOWA members are

more active than ever in assisting the less privileged in the society, adding that the 'Green Corps' is one of its achievements.

Other activities of DEPOWA, she said, include the setting up and running of Child Care Trust Garden, Baby friendly centre and day care centre.

DEPOWA baby friendly centre, the coordinator explained, was commissioned on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April by the wife of the president, Chief (Mrs.) Stella Obasanjo. It has a baby friendly section which encourages nursing mothers to resort to exclusive breast feeding of their babies from the time of birth to a period of six months, considering the health and nutritional value of the breast milk.

While explaining that the centre has a Day Care section which provides for working-class mothers who resumed work after their maternity leave to drop their babies of between seven months to two years for proper attention, the coordinator added that there is also a kindergarten section where children of between two to four years are prepared for nursery and primary schools.



Admiral Ogohi, CDS

**You and the environment**  
By Dr. Sani Mashi

## The deserts are not advancing

A national daily, (*Guardian newspaper*) the most expensive of them all, reported on its second page of Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2001, edition the outcome of a meeting between the Honourable Minister of Environment and officials of British American Tobacco Company, one of the beneficiaries of Nigeria's new found love; the privatisation and commercialisation exercise. The meeting was during the presentation of 100,000 seedlings to the ministry to commemorate the marking of the world's 2001 Environment Day. As expected of a reporter of a typically prestigious national newspaper, the reporter that covered the meeting excellently reported its proceedings. He did it so excellently that if I were to grade him, I would not in anyway hesitate to award him an excellent grade.

There was, however, a portion of the report I found quite disturbing. As a journalist, the natural expectation is that anything he reports on are based on his fact-digging exercise that can at all times and under all circumstances, withstand any rigorous test. The reporter while commenting on the seriousness of the problem of desertification in Nigeria reported that: "350,000 km<sup>2</sup> of Nigeria's lands are being lost annually to advancing deserts."

One may excuse the reporter for being an ignorant person on a highly technical issue such as desertification. But my worry here, however, is that as a journalist, it is expected that he must always be sure of what he intends to write before he eventually releases it to his editor for publishing. Moreover, the editor is supposed to cross-check whatever a reporter writes so as to prevent absolutely ridiculous statements from being smuggled into the paper he (the editor) edits. If the reporter has cared to read what several people have been writing on desertification, he definitely would have known that desert is not in anyway advancing, at least not in Nigeria. Deserts cannot advance but people create them. People create deserts because of their (people's) interaction with the ecology (soil, vegetation, water etc) in a manner that brings about some disruptions in the workings of the ecological system of a particular area. If people are creating deserts, they can consequently prevent or counteract them by modifying the ways in which they interact with their ecological system. It is therefore erroneous and misleading for the reporter to inform Nigerians that the Sahara desert is advancing towards the country.

The second, but perhaps more serious error of the reporter is the claim that Nigeria is loosing 350,000 km<sup>2</sup> of its lands annually to the "advancing deserts." In the first place, Nigeria's land mass is just about 1.5 million km<sup>2</sup>. If annually Nigeria is loosing 350,000 km<sup>2</sup> (which is about 25% of Nigeria's total land mass), then before 2004, desert will extend up to the coastal areas of the country.

That is, if assuming desertification started just last year and is now covering the first 350,000 km<sup>2</sup> land area only. Perhaps if the reporter will want to know, desertification as defined by the world conference on environment and development (in 1992) is nothing more than: "land degradation in arid, semi arid and dry sub-humid ecosystems resulting from many causes including climatic fluctuations and human causes."

As such, desertification is only applicable (or can occur) in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas of the country, whose total land area is just about 800,000 km<sup>2</sup>. This means if his definition were correct, and that desertification started just last year, by next two years all the desertification-prone areas of the country will become completely desertified.

I thus sincerely hope that media organisations in the country will leave up to our expectation of serving as sources of information and not misinformation

# Feature

## J.B. Mohammed: 40 days after

Dr. Jibril Bala Mohammed, popularly identified as J.B. Mohammed, once flourished at the University of Maiduguri. Though several intellectuals, colleagues and admirers have written and said volumes about the sudden death of this rare gem, as many have known Bala to be, his memorable marks on the surface of the earth can hardly be overflogged.

Dr. Bala, who until his death was an Associate Professor of Communication and Development Studies, started teaching as a graduate assistant in the University of Maiduguri in 1983. And he has since then been teaching except for a short interregnum sometime last year when he was called upon to serve as Deputy Director of Information in the Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory (MFCT) under Arch. Ibrahim Bunu. Shortly after Bunu's removal as minister, however, Bala quickly ran back to where he was best known: the classroom.

A number of factors underscore my earlier assertion that Dr. J.B. Mohammed's memorable marks, for anybody who knows them or hears about them, would hardly pass without re-echoing. The man has made numerous contributions to the development of humanity.

Being a man of high intellect within the academia, J.B. Mohammed would always be remembered with nostalgia by any person whom he might have taught, as well as his colleagues at least for the stock-pile of research materials he made accessible to all and sundry. Not the least, Bala's lecturer colleagues would fondly remember him for the wealth of knowledge he had.

Bala's resounding intellect earned him in 1994 a pat on the back from Dr. Kabiru Chafe, then Minister of State for Petroleum Resources.

He got the pat after what was described as a brilliant presentation at the launching of the book 'Not in our character' at the Arewa House, Kaduna.

As a human rights activist, the late University of Lagos Mass Communication graduate had to be named 'the humanist' by some of his keen admirers. To start with, Bala was expelled from the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria as a final year student

of Political Science for spear-heading a riot in 1978; after which he enrolled as a 100 level student in Mass Communication in the University of Lagos.

J.B. Mohammed had made several scholarly contributions to national and international journals, books and other publications.

Besides, Bala was involved in human rights activism through his active roles as a member of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), the Civil Liberties Organisation (CLO), Community Action for Popular Participation (CAPP) and the African Council for Communication and Education (ACCE), which though is a literary organisation.

