

DAILY TRUST

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Obasanjo escapes another air crash
 President Olusegun Obasanjo may have narrowly escaped another air mishap as serious faults were discovered in the presidential jet just before take off for the return journey yesterday at Zurich International airport.
 The Special Assistant (Media and Publicity), Mr. Tunji Oseni who was in the entourage told State House correspondents that, "we were to take-off from Zurich International airport when the presidential fleet crew discovered that we could not due to hydraulic problem. We had already began taxiing before the plane stopped."
 "It was dangerous at that moment and one cannot imagine what would have happened," he said, adding that the president took his predicament calmly until smaller jets were sent from Abuja to bring him home.

Commuters stranded in Lagos
 Commuters in Lagos were yesterday stranded at various bus stops in the city as a result of the fuel scarcity which started at the weekend.
 Daily Trust observed that most commercial vehicles were off the road, leaving workers without an option but to trek long distances to their various offices.
 The few vehicles on the road increased transport fares by about 100 per cent. For instance, most trips that attracted N50 fare now goes for N100; those for N30 now N60.

World's hungry population hits 830m
 Over 830 million people are hungry all over the world, a recent United Nations report has indicated. Poverty, armed conflict and natural disaster are cited as some of the causes of the situation. Over 791 million of these people live in developing countries while 200 million are children.

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Cabinet reshuffle

Perm. Secs lock out some ministers

By Osborne Adi Jnr and Suleiman Mohammed
 The anxiety generated by the impending cabinet reshuffle assumed a new dimension yesterday as some permanent secretaries reportedly ordered the closure of some ministers' offices in anticipation of the announcement of fresh nominees by the presidency.
 No fewer than nine ministries were affected in the lockout where the permanent secretaries immediately took charge.

Some of the affected ministries were those of Communications, Transport, Solid Minerals Development, Internal Affairs, Labour and Productivity, Sports and Social Development and Commerce. Others were Industry, Federal Capital Territory, Presidency and offices of several Special Assistants to the President.
 A permanent secretary who asked not to be named said they acted on "orders from above" and explained that

New nominees emerge today
 action was to avoid loss of official documents and records which it is feared may be tampered with by the departing officials or aides who are political appointees.
 Activities at the affected ministries had been paralyzed when Daily Trust visited yesterday as most of the workers were seen idling around and discussing the development in hushed tones.
 Top on the issues being discussed at both the new and old federal secretariat complexes were the fate of the ministers as there was palpable doubt among civil servants as to who was likely to be retained
 Contd. on pg2

\$74m loan for ID cards is fraudulent

By Reuben Yunana -Bola Ige
 Justice minister, Chief Bola Ige, has faulted the \$74 million loan for the National Identity Card project, saying the terms were fraudulent and against the nation's interest.
 Testifying before the Senate Public Accounts Committee sitting in Abuja yesterday, the Attorney-General said the loan was obtained under conditions "onerous and prejudicial to the borrower," for the ID card project by officials from the Ministry of Finance, providing legal advice.
 Ige observed that the fac-

FG dips into external reserves to finance projects

sembly has given its nod. Minister of State for Finance, Senator Jubril Martins-Kuye said in Abuja at the weekend that in addition to withdrawing from the external reserves, government would also borrow from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to finance some key projects. The minister explained that government decision is informed by the need to ensure that capital budget was promptly released to priority ministries and agencies.
 In the same vein, the Economic Adviser to the President Chief Philip Asiodu said government would depend heavily on external reserves to pay part of its debt to the Paris Club as approved by the National Assembly.
 Kuye disclosed that as at the end of December last year the nation's external reserve, stood at about \$10 billion (N1.0 trillion) pointing out that what has been in the 2001 budget was the excess of crude reserves account.
 Contd. on pg2

FG, NNPC disagree over crude oil quota

The Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and the Presidency have disagreed over Nigeria's crude oil production level.
 Group Managing Director of the NNPC, Mr. Gaius Obaseki has owned up that Nigeria can not meet the quota prescribed by the Organization of Petroleum Export Countries (OPEC) due to inability of past governments to meet cash call payments.
 He gave other constraints to include under funding of joint venture activities with the eight multinational oil companies operating in Nigeria and the sustained community unrests in the Niger-Delta.
 However, Mr. Funsho Kupolokun, Special Assistant on Petroleum Affairs to President Olusegun Obasanjo said it was not true that Nigeria was unable to meet its OPEC quota before it was slashed at the recent meeting of the organization.
 Contd. on pg2



Workers take a break as they wait for a crane to arrive to help move large slabs of concrete in Ahmedabad, January 27, 2001. Several residents are still trapped under the debris. More than 15,000 people were feared dead as the worst earthquake to hit India in 50 years, measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale, shook the entire western state of Gujarat. Pix: AFP

NEWS

Technical hitches delay Obasanjo's return from Switzerland

President Olusegun Obasanjo yesterday returned to the country from Switzerland after a twelve-hour delay, due to technical problem with the presidential jet, FGN 001.

The President who was scheduled to return early Monday morning (3:10am) was however delayed to carry out repairs on the plane at Zurich International Airport. He arrived the country at 3:45 pm.

The Presidency, according to sources was intimidated late last night when Vice-President Atiku Abubakar was already at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja along with other top government officials to welcome President Obasanjo.

Sources confirmed at Aso Rock that the plane which is currently about twenty years old had developed technical hitch immediately after President Obasanjo disembarked at Zurich International Airport, Switzerland last Friday on his way to Davos, Venue of the World Economic Summit.

An aide in the President's crew who confirmed the report to State House Correspondents further explained that no fewer than twelve repairs were effected on the Boeing 747 Jet before President Obasanjo got on board for the journey back home.

It would be recalled that President Obasanjo had last year visited France and Cuba, aboard a commercial flight due to what the Presidency attributed to the

By Suleiman Mohammed

bad state of the current fleet of Presidential Jets. President Obasanjo had last year requested the National Assembly to approve N80 billion for the purchase of a new Presidential plane, a situation which degen-

erated to controversy in the country.

Daily Trust gathered that President Obasanjo has directed the Presidential Air fleet office to in this regard carry out detailed scrutiny of all the four Presidential Jets and submit detailed report on their conditions.

Perm. Secs *Contd. from pg 1*

or dropped.

Most of those who spoke to the *Daily Trust* on condition of anonymity were uncertain of what to expect in the pregnant situation, which is worsen by the absence of the president from the country.

At the office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, where the announcement of the new cabinet is expected to emanate, officials kept sealed lips.

Attempt by our correspondent to speak with the SGF failed as he was reported to be too busy. While can nobody could volunteer information.

However, sources at the presidency disclosed that the announcement of the new nominees was likely to be made today if the president gives final assent to the release by the SGF.

According to sources, the announcement maybe delayed following the absence of the Senate President, Chief Anvim

Pius Anyim, who is away to the United State on official assignment.

President Olusegun Obasanjo who returned from a trip to Switzerland yesterday was reported to have given the list of the new cabinet to Presidential Liaison Officer to the National Assembly, Alhaji Kashim Ibrahim Imam for presentation to the Senate.

Presidency sources gave insight to the procedure to be adopted saying that while the list would be presented to the Senate, the SGF would communicate to the ministers who are not retained on the long run.

It was also learnt that no fewer than 15 ministers were likely to go but Obasanjo told journalists in Switzerland that the changes would be minor, even though some special assistants would go.

loan for ID card *Contd. from pg 1*

According to him, "NOGA insisted on the provision of Article 12.3 (c) which provides inter alia that repayments under the loan facility would in no way be conditional upon performance under the project contract. According to NOGA, this is the cardinal condition upon which it was prepared to provide funds for the supplies and services under the project."

The Attorney-General explained that other provisions of the controversial draft were "rather peculiar, onerous and prejudicial to the borrowers' interest."

He observed that despite these obnoxious conditions, the government appeared bent on obtaining the loan from NOGA for in explicable reasons.

Although the loan had been obtained from Hydroma International S.A. of London, a company owned by the lender Goan, the project has remained stalled while equipments meant to execute it are rotting in a port in France, he said. The project is still being implemented by the Department of National Civil Registration.

The committee heard that as a result of loan default

Hydroma International through its solicitors Jame and Sarch filled a suit in 1994 for recovery.

Following delays in the implementation of the project, late head of state General Sani Abacha ordered the ministry of finance to suspend payments on the loan facility.

The project has since been subject of intense in controversy with the government officials in the ministry of justice, finance and internal affairs issuing directives and counter directives.

At one point the plaintiffs counsel in Nigeria Professor S.A. Adesanya opted for an out of court settlement, which was obtained in July 1997.

A former Attorney-General Ahaji Abdullahi Ibrahim (SAN) as well as minister of state in the ministry of finance, Senator Jubril Martins-Kuye also appeared before the committee yesterday.

The finance minister told the committee the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) records showed that \$40 million had been paid to the plaintiff as out of court settlement.

Speaking to National Assembly correspondent, Bola Ige promised to take appropriate actions if it is discovered that the ID card project is a conduit pipe for siphoning of public funds.

NNPC *Contd. from pg 1*

He said what appeared to be shortage at any point in time does not mean that Nigeria could not meet the quota.

"These emanated from temporary technical problems which have nothing to do with the new production level," Kupolokun added.

At the last OPEC meeting in Vienna, Austria, member countries agreed to cut daily crude production which was raised thrice last year to keep the price level at \$28 benchmark.

It slashed 1.5 million barrels per day out of the total OPEC output of 25 million barrels per day, and 123,000 bpd out of Nigeria's daily production level of 2.224 million barrels per day to stand at 2.021 mbpd.

This was to ensure that the price does not fall below the current \$24.35 pb.

Major oil companies operating in Nigeria welcomed the cut with a sigh of relief since most have been producing at the peak of their capacity.

The Debate begins

We hope you have not forgotten that on Thursday, February 8, 2001, we will begin the publication of debates on topical issues of the moment.

The selected topic for debate is
The Generational Shift: Can the under 50 politicians deliver?

We have received the opinion of some contributors. We are awaiting yours.

Remember: the publication date is
Thursday, February 8, 2001

Thanks for your patronage

NEWS

Briefly

Uni Abuja employs 30

The University of Abuja has employed a total of 30 senior staff. Records from the establishment unit shows that the employment of the staff followed interviews conducted for shortlisted candidates at the University between October 30, 2000 and November 2, 2000. A total of 21 of the new employees are academic staff while nine are non-academic staff.

NITEL resumes discussion on GSM take off

The Nigerian Telecommunications Limited has resumed discussions with its foreign technical partners in preparation for the take-off of the Mobile Communications, GSM service in the country. The Deputy General Manager, Public Relations NITEL, Mr. Tayo Akindayo who confirmed this, said the discussions centred on the financing option, technical input and equity participation cellular phone. So far, two foreign firms from Europe and South Africa have met with the chiefs of NITEL.

Mother of four delivers 5 babies

A mother of four has been delivered of a set of quintuplets, two boys three girls at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital, the first time the hospital recorded such a birth. Parents of the children are Mr. And Mrs Nwankwo of number 4, Omokaro Avenue, Off Upper Adesuwa Road, G.R.A. Benin City.

Muslims have not tapped from Qur'an

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Alhaji Ghali Umar Na'Abba has said Muslims have not been able to tap from the wisdom in the Quran because they turned their backs to the teachings of the holy book. He said in a speech at the Annual National Quranic Recitation competition organised by the Izalatul Bid'a Waikamatis Sunna in Minna, Niger State that several Muslims were ignorant of the wisdom in the holy scriptures.

Former Radio Niger boss gets title

A former General Manager of the Broadcasting Corporation of Niger State (Radio Niger) and one time chairman of the Niger State Council of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Alhaji Abdullahi Abdul Paiko has been conferred with the Chieftaincy title of Jarman Minna by the Minna emirate council.

Plateau youths move against crowd renting

From Buhari Bello in Jos

A group calling itself Plateau Youths has condemned some government functionaries in the state of hiring crowd to demonstrate in support of the state government decision on the retrenchment exercise in the state.

A statement signed on behalf of the group by Messrs Danjuma Mallo and Daniel D. Umaru, chairman



Dariye

and secretary respectively and made available to Daily Trust in Jos said, "it was unfortunate that state funds were spent in renting crowds of mostly street touts, prostitutes, students and destitutes."

According to them, it is on record that since the creation of the state in 1996, when Nasarawa state was carved out of it, "no employment exercise has been conducted by the state government, only for Dariye to greet the state with a deadly retrenchment exercise".

Meanwhile, the youths also castigated the members of the State House of Assembly for their inability "to convene an emergency session to deliberate on the issue of the retrenchment exercise which according to them "is very explosive and capable of destroying the state in all facets of development".

... kick against attacks on Lar

The ongoing face-off between the former Governor of Plateau State, Chief Solomon Lar and the incumbent, Chief Joshua Dariye has taken a new turn with a group of Plateau youths condemning the recent attack on Chief Lar by the People's Democratic Party (PDP), executive in the state.

Addressing a press conference last week, the group spokesman, Mr. Danjuma Mallo said the latest attack on the former national chairman of PDP was unwarranted, describing it as unfortunate.

According to him, "we are uncomfortable with the recent reaction of the party chairman, the state governor and his team over the recent pronouncement on the on-going retrenchment in the civil service by the

elder statesman Chief Solomon Lar at the Bagghon festival on January 13, 2001 at Dengi".

The state chairman of the PDP Mr. Habu Shindai had earlier sponsored a publication in some national dailies where he castigated the former PDP National Chairman on his pronouncement about the retrenchment exercise in Plateau State.



Lar

Ford Foundation splashes N36bn on Nigeria's education programmes

By Kevin Ebele Adinnu

The Ford Foundation has splashed \$300 million (N36 billion) over a period of 10 years to assist Nigeria's educational programmes, a top official of the foundation has disclosed.

The assistance, the official said, would be channelled to revitalising some higher institutions and giving scholarships to successful applicants from Nigeria.

For a start, the Foundation would give scholarship to about 50 Nigerians this year after satisfying the criteria to be set by a committee of the Association of African Universities.

However, he did not state the amount to be granted to each of the successful candidates adding that the amount would depend on where the candidate would do the programme.

Some agencies in the Federal Ministry of Health



(L-R) Hajia Aishat Ismail, Hajia Laila Dogonyaro, former president NCWS and Dr. Bekki Ketebu-Igwe at the national youth summit conference held in Abuja last week. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje

Adamawa places N1m prize for clue on commissioner's assassins

Stories from Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, in Yola

The Adamawa state government has offered to pay one million naira (N1m.) to anyone who supplies information that could lead to the arrest of the killers of its Commissioner of Agriculture and Water Resources, Mr. Tayedi Daniel.

The commissioner was brutally murdered last week by unknown gunmen who also wounded his wife with gunshots before they fled the scene.

Since then, neither the State Police Command nor

any other security agency has been able to unravel the mystery surrounding the murder.

But Governor Boni Haruna has vowed to track down the killers by whatever means and at any cost. In a statement signed by the state Director of Press, Alhaji Bello Buba Sugu, the Governor offered to pay N1m for information that could lead to the arrest of the assassins.

The deceased, a 40-year-old lawyer and politician who was also a former chairman of Numan local government area and an in-

fluential figure in the state government, was killed in his home in Numan, in the presence of his wife and their three children.

His wife who was shot in the breast was taken to Federal Medical Centre in Yola where she received treatment after which she later managed to attend his funeral ceremony last Saturday.

Among those who visited the family in Numan to condole them were Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, Governor Boni Haruna and Governor Jolly Nyame of Taraba State.

... Seven suspects arrested

The Adamawa state Police Command has arrested seven suspects in connection with the murder of the state Commissioner for Agriculture and Water Resources, Barrister Tayedi Daniel.

The State Commissioner of Police, Alhaji Haruna Yusuf who disclosed this in Yola yesterday said more arrests would be made very soon.

He said that the suspects who were still being

interrogated had provided useful information to the command.

But he declined to confirm speculations that the murder was politically motivated, saying that such an assertion could hamper police investigation.

The Commissioner revealed that the suspects were arrested a few kilometres from the scene of the murder in Numan, some 50 kilometres away from the state capital, Yola.

Mr. Daniel was assassinated last week by an unidentified gunmen who also shot his wife in the breast before fleeing the scene.

The wife survived and attended his funeral ceremony at the weekend.

The Adamawa State Government had earlier offered to pay one million naira for information that could lead to the arrest of the murderers.

Governor Boni Haruna also held series of meetings and consultations with security chiefs, traditional rulers and local government chairmen in the state follow-

ing the murder of the Commissioner.

The Police command has since that incident, been mounting massive surveillance in different parts of the state. The security measures at the government House, Dougiri, have been reinforced by the command.

In a related development, the police commissioner has also confirmed the arrest of a Jalingo-based businessman.

But he declined to further comments, insisting that doing so would undermine police investigations.



Boni Haruna

NEWS

5.2m families to benefit from IFAD loan

About 5.2 million families would benefit economically when the loan negotiations between Nigeria and the International fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is finalised.

Minister of state for Finance Senator Jubril Martins - Kuye who was speaking to journalists at the Ministry of finance in Abuja said that government has adopted "various strategies aimed at achieving a 5.5 percent agricultural growth rate" among which is the signing of a loan agreement with IFAD last

By Aliyu Ma'aji, Business Editor

"The loan agreement provides, amongst others, for the development of sustainable cropping systems, strengthening of support services and improvement of simple processing techniques and equipment", he added.

The loan programme, *Daily Trust* learnt, involved 25 participating states in the country. At present, however, a subsidiary loan agreement of five out of the 25 Participating states have been forwarded to

IFAD to enable the loan become effective.

Senator Kuye also disclosed that other measures adopted by government aimed at establishing a proper mechanism for effective agricultural delivery and strengthening research services include the merger of the peoples Bank with NACB to form the Nigerian Agricultural Co-operative and Rural Development Bank (NACRDB) as well as prompt allocation of funds to the Ministry of Agriculture for its key projects.

Elaborating on

government's achievements in agriculture during the last cropping season, he said, "1.2 hectare was cultivated out of the planned 1.5 hectare for yam; procurement and distribution of 41,080 out of the targeted 50,000 seed yams to Agricultural Development Projects (ADPs) was done. Equally, 7.8 out of the estimated 10 metric tonnes of foundation seeds were distributed to 15 ADPs.

Senator Kuye also admitted that government is not unaware of problems of inadequate storage facilities, poor incentives for profitable mass agricultural production and inadequate rural infrastructure "Government is living up to its responsibilities and our policies will yield the desired results."

Industry watchers, however, still remain apprehensive and suspicious of government's agric posture. This is not unconnected with the FG's removal of fertilizer subsidy. There are rumours however, that it may soon back pedal on this issue.

LASG spends N100 million on water works

Governor of Lagos state, Alhaji Ahmed Bola Tinubu has said that the government had spent close to N100 million to construct

Tinubu, who was inspecting the mini waterworks at Ikoyi, chided the defunct Petroleum Trust Fund (PTF) for doing a shoddy job on the rehabilitation of the waterworks. He said that the job done by the PTF was extremely disappointing, adding that it was terrible for a project inaugurated in 1998 "to be this bad".

The governor described the project, which was meant to supply water to Ikoyi and Victoria Island, as "a carrier of danger to various homes, a destroyer of their facilities, their pipe network, kitchen utensils and other apparatuses".

Tinubu condemned the lack of water and drainage in the elitist Dolphin estate and directed Seg Mahsen, the firm rehabilitating the waterworks to supply the estate with water without further delay.

The Managing Director of the company, Mr. Michael Abraham, told the governor that most of the filters in the waterworks were blocked and the whole system damaged.

"PTF simply did what it liked on the project. What PTF contractors just did was illegal and they can be sued for giving the people contaminated water", he alleged.

However, he gave an assurance that the waterworks would be fully rehabilitated by the end of next month.



Gov. Tinubu 10 mini-waterworks and revamp 15 others it inherited from Alhaji Lateef Jakande's administration.

DPR Controller blames refineries for shortages

From Abdullahi Bego, in Maiduguri

The Operations Controller of the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) for Borno and Yobe States,

years to about five to six trucks per day whereas the two States require about 25 trucks daily.

The DPR contractor however maintained that the Presidential order against illegal Storage, Sale and arbitrary increase in Pump prices of petroleum products shall be copiously enforced by the joint team of the Police and DPR Staff.

"We have to use the little (Products) we get properly", the controller said, insisting that arbitrary increase in pump price of petroleum products contravened section 5 subsection 1 of the Petroleum Decree 1969.



Obaseki, NNPC GMD Alhaji Wakil Ali Lawan has blamed the acute shortage of petroleum products in the area to the poor state of the nation's refineries.

Speaking at a Press Conference in Maiduguri yesterday Wakil A. Lawan said Petroleum Products. Supply to Borno and Yobe states have been reduced by half over the last two



HEARING: Chief Bola Ige Minister of Justice (middle), flanked by his two lawyers, testifying at the Senate Accounts Committee hearing on National ID Card ...yesterday

Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje

Akwa-Ibom to employ 1,300 workers for sanitation job

The one-month-old Akwa Ibom environmental protection and waste management agency, will this year employ 1,300 people to carry out various sanitation jobs in the state, the chairman of the agency, Dr. Ekpedeme Udom, has said.

Speaking in Uyo at the weekend, Udom said that street sweepers as well as sanitary and environmental inspectors would be engaged for the cleanliness of the state capital.

He said that employable young persons, who had assisted the agency in the evacuation of refuse to designated dump sites would be first considered for employment as street sweepers, sanitary inspectors or environmental inspectors.

"There will be prizes for the cleanest compounds, cleanest street in a zone as well as cash payments to persons, who own facilities for evacuation to dump

sites," the chairman said. Udom also declared January 27 and February 3, as voluntary sanitation days in Uyo to enable people to clean up their environment between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. and said that the waste generated during the exercise would not be left on the streets a minute longer than necessary.

He said that the exercise would involve the cutting of grass around residential, private, commercial and government establishments

as well as clearing of gutters and removal of scraps. Other activities for the days are organized environmental awareness campaigns, inter-governmental liaison and public relations involvement and other complementary activities "which the motivated citizens of the state will suggest".

The chairman appealed for support from government institutions, law enforcement agencies, the mass media and the organized private sectors.

Osun workers declare fasting, prayer

The Osun State branch of the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employee (NULGE) have declared a 21-day period of mourning to sympathize with their sacked chairman, Dr. Oyebade Olowogboyega.