Most significantly, however, people who know, will remember Dr. J.B. Mohammed for his proposal for an Information Technology (IT) Policy to the Federal Government in 1996, which would have metamorphosed into Nigeria's first Information Technology.

Dr. Mohammed was the only Nigerian chosen by the United States Information Service (USIS), among 16 other individuals that represented different African countries at the swearing-in of Mr. Bill Jefferson Clinton for his second-term in office as President of the United States of America.

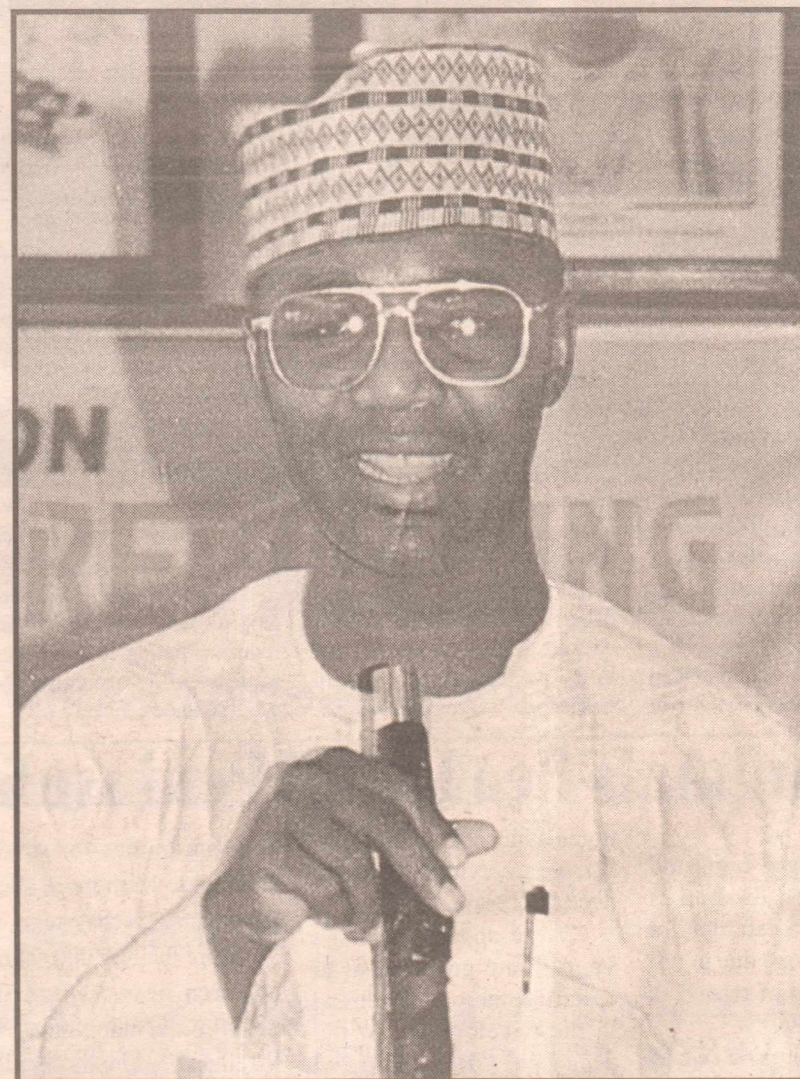
As an academician who was committed to the intellectual development of his own country, J.B. Mohammed took time off to visit certain higher institutions of learning in the US. Some of the places he visited include the Defence Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA), the University of Illinois and the University of Arkansas.

Barely two weeks after his return from the US therefore, Bala wrote a comprehensive proposal for a blue-print on Nigeria's IT development to the Federal Government, routed through the vice-chancellor of the University of Maiduguri, then Professor Njidda Mamadu Gadzama.

Ironically, however, Nigeria, being what she is, the proposal was thrown back at Dr. Mohammed, who was then termed a security risk, not just to the University, but the nation at large, for honouring USIS' invitation in spite of the frosty relationship, between the then Nigerian Government under Abacha and the U.S.

As a philanthropist, Dr J.B. Mohammed succeeded in

*Tomorrow Friday July 26th is exactly 40 days since the passing of Dr. J.B. Mohammed, erudite scholar and phenomenal genius who once lectured at the University of Maiduguri. Ahmed Shekarau, of our Business Desk once received lectures under Dr. J.B. Mohammed, and wrote this account.*



Late Dr. Jibril Bala Mohammed

making the Ford Foundation of Germany Publish one of the books he edited: **An Introduction to Human Rights Journalism**, which to date is being distributed free all over Nigeria.

For his principled stand against corruption, one first got to hear about Dr. Bala's dislike for corruption even before I met him in my first undergraduate days in the University of Maiduguri in 1992. A senior colleague then narrated how Bala declined to serve as the Secretary in one of the Local Government Councils, in 1990, before the creation of Bayo Local Government, both in Borno State.

Bala was invited by his former primary school mate, then Chairman of the Council to serve as Secretary to the Council. But during the Council's first meeting, however, the Chairman directed that the remaining funds in the council's treasury be shared among the topmost officials, from the chairman himself to the supervisory councillors. Bala's share then, as the Secretary was to be N35,000

However, in expression of his utter disgust at what was going on, Dr. J.B. Mohammed was said to have rebuked every body in the council meeting, including of course, the chairman. He expressed his verbal resignation there and then, and walked out on them. "He thought he was going in there (as Secretary) to serve his people, but was disappointed with what he discovered about the council officials," my senior colleague narrated.

This singular act, narrated in the story by my senior colleague, endeared the man to my heart and made me look forward, desperately, to meeting him. Unfortunately, however, Bala was not one of those that taught the 100 level class in the 1992 set of students admitted to read Mass Communications. The desperation therefore continued, particularly when numerous stories abound led about his potency in speech.

Of course, Dr. J.B. Mohammed was a communicator **Par Excellence**. His extraordinary qualities in Speech earned him the status as one of the

Orators of the University of Maiduguri, second only to Professor Conrad Max Benedict Brann, a Briton who has been a professor of linguistics since 1971.

As a devout Muslim and someone committed to the service of humanity, Bala was also a philanthropist and a man of principles. Relative to the first quality, Bala had opened his personal library in his former department, for access to many of the most up-to-date publications in the arts of

communications, development and politics to students, his lecturer-colleagues, researchers, as well as media and communication consultants.

He has put himself on a pedestal as one of the few Nigerians who do not have the avarice for National wealth. This informed his statement that he will die a university lecturer, and this is also why he immediately went back to teaching after Bunu's removal as minister.

As for his principled stand on issues, Bala once had course to sue the University of Maiduguri following an attempt to victimise him after his return from his rip to the US in 1996. He taught my own class, then at the 300 Level, in 'New Communication Technologies.' On the day we were to write the exams, the Dean of Faculty of Arts then, halted the examination alleging a leakage in the exams question by Dr. Bala himself.

Of course, Dr. Bala summoned the whole class two days to the paper and gave us what he termed: "Study Guide." Five out of the 10 questions J.B. gave us

turned out to be the exam questions from which we were to answer three. But the circumstance in which Bala gave us - at a session of the whole class - and the fact that he said it was a study guide meant it was not a leakage of the examination questions.

However, the University authorities then, as we came to discover, were out to witch-hunt him. Bala would not let that go, particularly when the authorities instructed that the whole course be taught all over by a different lecturer. J.B. resigned his appointment with the University and sued it to court. It took the intervention of some prominent personalities within and outside the University for Dr. Bala to rescind his decision. Of course, as the saying goes, 'discretion is the better part of valour,' so he did let it go and went back to teach.

Indeed, because of this principled stand of his, Bala told my colleague and friend, Yusuf Mu'azu of NTA Channel 5, Abuja, myself at the gate of NTA at Old Parade Ground, Abuja shortly after his appointment to work with Bunu that: "Let me tell you, this man (Bunu) called me twice to insist that I should come and work with him. I rejected and told him I wouldn't. But when he sent for me for the third time, I resolved within myself even before seeing him, that I will accept his offer, after all, I'm not the best brain he's ever met. Again, I even asked myself what I might have done to the man in this world that as a minister, he'll come to me three times requesting for my service? And so I accepted to serve him?"

But the first question that came to my mind was, why must J.B. Mohammed explain this to us? Of course because he had always made his position known to us and every other person any where he goes that "I will die a University lecturer." And a university lecturer he died. Because, less than one week after Bunu was removed as FCT Minister on January 31, this year, Dr. J.B. Mohammed resigned from his position as Deputy Director of Information of the Ministry, and went back to the classroom.

Though Bala is gone, his memorable marks shall remain indelible in our hearts. May Allah forgive him for all his mistakes and may he reward Bala with Jannatil-Firdausi. Ameen.



# Crime & Punishment



## Lagos to combat crime with helicopters

Disturbed by the increasing armed robbery incidents in the state and its environs, the Lagos State Government has announced its plan to use helicopters in combating crime, the state Governor, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, has disclosed.

According to a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Hausa Service report monitored in Abuja, Bola Tinubu explained this when he received the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Musiliu Smith, on Tuesday who visited the state in order to discuss necessary action being taken to bring an end to the problem of armed robbery in the state.

The State Chief Executive said the Inspector-General's visit to the state had increased his zeal towards fighting crimes in the state.

He added that other measures to be taken included the increasing number of patrol policemen, provision of adequate vehicles, arms and ammunition, among others.

According to Governor Tinubu, crimes will only become a thing of the past in the country when the Federal Government solves the problem of unemployment

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru among youths, which he described as the major causative agent of armed robbery.

In the same vein, the Inspector-General of Police, Alhaji Musiliu Smith, despatched a helicopter to Awkuzu in Anambra State on Monday to stem rising armed banditry in the area and in the entire Umleri and Aguleri areas.

The Force Public Relations Officer, Mr. Haz Iwendi, told newsmen in Abuja yesterday that the helicopter would patrol in the air on a 24-hour basis to complement the exercise conducted on ground by jeeps.



Gov. Tinubu

## Councillor bags one year in prison for forgery

A councillor in the Aniocha North Local Government Area of Delta State, Paul Chiemeka, has been sentenced to a one-year prison term for falsification and forgery of certificate, and perjury.

However, he was allowed the option of a fine of N9,000 for each of the counts.

Pronouncing the sentences at Ogwashi-uku last week, Chief Magistrate Chuks Emeni said that the evidence of the prosecution was overwhelming.

Chiemeka was arraigned for forging his university certificate and for changing his "pass" certificate to a "third class."

A prosecution witness, a staff of Edo State University, the alma mater of Chiemeka, had testified that the accused earned only a "pass" at the university.

Emeni, in reading his judgement, said the court would not believe the story of the accused that he came out with a "pass" because of "wrong computation."

He said if it was wrong computation, his name

Iwendi said 18 suspected armed robbers, believed to have been involved in the killing of 11 members of the state's vigilance group working with the police and two policemen, had been arrested by the police.

He said three of the suspected armed robbers were killed in an exchange of fire with the police, while three buses used in the robbery operation, were impounded.

The PPRO added that a stolen Mercedes Benz car was also recovered from the arrested suspects.

He said the police in Anambra had swung into action to trace the leader of the robbery gang who was still at large.

The AD in Oyo State has filed a suit at a Federal High Court in Ibadan, asking it to declare as vacant, the Oyo North senatorial district, following the recent decision by Sen. Brimo Yusuf to decamp from the party to the PDP.

The Senate President, Chief Anyim Pius Anyim, the Clerk of the Senate and the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice were joined as co-defendants in the suit filed by AD's counsel, Mr. S.A. Adeyemo.

The Deputy National Chairman of AD, Chief Adeniyi Koleosho, the Oyo State AD Chairman, Chief David Adesola, and the AD chairmen in the 33 local government councils in the state were named as plaintiffs.

The plaintiffs averred that since Yusuf was elected to the Senate on the AD platform, he should cease to be a Senator, following his decision to join

## AD tackles decamped Senator in court

the PDP, by virtue of section 68 1 (G) and 2 of the 1999 constitution.