Daily Trust gathered that the NULGE members have also organized a 3-day fasting and prayer so as to

From Yinka Oladoyinbo, in Ibadan

bring normalcy into the state civil service and to seek God's intervention on the issue.

The NULGE Chairman, Dr. Olowogboyega was last week retrenched by the Osun State government in a circumstance many people believed was an act of victimization.

According to the



Gov. Bisi Akande

UI expels 162 students

From Yinka Oladoyinbo, in Ibadan

Authorities of the University of Ibadan (UI) have expelled a total of 162 students believed to have gained admission into the school with fraudulent admission papers.

According to the

school authorities, 13 of the expelled students are running post-graduate courses, while the remaining 149 are undergraduates.

A release by the school registry stated that the expelled students were discovered to have been attending lectures and equally writing examinations using matriculation numbers of bonafide students.

The release, which was signed by the institution's registrar, Mrs. Moji Ladipo further stated that some of the candidates were offered admission into the school using fake IJMB result, while some had fake and double matriculation numbers.

The registrar further stated that some of the students also got admission through forged O'level result, while a Kingpin for admission racket (name withheld) was on the run.

programme for the 3-day fasting and prayer, Muslims are expected to have their prayers in the mosque, while their Christian counterparts are to hold theirs in the church.

Meanwhile, the aggrieved civil servants in the state had threatened to deal decisively with all political office holders in the state if the situation persists.

TUESDAY COLUMN

Too much ado about nothing

By Attahiru M. Jega

The National Assembly has been in the news recently, sort of beating its chest and bragging about its legislative record. The Senate President gloated to the press about how they have been able to pass seventy-six (76) bills into law in the last one-year or so. Superficially, this would seem quite a record. However, upon reflection on the substance of the claim, one wonders whether the Senate President and his esteemed colleagues in the National Assembly have sufficient cause for celebration, or whether this is a simple case of what Shakespeareans would call too much ado about nothing.

In a historical context, 76 legislative Acts may seem a fantastic record when compared with the legislative inactivity of the Second Republic's National Assembly between 1979 and 1983. Those Honourable members were literally too busy doing nothing, except running around for contracts from government ministries and / or collecting bribes from the executive branch. The current set of Legislators may be doing a bit of all these, but they are also legislating; at least so it seems.

However, placed in the context of legislative records of other democracies, not just in Western Europe and USA but also in the new democracies of the Third World And Africa in particular, 76 bills passed in the 18 months are, really, not much to talk about given the enormity of the issues that need to be legislated about, the time at the disposal of the legislators, and the national resources made available to them to discharge their constitutional responsibilities. In an appropriately, politically mobilised polity, a legislature that boasts of this kind of record, in circumstances similar to ours, would be faced with public disapprobation. It would be interesting to review the break-down of this record of legislation before too enamoured of the Senate President's trumpeting of the National Assembly's presumed success. Take away the routine Appropriations and Supplementary Appropriations Bills aimed at routinely legalizing already existing military decrees and other pronouncements by fiat. Subtract the anti-corruption, the Niger Delta and such other bills. All of these in any case, emanated from the executive. What then remains? How many private members bills have been passed into law? How come such non-governmental initiatives, such as the freedom of Information Bill, are languishing in legislative bureaucratise? What percentage of the bills on the floors or in the committees of the two chambers of the National Assembly is represented by the bills? We can go on.

The point is, our legislators ought to have done better, and we have expected much more from them. The nation has spent a lot on them to do just that. If they had spent less time on petty bickering, back-biting, padding their own emoluments and perquisites, issuing contracts to themselves, and on incessant if not senseless quarrels with the executive branch, they certainly would have done much better and more commendable work than they have actually done.

It is easy to make an excuse in defence of the Honourable members of the National Assembly. Such as they are still learning the ropes of law-making, they are struggling to free themselves of the legacies of prolonged military rule, they are yet to build adequate capacity and they need more time.

However, these would be mere, untenable, excuses. For example, if we were to make a cost-benefit analysis of the time and money spent by the legislators in the past 18 months on trips abroad for seminars, conferences, workshops, familiarization and study tours, we would see that the cost has by far outweighed the benefits, which raises the question of how much can really be learnt in such short excursions abroad. Similarly it can be asked, how much time is needed to gain freedom from the legacies of military rule? Or how much resources and time are needed to build capacity to do good work? Both in terms of time and resources, our esteemed members have had more than enough to begin to do what they are mandated and paid to do.

The President and ministers have received a good and deserved bashing from many of us for their evident lack of performance and for heightening/intensifying the acute crises of rising expectations, which has engulfed the nation. Perhaps, the recent dissolution of his cabinet is one way President Obasanjo wishes to convey to us his desire to make amends. Of course, it remains to be seen how qualitative and substantive the outcome would be.

By the same token, we need to re-charge our batteries and refocus our search-light on the National Assembly with a view to get it to make amends as well. For, it is the critical link in the chain of governmental structures and processes

for satisfying the fundamental needs and aspirations of Nigerians. As the perceived under-dogs in their standoff with the Presidency, national legislators have received a lot of deserved sympathy and support from many of us. But, we should now draw the lines and frown at such immodest bragging as has recently emanated from the Senate President.

There is a lot more to a desirable legislative record than the simple number of bills passed into law. Indeed, Nigerian public officials need to cure themselves of the tendency to measure success in terms of either the amount of money spent to do something, in contrast to whether and how best that thing has been done. Under military rule, quite often, we were told of government's presumed success because millions or billions of Naira were said to have been spent on education, health, or water supply, and so on, instead of being told how many new schools have been opened, what percentage increase in enrolment has been recorded, how many sick people have been cured and prevented from avoidable disability and / or death, and what percentage increase in the reduction of water borne diseases has been recorded, as a result of such massive public expenditures.

There are quite a number of things that the esteemed members of the National Assembly need to focus on, apart from merely seeking to score a cheap political goal with an evident feeble legislative record. First, they need to cultivate a tradition and record of passing non-governmental initiatives, through private members' bills. This would make their job people-oriented and driven, rather than government motivated and induced. After all, members of the National Assembly derive legitimacy and authority directly from the people in their various constituencies. By doing so, they can revive and reinforce peoples' confidence in their ability and competence to make and pass a legislation without material and other inducements from an all-powerful Presidency.

Second, they need to be more serious in reviewing, assessing, debating and screening bills submitted from the executive arm and its related agencies, whether in respect of appropriations or whatever. So far, the evidence of seriousness is lacking; on the contrary, there is ample evidence of lack of it. For example, in considering the 2000 Appropriations bill, they were damn too slow, for which they have been roundly castigated. However, the reckless alacrity with which subsequent supplementary appropriations bills, and specially the 2001 appropriations bill, were passed has left much to be desired. Thus the evidence suggests that the National Assembly should be mindful of the time-tested wisdom of the need to make haste slowly, to be careful, considerate and purposeful.

Third, the Honourable members need to pay considerable attention to their constitutionally mandated oversight functions. In particular, they should henceforth monitor executive compliance with the provisions of the appropriations bills in the implementation of the budget, not so much as to use this to direct the executive on what they come to consider the next appropriations request from the executive. In this way, they can rationally, logically and with justification refuse or cut requests when it is evident that they have previously provided funds, which have either not been spent, or have been misapplied, misappropriated, and / or wasted.

Fourth, the National Assembly should pay a great deal of attention to setting up a strong research and information management department, so as to facilitate their oversight and other essential legislative functions. Thus far, a review of the intellectual content of their collective work gives the impression that they have been groping in the dark. In this age and era, they should do better than they are presently doing. They need competent, well-trained and well-motivated staff, with all the necessary facilities to generate, analyse, and present to them the information they require for their work. It seems that this is being taken for granted, and it should not be, for there is much more to setting up a strong and effective research and information management department than merely giving contracts to purchase computers and to install e-mail and inter-net services.

Finally, there is the absolute need to de-emphasise vainglory and pretension. Too much ado about nothing, is too much too soon for Nigerians, not just from the National assembly, but from the other arms of government as well. For goodness sake, save us the trouble of having to listen to monotonous talk about your record; let the record speak for itself.

Professor Jega, of the Political Science Dept., B.U.K., is an Editorial Board member of Daily Trust.

EDITORIAL

Equitable debts servicing

Last week, the chairman of the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission, Alhaji Hamman Tukur raised the alarm that a new revenue allocation formula has been put on hold because of the failure of ministries and their parastatals to supply his office with their revenue and expenditure profiles for at least five years. He also accused states and local government councils of the same failure. He backed his criticism up with figures.

Before this outcry last week, states and Local Governments had earlier threatened a showdown with the Federal Government over their allocations from the federation account. Specifically, they had threatened to reject their allocation from the federation account because of the Federal Government's application of the First Line Deduction System (FLDS) whereby proceeds from the federally collected revenue are shared from whatever is left after the Federal Government might have made deductions for debt-servicing. The effect of the system, according to the state governments, is that they are left with lower than what they are expected to get.

The threat is a direct consequence of the absence of an acceptable revenue allocation formula. At present, the Federal Government gets 48.5 percent of federal revenue, States 24 percent, Local Governments 20 percent while 7.5 percent is reserved for ecological funding. This arrangement is lopsidedly in favour of the Federal Government.

It is true that the Federal Government owes the largest chunk of the foreign debts, while the States and Local Governments collectively owe N700 billion in a haphazard ratio that not all the states and Local Governments owe the same amount.

In this regard, the FLDS can be faulted in two ways. One, the State Governments are not equally indebted to the same amount. Two, there should be a clear distinction between Federal Government debts and those of the states such that the States should not indirectly be servicing Federal Government's debts.

We therefore, believe that an equitable allocation will be achieved where the Federal Government first shares whatever accrues to the national coffers amongst all the states, Local Governments and itself. It can thereafter pay its own debts from what accrues to it; and, because it is the sole guarantor of the debts of the State Governments, it can then deduct each state's debt obligation according to its quantum and remit accordingly.

LETTER OF THE DAY!

Enlivening!

It is with great pleasure and much anticipation that I read your first "Daily Trust." Congratulations to you and your staff for enlivening the Nigerian media scene five times as often as before.

Here's wishing you the very best and hoping for continued success.

Tim Smith, Public Affairs Officer, United States Information Service, Abuja.

Opinion

Hadejawa's greed is their undoing (I)

By Safiyanu B. Ringim

Two paid advertisements published in *Weekly Trust* (December 1-7, 2000 and January 5-11, 2001) signed by one Sarki Kafinta of Malam-Madori claiming the grandiose title of interim chairman of a committee of Hadejia Emirate Development Association (HEDA) are so patently unfair, unjust and full of false assumptions and claims that they certainly call for a rejoinder, if for nothing other than setting the records straight.

The malevolent article and its subsequent follow up which unjustly claims to speak for a non-existent Hadejia Senatorial District, rather than the Jigawa North East Senatorial District recognized by the 1999 Constitution, is fundamentally flawed. For a start, the sponsored article certainly doesn't speak for the whole of Jigawa North East Senatorial District, because the District comprises more than Hadejia. It comprises Kafinta's very own Malam-Madori, Bulangu and Guri. Yet the same Senatorial District also comprises Kafin-Hausa, Auyo and Birniwa. So, surely when the author writes that he is speaking for Hadejia Senatorial District (not for Jigawa North East Senatorial District) it is only fair and reasonable to argue that he does not speak for all these areas.

I am not from Hadejia.

But I come from one of the other less favoured emirates and areas of Jigawa. That is why I wonder why the people of Hadejia, if truly this Kafinta man speaks for them behave in such a childish manner. Why are they playing Oliver Twist? Why do they always want more than their fair share? Like the Yorubas, some Hadejawa, such as the writer of the article in review, want all of us in Jigawa to always do their bidding, as if we were their slaves. Though there are a lot of Hadejawa who, unlike Kafinta, are just and reasonable, the Kafinta type have conveniently forgotten that we still recall how much they hated the idea of a state of equal opportunities.

What they had always wanted was a state of Hadejia for Hadejawa. What we all got was Jigawa not Hadejia State; and that made the Hadejawa angry, an anger they are yet to get over despite being pampered, petted and over-indulged on by all administrations since the setting up of the State. Like the spoilt brats the Kafinta types are, they are not grateful for the prime position they have already manoeuvred for. They want it all. Just like Sarki Kafinta did when he was chairman of an association, where, as a sit-tight leader, he held the post for all of nine years, denying every other Jigawa man a chance, until his democratic ouster by the people's man-

date only last year. Perhaps losing that is the reason he is now allowing his name to be affixed to the mendacious advertorial to gain the advantages of "office" he has only recently lost to democracy.

In all the Governments we have had these last ten years, Hadejawa had always been at the centre of affairs. Even now, the number two man in Saminu Turaki's administration is from Hadejia. He is Alhaji Ibrahim Shehu Kwatalo, the Deputy Governor. Yet again from Hadejia, Alhaji Ibrahim Hassan Hadejia was appointed to the key post of Secretary to the State Government (SSG). What is more, the Agriculture portfolio is manned by a Hadejia man. And with the relocation of ministries to the emirates, the Headquarters of the Ministry of Agriculture was moved wholesale to Hadejia. As Agriculture appears to be at the very heart of Turaki's revolutionary and all encompassing agrarian vision, it is reasonable to suggest that Hadejia has the best Ministry.

In fact, this government, like all others before it appears to pamper Hadejia and Hadejawa far too much, ignoring the stiff opposition of those who feel, and rightly too, that Hadejawa alone do not represent the vast land and peoples of Jigawa North East Senatorial District. This is in spite of the genuine argument that Hadejia has since the

creation of Jigawa state, consistently had more than its fair share of all there was to share. This is not to even talk of the fact that there are many more Emirates and more significant urban centres outside of Hadejia in the young Jigawa State. For example Ringim, Kazaure and Gumel Emirates, with all their urban centres—belonging to the same vast and sprawling Senatorial zone of Jigawa North West, collectively get the same share and measure of everything that the single Emirate of Hadejia gets, literally all alone.

When in 1991, the old Kano state was split into two, Hadejia was lit up with joy. The initial thought was that Hadejia had been given the state it had craved for ages. The independence from Kano, it had been fighting for, an independence it had and still has not given even those within its emirates. Unfortunately for them, it was Jigawa that was carved out by the IBB government. Probably as a means of ensuring communal spirit and evenly dispersed development. Not the hegemonic over-lordship that the Hadejawa had in mind for others unlucky enough to be yoked with them under a Hadejia State. Thank God! After the failure to get their own state, Hadejawa surprised everyone by going on a rampage burning and looting in their blind frustration.

To be continued.

Of myth, fallacies and the truth

By Abu Jaafar

Femi Fani-Kayode's article 'The Cross, the Crescent and the Truth' (*Sunday Comet* of 7th and 14th January 2001) attracted my attention. It was however disappointing to realise that the writer was only echoing issues he raised in his articles 'Journey of Discovery' and 'The Prophet of Islam in the *Sunday Vanguard*'. While hoping the *Sunday Vanguard* will still publish my response to those articles, this rejoinder will serve as an adequate refutation of Fani-Kayode's views of Islam, Allah and Muhammad as they appeared in both *The Comet* and *The Vanguard*. In addressing these views, I am mindful of Fani-Kayode's penchant for putting forward weak arguments spiced up with bravado and misguided logic; his tendency to jump to 'greener' pastures whenever he is confronted with facts, his mistaken belief that arrogance and vocabulary make for a fine argument, and his liberal use of insulting and demeaning language. I will be guided by the Holy Qur'an which says, "argue not with the people of the Scripture unless it be in a way that is better" and "insult not those whom they worship beside Allah lest they insult Allah wrongfully without knowledge" (Qur'an 29:46,6:108). If however the other side insists on insults, Allah directs that "let not their speech grieve you" (Qur'an 10:65). My prayer is that the reader will be objective in assessing the 'debate' and not be swayed by those who "argue by means of vanities therewith to condemn the truth" (Qur'an 40:5).

The bedrock of Fani-Kayode's argument against Islam is that Allah was the pre-Islamic idol, the Moon-god and that Muhammad (peace be upon him) at a point in time, succumbed and admitted that the idol daughters of this Moon-god could be worshipped as well. Femi Fani-Kayode's problem is that he has not allowed himself to 'descend' from his high pedestal to properly acquaint himself with what both Islam and Christianity teach. He rather relies on the likes of Dr. Robert Morey as his guide. This is the same person who proudly cites a taxi driver in Washington DC as an example of the 'educated Muslims' who have accepted that Allah was a pre-Islamic idol. Dr. Morey's books ('The Islamic Invasion: Confronting the Challenge of the World's Fastest Growing Religion' and 'The Moon-god Allah in the Archaeology of the Middle East') regarding the Moon-god hypothesis have been brilliantly answered by Shabir Ally's 'Reply to Dr. Robert Morey's Moon-God Myth and Other Deceptive Attacks on Islam' (see tripod.com/Islam/moongod, and Muslims sites commentary moongod).

The Moon-god theory of Dr. Morey is that ilah, the name of the pagan Moon-god, was changed by Muhammad to Allah, and then imposed as the only one God. The source of this information is supposed to be a book published in the 1940's by the archaeologist, Prof. Carlton Coon, called 'South Arabia'. In using this book, Dr. Morey took liberties to misquote, misinterpret, and where convenient, conceal what Prof. Coon actually wrote.

Taking Prof. Coon's authority on the subject for granted, it must be appreciated that his work was restricted to Southern Arabia and not Northern Arabia from where Muhammad came. There was no evidence that there was a Moon-God in the Northern Arabian Ka'abah. Assuming indeed that the Moon-God was worshipped anywhere in pre-Islamic Arabia, Dr. Morey did not give any convincing evidence that its name was il or ilah or Allah. Prof. Coon claimed to have found the temple of the Moon-god with more than 21 inscriptions of the name 'Sin', and none of il or ilah or Allah. Prof. Coon also confirms that the other names of the moon-god were Wadd, Amm, and Il Mulk. Coon never mentions il, ilah or Allah as names of the moon-god; it is Morey himself who insinuates, without any evidence, that the 'title' of the moon-God was al ilah. How the conclusion was arrived at beats the imagination. Prof. Coon wrote that 'the god il or ilah was originally a phase of the Moon-god, but early in Arabian history the name became a general term for God. How early in history this was, could be imagined when we consider that Prof. Coon categorically stated that this was the same name that the Hebrews used prominently in their personal names such as Emmanu-el, Isra-el etc.'

What we can take for granted however is that, as Prof. Coon confirmed, the Arabs had a name for God long before the advent of Muhammad. He said that the name il or ilah had become generally accepted as the name of God before Muhammad's ministry. Taking Dr. Coon on his own premise, this would mean that at the advent of Muhammad, the Arabs had already accepted this name as referring to the Supreme God, and no longer to the Moon-god (if at all it ever did). Al-ilah 'now meant 'the deity' as agreed by Dr. Morey. If the Arabs have accepted this as the name of the Supreme Being, should Muhammad have introduced another name for the Supreme God? Every tribe has a name for the Supreme Being. It is 'God' in English, 'Olorun' in Yoruba, and 'Atnatu' (He who has no anus) in other languages. Should they be questioned as to how they arrived at the name? How would a preacher explain God to them without using their own terms? Would Fani-Kayode expect to convert a Hausa Muslim by preaching to him about Jehovah or about Allah?

To be continued.

Privatisation: Can it work?

Asks Usman Bulama

That private enterprises is the source of the enormous wealth in Western Europe, America and Japan is incontestable.

Privately managed enterprise encourages competition, assures profitability and therefore guarantees long term survival of the enterprise.

The difference between state run economy and the privately controlled one is the non-challant attitude of managers in the former to manage well. They are sure of government being a father Christmas in case of a revenue drought. Managers in the private enterprise are conscious of the fact that easy money will not come their way. They have to source for finance through the banks, at times at exorbitant interest rates or go to the money market to source for funds. In either case such funds have to be accounted for. Revenue must be generated and accounted for, pilfering and

pillage of resources in the private enterprise is not common.

A consumer of electricity or water from privately managed sources will have to pay all his bills without conniving with somebody in those organisations with a view to ripping off the later.

Privatisation will ensure steady electricity supplies, uninterrupted water supply and faultless telephone and postal communications.

Consumers will certainly pay for all these services and at a higher cost than when the state controlled these services.

It is pertinent to answer the questions: - whether the country has the technical and managerial skills to manage private enterprises.

How can the masses benefit from privatisation, and can the mentality of Nigerian business men encourage private ownership of large undertakings such as electricity, water and communication.

The country has a large

pool of technicians and managers but the problem has always been the lack of will by these professionals to put in their best. If this trend continues privatisation may fail and then the state may attempt to control enterprises once again.

How many people can afford privately run power supplies or postal and telecommunications services? The cost of efficiency under privatisation will certainly be passed to the consumer. In the present economic climate where majority of the population are pauperised, the question is how can they afford these services? I doubt if majority can.

The Nigerian business entrepreneurs attitude to investment must play a role in the success or otherwise of privatisation. Long term survival of the enterprises being privatised depends on good thinking, long term strategic planning and investments in research and development. Unfortu-

nately Nigerian entrepreneurs would want quick returns on investment.

Patience is needed before expenditure spent on research and development is for example recovered and gains made out of such efforts.

The pace at which the privatisation exercise itself is carried out is too hasty. This hasty way of selling the enterprises may make these organisations to end up in a few hands and these individuals will certainly transform into economic moguls and dictate to the entire population on matters relating to its welfare.

The privatisation concept is a good idea. It has worked successfully in many parts of the world. However, one doesn't jump into it overnight because what is at stake involves the entire economy, the welfare of the people and, in fact political stability.

Usman Bulama, Mairi, Maiduguri

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PEPS MAY WADE INTO CONTROVERSY
OVER PFIZER DRUG
— NEWS



YOUR LETTERS

Short 'n' Sharp

This ruse called minimum wage

Federal workers now stay for two months without salaries, the lame excuses nowadays is that there is no cash in the banks. It's unfortunate that federal workers are suffering to collect the ruse called improved minimum wage after voting this government into power.

Bala Nayashi Lokoja, Sokoto - Sokoto state.

Hashidu: Be cautious of both worlds

For the twenty-two months you have been in power, there is no tangible thing done by your administration. Dilapidated primary and secondary schools, acute water shortage, poor road network and lots more.

After all the billions being budgeted, there is nothing on the ground to show. Do you think you will go free? Be cautious of both worlds.