Among the reliefs being sought by the plaintiffs is an injunction restraining the Senate president, the clerk of the Senate, and the attorney-general of the federation from treating Yusuf as a senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, having left the party which sponsored him to the Senate.

The plaintiffs seek a declaration by the court that Yusuf, whose election was sponsored by AD, and having become a member of the PDP before the expiration of the period for which he was elected, "automatically forfeits his seat and ceases to be a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria." No date has been fixed for the

hearing of the suit.

In May this year, Yusuf, along with two AD Senators, Sen. Wahaab Dosumu (Lagos Central), and Sen. Fidelis Okoro. (Enugu North) decamped to the PDP, citing the division in AD as the major reasons for leaving the party.



Ahmad Abdulkadir

## Okadigbo seeks transfer of suit on contracts

Former Senate President, Chief Chuba Okadigbo, yesterday asked an Abuja Federal High Court to transfer a suit instituted

against the ad-hoc committee which investigated contracts awarded by the senate when he was its president, to the court's registrar for re-assignment. Okadigbo dragged

the ad-hoc committee, the senate and the Inspector-General of Police to court to protest the investigation.

His counsel, Jude Okeke, told the court in a seven-

paragraph affidavit that the request for a transfer of the suit became necessary because it had suffered a lot of delays at the incumbent court.

Okeke said his client was also disturbed by the comments of the trial judge and stressed that he did not believe that he could get justice at the court.

Counsel to the Senate and that of the Attorney-General, however, told the court that they were not served with a copy of the affidavit seeking for the transfer of the suit to another court.

The presiding judge, Justice Mojisola Olatoregun, adjourned hearing on the affidavit, to determine whether the substantive suit would be transferred to another court or not.

## Kerosine explosion: Lawyer seeks compensation for victims

A lawyer, Mr. Babatunde Osilaja, has accused the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and UNIPETROL of withholding about N5 million of the N6 million released as compensation for Nigerians of the 1984 kerosene explosion in Lagos.

Addressing a news conference in Lagos recently, Osilaja said that most of the victims of the mishap were still suffering as a result of non-payment of the approved

compensation. "We must untie the secret box where this money is locked up," Osilaja said.

The lawyer, who had petitioned the House of Representatives on the plight of the victims, alleged that there was conspiracy between the two oil companies as they had paid only about N90,000 to few victims, leaving many others out.

He claimed that the NNPC, since 1993, approved N4.1 million for payment as compensation to the victims while UNIPETROL had collected insurance claims through NICON to the tune of N2.1 million to settle the said

compensation. Osilaja said the explanation by the companies that only those who got judgements against them were paid their claims was a faulty one, saying that the numerous victims who could not afford the cost of litigation should not be brushed aside.

He said that the claims made by the NNPC that they had never been involved in the prosecution of cases arising from the kerosene explosion was untrue, urging the house to take action and save the victims from undue punishment.

## Police arrest three undergraduate armed robbery suspects

The Enugu State police command has announced the arrest of three more armed robbery suspects in the state in the state.

The suspects, all of them undergraduates of tertiary institutions in the state capital, were arrested at a check-point on the Enugu/Abakaliki road.

The arrest brings to five the number of undergraduate armed robbery suspects apprehended in Enugu metropolis in the last two days.

A police source told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that the three suspects, who had a double-barrel gun and six live cartridges on them, were shot and wounded while trying to

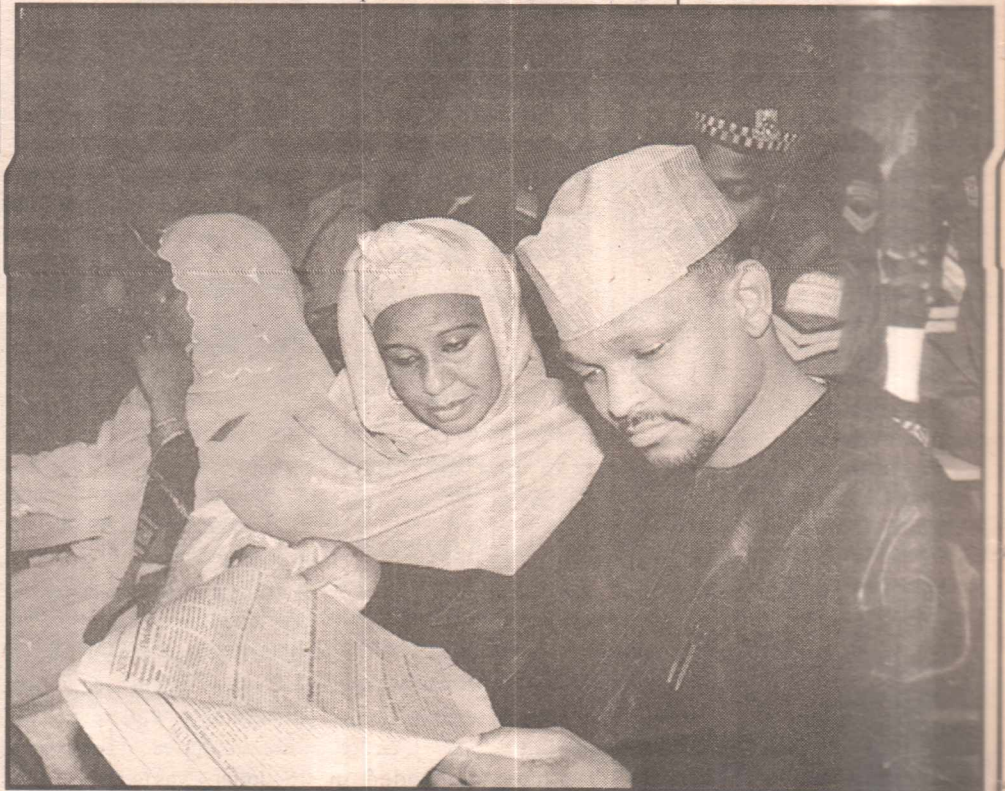
escape arrest.

On Monday, the police arrested two undergraduates who were attempting to snatch a Mercedes Benz car from its owner at gun point at Amawbia junction in Uwani area of Enugu.

The suspects are undergraduates of the University of Nigeria, Enugu campus, and ESUT.

Also arrested was a second-year student of Government Technical College, Enugu, who allegedly specialised in house breaking.

The Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of criminal investigation, Mr. Irima Yerima, told NAN that criminals in the state were in for a hardtime.



Chief Security Officer (CSO) to the late Head of State, Major Hamza Al-Mustapha, (reading) and his wife (left), at the Oputa Panel... Tuesday

# Abuja News

## FG pledges to elevate teaching

The Federal Government has reiterated its commitment to elevate the teaching profession and improve conditions in the system to make it more attractive to Nigerians.

Speaking with newsmen in Abuja last week, Education Minister, Professor A.B. Borisade said government had taken steps to ensure that teaching is regularised and professionalised in the country.

Borisade said part of steps taken by government was the establishment of the Teachers Registration Council and the reactivation of the pensions scheme for teachers, adding that government was, in the same token, committed to ensuring that teaching was not allowed to remain an all-comers' affair.

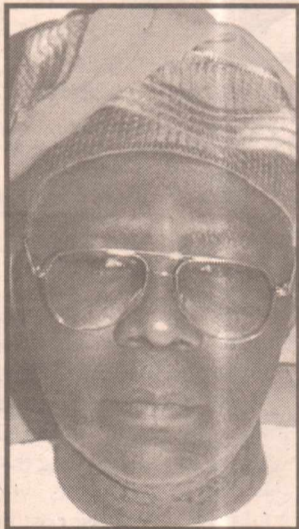
The Minister announced that the Commonwealth of Learning, had, after extensive deliberations with the Federal Government, agreed in principle to support Nigeria in training primary school teachers for the Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme, human and infrastructural capacity building, instructional material design, technological literacy including the use of information technology, web-based instruction and relevant local community-based distance education projects.

Professor Borisade pointed out that the value of interactions that took place between the Commonwealth of Learning and the Federal Government assured the government that its investment in, and support for the COL enhances her confidence in the value of the Commonwealth.

By Austine Odo

He said the one week interactions had convinced government of the need for a well-defined and articulated policy on distance and open learning in the country, as well as the establishment of a coordinating agency to promote and advance the application of open and distance learning in all sectors of education, especially teacher training, basic education, higher education and vocational and skills development as well as continuing professional education.

The Minister expressed the gratitude of the Nigerian government to the President of the COL, Professor Gararaj Dhanarajan, and his team for visiting Abuja and engaging in frank and free discussions with Nigerian officials, and his assurances of support and assistance in developing the nation's educational capacities.



Professor A.B. Borisade, Minister of Education.

## Kubwa hosts NYSC induction course

An induction course for junior officers of the NYSC Centre for Training and Development (CESTAD) recently took place in Kubwa, Abuja with a reaffirmation by the Director-General, NYSC, Brig.-Gen. Kola Ogunkoya to computerise the scheme's operations.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the course, Brig.-Gen. Ogunkoya said he was committed to the fulfilment of his pledge upon assumption of office to computerise the manpower training and development of the NYSC.

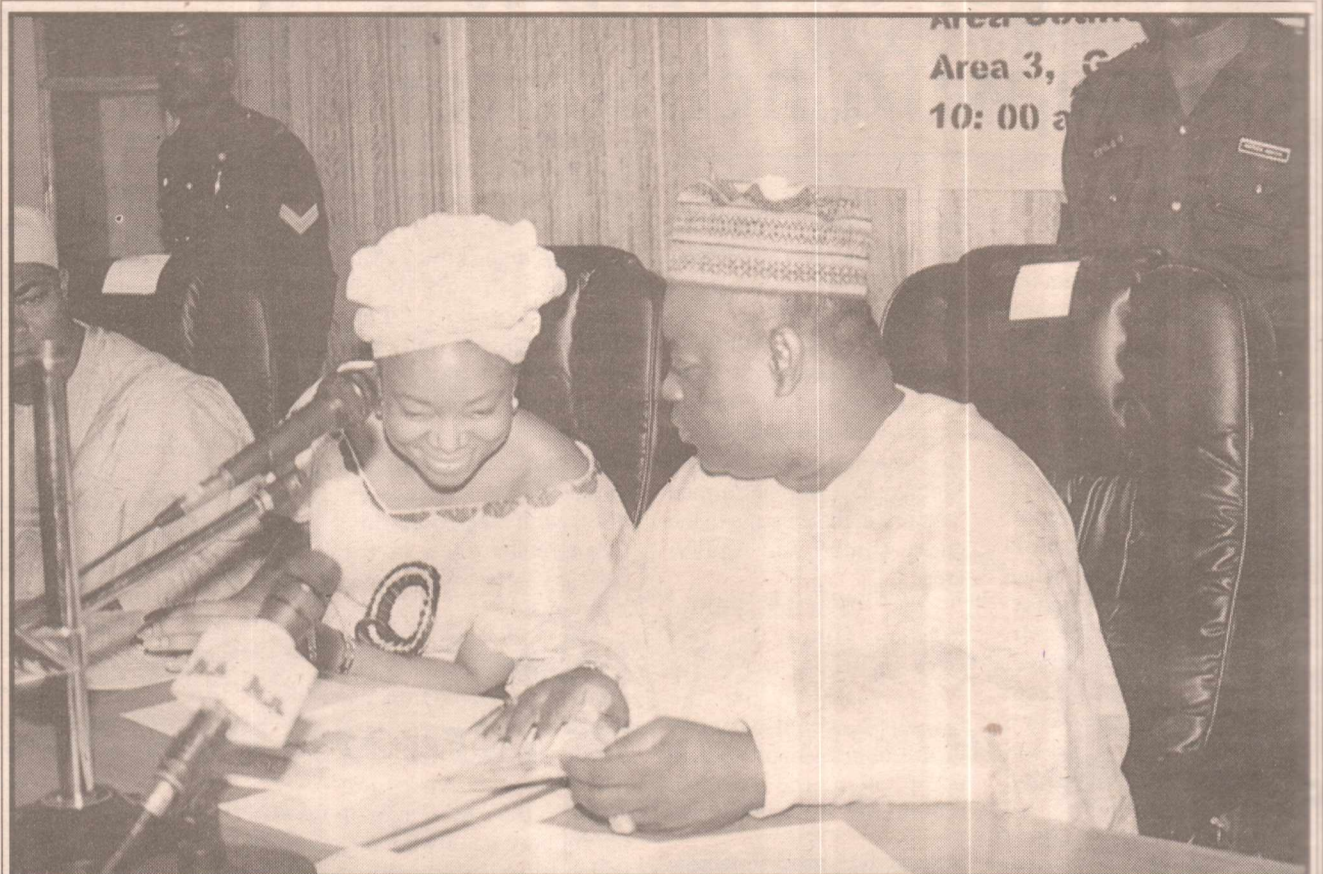
He disclosed that this is to ensure that all members of the NYSC family were carried along in all phases of the scheme, especially training and retraining.