Ismaila B. Ahmed, Chem. Eng. Dept., ATBU, Bauchi - Bauchi state.

I salute Daily Trust

Congratulations on establishing the new Daily Trust, which happens to be a sister to Weekly Trust. I want to advise you not to go against the ethics of journalism, hence, your paper will not fall short of the nitty-gritty of the profession. These papers (Weekly and Daily Trust) should be polemics-free and if at all, they should be a corrective measure.

Shuaib D. Adama, Aloko-Dekina, Kogi state.

Let I.B.B. run

If we can have Obasanjo, an ex-military dictator and alleged public coffers pilferer as civilian President, what is wrong with Babangida vying for the presidency? Please let him run and face the electorate.

Habeeb Idris Pindiga, 18, Bajoga Quarters, Gombe - Gombe state.

That Abuja airport standing order

The standing order that prioritised and limited the safety of passengers at the Airport to "important personalities" only, should please be extended to all passengers. All lives are sacred, precious and equally important. Besides, those who are regarded as important personalities were at one point not of the servants of God, the most important (personalities) are those who fear Him most. And only He knoweth best.

Ya'aqub Alhassan, Dept. of Rel. Studies, University of Jos, Jos - Plateau State.

Congrats, let The Citizen return too

Congratulations on your establishment of the Daily Trust. I am a regular reader of Weekly Trust newspaper, Hotline and Citizen magazines because I am always happy and impressed by the way these papers carry genuine news, defend and protect the interest of the North.

I would like to seize this opportunity to appeal to individuals, private companies and governments to kindly continue advertising in these papers and patronize them. Lastly my appeal goes to the publisher of Citizen Magazine to try as much as possible to make a come back.

Salihu N. Mohammed, Gamji Spec Hospital Ltd., No. 360, Sani Abacha Way, Kano.

Re: Shagari, IBB and Co.

I wish to refer to one of the letters published in your edition of December 15-21, 2000 on the subject above subject, written by one Idowu Amos. In it, he said Shagari and Co. refused to discuss their mission/grievances with President Obasanjo because

Prof. Jerry Gana and others were at the meeting.

This statement is absolutely wrong because Shagari did not say anything like that in the interview. The former Head of State only spoke on the reason given by Prof. Jerry Gana on why they (Shagari

and Co.) did not attend Nigeria's last independence anniversary celebrations. The minister was made to apologize and was driven out of the venue of the meeting afterwards.

I want to let you know that we have always held Shagari in high esteem as

our leader and to say that he is not representing the North is to be economical with the truth.

I hope the impression Idowu Amos wished to create will be corrected.

Danladi Garba, Gombe International School, Gombe - Gombe state

Immunization: The conspiracy theory

A report recently aired on the Radio Deutsche Welle Hausa Service (Voice of Germany), recalled to my mind the aforementioned subject matter in Nigeria. I don't know why the government keeps on insisting on their immunization programme, spending millions on publicity and implementing the programme. If at all there is no hidden agenda behind the programme, why not provide the masses who are living below poverty line with food and drugs to combat diseases prevailing in our society.

It is a fact known to

some that the AIDS virus, which was allegedly 'manufactured' in a United States military research laboratory was distributed/transmitted around some African countries in the last two decades through vaccine-programmes.

Many of these evil plans and projects are being executed and some are taking their courses in new dimensions. If all people will be objective, there is an audio tape titled, "SHADOWS" enlightening us about freemasonry and

the new world order. The tape is in circulation, people are advised to get a copy and listen to it. May the Almighty see the end of the forerunners to Dajjal.

Ismaila B. Ahmed, Chemical Engineering Prog., ATBU Bauchi, Bauchi state.

Nigeria's economic madness

I was reading the Daily Trust Vol. 1, No. 6 of Tuesday January 23 and an item in which Atiku Abubakar (The Vice-President) was briefing an American audience in Washington on Nigeria's profile on privatisation caught my attention. Browsing through, I was made to

understand that by the end of the second phase of privatisation, Nigeria will be netting about N50b, that is, an increase of 100% over what was realised in the first phase.

Tremendous you might say, and so did I. But reading further in the same issue, I came across the editorial from which I learnt that the National Assembly has given the nod to the executive to represent the N80 billion bill for the purchase of a presidential jet for our president. This said bill was earlier rejected, based on superior reasons by the Assembly and these are still relevant today. I was really stupefied by this glaring lack of consideration and inconsistency by this administration.

This is a country that is trumpeting to the world about the need to generate income for the betterment of the citi-

zenry, projecting to earn N50 billion from the sale of public enterprises and in the same vein going to "sacrifice" N80 billion for the president alone. God help us. I can only liken this to Nigeria's economic madness.

I could not help but start thinking of what a whopping N80 billion can do to the average Nigerian, especially in the reality of what we are faced with today: lack of good roads, epileptic power supply, a near total neglect of the health sector, unemployment, insecurity to life and property, agriculture, transportation, housing, just name it and you will find out that all these sectors are begging for attention.

Ibrahim Yakubu, House No. 10, Charanchi Road, T/Wada, Kaduna.

Thanks for your solidarity!

Permit me a space to thank the governors of the following states for the congratulatory messages they sent to you. They include Kure, Bafarawa, Ahmad Sani, Abdullahi Adamu, Kwankwaso, Hashidu, Aleru, Boni Haruna, Mala Kachalla and the Honourable Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ghali Na'abba. This is a proof that Weekly Trust and its sister Daily Trust will not suffer any neglect from well-to do

or highly placed Northerners as happened to New Nigerian and The Citizen

I therefore want to use this medium to appeal to all northern governors, LG chairmen, etc to advertise only in Weekly Trust, it's twin sister, Daily Trust or any northern paper like Hotline. It's time we stand by Weekly and Daily Trust.

Murjanatu A. Sa'eed, Wadata Pharmacy, No. 10, Ahmadu Bello Way, Jos - Plateau state.

DISTINCTIVE BANKING

(OUR PROMISE TO OUR CUSTOMERS)

PREAMBLE

INDO-NIGERIAN MERCHANT BANK LIMITED was incorporated in November 1981 and commenced merchant banking operations in 1982. The bank fully complied with CBN's stipulated minimum paid up capital of N500million before the mandatory deadline of 31st December, 1998. This reassured the confidence of shareholders of the bank. The bank aims to explore the possibility of establishing mutually rewarding business relationships with a select and highly discerning clientele, by providing manifold wholesale banking and other specialised products and services, especially in the area of current account maintenance, cash management account relationship, as well as managing call and fixed term deposits.

OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT CONTROL



Chief A.O. Abudu, MFR
Chairman INMB

The ownership of the bank is by way of a joint-venture arrangement between State Bank of India (SBI) and some prominent Nigerian investors and Nigerian Institutions. SBI is the premier commercial Bank in India with a total asset of \$60.06 billion as of March 2000. It has the largest network of 8,998 branches in India.

It owns 51% of INDO-NIGERIAN MERCHANT BANK's share capital while the balance 49% is held by notable Nigerian investors and institutions including Nigerian Reinsurance Corporation Plc., with management control held by SBI. Mr P. G. R. Prasad, was appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive of the bank effective from October, 1998. He is an experienced banker with about 30 years of rich cognate experience.

The Board of Directors comprise eminent Nigerians: Chief A. O. Abudu, MFR, a distinguished legal practitioner and an accomplished industrialist as Chairman.

Also on the board are Chief (Dr) E. A. O. Shonkan, GCFR, former Head of State and the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Alhaji Sulaiman S. Baffa, the former Chief Executive of Union Bank of Nigeria Plc and UBA Plc and The Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company Limited. Mrs C. O. Oyeleye represents Nigerian Reinsurance Corporation on the Board.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The bank operates on the bankmaster banking software with systems capability for multi branch accounting as well as multi-currency processing. This computer system is versatile and adaptable to evolving demands from regulatory authorities and customers. It provides timely management information and customers statements of accounts. Customers instructions and transactions are executed on an On-Line Real-Time basis. The system is year 2000 compliant. Other facilities in the pipeline include Internet Banking, and remote access to account information and Statements from the comfort of customers offices/home through dial up connectivity.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

The bank boasts of highly-skilled and experienced Indian and Nigerian professional bankers in its top management echelon who are able to offer specialized and comprehensive range of wholesale banking products and services to a broad spectrum of middle and top-tier corporate and high networth individuals. These include traditional banking products and services amongst which are

- ▶ Short Term Import and Trade Finance
- ▶ Export Finance under NEXIM (RRF) Scheme
- ▶ Finance for Small and Medium Scale Industries
- ▶ Investments and Corporate Banking
- ▶ Foreign Exchange Operations
- ▶ Equipment Leasing
- ▶ Financial Advisory/Capital Market Services
- ▶ Treasury and Money Market operations.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS

As authorized dealers, the bank is very active in the foreign exchange market apart from also being visible in the export and autonomous market for foreign exchange. Customers buy or sell orders are executed with a high degree of professionalism and promptitude while international trade transactions are structured to suit the peculiar requirements of clients at very competitive rates, terms and conditions. Through the vast network of branches of its principal and correspondent, State Bank of India, the bank has the swiftest direct link to major commercial centres of the world.

DEPOSITS

The bank accepts corporate and personal deposits at competitive interest rates depending on the amount and tenor. These rates are constantly reviewed in line with the changing money market conditions and CBN's guidelines. The Bank has two special deposit products, namely INDO-SIP and INDO-QUEEN designed to meet the needs of the discerning depositors.

INMB ACCEPTANCE

This product, which provides higher effective yields in the form of discount earnings is designed to ensure maximum returns to investors/customers without compromising the safety of their funds. It is also rediscountable.

SUMMARY

INDO-NIGERIAN MERCHANT BANK has established itself over the years as one of the prudently and efficiently managed merchant banks in Nigeria. The bank's promise to its customers is to keep their business target in focus through its "bulls eye banking" which it has come to be known for.

The bank has repositioned itself to be a key and dominant player in the banking industry in this millennium using state-of-the-art computers and information technology backed by a team of well-qualified and highly-skilled personnel with solid financial base to deliver value to its select and discerning clientele.

The bank invites you to experience its distinct and quality products and services by establishing a mutually beneficial relationship at any of its offices today.



INMB

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(A Subsidiary of State Bank of India)

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E-MAIL: mdce@indobank.com.ng SWIFT: INMBGLA WEBSITE: www.inmb.net

KANO BRANCH: FORMER AFRICAN ALLIANCE HOUSE,
F1, AIRPORT ROAD, P. O. BOX 5128, KANO. TEL/FAX: 064-640698 TEL: 064-640699.

ABUJA BRANCH: SAVANNAH BANK BUILDING,
PLOT No. 650, ZONE 5, WUSE, ABUJA. TEL: 09 - 5236205 - 06. FAX: 09 - 5236206.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

Foreign & Diplomatic

Gen. Kabila to liberalise economic activities

The newly installed president of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Major-General Joseph Kabila, has announced that his country's economy would be liberalized.

In his inaugural address Friday, Kabila said that exchange rates would start floating simultaneously with the circulation of the Congolese Franc, the local currency, as well as other foreign currencies, and especially the US dollars.

Kabila said that the mining and sale of diamonds would also be liberalized, and a new mining code drawn up.

The said relationship

between government and businessmen would be harmonized through a consul-



Late Kabila tation framework to be set up "free, frank and genuine dialogic, abiding by the legal texts".

Kabila appealed to the international finance community to help DR Congo

mobilize the resources necessary for the country's reconstruction.

He lauded the efforts made by the administration of his late father President Laurent Kabila, who he said, succeeded in leading the country by "relying on its resources," and without getting into debt or building up a personal fortune.

Economic analysts said most of the measures stipulated by President Laurent Kabila's government would hinder business and economic activities in the country.

Paramount among the negative measures, they said, include the fixing of the official exchange rates by the central bank and the re-

strictions on the use of foreign currency for trading purposes.

Others include the barring of foreign residents

from staying in mining areas, although they were the main actors in the sector.

Fiscal harassment, and a number of trails of strength between government and the business sector were also among the measures that restrained business and economic progress.

MP says Syria to allow more political parties

A Syrian member of parliament said yesterday the government was planning to allow more political parties soon, ending nearly 40 years of restrictions.

The parliamentarian, Riad Seif, said he would set up a party of his own once a law was passed to allow more groupings

beyond those in the Progressive National Front, the ruling coalition dominated by the powerful Baath party.

Seif, a leading MP, said Vice-President Abdel-Halim Khaddam had told him the government would soon pass a law allowing the setting up of more political parties.

"We have been promised a few months ago that a parties law would be passed in the near future. We are expecting it to be announced in the very near future and maybe they would just pass the law suddenly now", Seif said in an interview.

"Vice President Mr. Abdel-Halim Khaddam promised us that the law would be passed and we look forward to that."

The authorities have not made any public statement about their intentions with regard to more political parties.

Seif said his organisation would be called "The Social Peace" and would highlight the Syrian identity of the country more than the Arab one.

Syria has a law that allows the setting up political parties but it was frozen when the leftist branch of the Baath party won power and imposed martial law in 1963.

Martial law was launched largely as a security measure due to a state of war between Arabs and Israel and amid regional instability in the absence of peace with the Jewish state.

In 1970 former President Hafez al-Assad seized power and formed a coalition with five political movements which agreed on objectives such as socialism and Arab unity.

BRIEFS

New Cape Verde

A new government is expected to be sworn in on February 1st in Cape Verde, the President's office has announced.

Jose Mari Neves, leader of the African party for the independence of Cape Verde (PAICV), which won the Jan. 11 Poll, is expected to head the new government, the office said.

Neves said his government would cut the number of cabinet portfolios from 11 to seven cabinet posts as part of cost-cutting measures.

He has also promised to put in place an Emergency Economic Programme to redress, within 90 days of taking office, the problems that have bedevilled the Island state recently.

Neves said he would in that endeavour be seeking the support of not only Portugal, the former colonial ruler, but also from multilateral partners such as the World Bank and the International monetary fund.

United States

A U.S. consulting firm of SH and E has been appointed as Air Afrique's provisional trustees in charge of its general management, a press statement from the Senegalese transport ministry said at the weekend.

Air Afrique's board of directors chairman, who is also Senegal's equipment and transport minister, Madielna Diouf, will on Monday in Dakar sign the agreement to officially give SH and E the mandate as the troubled airline's provisional trustee.

According to the statement, the mandate given to the U.S. Firm "specialised in Air Transport issues and enjoying an undeniable expertise and international fame," is in conformity with air Afrique statutes.

SH and E's mission is to immediately implement protective and urgent measures to stabilise Air Afrique's financial situation, and to develop the company by working out a detailed restructuring plan, the statement said.

Air Afrique's privatisation plan and its implementation after its restructuring as decided during a consultation.



Former Minister of Education, Prof. Tunde Adeniran (right) presents a certificate to Mr. Dan Akapouwa, (left) while the British High Commissioner to Nigeria, Mr. Graham Burton (middle), looks on at the reception and award of certificate to returning British Chevening Scholars

Calls for new Kuwait PM after ministers resign

Resignations by Kuwaiti ministers, led by the influential foreign minister, have triggered fresh calls to split the posts of crown prince and prime minister in the OPEC member state.

The fate of Sunday's resignations could be decided later, Kuwait's ruler Emir Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah is expected to receive his Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad al-Abdullah al-Sabah.

A split between the posts, held by Sheikh Saad since 1978, "is our demand as a matter of principle", liberal member of parliament Abdullah al-Nabari told Reuters.

"Also the latest developments concerning the medical condition of His Highness the Crown Prince hinders his ability to continue as head of the government," he said.

His political grouping has long demanded the split, backed also by some in the business community and other members of the elected parliament, the only such house in the Gulf Arab region.

Sheikh Saad, 72, has left for medical treatment abroad several times since he underwent emergency colon surgery at home in March 1997. He often returns to a hero's welcome.

He has appeared in a better condition in recent weeks, heading weekly cabinet meet-

ings and performing other duties.

Longtime Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, also first deputy prime minister, is the government's main representative in parliament.

He apparently surprised the cabinet during its weekly Sunday meeting by insisting on resigning. This was followed by other ministers tendering their resignations to the prime minister, political sources told Reuters.

Following the meeting, several cabinet minister resignations. Defence Minister Sheikh Salem Sabah al-Salem al-Sabah, second deputy prime minister, told *al-Watan* newspaper there will be

no cabinet reshuffle.

Al-Qabas newspaper quoted Sheikh Saad as telling the foreign minister at the cabinet meeting to withdraw his resignation which he rejects.

"Please take it back. I do not want to make the enemy happy... the Iraqi regime is still threatening and we must confront that united," the daily quoted him as saying.

In February, Kuwait marks the 10th anniversary of the end of the six-week, US-led Gulf War which drove Iraqi forces out of the emirate after a seven-month occupation.

The only official word on the resignations came from Parliament Speaker Jassem al-Khafi. His remarks were carried by the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Honourable Rasheed Bawa is an independent member of Ghanaian parliament and also an ECOWAS Community Parliamentarian. He spoke to Daily Trust on politics in Ghana and the future of ECOWAS parliament.

How was it possible for NDC (the National Democratic Congress) to relinquish power when such a thing has not been possible in so many African countries.

First we might say that NDC has been in power for over 20 years now.....

As a party?

From the revolution days through to the PNDC days (the military ruling council) to the NDC days. Basically one would say that the people of Ghana were yearning for a change and we believe that the people voted for a change.

Some of us in Nigeria believe that in spite of everything, the personality of Rawlings was all embracing in Ghana that we could not imagine that this party his party could loss power.

First of all, like I said, the people in the country wanted a change. That's the first point to note. Despite the charismatic leadership of Rawlings, it became obvious that the NDC party committed certain fundamental mistakes. One of it was the selection of their parliamentary candidates. The people felt that the candidates that the NDC selected were imposed on them. As a result, the people rejected those impositions and for that matter voted Rawlings out.

Secondly, one would say that the global economic environment at the time was not in favour of the NDC government. The price of crude oil went up. The price of cocoa and gold and timber, which are the foreign exchange earner on the country went down. As a result, there were serious economic distortions within the country. The hardship of the people was very biting and people really felt that by changing the government through the ballot box, their living condition was going to change. Hence, the pattern of voting that took place in the country.

When you look at some West African countries like Togo when you have Eyadema who has been recyeling himself in power through the ballot box, and there are others like him, one is wont to ask why didn't Rawlings choose that option?

We believe that Rawlings himself knew that in allowing for a smooth transition, he was making history, not in the sub-region but in the continent. Don't forget that Ghana was the first to attain independence in the sub-region. It was a gateway for independence within the continent. Rawlings knew that if

Rawlings imposed candidates and lost

By Kevin Ebele Adinnu

he tampered with the free transparent way that the election was going to go, the tide was going to be against him. And whatever achievement that he had achieved as a leader within the sub-region and the continent and international circle would be affected. Hence, he allowed for a free and transparent election to take place for the true leader to emerge from the process.

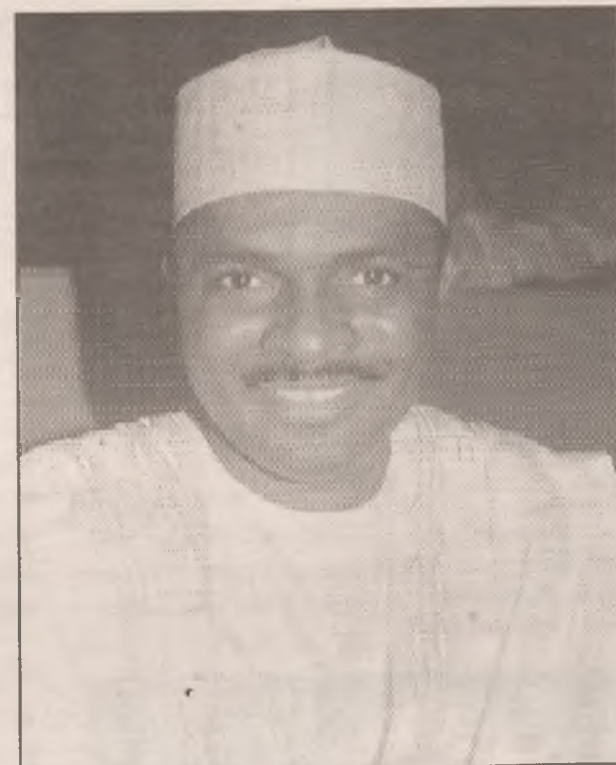
How would you assess Jerry Rawlings as Ghana's former president?

Well, I would say that he has achieved a lot of the country. He was a leader that ensured stability within the country for twenty years. He was a leader that offered himself to be elected as a president in 1992. He was a leader who accepted the verdict of an election in the year 2000, as a result handed over power to an elected civilian government. He has achieved a lot for the country and I believe that posterity not only in Ghana and in the sub-region but in the international community will adjudge him as one of the best and finest leaders that has ever been produced in Ghana.

Your new president, Mr. John Kufuor travelled to Togo to visit Gnassingbe

-Ghanaian Parliamentarian

Eyadema, the Togolese President and that generated a lot of controversy in Ghana. What is your assessment of that visit.



Hon. Rasheed Bawa

Well, I believe that the visit should not generate any political controversy. Over the years we had some security problems with Togo as our neighbour and we believe that

Ghana and Togo were facing throughout the year.

the President of Togo, His Excellency, Eyadema came to Ghana to grace the inaugural occasion of the handing over that took place and we believe

political turmoil. One would say that Ivory Coast is a very big player within the sub-region and we hope that whatever political situation they are having will be resolved. In order for Ivory Coast to join the sub-region to ensure the kind of peaceful atmosphere that we want in the sub-region.

So I believe that in the spirit of good neighbourliness, Kufuor took that invitation in order to ensure security within the eastern corridor of the country.

A lot of us in the sub-region are worried by the development in Cote d'Ivoire where because internal political problems, they are venting anger on foreigners especially their fellow Africans. Did it affect Ghanaians and what is your opinion about the development?

Yes, obviously, we share a common border with Ivory Coast and any political upheaval in. We believe that it is a very unfortunate political development in La Cote d'Ivoire and we believe that with time, the president will see reason and correct whatever political anomalies generated over the candidature of Alassane Ouattara. We believe that it should be resolved for the peaceful nature that the sub-region had enjoyed.

I want to say that the real problem within the sub-region is around Sierra Leone and Liberia. We don't want to say that La Cote d'Ivoire is going to join the committee of countries that are having some

that an invitation was extended to the newly elected President, Mr. J. A. Kufuor. As a way of courtesy, he had to respond to that invitation and secondly to seal the security problems that

opposition activists and said the police would capture those "responsible for the chaos".