By Victor Akobundu & Habiba Adamu

Personnel Management Department's sensitive position as the premier service department of the scheme and I consider the junior cadre's role so crucial in the running of the establishment," he said.

Earlier in his address, the Director, Personnel Management, Alhaji M. Saleh, commended the Director-General on his desire to train and retrain officers of the scheme for optimal results saying the computerisation of the NYSC would make the entire staff computer literate.

He therefore charged the course participants to demonstrate high sense of discipline, responsibility and determination to benefit



The Permanent Secretary, MFCT, Dr. Babangida Aliyu discusses with the Special Assistant to the President on FCT Matters, Mrs Olajumoke Akinjide-Balogun during the FCT Area Councils award ceremony held in Abuja... recently.

## Nurses' strike: Weeds, reptiles take over Nyanya General Hospital

As the ongoing strike by nurses in the country enters its fourth week, the Nyanya General Hospital, now accommodates dangerous reptiles and weeds.

When *Daily Trust* visited the deserted hospital, no single medical officer was seen, a man who appears to be a security man at the gate said it is only nurses that come to work regularly, "the ogas (medical doctors) sometimes come once in a week and they don't stay for one hour."

"Even before nurses started their strike action, doctors here (Nyanya General Hospital) don't come to work, but nobody talks to them because it is a government hospital, some patients died here because of the unserious attitude of the medical doctors in this hospital," said the man who refused to give his name.

At the front gate of the hospital, pregnant women were seen waiting without any medical personnel to attend to them, some of them were lying on the ground in pains.

By Emmanuel Ande

Some of the patients who spoke to *Daily Trust* said government should pay more attention to the nurses than medical doctors who they said, have no respect or regard for government owned hospitals, but concentrate on their own clinics and yet agitate for higher wages.

Mrs. Roseline Oga of Area A, told *Daily Trust* that 90 per cent of the work in the government owned hospitals is done by nurses, so their salaries are supposed to be higher than the medical doctors who operate from their homes.

She said that government should give more attention to nurses' welfare, since they are the backbone of government hospitals. She also advocated for retraining of the nurses so that they can be at par with their "materialistic colleagues (medical doctors)."

Mrs. Pauline Mark, of Nyanya Village is of the view that it is only when government changes its attitude towards the

welfare of nurses that the health sector in the country could meet the demands of the people.

She called on the Minister of Health to work towards arresting the crisis, which is posing great danger to the health

sector. She further described the strike action as a welcome development and that nurses should not back-pedal on their decision until something reasonable is done to improve their welfare.

## FCT residents call for revival of AUMTCO

Residents of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have called on the Minister of FCT, Engr. Mohammed Abba-Gana, to revive the Abuja Urban Mass Transport Company (AUMTCO) in order to arrest transportation problems in the city.

Residents who spoke to *Daily Trust* maintained that if AUMTCO is revived, private commercial bus operators who always hike transport fares would be forced to charge reasonable fares.

Mr. John Oseme, an employee of the Ministry of Communications told *Daily Trust* that the only way to curtail the transportation problem in Abuja is for government to establish a viable transport system which can compete with the privately owned commercial vehicles.

He said the Minister should purchase new high capacity buses for AUMTCO and allow

it to operate on its own adding that such actions would encourage the management of the company to work harder to sustain the confidence reposed in them.

Mallam Adamu Bello, a trader in Wuse Old Market, said the only option to control the senseless hike in transport fares in FCT is for the present government to inject life into the moribund AUMTCO, which he described as the only hope of commuters in the Federal Capital.

Mallam Bello urged the Minister of FCT to take a hard look at the issue and fashion out decisions that could yield fruitful results to the masses in the FCT.

Mrs. Joyce Emeka, a food hawker in Area 1, Garki, Abuja told our reporter that transport fares started increasing when AUMTCO buses started going off the road and the condition worsened when they (AUMTCO) finally collapsed.

She maintained that: "You can now see only two to three AUMTCO buses on Gwagwalada road alone but because of the bad condition of the buses they find it difficult to operate constantly on the road," she disclosed.

It would be recalled that the General Manager of the company, in a recent press interview, called on the FCT Minister to purchase about 20 high capacity buses for the company so that it can become independent.

*Daily Trust* investigations revealed that AUMTCO staff are owed salaries for several months and the fate of the company is uncertain.

## Firemen prevent inferno in Abuja

Fire fighters in Abuja on Monday prevented what could have been a fatal fire incident in Wuse Zone 3 area of Abuja when a petrol tanker crashed into a gutter.

According to a witness, the tanker, which had conveyed fuel to Agip Filling Station for offloading, was reversing when it plunged into a gutter by the filling station.

The witness further

By Musa Aliyu

stop the fuel from gushing out was futile as the tanker fell sideways.

Another witness said the driver was reversing without the assistance of his conductor and could not see behind him, which led to the accident.

However, according to him, when the fuel spillage could not be stopped, the manager phoned men of the fire fighting service to avert

Before noon, the traffic flow around the area had thickened and vehicles, especially commercial ones were seen diverting to other routes.

Efforts to speak with the Manager of the Filling Station were rebuffed as he claimed to be under orders not to speak.

The driver of the tanker was not seen at the scene and no one could volunteer information about his



# Sports



## Senate President's Cup to discover grassroots talents – Organizers

The newly-introduced Senate President's Football Cup competition is "strictly" meant to discover talents at the grassroots to enhance the growth and development of the game in the country, a member of its main organising committee, Alhaji Ismaila Sani, has said.

Sani said in Abuja Tuesday that the "aim of the Senate President, Chief Pius Anyim, is to promote sports among the youths in our local government areas and create viable avenue for them to use their energy for productive purposes."

He said that the competition would assist in exposing youths in remote areas to the game of football and help the Nigeria Football Association (NFA) to tap budding talents for "our national teams at various age levels."

According to him, "we are using the platform of the competition to enable hundreds of amateur players in the country to get involved in sporting activities."

Sani, who is the Special Assistant to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Sports Development, also disclosed that the competition "is open to all Nigerian youths playing football in the 774 local government areas of the country."

He stressed that only amateur players and those not engaged in

the National Professional League would be eligible to participate in the tournament.

The committee member stated that the maiden edition of "the cup would commence "tentatively" on August 13 in the various sports zonal centres in the country, when all ar-

rangements would have been concluded by the organisers.

Sani said that the grand finale would be held either at Abuja or Kaduna at the end of September.

Trustsports recalls that the senate president had recently donated N12 million as sponsorship

fee for the soccer championship for footballers at the local government level.

Already, the sports minister, Mr. Ishaya Aku, to ensure a successful organisation of the competition on an annual basis, has inaugurated a 12-member organising committee.

## Brazil coach in shock after Copa exit

Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari was in grim mood in the wake of his side's shock exit from the Copa America at the hands of Honduras.

The defending champions were ousted from the quarter-final stage by a Central American team only taking part because of Argentina's late withdrawal.

Honduras won 2-0 thanks to Saul Martinez, who saw his header deflected over the line by Brazil defender, Juninho Beletti in the 58th minute, and clinched the win with a goal in injury time.

"We didn't play well, we didn't pass the ball well," said Scolari.

"My players should have put more pressure on the Hondurans."

Brazil's defeat saw the one-time Samba superstars plunge to a new low.

Scolari, forced to watch the Honduras game from the stands after being red-carded in the 3-1 win over Paraguay, replaced Emerson Leao last month as the Brazilian football federation (CBF) tried to reverse the decline.

A World Cup-qualifying defeat to Uruguay in his first game in charge and the result means he is already facing calls for his

head.

"There is still a long way to go with this team," said the former Palmeiras coach.

Real Betis midfielder, Denilson appealed for calm with World Cup games against Argentina and Paraguay, currently first and second in the CONMEBOL qualifying group, to be played in the next two months.

## Le Roy backs Lions to reach quarter finals

Claude Le Roy, the French coach who has a long and successful history with West African sides, has said that Senegal are capable of going a long way at the World Cup 2002.

"I think they will create the sort of surprise that Cameroon created in 1990", he said.

Le Roy coached Senegal from 1988 to 1992, taking the team to the semi-finals of the Nations Cup in 1990 and to the quarter-finals two years later.

But he never had the chance or putting his team in for the World Cup.

"We had a strong team ten years ago, but unfortunately the chairman of the federation forgot to register us for qualification for Italia '90, so we missed out."

Despite that disappointment, the Le Roy era was the most successful periods of Senegalese football - until now.

"The team today is even stronger and they will create a big surprise in Japan and Korea", says Le Roy.

Despite leaving Senegal in '92, Le Roy has kept close ties with the country and the players while coaching with clubs in France.

"When I was at Strasbourg, I brought in the captain of the national team Pape Malik Diop and also Henri Camara."

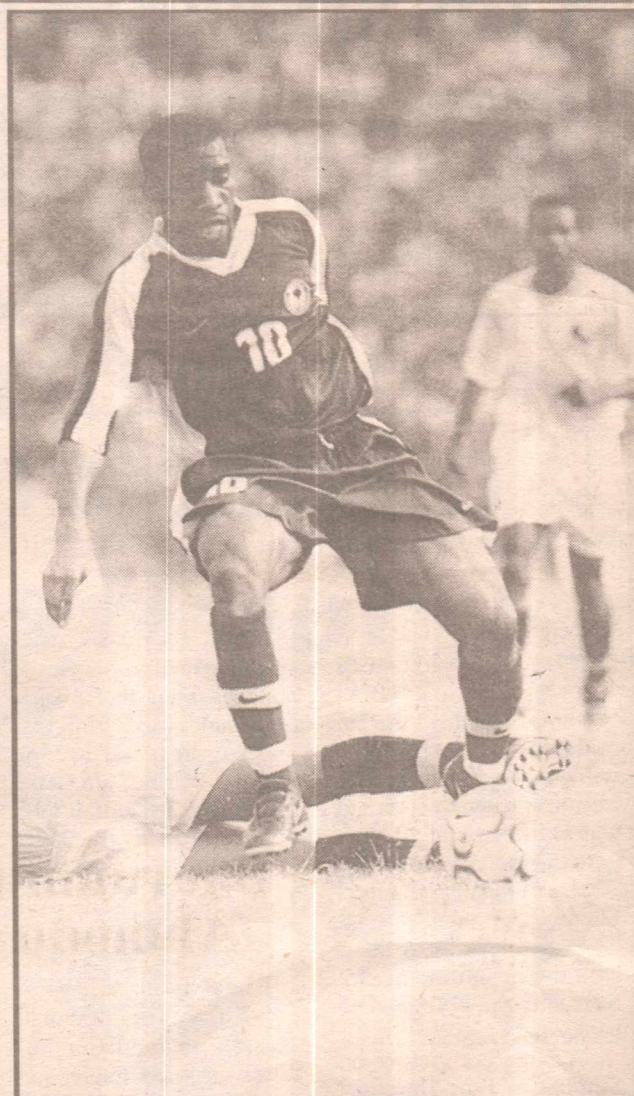
He has also closely followed the rise and rise of Senegal's striker, El Hadj Diouf, who has scored eight goals in World Cup qualifying.