The arm of the law is long and it will reach them wherever they are," he said in a televised address on Sunday night. The Organisation of African Unity issued an urgent appeal for calm.

Pakistanis flee on quake rumours

Residents of the South East Pakistan city of Hyderabad fled their homes in panic early Monday, terrified that another earthquake was about to hit.

A massive quake on Friday killed up to 20,000 people in West India but only about 12 in the neighbouring Pakistan province of Sindh.

Hyderabad is about 300km northwest of Bhuj, the ancient town which suffered the brunt of the devastation.

Witnesses said rumours spread through Hyderabad of another strike, and residents started fleeing their homes at about lam, staying on the street for hours.

Many residents had fled on Sunday in fear of another quake.

The origin of today's rumours was unclear, but witnesses said there were loud-speaker announcements from Mosques asking people to pray to God, adding to the panic. They said it took police about four hours making announcements of their own to convince people to go home.

A meteorological official in Peshawar, capital of the north west frontier province, told Reuters that it had recorded at least 50 aftershocks of varying intensities, including 14 overnight, one measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale.

"We are not expecting any major jolts now, but this activity (of aftershocks) will continue," he said.

Tanzanian security forces patrolled deserted streets on the semi-autonomous Indian Ocean islands of Zanzibar on Monday after at least 37 people died in a weekend of violence.

The worst of the violence was on the small island of Pemba, where opposition protesters fought running battles with police to protest about alleged fraud in elections last year.

The clashes began after the opposition Civic United Front (CUF) called demonstrations to demand a re-run of disputed elections on Zanzibar last year.

The government declared the protests illegal and arrested CUF Chairman Ibrahim Lipumba.

On Monday, riot police cruised the streets of Pemba's main town Chake Chake in pickup trucks and shops on the small main street were closed after at least 24 people were killed.

Among the dead on Pemba were five members of the security forces, one of whom was beheaded on Saturday and other hacked or stoned to death by protesters.

Islanders said police had smashed their way into people's homes, beating and sometimes killings the occupants, apparently to avenge the deaths of their colleagues.

The fighting died down late on Sunday although sporadic gunfire was heard in the night. Residents said

Police quell Zanzibar protests after 37 die

they were too frightened to leave their homes on Monday.

"People won't go out, it is like we have a curfew," said one resident. Others tried to flee to the forest surrounding the town, but security forces had set up dozens of road-blocks.

The twin islands of Zan-

zibar, known as the Indian Ocean's exotic "Spice Islands", are better known for their palm-lined beaches than violence and are visited by tens of thousands of tourists each year.

Zanzibar President Amani Karume blamed the violence on

Officials of the 13 committees of the ECOWAS Parliament

Name of Committee	Chairman	Vice-Chairman
1. Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, Defence and Security	Mao Ohuabunwa (Nigeria)	Tcha Katanga (Togo)
2. Laws, Regulation; Legal And Judicial Affairs	Pere Dahuku (Togo)	Na-Allah Gouzae (Niger)
3. Rural Development	Mamadou Boye Ba (Guinea)	Abdou Bako (Niger)
4. Transport & Communication	Hawa Yakubu (Ghana)	Jonathan Zwingina (Nigeria)
5. Environment & Natural Resources	Coumba Ba (Senegal)	Musa Nuhu Abdullah (Nigeria)
6. Public Health & Social Affairs	Pargui Emile Pare (Burkina Faso)	Folaranmi Oyebanji (Nigeria)
7. Education, Training, Employment, Youth & Sports	John Dak Gray (Liberia)	Adamu Fanda (Nigeria)
8. Economy, Finance & Trade	Matthew T Mbu (Nigeria)	Ouali Diawara (Mali)
9. Industry and Mine	B. M. Kamanda (Sierra Leone)	Reserved for Cote d'Ivoire
10. Energy, Technology & Scientific Research	Gabriel Duménil (Nigeria)	Kenneth Dzirasa (Ghana)
11. Tourism, Culture & Handcraft	Hamat N. K. Bah (The Gambia)	Michel Sambou (Senegal)
12. Women's & Children's Rights	Khairat Abdulrazaq (Nigeria)	Coulibaly Odette (Burkina Faso)
13. Budget Control & Accounts	Randolph Desire Azondekon (Benin)	Abraham Kofi Asante (Ghana)

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

World Report

Trains, mad cow on table at France-Italy summit

Italian and French leaders were expected to turn their attention to tunnels, trains and track when they meet at an annual bilateral summit on Monday.

With their farm ministers in Brussels to talk about mad cow disease with European Union counterparts, stopping an outright ban on meat on the

bone was also likely to figure in discussions between two nations proud of their culinary traditions.

Prime Minister Giuliano Amato, making last international appearances as Italian premier before a general election probably in April, was

due to welcome French President Jacques Chirac at 0930 GMT for talks at a former royal palace in a quiet corner of this northern industrial city.

French Prime Minister Lionel Josephine, accompanied by his foreign, defence, transport and public works minis-

ters, was due to arrive at noon.

The burning issue between the two countries is transport and both Italy and France want decisions in Turin.

France wants the go-ahead for a high-speed Turin-Lyon train link, and Italy has urged

Paris to set a date for the re-opening of the Mont Blanc tunnel. It was shut in March 1999 after 39 people died when the tunnel was engulfed by flames.

Improving transport links across the Alps is essential for Italy as around 50 percent of its imports and exports have to pass through the mountain chain. France wants to see more goods shifted as rail freight to cut traffic on its roads.

The Turin-Lyon track, a key link in a planned network of high-speed railways across Europe, would cost an estimated 21 trillion lire (\$10 billion) and mean burrowing a 52-km (30-mile) tunnel under the mountain hamlets in the Valle di Susa, between Turin and the French border.

Mayors from the towns and busloads of inhabitants opposed to the high-speed link were to demonstrate at the palace on Monday.

Meanwhile, the Italian government is eager for work to start, but has voiced preference for a dual tunnel as opposed to France's single tunnel proposal. The governments have yet to agree whether the project should be financed solely with public money or as a public-private initiative.

The Italian government

has accused Paris of prevaricating on a date for the Mont Blanc tunnel reopening to force a decision over the high-speed link.

"Obstinacy has to be met with obstinacy," Italian Public Works Minister Nerio Nesi was quoted in weekend Italian newspapers as saying. "The French have said they want a decision on Turin-Lyon otherwise they won't let us through Mont Blanc".

With cases of BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy), or mad cow disease, reported in both countries, the leaders were expected to touch upon proposals to step up testing of cattle and the banning of meat on the bone.



Chirac

Journalists to challenge Putin on press freedom

President Vladimir Putin was facing questions on Monday from angry journalists of Russia's embattled independent NTV television, where staff are furious at a wave of searches and interrogations conducted by prosecutors.

The journalists, including some of Russia's most influential reporters and presenters, met Putin in the Kremlin at 0930 GMT amid expectation they would challenge him on whether he really stood for a free post-Soviet press.

NTV is Russia's only independent national television channel and a frequent critic of Kremlin policy.

It is the most prestigious part of the Media-Most empire, which is seeking a

Western investor to ward off an attempt to secure control



Annan

of it by a branch of state-dominated gas giant Gazprom. Ahead of the meeting,

NTV's chief editor made it plain the company's journalists would not be cowed.

"As chief editor, I have no intention of changing our policy on news and I am quite prepared to say that to the president," Grigory Krichevsky told the daily *Vremya Novostei*.

"Broadcasting is not a weapon. NTV's job is to inform people. But I admit there have been a few excesses caused by the prosecution's actions which simply hold people in contempt".

Prosecutor General Vladimir Ustinov told Interfax news agency that he believed Putin would tell the journalists that the law had to be upheld.

That meant proceeding

with a probe into fraud charges against Media-Most founder Vladimir Gusinsky, who is currently under house arrest in Spain and fighting extradition to Russia.

The row has generated a furious debate among liberals and journalists about whether Putin is prepared to tolerate criticism and back the notion of a free press. "NTV - live or alive?" read the headline in the daily *Vedomosti* ahead of the talks.

Putin proposed the talks after a popular presenter challenged him to a meeting at a street protest on Friday in support of Tatyana Mitkova, a fellow presenter subjected to a prosecution interrogation.

Mitkova was questioned by an investigator about a \$70,000 loan she received in 1994. Mitkova said after the encounter that the entire process was political and had nothing to do with the probe into Gusinsky.

Hearing resumes in international crime tribunal

The trial continues of Bosnian Serb Milorad Krnojelac, charged with crimes against

humanity against Muslim and Croat men in 1992-1993 in a Serb run camp in Foca, southeastern Bosnia Herzegovina.

She told a press conference that Yugoslavia must fully cooperate with the tribunal and arrest and hand over all indicted persons living in Serbia. She said that under the tribunal's statute, former president Slobodan Milosevic must be tried in the Hague on war crime charges. As a confidence-building gesture, Del Ponte gave the Yugoslav authorities two arrest warrants based on sealed indictments.

She asked Yugoslav authorities to arrest and transfer to the tribunal more than 15 publicly indicted individuals, including former top Bosnia Serb general Ratko Mladic.

Deputy prosecutor Graham Blewitt said after the visit that he expected Yugoslav authorities to arrest and hand over lower level suspects in the coming months. When that happens, it will pave the way for the arrest of those at the highest levels, he said.

Warrants for the arrest of Slobodan Milosevic and four top aides were reissued to Yugoslav authorities at the request of the chief prosecutor, it was announced on January 23, Milosevic, current president of Serbia Milan Milutinovic, Nikoal

Sainovic, General Dragoljub Ojdanic and Vilajko Stojiljkovic were indicted on May 24, 1999 for crimes against humanity against Kosovo Albanians in the first half of 1999. International arrest warrants were previously issued to all UN member states and Switzerland.

In reissuing the arrest warrants to Belgrade, Judge David Hunt noted that Yugoslavia has an obligation under article 29 of the tribunal's statute to arrest and transfer all accused persons on its territory.

Chief prosecutor Carla del Ponte will visit Montenegro in February for talks with President Milo Djukanovic and other government representatives. It will be her second visit to Montenegro, a small republic that along with Serbia comprises the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The leadership of Montenegro fully supports the tribunal and is cooperating. Del Ponte met with Djukanovic in June 2000 in a coastal town within a strip of Montenegro under UN authority.

Serbian paramilitary leader Zeljko Raznatovic, known as Arkan, was indicted for crimes against humanity against Muslim and Croat civilians in 1995 in Sanski Most, northwestern Bosnia. Charges against Arkan, murdered a year ago in Belgrade, were made public in the interest of justice, the tribunal announced on January 23.



Milosevic

humanity against Muslim and Croat men in 1992-1993 in a Serb run camp in Foca, southeastern Bosnia Herzegovina.

According to the charges, Krnojelac was the commander of a large prison turned into a camp where at least 1,000 men were illegally detained, killed and tortured after a Serb takeover of Foca in spring 1992. Prosecutors present their case Monday through Thursday.

Chief prosecutor Carla del Ponte conclude her first visit to Belgrade with "cautious optimism" about prospects for Yugoslavia's cooperation with the tribunal. During a three-day visit, Del Ponte met with Yugoslav president Vojislav Kostunica and other senior federal and Serbian officials.

CONVOCATION! CONVOCATION!! CONVOCATION!!! USMANU DANFODIYO UNIVERSITY, SOKOTO

This is to inform the general public that the Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto is holding its 20th Convocation ceremony on Sunday, February 10, 2001 at the Convocation Square located at the Main Campus of the University. The ceremony will feature award of Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates to graduands of the 1998/1999 and 1999/2000 session. Five distinguished personalities, namely Alhaji Ahmed Kurfi, Alhaji Idris Koko, Alhaji Bello Gidadawa (Dangaladiman Waziri), Alhaji (Dr.) Abdulwahab, Folawiyo and Chief Emeka Anyaoku, former secretary-General of the Commonwealth, will be conferred with Honorary Degrees at the ceremony.

The University wishes to call on all graduands who will be attending the convocation ceremony to take special note of the following:-

- graduands are advised to arrive Sokoto early enough in preparation for the ceremony.
- academic robes, to be issued on first come first served basis, will be available at the Students Affairs Office for collection by graduands upon payment of a non-refundable fee of N200.00
- there will be a re-union meeting of all graduands preparatory to the Silver Jubilee celebration;
- graduands are encouraged to invite their relations for the ceremony; and
- all affected graduands are advised to attend the Convocation ceremony

(Signed)
ABUBAKAR S. USMAN
Registrar.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as Yusuf Sulaiman Sallau, now wish to be called as Sulaiman Ibrahim Fari, Jimeta. Former documents remain valid. University of Maiduguri and the general public should take note.

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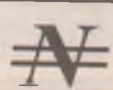
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BUSINESS DAY



PEF to pay marketers' allowances through IPMAN

By Ahmed Shekarat

The Petroleum Equalisation Fund (PEF) will henceforth pay the National Transportation Allowances (NTA) of Petroleum Marketers on monthly basis through the Major and Independent Marketers Associations' offices at the 22 petroleum depots nationwide.

The head of Public Affairs Unit of the Fund, Mr. Goddy Nnadi disclosed this at the weekend in Abuja. In an exclusive chat with *Business Day*, Mr. Nnadi noted that the Fund used to pay the claims quarterly, but decided to revert it to monthly in view of growing complaints by the Marketers.

He stressed further that "by this development, the Marketers only need to do all necessary documentations, file all claims to the Fund through IPMAN offices at the depots and collect their claims at the end of every month from the respective Marketers' offices at the depots.

In addition, the Public Affairs Officer said that the management of the Fund also set up a five-man anti-corruption committee to fish out any of its staff who collect bribes from marketers to facilitate payment of marketers transportation

members of committee which is headed by one of the Fund's managers.

He said the Executive Secretary of PEF, Alhaji Abdulkarim S. Gurin has warned all members of staff of the Fund to desist from taking bribe from any marketer or have themselves to blame.

"He equally advised all marketers, both Majors and the Independents, to desist from giving bribes to any PEF staff either at our depots offices or our head office in Abuja," Mr. Nnadi said.

He also noted that the Executive Secretary of the Fund also appealed to the marketers not to go about collecting notes from ministers and members of the National Assembly to facilitate payment of their transportation claims.

According to Mr. Nnadi, the Fund's management board further appealed to the petroleum marketers to stop diverting petroleum products to "black-markets," which create artificial scarcity of the products at filling stations nationwide.



Dr. Rilwanu Lukman

"The management of the Fund has promised to take disciplinary actions against any member of staff found to be corrupt" Nnadi said, adding that the management does not intend to disclose the identity of

Youths protest sale of CTM assets

The Berom Youth Movement has protested a purported plan by the Consolidated Tin Mines Limited (CTM), Bukuru, Jos in Plateau State, to sell by tender, some of its assets located in different parts of the state.

The leader of the Youth Movement, Dr. Fom Pam told a news conference in Jos that the advert placed in the *Guardian* newspaper of Jan. 15 offering for sale some of the assets, was "a clear violation of the compensation policy enshrined in the 1945 mineral act."

He said that the act stipulated that 10 per cent of the cost of land should be paid to the land owner while the remaining 90 per cent should be deposited in the native treasury for restoration after mining had ended with a view to returning the land to agricultural purpose and back to their owners.

He explained that a committee was set up to assess such restored farmlands which actually handed back some farmlands to their owners between 1952 and 1957, pointing out that apart from the few beneficiaries at the time, successive governments and companies had not compensated or reclaimed the devastated land.

"The life span of the leases range between 21 and 70 years," he said, adding that "in actual fact, most of the mining leases have expired as most of them were given between 1904 and the second world war period."

Pam said that the mining companies, now renamed Consolidated Tin Mines Limited, has benefited from such lands for over 90 years, stressing that "unless the leases are renewed for mining purposes, as in the colonial period, even the federal government would have no excuse for continued control, since agriculture, constitutionally, was on the concurrent list."

He, however, warned individual entrepreneurs in the



Gov. Joshua Dariye of Plateau area to desist from buying landed property from the CTM, until the issue of compensation, expiration of mining leases and ownership were resolved in the interest of peace.

Forty-three companies get approval to operate CEPZ

About forty-three companies have been given approval to operate at the Calabar Export Processing Zone (CEPZ), its General Manager, Mr. Sina Aboluaje, has said.

Aboluaje told newsmen in Calabar that 23 of the companies had received their licences while eight had since begun production and export of their products.

Among the companies already in operation are Bao Yao Iron And Steel from China, Kevin Wood Industries, also from China, combination, a confectionery firm from India as well as Enghult firms, producers of surgical gloves for hospitals.

Others are Calaba Ayos Woods, a wood processing firm from Taiwan, Golden Giants, a Nigerian company involved in weaving and garments, Larnagold, another Nigerian firm and Ibom Industries, dealers in cocoa processing.

Aboluaje said that an Italian company, Secomi Group, involved in cement processing, had indicated interest in Calabar's limestone products famed to be 99.5 per cent pure, while an Israeli firm producing water pipes and pumps, had also notified him of intention to commence business.

He also said that a marble company from Germany had

indicated interest in processing marble and granite while a local firm, Chief Lawson Group, had also started mobilising to the Zone to produce industrial starch and other derivatives from starch.

The General Manager explained that the zone was ready for inauguration, saying that the inauguration would boost activities and further publicise the CEPZ.

He also said that his office was receiving an average of 10 enquiries from interested investors every other week and that steps had been taken to ask for more land from the Cross River Government to accommodate the demands.

He commended President Olusegun Obasanjo for his "special interest" in the Zone and said that the Zone's financial needs had been met in an effort to inject investments into the nation's economy.

"It is gratifying to note that the President is leaving no stone unturned in the quest for a diversified economy that will rake in more foreign exchange from hitherto unexploited sources," the General Manager said.

The EPZ was set up in 1992 to prepare grounds for investors to process the nation's raw materials into finished products for export.



Extra-ordinary General Meeting of African Petroleum Plc (AP) held at NICON Hilton, Abuja on 24th January, 2001. From left to right: Alhaji U. Abba Gana, MD of AP and Mr. Peter Okocha, Chairman of Sadiq Petroleum addressing shareholders at the occasion

NACCIMA President urges efficiency among port agencies

NACCIMA President, Alhaji Umaru Ndanusa, has reiterated the need for government agencies at the ports, especially the Nigeria Customs Service, to function efficiently to facilitate international trade.

"The role of agencies at the ports can be appreciated when it is realised that international trade is the key to economic growth and development," he said in an article on "Public and Private Sectors Partnership: Essential for Successful Trade Compliance and Facilitation" in the latest edition of the association's newsletter.

Umar said Export and Import transactions could not be fostered where agencies such as the NCS, NDLEA, Standards Organisation of Nigeria, Federal Inland Revenue Service and Shipping Agents were inefficient in carrying out their duties.

He said that proper collection of revenue and protection of the domestic economy through effective administration of trade policies were critical responsibilities which fell within the purview of these agencies.

"In particular, it is the responsibility of the customs au-

thorities to interpret and apply customs tariff and articulate internationally recognised definition of the concept of value, the absence of which can render meaningful trade relations between nations practically impossible," Umaru said.

On the other hand, he said that business operators in the category of importers and exporters were essential parts of the larger chains in international trade.

"Without this later group playing their part, the customs service and other agencies would have no job to do," he pointed out.

He added: "In short, Customs Service can only function when operators in the market place engage in commerce and trade-related transactions."

The NACCIMA president decried the situation where the NCS resorted to blanket classification of items not specifically coded in the tariff book as "others", which usually attract high or penal tariff rates.

This, he said, had been designed to discourage importation of such goods, adding: "unfortunately, the items so treated are often essential raw materials or intermediate inputs for use by local operators."

Oil Prices: World market update

Oil prices moved sideways yesterday as dealers gauged the likely impact of OPEC curbs on world inventories.

London Brent blend eased eight cents to \$26.90 a barrel, in early trade and U.S. light crude was up three cents at \$29.80.

Dealers said OPEC's 1.5 million barrel-a-day supply cut had put a floor under prices but that growing fuel stocks in the West and depressed refinery profit margins had limited buying.

Lower output limits from the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries take effect in February and are expected to slow the recovery in petroleum stocks from last year's record lows.

Naimi said at the weekend that OPEC intends to maintain prices around \$25 for a basket of cartel crudes.

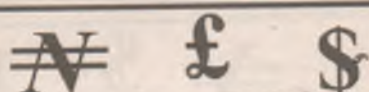
"I believe we will succeed in maintaining a stable price around \$25," Naimi told a panel at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos. The OPEC crude basket was valued at \$25.14.

He said he saw no reason why current oil prices should have an impact on world economic growth.

"According to recent analysis most of the highly industrialised fully developed countries in Asia, Europe and North America are able to absorb the effects of increased crude oil prices," said Naimi.

Traders are concerned that the economic slowdown in the United States will put a damper on world oil consumption.

Saudi Oil Minister, Ali al-



BUSINESS DAY



US-Africa trade relations plummet

US-Africa trade relations declined considerably in the last five years with U.S. imports from Nigeria in 1999 standing at 31 per cent of a total of 82 per cent of imports from only a few African countries, the Bi-monthly newsletter of Nigeria Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture, NACCIMA has said.

The latest edition of the newsletter, stated that there was very little inflow of investment from the U.S. to Africa during the period.

A breakdown of U.S. imports from Africa in 1999 included Nigeria, 31 per cent; South Africa, 23 per cent; Angola, 17 per cent and Gabon, 11 per cent, the report said.

Similarly, 70 per cent of U.S. exports to Africa went to five countries, including South Africa (46 per cent), Nigeria (11 per cent), Angola (5 per cent) and Ghana (4 Per cent).

It said that most of the U.S. direct investment in Sub-Saharan African was made in the petroleum industry and major recipient countries were Nigeria, Angola and South Africa.

In the period under review, the U.S. mostly imported basic



Engr. Mustafa Bello

commodities from the region. Leading import was crude oil, accounting for 58 per cent, followed by minerals led by platinum and diamond, petroleum oil and cocoa beans, it said.

The major U.S. exports to the region were machinery and transport equipment - aircraft and parts, civil engineering equipment, Data processing machines and parts, the report said.

The U.S. government, through some programmes, promoted U.S. trade and investment in sub-Saharan Africa but these programmes are not exclusive to the region.

One of such investment programmes is the generalised system of preferences (GSP). Under the GSP some developing countries may receive duty-free treatment for eligible products entering the U.S.

Following the recent visit of former President Bill Clinton, Nigeria has become a GSP beneficiary country.

Ondo to establish state bank

Ondo State is determined to establish its own bank despite the increase of the minimum share capital of new banks to N2 billion by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Gov. Adefarati has said.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the state government earmarked N500 million for the establishment of the bank in budget 2001 estimates.

Adefarati said at the weekend in Akure that his administration, in collaboration with a foreign partner and the investing public, would meet the new guidelines for the establishment of the bank.

"The N2 billion being the new minimum share capital of a new bank will not dissuade the state government from establishing its own bank," the governor assured.

According to him, a firm of consultants will soon be commissioned to prepare a feasibility report on the bank for onward transmission to the CBN.

Adefarati, who was speaking at the opening of the Akure branch of a new generation bank, pleaded with the banking industry to extend its services to rural areas.

He remarked that banking operations should not be limited

to state capitals, saying: "Rural dwellers are now aware of the enormous advantages of keeping their money in banks".

The governor commended the CBN for introducing a policy measure that banks should earmark 10 per cent of their profits before tax as loans to small- and medium scale enterprises, saying, however that banks and the CBN should agree on the modality for the implementation of the policy without delay.

Adefarati called on the Federal Government to resolve the modalities for the operation of the loan scheme to the SMEs in view of the important roles of the SMEs in the national economy.

The old Ondo State, from which Ekiti State was carved out, established Owena Bank which has now transformed into Omega Bank Plc.

The state currently holds 13 per cent equity in Omega Bank which was re-acquired through the capital market.

The state government had earlier divested its shares from the bank in protest against the change of name effected by the Board of the bank.

The chairman of Omega

Bank Plc, Chief Blessing Kayode, told pressmen that "the switch from Owena Bank to Omega Bank has in no way relegated Ondo and Ekiti States".

"In fact, it is our corporate philosophy to respect the past with our heart and welcome the future with our head and, therefore, Omega Bank cannot afford to forget its roots," Kayode said.

He saluted the foresight of the first Executive Governor of Old Ondo State, the Late Chief Michael Adegunle Ajasin, whose government established the bank.



Governor Adefarati

Summary of NSE Trading for+ 22-26 Janu-

A total of 119.2 million shares worth N1.56 billion were exchanged last week in 7839 deals, in contrast to 140.6 million shares worth N1.8 billion traded previous week on the Nigerian Stock Exchange in 7435 deals.

All the transactions last week were in equities, as the Federal Government Development Stocks Sector and the Industrial Loans/Preference Stocks Sector remained inactive.

The Banking Sub-sector maintained its lead on the weekly activity chart (measured by turnover volume). A total of 84.2 million shares worth N0.993 billion were exchanged in the sub-sector, as

against a turnover of 82.9 million shares worth N1.0 billion recorded previous week. The Conglomerates followed with a turnover of 8.1 million shares valued at N104.6 million.

Price Movement:
The Nigerian Stock Exchange All-Share Index dropped by 1.40% to close at 8930.22 as against 9057.16 at which it opened for the week.

Nigerian Energy Sector Fund gained 3620 kobo to lead the 34 stocks that appreciated in value during the week. Consequently, the stock closed the week at N1000.00 per share. Union Bank Plc appreciated by 170 kobo, followed by Northern Nigerian Flourmills with a gain of 153 kobo.

Other price gainers in the top ten bracket last week include: Union Dicon Salt (144 kobo); First Bank (105 kobo); Julius Berger Plc (102 kobo); Nestle Foods Plc (95 kobo); PZ Industries (71 kobo); Guinness Plc (50 kobo); and Hallmark Bank (48 kobo).

Mobil Nig. Plc led the price losers' chart, falling by 394 kobo to close at N64.11 per share followed by Lever Brothers Plc which lost 332 kobo, while Total Plc and Texaco Plc fell by 302 kobo apiece.

Other price losers in the top ten bracket are Agip Plc (147 kobo); Nigerian Breweries (142 kobo); Nigerian Bottling Company (115 kobo); Flourmill Plc (111 kobo); Niger Insurance Plc (110 kobo); and United Nig. Textile Plc (87 kobo).

The Nigerian Stock Market

Gainers/Losers as at 26/01/2001

Gainers

COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
NESF	963.80	1000.00	36.20
MOBIL	61.50	64.11	2.61
NESTLE	46.50	47.50	2.00
NB	26.25	27.56	1.31
CADBURY	20.69	21.66	1.03
GUINNESS	32.00	33.00	1.00
UNION DICON	18.80	19.74	0.94
PZ	13.56	14.00	0.44
NNFM	8.70	9.13	0.43
7UP	4.95	6.19	0.24
FIRST ALUM	3.40	3.57	0.17
UACN	3.16	3.30	0.15
HALLBANK	2.66	2.79	0.13
MANNYBANK	1.60	1.88	0.08
COOPBANK	1.70	1.78	0.08
UAC-PROP	1.73	1.81	0.08
JOHNHOLT	1.46	1.53	0.07
ACCESSBANK	1.29	1.35	0.06
AFPRINT	1.36	1.44	0.06
WEMABANK	2.00	2.05	0.05
UNIC	2.60	2.65	0.05
ETERNAOIL	0.95	0.99	0.04
TIB	1.50	1.58	0.03
EVANSMED	1.47	1.60	0.03
UTC	0.61	0.64	0.03

Losers

COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
NIGERINS	8.54	6.22	0.32
UNTL	3.80	3.62	0.18
AIICO	3.50	3.34	0.16
URA	17.20	17.10	0.10
NIWICABLE	2.28	2.18	0.10
INLAND BANK	1.95	1.86	0.09
SAVANNA	1.56	1.49	0.07
RTBRISCOE	1.19	1.14	0.05
ACADEMY	0.97	0.93	0.04
EKOBANK	0.94	0.90	0.04
TRIPPLEG	1.32	1.31	0.01

Summary of NSE Transactions

	OPENING	CLOSING	%AGE CHANGE
MKT. CAP	506,702,978,693.06	513,962,606,841.13	1.43
INDEX	8,804.26	8,930.22	1.43

DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE	No. OF COMPANIES
1,748	38,787,916	378,677,385,048.00	102

Source: NSE, Abuja Area Office.

₦ £ \$

BUSINESS DAY

₦ \$ ¥

CBN sells N44.578 billion worth of treasury bills

Treasury bills worth N44.578 billion were sold by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) last week. This is up from N20.471 billion worth of bills sold the previous week.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the bulk of the transactions were at the Primary Market (PMA) where N37.518 billion worth of bills were sold.

While the CBN had offered N121.957 billion worth of bills for sale, investors picked N39.968 billion worth of bills but only N37.518 billion worth of bills were al-

lotted. The range of bids at the PMA hovered between 12.5 per cent and 15 per cent, while the true yield rate for the 91-day bills was 13.9708 per cent.

Bills worth N7.06 billion were also traded through the Open Market Operation (OMO) last week, a rise from the N5.3 billion worth sold through the Market the previous week.

The range of bids at the market ranged from 12.9 to 13.159 bills was 13.0529 per cent.

The minimum redis-

count rate still stands at 14.5 per cent.



Chief Joseph Sanusi, CBN Governor

OMPADEC creditors paid N10.2 billion – Imoke

The Presidential committee on the defunct Oil and Minerals Producing Areas Development Commission (OMPADEC), paid out N10.2 billion to its contractors, consultants, banks and other creditors during its tenure, according to the Committee Chairman, Senator Liyel Imoke.

President Olusegun Obasanjo had in November 1999, set up the committee to verify, access, authenticate, negotiate, re-award contracts if necessary and make payments that were deemed due.

Imoke was speaking in Port Harcourt at the weekend while handing over the assets and liabilities of the defunct commission to the new Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC).

He said that the President also ap-

proved N197 million in August last year for the payment of OMPADEC creditors but that the money was received in December last year as a result of which, notices of payments of the balances had to be sent to engineering consultants and selected contractors.

He declared: "A further approval has been received but the committee has released N50 million of the amount as take-off grant to the NDDC Board".

Imoke explained that after due inspection, verification and certification of projects and claims as well as the reconciliation and negotiation exercises,

the committee made a substantial savings of N1.5 billion for the federal government. According to him, out of the N11.2 billion claims, the committee paid out N9.7 billion, resulting in savings of N1.5 billion which was applied to the completion of additional community-based projects in the region.

He said that the President

had also approved the completion of a N1.4 billion Rural Electrification Project, initiated by OMPADEC and covering 45 communities in Bayelsa and Rivers, adding that out of the 720 outstanding projects, 577 were on-going ones while 143 were yet to be started.

He said the committee had recovered from creditors in Lagos, 541 transformers, 98 generating sets and 100 feeder pillars, which were used in the completion of OMPADEC's Rural Elec-

trification Projects. Responding, the NDDC chairman, Chief Onyema Ugochukwu, said the commission would study the hand-over report quickly and come up with its policy direction, adding that it would also look at the completed and uncompleted projects, "so that we can maintain the momentum".

Ugochukwu commended the Presidential Committee for the amount of work it did within one year and appealed to the staff of OMPADEC to exercise patience, to enable the Board to come up with its policy thrust.



President Olusegun Obasanjo

Ericsson Jettison mobile phone project

Swedish Telecoms equipment group, Ericsson said at the weekend that it was pulling out of making its own mobile phones and shedding thousands of jobs in the handsets business after reporting a worse than expected fourth-quarter group operating loss of 1.5 billion crowns (more than N1.55 billion).

Ericsson, the world's third largest maker of mobile phones, also said it would only break even in the first quarter and cut its forecast for global mobile phone demand this year.

It expects group sales to rise by around 15 per cent in the first quarter with strong growth in its profitable mobile telecoms network systems business, where it is a world leader, but lower sales for handsets.

The gloomy report hit tech stocks around Europe, coming on top of months of worries about slowing demand for mobile phones and concerns about how telecoms operators will fi-

nance costly third-generation (3G) Mobile Telephony Licences and roll-outs.

Ericsson, the first big mobile phone maker to abandon handset making, said that it was fully outsourcing mobile production to the world's third largest electronics manufacturer, Flextronics International Ltd in a deal which will also see it transferring plants and staff in several countries to Flextronics.

By the end of this year the company said it will have reduced the workforce at its consumer products division – its mobile handsets business – to 7,000 from 16,800 at the end of 2000, with 4,200 due to join Flextronics.

The move showed Ericsson had finally thrown in the towel to finish rival Nokia, the market leader in the segment, whose own mobile phone business remains highly profitable thanks to better design and lower prices.

The 1.5 billion crown fourth-quarter operating

loss was adjusted for 15.4 billion crowns of capital gains and additional mobile phone restructuring costs of eight billion crowns.

The mobile unit made a loss of 16.2 billion crowns in the whole of 2000.

But investors said the eight billion crowns of additional restructuring charges should be counted into the result, boosting the mobile division's loss to above 24 billion, far above market expectations of 16.4 billion crowns.

Ericsson fell 13 per cent to 103 crowns at the Stockholm Bourse opening, wiping out overnight gains in New York of 10 per cent, because the market had expected a more radical solution that outsourcing of mobile phone production. Nokia was down 1.1 per cent.

"This is not the best solution. They are still responsible for research and development and the business is still effectively in Ericsson's hands," said Ingc Andersson, fund manager at Handelsbanken in Stockholm.

"The market was expecting a 50-50 ownership of a company together with Sony or Matsushita, or someone else on the Asian market," he said.

Kenya to resume fish exports to Europe

Kenyan authorities say that they have met the requisite European Union hygiene standards for fish and fish products and are now poised to resume exports to Europe.

The confirmation followed a declaration last December by the EU, lifting a two-year ban on fish exports from Lake Victoria.

The EU announced the ban after it was established that Kenyan fishermen were using chemicals to harvest fish, among other complaints.

Kenya's Minister for Rural Development, Maalim Mohammed, told reporters in Nairobi that the authorities had selected six companies to export fish to the European Union. Maalim explained that the six were selected from 18 fish companies that met stringent hygienic conditions set by government.

He said that the authorities had taken the necessary measures to ensure that fish harvesting, handling, processing and marketing conformed to laid down regulations.

Maalim added that other processing companies that did not meet the requirements were advised on remedial measures to take in order to ensure compliance.

He said that Kenya was committed to the development of the fisheries industry, and it was an important foreign exchange earner for the country.

The government, he vowed, would ensure that fish and fish products were processed to the highest standards of quality.

Maalim said Kenya has already taken the necessary measures to pre-empt any repeat of the mistakes that attracted the EU Ban.

Company Reports

Niger Insurance Plc

Unaudited results for the nine months ended 30th September 2000 show a turnover of N396.9 million as against N503.6 million in 1999. Profit after tax stood at N42.4 million compared with N44.3 million in the corresponding period.

Chartered Bank Plc

Unaudited results for the nine months ended 31st December 2000 show a turnover of N2.6 billion as against N456.9 million in 1999. Profit after tax stood at N456.9 million compared with N320.2 million in the corresponding period.

VitaFoam Nigeria Plc

Unaudited results for the year ended 30th September show a turnover of N2.3 billion as against N1.9 billion in 1999. Profit after tax was N151.1 million compared

with N134.4 million in the corresponding period. The Directors are recommending a dividend of 25 kobo per share.

University Press Plc

Unaudited results for the six months ended 30th September 2000 show a turnover of N277.1 million as against N71.1 million in 1999. Profit after tax stood at N28.6 million compared with N5.7 million in the corresponding period.

FSB International Bank Plc

Unaudited results for the nine months ended 31st December 2000 show a turnover of N4.3 billion as against N3.9 billion in 1999. Profit after tax stood at N519.2 million compared with N552.7 million in the corresponding period.

Liberty Bank Plc

Unaudited results for

the nine months ended 31st December 2000 show a turnover of N1.9 billion as against N1.2 billion in 1999. Profit after tax stood at N337.3 million compared with N132.1 million in the corresponding period.

Trade Bank Plc

Unaudited results for the nine months ended 31st December 2000 show a turnover of N1.6 billion as against N780.3 million in 1999. Profit after tax stood at N159.1 million compared with a loss of N208.2 million in the corresponding period.

EPIC Dynamics Plc

Audited results for the year ended 31st December 1999 show a turnover of N59.4 million as against N65.1 million in 1998. Loss after tax stood at N11.4 million compared with a profit of N6.9 million in the corresponding period.

Star Interview

We have enough evidence to prosecute Faseun - Kwankwaso

Dr. Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso is the Executive Governor of Kano State. In this interview conducted by Salisu I. Mohammed & Aliyu M. Sulaiman, he comments on his successes in government by focusing on specific projects such as water, the rehabilitation of primary schools and the trust he enjoys from the Kano people. He also opens up on the OPC matter. Excerpts:

Sir, tell us briefly how peace was maintained in Kano despite the various crises that took place in the country, most especially the recent Lagos crisis that many people thought would have recurred in Kano?

Thank you very much. You are very much welcome. *Barka da Sallah*. First of all I would like to thank the Almighty Allah and also thank the entire people of this state for supporting this government by way of maintaining peace. However, I am happy you made your point, that many people expected Kano state to erupt during the Lagos crisis, which unfortunately lasted about one week. You see there are many factors that are responsible for maintaining peace and order in Kano State, even under the highest form of provocation, like the one you mentioned. The first effort I think is the effort of the State Government in providing basic needs. It is

and a half years we were able to rehabilitate about 6,000 blocks. What I am trying to say is that in addition to the classrooms we had, we inherited classrooms that were not in use and we were able to bring them to use. So you can see that we have done a lot in the rehabilitation of primary schools. All our secondary schools have been rehabilitated one hundred percent. We have rehabilitated our tertiary institutions, especially the college of education. We expanded the classrooms, built hostels, fenced it etc.

We have now established a University of Technology in Wudil. The Murtala Muhammed Library is almost 100% completed and so on and so forth. All our students were able to fill our quota right from last year

You look at health, you go to Murtala Muhammed Hospital, and you go to Bachirawa new Hospital, if you have the time. It has been

agriculture, and water supplies, go to town and ask. I was even telling some Pressmen earlier on when there was total collapse of NEPA and

“When there was total collapse of NEPA and no water in the city, and the papers, TV and Radio were saying the Governor is from WRECA, a water Engineer and we should get water. Now there is water even with problem of NEPA, (but) nobody is reporting that.”

no water in the city, and the papers, TV and Radio were saying the Governor is from WRECA and a water

constructed and in almost all the Local Government Areas, the Government has rehabilitated, constructed or expanded their health centers and general Hospitals.

Now that the primary and secondary schools have been rehabilitated, what next?

Are you aware of the community orientation committee?

I heard of it.

Go and find out, Soon we are having a meeting, you come yourself. It is difficult to explain to any body that has not attended the meeting. In each local Government we have eleven people. The District head, the Chief Imam, the Chairman of that Local Government, PDP and APP Chairmen, two elders, two youths and State Assembly members. You see we have mobilized the people. Most of the work done is through the community itself. Because of that mobilization, our intake, and our admission in primary schools has doubled.

If you take the issue of rural electrification. In the first year we had 67 Towns and Villages, now we have 200 Towns. We have purchased all the equipment, the transformers, cables, and everything required for the rural electrification exercise.

In terms of roads, we were to construct 35 roads, not the rehabilitation of roads. If you are talking of

engineer, and we should get water. Now there is water even with problem of NEPA, (but) nobody is reporting that. Even Kano was not having water for the past 25 years, now it has got water. So also Kunchi and many other Local Government Areas who were not expecting water.

Next year, would be devoted to water supply and no other project.

We have just given N90m to the Ministry of Agriculture to promote the Garlic product. On cattle vaccination alone this year about 15,000 cattle were vaccinated in Karaye. We now have an additional 15 more hectares at different sites for irrigation.

You see all these achievements have greatly helped us to maintain peace and order because people are getting the dividend of democracy now, every body. I said it somewhere that Wherever you stand in this state you hardly reach a distance of one kilometer without seeing what we have done: road, water supply, electricity, etc. People have never expected roads, they never dreamt of getting a road in their lives. Places like Tsanyawa in Karaye local Government. Places like Falgore, in Rogo Local Government area, places like Makoda itself. The Fayan-Fayan road has been in the budget for the past 20 years. Every year, every Governor was mentioning it, and now we are doing it. This very important project, about 35 of them were done this year, including my own village.

You go to Panshekara, there is a bridge, and there is a river. We lost so many friends and relations each year. Now you go there, you see what is



Gov. Kwankwaso

very difficult to tell you about our achievements right now, but I can just mention a few. If you are talking of education, we have achieved so much. In the last one

working towards that.

and this year we are

Star Interview

happening, we are constructing a brand new bridge. You see that is one factor. Our achievements are helping people believe we are realistic. They are praying for us day and night.

Secondly, we have leaders especially the Emir who has always been preaching peace, and the entire people of this state have a lot of respect for him. We have the support of *Ulama* who have been preaching peace day and night. One unique thing about this Government is that we have the whole cross section of the society supporting us. Not because we are in the same party, but they realized that we are doing the right thing. They are people with experience in life and they felt this Government should be given a chance. So you see the whole cross section of the society are supporting this Government. I think that makes it very difficult for anybody to go and preach violence or anything.

Another thing is that the people trust us. They trust us in the sense that, whatever is happening either in Lagos or anywhere, the Kano Government is determined to protect the interest of its people. So because of that trust, people will not take the law into their hands, because they have leaders whom they trust, whom they believe are capable of protecting their lives and property. Immediately after the crises I sent the Deputy Governor with our own support of N2m, and we met as 19 Governors and each Governor donated one million naira. We met the Federal Government, and Lagos state Government and told them bluntly, that our Government will never support anybody that is against our people. I think the people of Kano state have that trust in us. They believe they don't have to go to the street to protect their people either here or anywhere. I think it is another factor. As somebody who believes in God, the prayers we utter every day I think is another significant factor.

I would like to state very clearly that; I have seen an advertisement yesterday by the Lagos state Government. We are not particularly happy with the way they are handling it, trying to justify things that are not

justifiable. We are not happy with that. We are thinking of doing something about it.

Sir, what is your view on the removal of northerners, particularly the Kano State indigenes from the Federal civil service and parastatals by the Obasanjo administration?

My position has always been very clear. I am not speaking on behalf of Northerners. I made it very clear to everybody, I think every Nigerian now knows my position on the removal of my people. It is not something we are happy with. I don't think it is something someone can accept really. No matter what anybody thinks, anywhere, I think it is a bad thing for the Government to target the people of Kano State.

Sir, on the issue of understanding between different communities residing here in Kano, what do you do here, do you call leaders of various ethnic groups to dialogue or how do you do it?

There is no need to dialogue. They didn't call anybody in Lagos to dialogue. They said their position on Faseun and other people. We believe people have got enough evidence to prosecute Faseun. If they don't have it in Lagos, we have the evidence. Faseun should be prosecuted. Faseun is the leader of OPC and OPC killed our people, and there is no way, if there is an independent judge, there is no way Faseun should be freed. In a situation whereby you take him to (O'dua) people and you think you can get justice, you know Lagos state Government, and there is no way you can justify that.

Sir what efforts have you made towards realizing justice for our people?

We are making efforts. We cannot allow our people to die for nothing. What are we here for? That is why we have peace here. Because our people trust us and we cannot let them down. There is no way you can kill our people and get away with it.

What is your dream at the end of your first tenure, what do you want to



Gov. Kwankwaso

be remembered for?

You see, I have to tell you I am a very contented person. So far, so good. you go round the state, ask anybody, whether PDP man, APP man, ask the Imam, the District heads, anybody. I think people are happy. People have seen something on the ground. People are even asking. They are not asking where you are putting the money. They are asking where you are getting the money. We have not borrowed any thing. Our account has never been in red. We are working around the clock including today, and yesterday which was Sallah Day. To us everyday is a working day. We are working a round the clock to ensure there is a Legacy on the ground. And they are all there in all the sectors, in all areas. I think it would be very difficult for me to mention that I want to be remembered for this area or that area, because they are already there. People will continue to remember this Government, even at this moment forever. For what we have done, we are able to do much within a short period of time. I can assure you and the people of Kano state, that we will continue to do something that will make Kano a better place. I think if you like, that is what we want to be remembered for.

Sir, what is your view on the media in general, and Weekly Trust in particular, especially now that a daily publication is coming out soon?