"He had problems when he joined Sochaux fitting into the side. Things got better at Rennes, but he's really found his place in the national side. I think things will be better now he's at Lens, but he's always played better for the Lions than for his clubs."

Le Roy makes no effort to hide his desire that Senegal should do well in Korea and Japan, but knows from his own world-cup experience that the pressure on players and coaches is immense.

"The FA has to take things nice and easy and not let too many people near the team. The big danger is to have a technical team of 40 people, but have around them 100 useless people."

"But, in terms of quality of players, they have all it takes to put up a good performance at the World Cup".



Super Eagles midfield jewel, Austin Jay Jay Okocha outwits a Sudanese defender. He is expected to be in action for the Eagles against Ghana in Port Harcourt on Sunday.

## NAATO elects new Exco

Prof. Andrew Ajuduah of the University of Lagos, has been elected the President of the Nigerian Association of Athletics Technical Officials (NAATO).

The association said in a statement in Lagos on Monday that the elections, which were held over the weekend also returned Mr. Olu Agboola as Vice President, Mr. Akin Akinfolarin as Secretary-General and Mrs. Nike Oyekunle as Assistant Secretary-General.

Also elected were, Mr. Adeyemi Ifebogun (Public Rela-

tions Officer), Mr. Benson Oputa (Financial Secretary) and Mrs. Gloria Obajimi (Treasurer).

Messrs Edwin Akika and Ademola Balogun were elected Welfare Officers; Mrs Felicia Egbase and Mr. Kolo Mohammed (Auditors), while Mr. Gad Onumaegbu, Miss Maria Usifo and Mr. Bello Aidogie came on as Ex-Officio members.

According to the statement, the newly-elected officials will remain in office until 2004.

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### WEEK 2 GAME 1 WINNING NUMBERS:

9 14 18 33 35 43

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**Nigeria/Ghana cracker  
No special treatment  
for Weah -NFA**

The Nigerian Football Association (NFA) has said that Liberian soccer star George Weah will not be given special treatment when he comes to watch the crucial Nigeria versus Ghana World Cup final group qualifier this Sunday.

Weah says he will attend the match to "ensure there will be fairplay and no hanky-panky".

A Nigerian victory on Sunday in Port-Harcourt will give the Super Eagles 16 points to overtake Liberia, and hand them Africa's last remaining World Cup place.

Any other result will give Liberia qualification.

"Weah is welcome to the Port-Harcourt stadium but he will be treated just like any spectator," NFA spokesman Austin Mgbolu said.

"He has to make his own lodging, security and ticket arrangements because we won't provide anything for him. And the earlier he purchases his own match ticket, the better" he said.

Football officials in Port-Harcourt have jacked up the price for the match tickets which cost between N600 and N1,500.

Games involving Nigeria and Ghana are termed "classic derbies" because of their intense historical rivalry.

Mgbolu said arrangements have been put in place to ensure maximum security for the players, officials and spectators before, during and after Sunday's match.

Over the weekend, Ghana's acting ambassador to Nigeria Nana Kumi met with Nigeria's junior Foreign Minister Dubem Onyia to seek assurance that the crucial match will be peaceful.

"We want the match to be free of violence and entertaining" Kumi told Onyia.

Onyia responded by saying that because football is the national sport in both countries, the citizens are "very passionate and

sensitive on the outcome of matches when the two national sides meet."

"I want to assure you that we will not allow the match to threaten the relations between us. We'll en-

**Shorunmu, West give Ahmodu grey hairs**

Barely three days to the crucial World Cup qualifier between the Super Eagles and the Black Stars, the technical crew of the Eagles led by coach Shuaibu Ahmodu has suddenly grown grey hairs.

This is sequel to the absence of two key players relevant for the execution of strategies needed to secure victory for Nigeria. First choice goalkeeper Ike Shorunmu and defence ace Taribo West are yet to hit camp even as the number in camp swells to 22.

The technical crew's worries deepened because the duo has remained incommunicado despite several attempts to contact them in their different bases.

Worried stiff by this development and in desperation, Ahmodu sought information from the NFA but made no headway on their whereabouts.

Ahmodu, however, said the duo of Yakubu Aiyegbeni and Isaac

Okoronkwo were given waivers to arrive today because of continental club engagements Tuesday night. The camp was formally closed last night. Even then, all invitees except West and Shorunmu are in camp.

Both countries have met 43 times at senior international level.

The Ghanaians have the better record, having won 19 times while Nigeria have won in just 10 outings.

The last time Nigeria defeated Ghana at home was in 1977; a 2-1 win in the West African Union Tournament.

Both sides battled to a 0-0 draw at their last meeting in March in Accra.

Russian clubside, Spartak Donetsk had insisted on holding on to Okoronkwo but pressure from the NFA forced them to rescind the decision.

Aside from these, the Eagles camp has been a bee-hive of activities especially with the arrivals of Austin Okocha, Sunday Oliseh, Finidi George and Victor Agali.

Skipper Oliseh who has abstained from the team's two previous games came in with Agali. Before then, Ajax Amsterdam's winger Pius Ikedia had arrived to gladden the hearts of the technical crew.

The Black Stars who are expected to arrive today would pocket \$2,000 if they beat the Eagles.

By Patrick Andrew



American Kristy Kowal races in women's 200-meter breaststroke heat at the World Swimming Championships in Fukuoka, western Japan on Tuesday



Denilson, right, of Brazil fights for the ball against David Carcamo of Honduras during a quarterfinal game of the Copa America at the Palo Grande stadium in Manizales, Colombia on Monday. Brazil suffered a humiliating 2-0 defeat against Honduras on Monday.

**Strands of Fate: written & illustrated by Bulama Mustapha**