Before I say anything, I think you are doing well. Over time now, we haven't had any single paper that is owned by people from this part of the country. We are forced to read papers before now. I am very happy that we have *Weekly Trust* which will go daily, as I was told and I think it would help us, not only the North, it would help the whole country because there is going to be a sort of balance between the North and the South. I think you have a lot to learn from the papers from the South.

How they regard their people from that end, especially, Lagos and Ibadan. You have a lot to learn really. You go and read the papers and see what they say about that area and the people from there.

And I think if you can get lessons, that will help you and that will make your paper great and even greater. I want to assure you that, if you continue to do the right thing, not only Kano state Government, I assure you all the 19 Northern state Government will support your paper.

"We have just given N90m to the Ministry of Agriculture to promote the Garlic product. On cattle vaccination alone this year about 15,000 cattle were vaccinated in Karaye. We now have an additional 15 more hectares at different sites for irrigation."

NEWS

LGs directed to build schools in villages

Vice-President Atiku Abubakar has said that local governments in Adamawa state had been directed to build schools in the villages in a bid to make education accessible to all children of school age in the state.

"Village heads, who do not have schools in their



Atiku Abubakar

domains, should therefore match with their subjects to the offices of their council chairmen and demand for one", Abubakar declared in Ganye at the weekend.

The Vice-President made the remarks in an address at a reception organised in his honour by the Ganye Chiefdom for the National Honour of Grand Commander of the Niger (GCON) bestowed on him by the Federal Government.

He appealed to the people of the state to eschew all forms of discrimination based on religious, ethnic or cultural sentiments, stressing: "Our differences should serve as a uniting factor for the development of our nation". Commenting on his comparison to the late premier of the former northern region, Sir, Ahmadu Bello, in terms of generosity and societal development, Abubakar said he could not be compared to the former "because Bello's contributions to the nation's development were unparalleled, compared to

what obtains today".

"We are just trying to follow his footsteps". He said.

Speaking earlier, the state governor, Mr. Boni Haruna, had said that the people were benefiting from the dividends of democracy as the government had provided good roads, water and electricity to improve their standard of living.

In his speech, the traditional ruler of Ganye Chiefdom, Alhaji Umaru Adamu, said that the place, which had suffered neglect under past governments, was now being carried along by both the federal and state governments.

He commended the ongoing democratic dispensation, which has given every Nigerian a true sense of belonging and stressed the need for peaceful co-existence among the people.

The Zamfara state government has awarded N1.5 billion contract to an indigenous firm, Igala Construction Company Limited, for the construction of 1,500 housing units, the state governor, Alhaji Ahmed Sani, has announced.

Speaking in Gusau while laying the foundation stone of the housing estate at the weekend, Sani said that when completed, the project would go a long way in alleviating the acute shortage of accommodation in the state capital. He said that the state government had also concluded plans to construct additional 2,000 housing units before the end of the year.

The governor, he added, had mobilised enough resources for the execution of the housing projects in order to avoid a situation where they would be abandoned due to lack of funds.

Zamfara awards N1.5 billion contract for 1,500 houses

The governor disclosed that when completed, the houses would be allocated to civil servants on owner-

government.

He said the government would soon award the contract for the rehabilitation of other roads in the eight local government headquarters.

According to the governor, the state government has purchased 80 buses to be given out on loan to deserving commercial transport operations, to ease transportation problem in the state.

He commended the federal government for sending a team of engineers to assess the inter-state roads in the area that were in a state of disrepair and particularly, thanked President Olusegun Obasanjo for directing the Federal Ministry of works and housing to embark on the rehabilitation of the Sani Abacha road in Gusau.



Gov. Ahmed Sani

occupier basis and that a 40 per cent discount would be given to the beneficiaries.

Sani also said that all major roads in Gusau and five other towns, Tsafe, Mafara, Anka, Kaura and Sinkafi, were being rehabilitated by the state

PAN not threatened by cars duty cuts says MD

Pugeot Automobile Nigeria Limited (PAN), has said it is not threatened by the import duty reduction granted importers of vehicles by the federal government.

The federal government had granted 25 percent duty reduction to car importers from the previous 30 per cent, thus pegging the current rate at five percent in the 2001 budget.

PAN Managing Director, Mr. Phillippe Beudis, who spoke with newsmen in Abuja said since the new policy did not include fairly used cars, popularly known as "Tokunbo" and new completely built cars, there was nothing to fear about.

According to him, the main issue that should be addressed was how best the local car industry could be protected so as to pave way for the local production of affordable and durable cars and not the promotion of imports.

He said that the global trend was for countries to evolve policies that would boost capacity utilisation of local manufacturers so that more goods can be produced for local consumption and export.

The absence of such policy in Nigeria, he observed, has folded up five out of the six automobile assembly plants in the country, thus leaving only

...Enjoins FG to emulate South Africa

By Osborne Adi Jnr.

PAN.

"May I recalled that in 1985, we were six manufacturers in this country, today I am the only one surviving. I think this is because the necessary protection to enable us develop has never been brought," he lamented.

He cited the instance of South Africa, where the government evolved an enabling environment for

investors to come in to produce goods for export, while at the same time protecting the local industries.

"I think you see from the press or even investment reports from that country that Mercedes is going to South Africa with a plant capable of producing 100,000 units of C-class per year, BMW is going to South-Africa with a plant to produce 75,000 units of 3-series, all for export to other countries of Europe."

Ulama commend Traditional rulers over hajj

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Kano

Traditional rulers in the north have been commended for setting up a committee to meet the federal government over this year's exorbitant hajj fares.

The Kano State chapter of National Council of Ulama made the commendation in Kano saying the increase in this year's Hajj fare was unjustifiable.

Speaking through its Vice-Chairman Shiek Tijjani Tokur Yola, the Council called on northern state governors to put pressure on the federal government to reduce the Hajj fare.

Meanwhile, three Mufti (Sharia court scribes) have been appointed by Kano State government as part of

its effort to strengthen Sharia implementation in the State. Those appointed include Ustaaz Musa Hadibu, Ustaaz Abubakar Jakada and Ustaaz Habibu Yusha'o.

All the appointments are with immediate effect.



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NEWS

Canada donates N100 million to Nigeria

Yinka Oladoyinbo-Ibadan

The Canadian government has made available the sum of 1.49 million Canadian dollars (N100m) to enable Nigeria respond to climate changes effectively.

This was revealed recently by the Chairman of Environmental Study/Action Team NEST, Professor David Okaley at a workshop organised at the conference centre, university of Ibadan.

The NEST Chairman said the amount, which

was made available by Canada would be administered by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), with the objective of strengthening policy and institutional capacities in priority areas such as national communication, CDM, impact and adaptation, public education and outreach.

According to Prof. Okaley, NEST, a non-governmental organisation together with its Canadian counterpart, Global change strategies International (GCSI) organised the work-

shop to assess areas of strengthening Nigeria's capacity to cope with climate change.

This according to NEST includes, "strengthening of local capacities of research centres and scientists to undertake short and long term monitoring of different climate, which would provide the scheme for assessing climate variability and change in different parts of Nigeria."

The project would also strengthen collaboration between research centres on the one hand and private and public sector stakeholders and policy makers on the other.

He stressed that this was to ensure effective exchange of information between the two groups, in order that vulnerabilities identified and the adaptation options proposed are understood by policy makers and planners for integration into planning



HEARING: (R-L) Senator Ayoade Oni, Senator Victor K. I. Oyofo, Chairman of the Committee and Senator Patrick Aga at the Senate Committee hearing on Niger Delta ... yesterday
Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje

Police not exempt from anti-liquor laws

Akinade Adeniji / Minna

The Niger State Commissioner of Police, Alhaji Isoho Hussaini has said that the Police was not exempted from the law prohibiting the sale and consumption of alcohol in the state and would deal with Policemen contravening the law.

Speaking when the Chairman and members of the state Liquor licensing board paid him a courtesy visit, Alhaji Tsoho said he has the primary responsibility of protecting law and order

"Since there is a law in the state against the sale, consumption and brewing of alcohol, I will do my best to enforce the law", the Police boss asserted.

Alhaji Tsoho Hussaini assured the board of the co-operation of the Police at all times, saying "the relationship between the Police and your board will grow stronger during my tenure here".

To emphasize his seriousness, the Police Commissioner urged the board to report directly to him, any Police officer, who tried to stop the board from performing its legitimate functions.

Chairman of the board, Barrister Mohammed Awal Bida had earlier told the commissioner that the visit of the board members was to welcome him and at the same time solicit his support in the enforcement of the Liquor laws in the state.

Barrister Awal Bida disclosed to the commissioner that the

board was set up last year to regulate the sales, consumption and production of alcohol in the state.

He said though the law provided for people to register for the sales of alcohol in some parts of the state, nobody had come forward to seek for a license.

FAAN asks for security to carry arms

The Board of Directors of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) has called on the government to allow security personnel of the airport to carry arms.

The chairman of the board, Chief Sergeant Awuse, told newsmen at the weekend during a tour of FAAN's facilities in Lagos that the use of arms became necessary to ensure that the security personnel were able to curtail the activities of bandits operating in and

around the airports.

"It is important that this be done in order to ensure the security of lives and property of those operating at the airport," he said.

"We are appealing to the federal Government through the Nigerian Police force to allow the correct implementation of the decree establishing FAAN, which allows our security men to be properly armed," Awuse said.

He expressed dismay over the encroachment into

FAAN land, and warned that the board might resort to legal action to recover such land.

He also assured that the on-going face-lift at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport would be completed in the next three months and commended the contractors for doing their work satisfactorily.

The board, he said, was considering the possibility of constructing car park to decongest traffic at the Lagos airport.

Anibaba Calls for devolution of more Powers to State

Lagos State Commissioner for Environment and Physical Planning Mr. Kayode Anibaba, has called for a decentralised Federal Power Structure in Nigeria "to allow the federating states more powers to address the needs of their people"

Anibaba, who was speaking at the weekend in Lagos as guest at the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) forum, said that the need to give more powers to the states would help them tackle such problems as environmental sanitation, road maintenance and urban development.

For instance, he said, the state government has so far spent about 2 billion Naira for the repairs and mainte-

nance of federal roads in the state.

"The people who voted us into power do not want to know if these roads are federal or not. They simply want to have the roads in good motorable condition," He said

Anibaba observed that the poor state of Lagos roads is due to population pressure on the environment, adding, "we do this to keep the roads motorable and for the benefit of the people who voted us into power despite the apparent disregard by the federal authorities." He said.

On refuse collection and disposal in the state Anibaba said that despite government's commitment to rid the metropolis of

refuse, people were still recalcitrant in obeying simple regulations regarding waste management.

He said that the state generates 10,000 tonnes of refuse and wastes daily, adding that about 2,000 tipper loads of refuse are disposed daily in the metropolis.

"This is why we are calling for more powers in the federating states so that they can have more resources to address the problem of the people." The commissioner said.

"The enormity of refuse generated in states means that the turnaround for each of the vehicles is high," adding that the cost of their maintenance was equally enormous.

Adesina assures effective utilization of UBE fund

From Yinka Oladoyinbo in Ibadan

The Federal Government has again been assured that the fund made available for the implementation of the Universal Basic Education (UBE) would be spent for the purpose it was meant.

The assurance was given at the weekend by the governor of Oyo state, Alhaji Lamidi Adesina at

the commissioning of five projects embarked on by the Oyo State Primary Education Board (SPEB) at the SPEB head quarters, Agodi, Ibadan.

The governor said though the UBE was a federal government initiative, the administration and implementation would be by the state government through the primary education Board, since according to him the federal government does not have anything to do with primary and post primary education.

He however charged primary school teachers and head teachers to make the necessary sacrifice that could make our public schools a role model. According to him the government is spending huge amounts on education with the provision of instructional materials, laboratory equipments, payment of salaries and maintenance of schools, which was why government expected the

teachers to reciprocate the gesture by turning out pupils that could compete with primary school pupils anywhere in the world.

Governor Adesina also assured teachers that arrears of their salaries would be paid as soon as possible.

Also speaking at the commissioning of the projects, which include an administrative block, four vehicles for monitoring among others, the SPEB Chairman in Oyo State Dr. Suleiman Adedirani called on the federal government to keep faith with the 1999 constitution, which placed the responsibility of primary education on state governments.

"Education in general and primary education in particular is so fundamental and intrinsically interwoven with the people's culture, antecedents and the geographical set-up that its delivery can only be successfully accomplished by each federating unit," he added.

Authors call for well-equipped libraries

The Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) have called on the Nassarawa state government to rehabilitate libraries in the state.

The association rose from its maiden meeting in Lafia where it mapped out its agenda and plan of action for the year 2001.

It stated in a communiqué after the meeting that the lack of well stocked library facilities have affected research in the State into areas that could have been of immense benefit to the government.

They also observed that lack of well stocked libraries in the state is responsible for poor reading culture being witnessed by people in the

state especially the youths.

The association also noted that the availability of library facilities has helped to encourage writers in all fields now that there was a dearth of good textbook for our schools.

They believed that without an articulate policy on library services in the state the good idea of a state owned university will be an empty one.

ANA commended the commitment and interest shown by the state governor Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu in the education sector and commended his recent visit to Kano where he inspected the multi-million Naira library complex being built by the Kano State government.

NEWS

OPC is a terrorist organisation - Police

The Nigeria Police force has finally broken its silence on the secret agenda behind the setting up of the exclusive Yoruba ethnic militant force, the Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC), describing it as "a terrorist group."

According to a Police report tagged "intelligence report on the menace of OPC", the Lagos State Police Command concluded that "there is no doubt that the OPC whatever the faction (Fasheun or Gani Adams) is a terrorist group".

Daily Trust gathered from

the Police report addressed to the Commissioner of Police in charge of 'A' department at the Force headquarters that "additionally; intelligence report gathered on them (OPC) has it that the Gani Adams faction enjoy the backing of the State Deputy Governor who has been screening the notorious Gani Adams".

But in a swift reaction to the allegations, the Lagos State Deputy Governor, Senator Kofoworola Bucknor-Akerle debunked the Police allegations, saying that she could hardly recognize Gani Adams even if he passed by



Musiliu Smith, IGP

her.

Daily Trust learnt that although Gani Adams has been

granting Press interviews within the South-west area, the Police have declared him wanted for the past one year, even with a N100,000 prize fee for anyone who could assist the Police with information which could lead to his arrest.

Meanwhile, according to the same Police report on the menace of the OPC, ref No: 4161/LS/ID/VI/226, the force said it had uncovered a training ground used by the Yoruba militant force under the command of Dr. Frederick Fasheun, who was recently

discharged and acquitted by a Lagos Court on charges of murder, armed robbery and illegal possession of fire arms, following the recent OPC/Hausa - Fulani clash which claimed the lives of over 1,000. Hausa-Fulani residents in Lagos

The Intelligence Police report added: "A few days ago, it was discovered that the abandoned federal housing unit at Ishen Olofin along Igando road is now the headquarters and training ground of Fasheun's factor of the OPC".

Sen. Abubakar faults anti-corruption commission

By Suleiman Mohammed

Chairman, senate committee on public Account, Senator Idris Abubakar has faulted the composition of the anti-corruption commission, alleging that some members were of questionable characters.

Speaking at a lecture on "Accountability and Anti-Corruption" organized to mark the presentation of awards to some local government chairmen, weekend in Abuja, Senator Abubakar revealed that, despite refusal by the senate to clear three members of the commission, "the presidency insisted, and at long last the names sailed through".

Though he refused to mention names, Senator Abubakar told the gathering that having some members with questionable characters, it would be difficult for the commission to achieve its objective of ridding the country of corrupt practices. "I do not see how this crusade can be successful under such arrangement," he declared.

Senator Abubakar pointed out that the Commission was established at a wrong time, "when there is high rate of poverty, hunger, and mass unemployment in the country", and advised President Ohasanjo to set up machinery towards the eradication of poverty and unemployment to ensure success in the crusade against corruption.

According to him, corruption has become an institution especially at the local government level where, he said, some local government chairmen considered council accounts as personal property.

While condemning the provisions of sections 7 and 8 of the 1999 constitution which empower state government to exercise arbitrary powers on local government councils, Senator Abubakar also called for the setting up of anti-corruption units in each local government council to checkmate corrupt practices among public officials.

He announced that the senate has set up an adhoc committee to review the constitutional provisions as it affect local government administration with a view to make them more independent, and accountable to the people.

While calling for memoranda from council chairmen, he stressed the need for elected office holders to be accountable, and justify the confident repose in them by the electorate.

The award ceremony organized by the independent media forum in collaboration with a private consultancy firm, was presented to some local government chairmen from Oyo, Kano, Bayelsa, Lagos and Jigawa states who were adjudged for their performance in the last 20 months.

Health ministry sets up disease surveillance committee

The Federal Ministry of Health has set up a national coordinating committee on integrated disease surveillance system, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports.

Inaugurating the committee in Abuja at the weekend, the minister of health, Dr. Tim Menakaya, said that the composition of the committee was to strengthen disease surveillance nationwide.

Menakaya said that integrated diseases surveillance system activities were geared towards enhancing communicable diseases control and prevention.

He urged the committee to carry out an assessment of the existing system and to identify its weakness and strength with a view to improving the system, while preparing a national plan of action to achieve the objective of better and functional disease surveillance programme for the country.

Responding on behalf of the members, the chairman of the committee, Professor Ekanem Ekanem, said that the committee would do its utmost to institutionalize and sustain the integrated disease surveillance (IDS) system in



Dr. Tim Menakaya

the country Ekanem said that he had no doubt in the capacity of the members to discharge their assignment creditably in "our collective effort to enhance the national health care delivery system".

The committee has three months to submit its report



Gombe state commissioner of information, Alh. Garba Gadan recently visited the premises of Daily Trust in Abuja. Here Alh. Gadan (left) chats with the Daily Trust Editor-in-Chief and Chief Executive, Kabiru A. Yusuf.

Lagos State is home to about 13 million people according to the state commissioner for environment and physical planning, Mr. Kayode Anibaba. Anibaba, who was guest at the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), forum at the weekend, stated that the population upsurge had made planning difficult and overstretched the existing fa-

Commissioner puts Lagos population at 13 million

cities.

He said that the development has worsened the physical planning effort of the state government, adding that good sanitation was vital to a healthy environment.

According to him, "a situation where people just pack in an area without proper plan-

ning creates environmental hazard resulting in poor health,



Gov. Bola Tinubu

polluted environment, haphazard housing development, rising crime wave and difficult waste management.

He said plans were on by the state government to decongest overpopulated areas as estates and satellite towns are being constructed in some parts of the state.

According to him, the state government is set to build about 24,000 housing units by the end of the year as well as to expand the health care delivery system. Said he, "sanitation is vital to a sustainable health care delivery effort of the state government."

Anibaba said that govern-

ment had so far provided 15 million refuse bags to residents in the state to ensure proper waste management practices.

"We have committed the sum of N100 million to the provision of refuse bags which we freely distribute to ensure sustainable and cleaner environment," he said. "Most sur-

prising is the low interest shown by local officials to government's efforts on waste management", he said.

He recalled that the assets of the state waste management authority were shared by the local government councils, which refused to accept its liabilities, including a World Bank assistance facility.

FG urged to improve educational standard

The Federal government has been urged to initiate policies and programmes that would improve the quality of degrees awarded by Nigerian universities.

The appeal was made at the weekend by the Vice-chancellor of the University of Ibadan (UI), Professor Ayandele Falase, in a television programme in Ibadan.

According to him, Nigerians needed to take the standard of our degrees as serious as possible, so that Nigerian Universities could be able to produce qualified and competent degree holders.

Professor Falase, who lamented the state of many Nigerian Universities reiterated that graduates of the Universities were in high demand outside the shores of the country.

The vice-chancellor also called on the federal government to adequately fund the

universities as a step towards enhancing the improvements in the standard of the institutions.

Professor Falase maintained that the level of government funding for the Universities would go a long way in determining the level of efficiency and effectiveness of the institutions.

He said that the emergence of satellite campuses and study centres, many of which are substandard could be traced to the establishment of many universities that could not be properly funded by Nigerian governments.

The U.I Vice-chancellor however berated the institutions that have turned the university into business ventures, adding that when this happened there would be no time for learning, and this he said could further compound the problems facing our universities.

"No Bakassi Boys in Enugu"

The Enugu State Police Command has dispelled rumours that the Anambra state vigilante ser-

vice, otherwise known as "Bakassi Boys" was involved in the recent arrests of seven armed robbery suspects in Enugu. Briefing newsmen in Enugu, the state commissioner of Police, Mr. Idris Mohammed, said that the Bakassi boys did not visit the state capital, but explained that it was an anti-crime police squad from Anambra that came to Enugu for an investigation.

Mohammed said that the plain-clothes men operated jointly with their Enugu State counterpart to arrest the suspected criminals.

The Police Commissioner said that the offence for which they were wanted were committed in Anambra, adding that they had attempted to rob a businessman at Nnewi in Anambra

state of about N8 million, which he intended to use in building a Petrol station.

The State Police Boss explained that it was in an attempt to carry out the operation that luck ran against them as they fell into the dragnet of the Police.

Mohammed said that a locally made pistol was recovered from them, while most of the robbers had made confessional statements.

The suspects, include two brothers as well as a first year marketing student of the University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the 'Bakassi Boys' were alleged to have trailed the suspected criminals to Enugu and alerted the State Police Command about the presence of the robbery gang in the State.



INSIDE POLITICS

The opposition groups in Nigeria have again risen in condemnation of President Olusegun Obasanjo's led Federal Government, describing it as a total failure.

Senator Idris Abubakar, Alhaji Lanre Rasak, both of All People's Party, (APP) and Chief Sunday Awoniyi have all criticized the Federal Government policies and programmes in the past 19 months.

Although Idris Abubakar and Lanre Rasak are members of the official opposition party, APP, Chief Sunday Awoniyi is a member of the board of trustees, the highest policy making body of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party.

Speaking exclusively to *Daily Trust*, Idris Abubakar who is the chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Accounts has criticized President Obasanjo's politics on the Niger-Delta saying that the current clamour for resource control by the south-south governors is a direct reaction to the governments failure to meet the yearnings and aspirations of the people.

He said "immediately it became apparent that the president was reluctant in implementing the Niger-Delta development act as passed by the National Assembly, the people of the Niger-Delta became restless about resource control. I therefore lay the blame entirely on the

2003: Discordant tunes trail Obasanjo's candidacy

By Ibrahim Modibbo, Henry Omu, in Abuja and Dare Oyewole, in Kaduna

doorstep of the president."

Senator Abubakar who also commented on the defects of the recent meeting of the south-south Governors over the issue of resource control said "tell me what has states like Ekiti and Lagos have as resources to warrant a clamour for 100% resource control. Many of them don't have these resources they are talking about and I can't see how they will go to a meeting to come out with a 100% clamour for control of nothing."

On the rift between the executive and the legislature, Senator Abubakar blamed the executive for translating the functions of the legislature to an opposition, as according to him, the executive is doing everything within its power to bring down the legislature in the estimation of Nigerians.

Alhaji Lanre Rasak, Deputy National chairman (south) of APP who sees the President's pitfalls as a great blessing in disguise to his party concluded that APP will form next government in 2003.

He said that "the PDP led government of President Obasanjo has completely failed to meet the expectations of Nigerians and the only option left to them is to vote en-masse for the All Peoples Party whose government promises to

deliver 100% transparency and accountability in all its ramifications.

For Chief Sunday Awoniyi of the PDP, the Obasanjo administration is not on course as according to him, the government had shamefully waste two years, all in the name of "learning process."

He said "our democratic experiment is too fluid for comfort. Two years have been shamefully wasted and discord deliberately and needlessly sown between institutions of governance in what is called learning process, as if we had no experience of decent legislative practice, nor

experience of lowest executive action, knowledge of in corrupt judicial process. I make bold to say we once had them all, here in the north."

However Dr. Alex Ekwueme, also a member of the board of trustees disagrees with the

postulations of Awoniyi. He said "after a prolonged military rule, it was necessary that we all have to learn the ropes. It is therefore too early to become critical of the present administration."

Rep. blames Igbo marginalization on disunity

By Henry Omu

Deputy leader, house of representatives Chief Mao Ohuabunwa has attributed disunity, distrust and internal bickerings as factors responsible for the persistent marginalization of the Igbo people.

The lawmaker, who is also the leader of the south-east caucus in the House, made the observations at the Ohancze Ndi-Igbo world summit held in Enugu.

Rep. Ohuabunwa stated that the problems confronting the Igbo people were multifarious, such as economic and political neglect, but was quick to add that "there're no problems we cannot solve together, but very few (problems) we can solve alone".

He similarly, enjoined the Igbo people to eschew

distrust when fighting against marginalization or other perceived problems facing them, as according to him, because of the distrust for one another by the Igbos, internal communal wars is now rampant amongst the people.

However, while blaming his people for always trying to pull each

other down politically, Chief Ohuabunwa observed that those leaders who have represented or championed the cause of the Igbo people had always failed them.

"Leadership by example should be our guiding principle and while we must respect our people in authority, our leaders must know that the authority they wield belongs to the people

and can be retrieved", he advised.

He therefore advocated for unity of purpose between Igbo leaders and their ordinary citizens as this he said is the only way the Igbos can develop politically.

Said Rep. Ohuabunwa: "It's only when we're politically empowered that we can develop infrastructurally".



Minister of State for Finance, Senator Jubril Martins-Kuye (middle) flanked by Mr. B. O. B. Ochai, Director of Expenditure (right) and Mr. A. S. Arikawa, Director Debt Management testifying before the Senate Committee on Public Accounts ...yesterday
Pic: by Kennedy Eghomodje

No committed gov in middle belt -Dan Suleiman laments

Chairman of the Middle Belt Forum (MBF), Air Commodore Dan Suleiman (rtd) has expressed deep concern over the indifference of political leaders to the plight of the commonman, which he said leads to agitation for a separate identity.

Speaking at a one-day awareness seminar organised by the Middle Belt Patriots in Kaduna, Sulciman lamented that political leaders from the zone had not been steadfast to the struggle. The chairman who specifically chided governors from the states in the middle belt said it had been difficult for the Forum to have a Middle Belt Governors' Forum "because we are finding it difficult to get committed governors".

He recalled with disappointment that the only time they were able to assemble the governors from the area together was at late J.S. Tarka's anniversary lecture held in Markudi last year.

"Since then it has been difficult to reassemble them and suspicion has grown

From Dare Oyewole, Kaduna.

because they think we are introducing hidden agenda into the struggle.

"We want them (governors) to be part of us but they are not and that is worrisome to us," he pointed out.

Air Commodore Suleiman was however optimistic that the political leaders would see reason with them and join forces together to free the region from the yoke of Hausa/Fulani oppression.

According to him, there were many within the Middle Belt who were ignorant of what the struggle was all about thereby, promoting distortions in the minds of the people as to the true motives and objectives behind the call for self identity.

He said the reason for the agitations by their founding fathers bordering on marginalisation, oppression and suppression still remain valid, adding that like all struggles worldwide, the agitations will continue.

Senate intervenes in Ekpoma varsity crisis

By Henry Omu

The senate has resolved to intervene in the controversy surrounding the continued closure of the Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State.

The senate president, Senator Anyim gave this assurance while receiving a delegation of students from the university, who came to make representations to the National Assembly.

Describing as unfortunate circumstances which led to the closure of the university,

opportunity to appeal to students of tertiary schools in the country to expose their colleagues involved in cultism and other forms of hooliganism.

Earlier, the student delegation from the Ambrose Alli University had appealed to the senate president to intervene and influence the re-opening of their school, closed down some month's ago on the orders of the Edo state government.

The students promised Senator Anyim of their resolve to evolve internal measure to tackle all forms of hooliganism.

They assured that such vices would no longer be perpetuated in their campus.

Meanwhile, the Senate President, Senator Anyim Pius Anyim has left Abuja on a one-week official visit to the United States.

A press statement by the special adviser on media and publicity to the senate president, Mr. Orji Ogbounaya Orji stated that the senate president during his visit is expected to hold consultations with leaders of the American Congress and representatives of the Nigerian community resident in that country.

Similarly, Senator Anyim will take part in the official launching of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), United States chapter scheduled for Atlanta, Georgia as special guest.

The senate president accompanied on the trip by some senators, and other top officials of the National Assembly, is equally expected to participate in the national prayer sessions in Washington.

Plateau Assembly unhappy over N22m internal revenue

From Buhari Bello in Jos

Plateau State House of Assembly has expressed displeasure over the poor revenue generation effort of the state government put at about N22 million per month.

The members who expressed their feelings during the second reading of the 2001 state appropriation bill noted that the internally generated revenue of the state was grossly inadequate for government to embark on any serious project in the state.

Presenting the bill,

majority leader of the house and member representing Barki Ladi constituency disclosed that while the state was generating between N20-N22 million monthly, Imo state generates about N500m monthly

He therefore charged the state board of internal revenue to create new avenues of revenue generation to reduce the state's over-dependence on federal allocation.

The legislator also

appealed to the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission to consider reviewing the revenue allocation formula in favour of state and local governments as the amount allocated to Plateau was not enough to execute any meaningful project.

Speaking in the same vein, Dennis Dogari from Qua'an Pam and Malmako Bello from Wasc also expressed concern with the lukewarm attitude of people and organization in paying taxes and charges of the state government.

PARLIAMENT

We have made some mistakes

-Senator Abubakar

By: Ibrahim Modibbo, Political Editor.

Senator Idris Abubakar, a lawyer, represents Gombe South constituency from Gombe State. His rising influence in the senate, though from a minority, All Peoples Party, APP has made him stand out as one of the most outstanding pillars of the senate. His contributions on the floor of the house based on "notorious" facts on issues of national importance has earned him respect and public confidence that the leadership of the upper house decided to appoint him the chairman, senate committee on public accounts.

He spoke to Ibrahim Modibbo, our Political Editor. Excerpt:

DT: Motivation in Politics?

Senator Abubakar: I came into politics to contribute my widows mile to the development of my area, and to also put in something in a system that one has benefited from. A system that is getting so much in shambles that it is no longer possible for those coming after to get the kind of opportunities that were available to us.

My people have been maintaining very close links with me and have always giving me that kind of opportunity to give them some sense of guidance on issues affecting our community. I also came into politics with the strongest conviction on the need for fresh blood to be injected into the political system.

How has the senate fared since its inauguration in June 1999?

I think the senate has fared very well. There is no doubt that the national assembly did make some mistakes while starting a new system, and we have received our baptism of fire. We are still setting down but the speed at which we are settling down is much faster than other legislatures that did not suffer the deprivations that we suffered. While accepting that we were not the best legislature in Africa, I want to say that we have done very well, bearing in mind the limitations and the circumstance we found ourselves.

The senate has changed its presidents three times within just 18 months and there were speculations towards the end of last year of efforts to change the incumbent president, why is it expedient for all these changes.

I want to disagree with the premise that there was a move to change the incumbent senate president. I do not believe that there was any concerted or organized attempt to remove the senate president, because there wouldn't have been any

justification for that, in the sense that since he assumed office, he had adopted a very compromising and middle of the road approach. He has not made himself boss or a super human being. I think it is only those who are Extremists that would say he has hurt anybody in the senate to the extent of organizing efforts to remove him. I am not aware of that and I don't believe it existed.

On the turn over of senate presidents, I want to state that the principle of leadership as a presiding officer is different from that of the chief executive of a country. The mandate of the presiding officer is that of his colleagues, so that at the end of the day those to review his mandate are his colleagues. It all depends on his performance and probably his relationships with members of the legislative house. If there is need to change the senate leadership irrespective of the turn over within a specific time frame, if that would at the end of the day promote better performance of the legislative house, democratic principles and the country, so be it. The turn over rate to my mind does not call for concern. It only shows the kind of stability you are introducing into the system.

There is no doubt that both Eworem and Chuba had their own peculiar problems, that did cost them their jobs. We now have someone on the saddle who has not yet shown any inclination to one of the problems or the other of the two of them. Be that as it may, that does not mean that we can say with a degree of certainty that we have got a perfect leader now. He is human as a leader, and if his errors become insurmountable so that they will challenge the continued existence of the senate as a responsible house, then, so be it. So, the turn over in itself is not a ground for any serious concern.

Why the friction between the executive and the legislative under the present democratic experience?

To my mind, the friction between the executives and the legislature is part and parcel of those elements of democratic governance especially when it is in a presidential system. This meant to ensure that the maximum is produced for the citizenry. Once you say that the legislature must make laws and the Executives to implement them then there would be friction.

If the legislature is also to perform its function on some of the government agencies, parastatals and department with a view to making sure that the executive is executing accordingly, naturally there must be some level of friction.

All these could be at the level of principles but in practice, if the friction is

allowed to get out of hand, that would make it constitute a clog in the wheel of progress towards a solid democratic progress then that must be checked quickly. There is no doubt that at a point in time, we were arriving at that situation and we feel it was unhealthy. Of course we all know the reasons for such problems, we have a very strong headed president who was nurtured in the military tradition and therefore the process of change or re-orientation from a one time successful military dictator to a learning democratically elected president was not easy. He

was equally faced with a legislature that is inexperienced, as some of us in the legislature have never known the four walls of a legislative house, until this election. Some of us are not experts on the constitution and rules and regulations or laws that govern legislative processes. But that is all history and I think we have all learnt several lessons from that history, which will move us forward.

So far, 76 bills came to the floor of the senate, out of which about 11 were passed into law. Are you satisfied with this development?

I appreciate the concern of Nigerians about the speed with which legislation is done in a democratic dispensation. I understand but that is not to say I subscribe to it. I understand because we had a long history of military dictatorships; and under the military a decree or about twenty can be promulgated over night, because it is only one man that would sign it into law and that is all, but that is not how legislation is in a democratic setting. It has to be deliberated upon and must involve wide range consultations that would finally have direct bearing on the lives of the people. Under a democratic set up the process must be naturally slow so that it accommodates every shade of opinion. If you look at the United State congress for example, there are bills that would be deliberated upon for 10 - 15 years without being passed and that does not mean that the legislature is not doing its work, it only means it is doing its work in order to ensure that if that legislation becomes law, it has to reflect the wishes and aspirations of the American people.

Has the Obasanjo led

government performed up to the expectations of Nigerians?

I think that answer has already been given by Obasanjo himself. If I remember rightly, and if I am quoting him correctly, he said during his recent recess in Otta,



Senator Idris Abubakar

under the programme "media chat", where he concluded that "we have not done well". I think that summarizes it all, and it would be idle to contend that there is anything that has been done by the government in either up-lifting the standard of living of Nigerians or in ensuring the security of their lives and property as well as a not doing enough in promoting mutual coexistence in the country. I don't think I can point out any of those things that has been done successfully and this to me are the three indices that would really show success. You must promote harmonious co-existence amongst the people but when you find ethnic rivalries or sectional interest on the increase rather than reducing as well as positions being taken that sometimes seems to contradict the unity of the nation, you find that the government has not been addressing all these basic issues.

Take the issue of security; now we know that the clamour for state police started in Lagos and at a point limited to the South-west only. Now the southern governors at their meeting have all called for state police. All that the average Nigerian wants is security to live and property. The Bakassi boys are cleaning up Anambra State and the average man living in such a state feels that he can accommodate any alternative to the Nigeria police. The question now is, has sufficient attention been given to the Nigeria police to ensure that security is addressed in the nation and my obvious answer is no. A police force that requires N80 billion to function but you are submitting only N4 billion to the national assembly for approval, this is only 5% of the

requirements and you are telling us that security is the concern of the government.

That is not a healthy sign at all. On infrastructure, we know that the promise by Bola Ige to provide light for all within six months is just a fiction. So far, if there is any improvement in the supply of electricity, it is marginal and selective in nature as only Abuja and Lagos are enjoying electricity. Everywhere is getting darker and darker. Where has the government performed? Is it the supply of petroleum and petroleum products which is largely erratic. We have not seen any change in the way and manner the products are being handled from what was obtained before this democratic dispensation. Are our round network getting better? You can't believe that there is no single road network executed by the present administration in the North East region. So, as far as I am concerned, there is virtually nothing on ground to show achievements. Of course the administration still has two and half more years to go, but this year is the year that determines his fate. If he fails this year, that is all.

President Obasanjo has recently indicated his intention to come back in 2003. What are his chances against the backdrop of all these things you have mentioned?

I think if he has expressed the desire to come back in 2003, it is a premature expression by him. I think would what should engaged his mind and attention now is to provide that leadership which would make the people to clamour for his return bid in 2003. I think he is putting the cart before the horse, for him to say I want to come back in 2003, when he has not yet done anything. If I were him, I will now concentrate on trying to redem my image as a performer as one time military leader who led the nation successfully. I think he should just forget about this issue distracting his mind on 2003, and perform. Nigerians would ask him to continue when he performs but if he fails there is no political gimmickry that would allow Nigerians to give him their mandate beyond 2003.

As a lawyer and legislators, how do you look at the anti-corruption crusade of the present administration? Any headway, any success?

Has it even started? This is a fundamental question, I have not witnessed the beginning of any war against corruption in Nigeria. I have not and I don't know if any Nigerian has. Even before the anti-corruption bill was sent to the national assembly I had always mentioned that fighting against corruption is an issue of

attitude and will, not an issue of legislation, we had sufficient legislation even before the anti-corruption act, to punish corruptive tendencies. Once you start fighting corruption from an elitist, theoretical and conceptual point of view, you have already lost the battle. You are in a country where you don't pay as at when due salaries of the police who are supposed to arrest those who are engaged in corruption. How seriously do you believe that a policeman with children would be able to fight corruption when his family has not eaten. You have to elevate the standard of life of the ordinary man to make him discard the temptation of being corrupt.

Secondly, you have to strengthen the traditional institutions that prevents leakages and wastages in the system, but when you say I am creating a new body, to me, they may be handicapped as they are Nigerians in Nigeria. You see, even in composing the anti-corruption commission we saw what happened. In the case of Reverend Father Moses Adasu, the senate turned him down twice because there are documented cases of his encounters with the law, which did not reflect him in the guise of a responsible person who will go to fight corruption. But the president insisted that he must be there, so at the end of the day we said, "well, if that is the kind of people you want to fight your corruption for you, you can have him".

All our eyes and ears are open to see how corruption would be reduced in Nigeria. So, as far as I am concerned, the anti-corruption war has not even started. All we now see is anti-corruption rhetoric.

The President has just dropped his cabinet and a new one is just about to be constituted. How do you rate them and what kind of cabinet do you envisage to deliver for this country.

Right from the onset, in fact even when the 49 list was sent to us, I was one of those who vehemently opposed the size and the quality of the cabinet, I raised opposition to the composition of the cabinet but at the end of the day, the president got what he wanted and it has turned out that, that is not what Nigerians want.

While constituting a new cabinet, he ought to reflect politics quite alright but the over riding consideration is to form a team that would succeed in implementing his programme.

The president should get a team that would deliver rather than deadwoods. This time around, I think the senate would not just treat the new list with the casualness the first list was treated. I think we are still regulating the way and manner we screened the ministerial nominees the first time they were brought.

Arts & Entertainment

Extending joy to children!

By Tadaferua Ujorha

Lanre Shonibare is the branch manager of Abiola Bookshop, Abuja. In this interview, he comments on his bookshop's interest in the sale of children's literature and the problems local authors face.

What ideas do you bear in mind when you source children's literature for sale in your bookshop?

We have observed that in Nigeria, most local authors produce books that are not educative enough. When you look at our shelves, you would see that most of the books there are foreign children's books. Most of the works by local authors are not suitable for them. That is why we went for the foreign children's LadyBird series. We have them for children ranging from six months to ten years. We have them in cassette form. All those works we read when we were kids are here, like the Three Musketeers, Puss in Boots. We stock many texts that belong to the LadyBird series.

We also have keywords too like A for Apple, B for Baby as the children say. We have keywords in different categories. These are according to the age of the child. Parents can come, look at the age range, and make selections for their children. It has been nice. Now, we are low on stock and we have just called

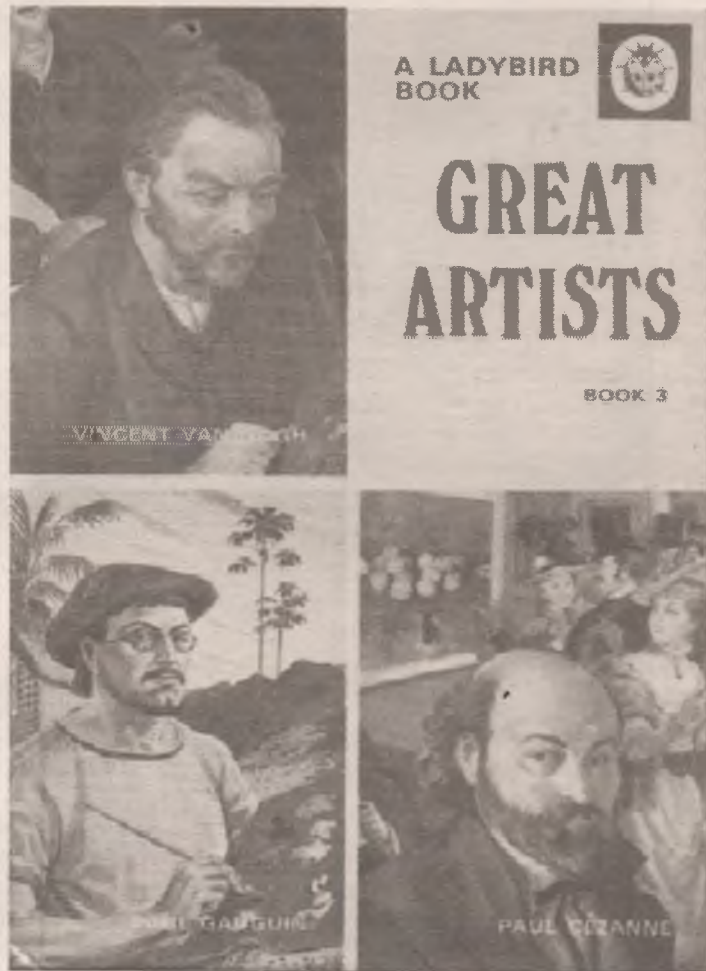
Lagos to bring in more of the stock, and children's literatures are the fastest moving book in the whole bookshop.

of business. We deal directly with the publishers, and the problem with Nigerian children's book is that when we buy directly from

the day, when you buy from the publisher, the books are there on your shelf, if you have paid for it. People would not buy from you at the right price, because those pirates outside are just going to do the printing. So, we got discouraged about it and we said well, there is nothing we can do. However we encourage Nigerian authors. We have assisted some of them to publish their books, because we have a press in the Lagos office of Abiola Bookshop. After a while, selling the book was so problematic. There are so many pirates everywhere. So at the end of the day, it was a bad investment. So, we stopped it. We import direct from Europe.

Are there any new titles among the LadyBird series that you stock here?

Yes, there are some new ones, the keywords, and Discovery series for instance. Also, we would be happy if government can protect the local publishers. We would still be dealing with the LadyBird series. We are their main agents in Nigeria.



Why don't you stock Nigerian authors?

We used to deal with them before. Then, we had so many problems with the publishers. We don't do third party in our own kind

the publisher, this does not protect the publisher. Someone can just pick a copy of the book, go and meet a printer, print it out and start selling. That is the Nigerian experience. At the end of

Art Watch!

Book launch

The Hurricane, a biography of the late General Murtala Mohammed by Taiwo Ogunipe will be launched on Thursday February 8th 2001.

Time: 2.00 p.m.

Venue: Nicon Noga Hilton Hotel, Abuja.

Reviewer: Dr. Rcuben Abati.

Hajj guide, by Aishat Kande Abubakar will be launched on Saturday 10th February 2001 at the Conference Hall of the National Mosque, Garki - Abuja, by 9.00 a.m.

Chief launcher will be His Excellency, Alhaji Ahmad Sani, Yariman Bakura and Executive Governor of Zamfara state.

Guest of Honour is the Saudi Arabian Ambassador of Nigeria, while the Guest Speaker will be Professor A.A. Gwandu, Chairman, National Committee on Hajj Affairs.

Stirring Lines

Blessings upon Cadmus, the Phocncians, or whoever it was that invented books

-Carlyle, Letter to R.Mitchell.

Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested.

- Bacon, Essays: Of Studies.

A good book is the precious life-blood of a master-spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life.

- Milton, Areopagitica.

PRIME VIEWING

M.N.E.T

06:00 BBC World Service
07:00 K-TV Transmission
09:00 Hornblower: The Duchess And The Devil
11:00 Kansas City
13:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
14:00 K-TV Transmission
17:00 Egoli - Place Of Gold
17:30 where Ya @
18:00 The Pretender
19:00 Big Business
21:00 The Jerry Springer Show
22:00 Beaches
00:10 Truth Or Consequences
02:05 Paradise Road
04:10 Jawbreaker

HALL MARK

Entertainment Network
06:15 Molly
06:45 Danger Bay
07:45 Eversmile, New Jersey
09:15 Sarah, Plain And Tall: Winter's End
10:50 To Dance With The White Dog
12:30 Foxfire
14:15 Resting Place
16:00 Grave Secrets
17:30 The Canterville Ghost
19:00 The Wishing Tree
20:45 The Legend Of Sleepy Hollow
22:15 Don Quixote
00:35 A Woman Of The North
02:00 When Innocence Is Lost
03:30 Fighting For My Daughter
05:05 The Boys Next Doors
21:00 Green Mansions
23:00 Logan's Run

CARTOON NETWORK

07:00 Yo Yogi!
07:30 The Biskitts
08:00 The Flintstone Frolics
08:30 Tom and Jerry Kids
09:00 The Powerpuff Girls
09:30 Dexter Laboratory
10:00 Tom and Jerry
10:30 Flying Machines
11:00 Top Cat
11:30 A Pup Named Scooby Doo
12:00 Yogi's Treasure Hunt
12:30 Wacky Races
13:00 Hong Kong Phooey
13:30 Popeye
14:00 Droopy and Barney
14:30 Looney Tunes
15:00 Tom and Jerry
15:30 The Flintstones
16:00 The Jetsons
16:30 Mike, Lu and Og
17:00 Scooby Doo
17:30 Dexter's Laboratory
18:00 The Powerpuff Girls
18:30 Ed, Edd & Eddy
19:00 The Real Adventures Of Johnny Quest
19:30 The Centurions
20:00 Tom and Jerry
20:30 The Flintstones
21:00 Transmission Ends

Contemporary African art exhibition opens at the Smithsonian Museum, Washington

By Bruce Greenberg

Asked to characterize the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art's new exhibition, "Encounters with the contemporary", its curator Elizabeth Harney said that it is first "a reminder of where we have been" as one of America's few museums collecting contemporary African art.

More importantly though, she added, the "Encounters" exhibition she has organized and helped create will serve as "a preview of things to come" for museum visitors.

According to Harney, who is a recent addition to the Smithsonian staff, past exhibitions drawn from the museum's permanent collection have largely showcased indigenous African art, particularly tribal masks and related artefacts that visitors typically associate with sub-Saharan Africa.

Of course, there have been notable exceptions. One was the installation of Sokari Douglas Camp's kinetic sculptures in 1988, when the museum (as a bureau of the Smithsonian Institution) began actively to exhibit and collect modern African art. Another was "The

Poetics of Line" exhibition of 1998, which featured contemporary paintings and drawings by seven artists associated with the University of Nigeria at Nsukka. Two of those artists - Chike C. Aniakor of Abatete, Nigeria, and El Anatsui of Anyako, Ghana - are represented in this exhibition.

Now the museum's contemporary holdings, collected

since 1974 when the museum was a private institution, have been assembled for a major yearlong exhibit of some 62 works. The objects represent the efforts of 32 prominent African artists, working in an astounding variety of media, which will be rotated every four months through January 6, 2002.

Works by such important African modernists as Valente

Malangatana of Maputo Province, Mozambique; Bruce Onabrakpeya of Agbarha-Ottor, Nigeria; and Gerard Sekoto (1913-93) of Transvaal, South Africa, may be seen alongside those of younger artists like Godfried Donkor of Ghana, Yinka Shonibare of London, England; and Berni Searle of Cape Town, South Africa.

Harney pointed out that while many of these artists work in their native countries, an impressive number are expatriates trained in the western academic tradition. For instance, Alexander "Skunder" Boghossian of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Mohammed Omer Khalil of Burri, Sudan, trained and travelled abroad in the 1950s and now reside in the United States. Some were born to African parents living in London, Paris, and New York. Others represent a second, even third generation, who trained in Africa's national art schools and also received their graduate degrees abroad.

"While these artists embrace the artistry of their African heritage, express a new identity born of exile, or the immigrant experience, where the international artistic currents have as much influence upon their work as the traditional methods and techniques of their African ancestors,"



A painting by Daniel Akinlami at a recent exhibition at Sheraton Hotel, Abuja.



Education



ANA organises cultural fair for school children

By Tadaferua Ujorha

The Association of Nigerian Authors, Niger State Branch has taken a keen interest in nurturing the talents of children and youths. This is demonstrated in very dramatic form in its annual carnival of Arts and Festival of songs. The 7th Festival will hold at Minna between 5th and 8th February 2001 at the U.K. Bello Arts Theatre, Minna. Below are additional details on the festival produced by ANA, Niger State Branch.

INTRODUCTION

The Annual Schools Carnival of Arts and Festival of Songs (ASCAFS) is a programme designed by the Association of Nigerian Authors Niger State Branch to bring together students of post-primary schools for an intellectual fair. It is a forum for school children to showcase their latent talent in Creative Writing, Quiz competition, Painting, Craft, Drama, Song and Cultural display, so as to sharpen their skill for easier comprehension. The children are made to go through the processes of reading, writing and thinking with

fun and pageantry. At the end of the programme they are given incentives to stimulate their interests in Book Culture and Arts. This programme is the "first of its kind in Nigeria and yet to be copied" Abubakar Gimba, Yahaya Dangana and the other trustees have always availed the association of their financial and moral support towards the success of the programme.

The Niger State Government has continually shown interest in the programme. The State Ministry of Education sponsored all the prizes for the 1998 edition. A giant trophy was also donated by a past Military Administrator of the State, Commissioner of Police Simeon O. Oduoye. That trophy is presently being competed for by secondary schools throughout Niger State. His wife Alhaja Samiat Titilayo Oduoye, also attended one of the events during the 1998 edition. Hajija Fathia I. Shuaibu a past F.S.P. Chairperson of the state attended the 1999 finals and donated a beautiful trophy to be competed for among female contestants.

The wife of the present Niger State Governor and initiator of Youth Empowerment scheme (YES), Hajija Zaynab Kure, also supported the last edition of ASCAFS held in Feb. 2000 by sponsoring the cash prizes. Former Head of State Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar and His wife Justice Fati Abubakar have always donated in aid of ASCAFS whenever ANA called.

Corporate support also came from the Minna depot of Wonder Foods Nig. Ltd. (makers of Cowbell and Top tea). The company provided free tea, drinking cups and writing pens at the finals of ASCAFS 2000.

Chief Ojo Maduckwe Former Minister of Culture & Tourism (Now Minister of Transport) was the Special Guest of Honour at the

closing day of ASCAFS 2000. He was thrilled to say this, "The festival is unique because, over the years, its significance and relevance has increased considerably to the admiration of all and sundry... There is no

doubt that the ASCAFS child and the adult he or she turns out to be will have passed through effective reading and writing socialization processes, realizable significantly through enduring practices and the determination to achieve".

This year, a school each from Kwara, Plateau, Kaduna and F.C.T respectively will be participating in the carnival (ASCAFS 2001) which is going to be the 7th edition having been held concurrently for six years now from 1995.

MODE OF ORGANISATION

The programme is subsumed into categories A, B, C, D, E, F and G. Each category carries an exercise.

They are:-

- A. On the spot: writings
 - (i) On the spot poetry writing
 - (ii) On the spot short story writing.
- B. Drama presentation.
- C. Quiz contest.
- D. On the spot painting
- E. Song
- F. Cultural display
- G. Craft

The participants in these events are brought together in one centre and judges are appointed to award marks during the sessions. At the end of the programme, prizes ranging from cash, books, wall-clocks, trophies and certificates are awarded to individual, winners in various categories, overall winners and three best teachers-in-charge. The most valuable contestants are also chosen from male and female participants respectively.

PAST WINNERS OF ASCAFS

1995 - Ahmadu Bahago Sec. School Minna
1996 - Gov't Girls Sec. School, Old, Airport, Minna,
1997 - Gov't Girls Sec. School Old Airport, Minna.

1998 - Hill Top Model School Minna
1999 - Federal Government Academy Suleja.
2000 - Federal Government Academy Suleja

GENERAL RULES GUIDING ASCAFS

1. All students attending ASCAFS must be orderly and of good conduct. Any student of any school identified with irregular behaviour shall be handed over to the security agents.
2. There shall be no interference with proceedings. Unnecessary applause considered to confuse, interfere, or cause disorderliness to proceedings shall attract immediate disciplinary action.
3. All students must be seated during the conduct of events except otherwise permitted by the head of delegation of each school or the organisers.
4. There shall be no fights, smoking and drinking of alcohol.



Children at a book fair at Zaria.

5. All students must be well dressed in the uniform specification of their school.
6. Each student is expected to assist others in times of need.
7. Competitors must wear a name tag showing the school they represent.

MODE OF ENTRY

1. Category A: Each School shall present two (2) contestants for each part.
2. Category B: Each School shall present 6 characters only (30 minutes only).
3. Category C: Each School shall present four (4) contestants only.
4. Category D: Each School shall present two (2) contestants.
5. Category E: Each School shall present six (6) contestants only.
6. Category F: Each School shall present not more than eight (8) contestants.
7. Category G: Each school shall present not more than two (2) items.

Notes:

- (i) No contestants shall take part in more than three (3) events
- (ii) A contestant cannot be substituted after the commencement of ASCAFS.

CATEGORY A:

- (i) Short story writing: This requires that a participant shall write instant short story on a given subject (title) within a specified time, taking into consideration the following: Dialogue, Characterization (fully developed), Description of scenes, episode, character etc., Brevity: the story must be as short as possible. Adherence to the subject matter given is very important and should be well organised, style (Language - diction and the use of figures of speech).
- (ii) In this contest, the writer will also be given a subject (title) on which he/she shall spend a given time. Such a participant is expected to also take into account such features as: Versification, Stanza, Adherence subject matter.

CATEGORY B: DRAMA PRESENTATION

Each school shall present a play at the finals. All artistic requirements for drama presentation will be strictly applied (twenty Minutes only).

Theme: My future in my hands.

CATEGORY C: QUIZ

This involves quiz contest among all the secondary schools participating (see list of books to be studied)

LIST OF BOOKS

NOVELS

1. Footprints - Abubakar Gimba
2. Echoes of Fulfilment - Idris Gwarjiko
3. Bubble Dreams - Khalil Ayuba
4. Mystery Stones - B.M. Dzukogi
5. The Spider and others Stories - ANA/FSP Folktales.
6. A Poet to Pay - Hasiya Muhammad

POETRY

1. Inner Rumbings - Abubakar Gimba

2. Dance steps of Dawn - ANA Niger Anthology
3. Cadence - Isiaka Aliagan

PLAY

1. The Gods are not to blame - Ola Rotimi
2. Mr. Culture - Lucky S. Oghuvwu
3. Arms and the Man - George Bernard Shaw.

CATEGORY D: PAINTING

This requires that participants shall paint using any colour(s) he/she desires to depict the situation to be given at the finals, following these outlined features: Colours, Boldness, Subject matter, Neatness, Framing. Contestants must come along with their painting materials.

Themes: Democracy, Hope, Unity in diversity and peace.

CATEGORY E: SONG

The contestants are required to compose a song on a given theme and be rendered at the finals in February 2000. When composing the song the following features must be considered.

- (i) The tone and refrain
- (ii) Theme, lyrics well typed out and submitted at the finals. However, during rendition, mode of presentation such as composure dressing, voice quality effect of the song on the audience, will form the criteria for the award of marks.
- (iii) Theme: Today and forever

CATEGORY F: CULTURAL DISPLAY.

Annually, a school shall select from among the list of Nigerian tribes provided by the association and depict on stage any cultural aspect of that tribe which will, be of interest, and knowledge to the audience. Such cultural aspect must be infused with the following:

- (i) Drumming (ii) Singing (iii) Traditional Costumes of the tribe or settlement (iv) Dances (v) Setting of the stage as it is with the tribe being depicted (vi) Tribal features or mark (vii) Language of the tribe with an interpreter.

TRIBES FROM STATES

- (1) Plateau (2) Borno (3) Kwara (4) Bayelsa (5) Edo (6) Kano (7) Abia (8) Kebbi

Each school shall design and construct any two items so desired in the best way a student(s) can and present such as entries during the finals. All stages of construction, building, carving, moulding must be done by the competitors. Any traces of use of finished products shall attract sanctions against future participation in ASCAFS.

Items: Pay Loader, Excavator, Crane

N.B: All writings, painting, composition of songs and any ASCAFS related activities must be done by students only. Teachers are to serve as supervisors only.

NATURE OF ASCAFS PRIZES.

1. Books 2. Trophies 3. Cash 4. Certificates
5. Wall clocks 6. Other valuable items/materials.



School children at a recent event

Arts & Entertainment

BOOKS

an interest in their work.

But my wish went in vain following the death of Mallam Shehu Yabo, the Science Master at Sokoto Middle School. The Sokoto NA sent a special message to Kaduna requesting that I should be trained as his replacement. Mr. Mort, the Principal, consulted me and I readily agreed. So after our graduation at the end of 1943, I remained behind as a lone trainee under the college Science Master, Mr. Edward Arthur. I was attached to the science laboratory and I liked the job very well until one day when Mr. Arthur asked me to take his class. He gave me his teaching notes to enable me conduct the lesson.

Being my first experience of teaching, I felt very uneasy especially when I discovered in the process that Mr. Arthur had been standing behind the door watching. I was so nervous that he eventually took over the class. Immediately after this episode, I told him I wished to see Mr. Mort to inform him I had changed my mind on being a teacher. But both he and Mr. Mort assured me that I would soon overcome the nervousness and make a good teacher. This incident often crossed my mind many years later when, as a politician, I had to address large gatherings.

As a pupil teacher, I was given a small house to live and a cook-steward, Yahaya. My monthly subsistence allowance was a mere £3.0.0, although I was able to feed well and even save 10 shillings a month. Not before long, however, I was abruptly transferred to Zaria Middle School to take its final year students in science. Their science teacher, Mallam Abdurrahman Okene, had suddenly resigned following a disagreement between him and the expatriate Provincial Education Officer, Mr. A W A Spicer. Since there was no other qualified science teacher available in the entire North, I was asked to assist on the understanding that I would continue with my training at Zaria under Mr. Spicer's supervision. It was also understood that I would return to Sokoto Middle School on completion of the training.

The training of teachers was originally the prime objective of Barewa College when it first admitted students in 1921. Located in Katsina, it was officially opened on March 5, 1922 by Sir Hugh Clifford, the Governor of Nigeria. The college was first named Higher College then renamed Training College, Katsina, undoubtedly to emphasize its teacher-training aspect. Thus, almost all the indigenous teachers in all northern middle schools were trained at the college. The last batch of teachers-in-training from the college were moved from Katsina to Kaduna in 1940, the class to which Aminu Kano belonged. This class was sent to Bauchi Middle School for a practical teaching course in 1942 and thus appeared to have ended the traditional role of the famous college as a teacher training school. Henceforth, it was simply called Kaduna College and now Barewa College.

Indeed, since 1937 when the college graduated its first and last batch of science teachers, no other person in Northern Nigeria was trained there as a science teacher! Both the late Mallam Shehu Yabo and Mallam Abdurrahman Okene were the products of this special class of science teachers from Katsina. Others included Mallam Yahaya Gusau and Mallam Muhammadu Mayo who were posted to Kano and Bauchi respectively, although they were later to change places. The position then was that every northern middle school each had only one science teacher and no provision for replacement was made. If a school lost its science teacher, the only alternative was to shut its laboratory until another person was trained. This was what happened at Sokoto Middle School following the death of Shehu Yabo.

The case of Zaria Middle School was unusual in that I temporarily filled the post vacated by Abdurrahman Okene. Prior to my doing so, four other persons were being trained in-house by Mr. Spicer to fill the vacancies in other middle schools which required teachers for other subjects. The four happened to be my classmates: Haruna Potiskum from Borno Province, Haruna Soba from Zaria Province, Abdurrahman Katsina from Katsina Province and Ibrahim Agate from Niger Province. Another trainee, Rhoda Gotom, who had

completed her secondary school at Wusasa, near Zaria, later joined the group.

I had a multiple schedule in Zaria in that apart from having to read for my Grade II Teachers' Certificate along with my colleagues, I also had to train for science teaching as well as teach the subject to classes three and four in the school. It was a great challenge, which I thoroughly enjoyed. Mr Spicer, who was very competent and a strict disciplinarian, gave us rigorous training. We pupil teachers lived within the school premises among the college students although we had our respective rooms. We supervised early morning cleaning of the compound and conducted physical training drills. These were followed by school assembly and roll-call, classes and then breakfast, which lasted from 9-10am.

Our teaching practice was supervised by Mr Spicer who was assisted by an Education Officer, the headmaster and by a number of senior teachers. The senior teachers included Mallam Zailani, Mallam Abdurrahman Mora, and Mallam Danjuma Jega. The relationship between teacher trainees and other teaching staff was very cordial and we did not have disciplinary problems with the students. But I myself had some personal difficulties in that some of my students in the higher classes were older and bigger than me. Luckily, though, the school's disciplinary regime took good care of the somewhat embarrassing situation.

The science laboratory was well equipped and the students were very keen on science subjects, especially on laboratory experiments. Not surprisingly, many of them passed their final examination with flying colours. One of them deserves special mention. The young man had been hospitalised for several weeks. When he resumed, I voluntarily taught him the science lessons which he had missed. Within a few months, he had not only caught up with his classmates but also emerged among the best in the class. The sciences became his best subjects and he later studied electrical engineering in the UK. He rose rapidly in his career until he became the General Manager of the Nigerian Electrical Power Authority (NEPA). The student was Yahaya Dikko. After his retirement from NEPA, he served as my Presidential Adviser on Petroleum and Energy.

Apart from teaching science, I also taught other subjects in part fulfilment of the requirements for a Grade II teachers' certificate. One of the subjects was geography. But little did I or my students know that this would one day afford us a small niche in the history of Kaduna, later Barewa, College. One day, Mr. Mort, the Principal, came to Zaria and asked me to take my geography class on a map drawing excursion of Zaria city. He personally supervised the exercise. In the process of drawing a rough sketch of an area fringing the city walls, I discovered that Mr. Mort was actually more interested in a particular area of Tudun Jukun situated along the northern end of the city walls. He got us to demarcate an area between the main road along the city walls and Tukur-Tukur village with pegs and stones. The Government later acquired the area, and Kaduna College was moved there in 1949. It became Government College, Zaria and later renamed Barewa College.



Alhaji Shehu Shagari

My annual salary as a pupil teacher in 1944 was £42.0.0. But in that year the government decided to grant 50% and 25% salary increases to workers in urban and rural areas, respectively, so as to ameliorate the inflationary impacts of World War II. The increase was known as Cost of Living Allowance (COLA). Since Zaria came under urban areas, I received a 50 percent increase, which raised my salary to £63.0.0 per annum or £5.5.0 per month. This was a large sum of money in those days, especially for a young single man. Fifteen shillings paid for my breakfast and dinner a month, thanks to an arrangement which we pupil teachers made with some senior teachers to provide us with food from their own homes. Our lunch, which was usually snacks of boiled cassava and roasted peanuts, and other needs were met by the remaining £4.10.0, which was often quite adequate for the month. Compared with my latter earnings and spending, I have never been better off financially than when I was on that apparently meagre salary!

Life in Zaria was quite enjoyable. All the pupil teachers passed their examinations and derived satisfaction from also having helped their students to pass theirs. We made many friends inside and outside the school, notably at the state-owned Gaskiya Corporation (formerly the Literature Bureau) which, like our school, had also moved from Kofar Tukur-Tukur to Tudun Jukun. Much of my free time was spent with friends from the Gaskiya Corporation, particularly the late Abubakar Imam, the late Makama Kano, Nuhu Bamali, Muhammadu Kure Lapai, Ibrahim Gusau and Abubakar Tunau Mafara. We pupil teachers enjoyed greatly the intellectual excitement of Zaria, which, then as now, remains a centre of western learning and of radical thinking in northern Nigeria. Indeed, the seeds of my own political future began to germinate in Zaria, a topic that which I will return to later.

While in Zaria, I once visited my friends Haliru Binji and Abubakar Gummi who were then studying at the Islamic Law School in Kano. It was my first visit to Kano and I was impressed by its cosmopolitan nature as well as by the Islamic and entrepreneurial zeal of its people. These impressions remained with me as I left Zaria for Sokoto on completion of my training. And while I looked forward to returning to Sokoto, it was also disheartening to part with my colleagues. Haruna Soba succeeded me as the Science Master at Zaria Middle School. My three other colleagues also left for their respective provinces to assume work as teachers in various middle schools. Haruna Potiskum went to Maiduguri, Abdurrahman Katsina to Katsina, while Ibrahim Agate went back to Bida. Rhoda Gotom, later Mrs Mohammed, was later posted to the Women Training College (WTC) in Sokoto. (She in 1981 became Nigeria's High Commissioner to Botswana and Zimbabwe.)

Little did I realize at the time that I had finished my formal education. My subsequent efforts to go further were frustrated by my personal and professional circumstances. Yet the education and discipline we went through were remarkably good. These have greatly helped to mould my character, thinking and world-view. I recalled those bygone school experiences and reflected on several aspects of their continuing relevance in a speech I delivered as President of Barewa Old Boys' Association at its annual meeting in Zaria on 11 December 1976:

In those "good old days" practically nothing was known about student disturbances or strikes. The standard of discipline was so splendid that the words of a house prefect in those days had more force of law and were more effective than the decrees and edicts of the

military regime now.

Teachers, too, in those days were so devoted and so involved in their jobs that one can only compare the degree of their involvement with that of the present-day soldier in the trenches at the battle front. The standard of learning in the old Barewa was so high that it could be compared only with that of some universities these days.

But accompanying all these virtues and many others were some of the following, which many of us have experienced but have so easily forgotten:

- (1) There was complete subjugation of body and soul to foreign colonial domination.
- (2) Corporal punishment, fatigue and even torture, was the order of the day in schools.
- (3) Hunger and poverty were so rampant that a square meal a day was regarded as a privilege.
- (4) Students walked long distances, sometimes literally for days, to their schools.
- (5) School equipment, books, teaching aids, and other amenities were either unknown or very scarce, and were all imported.
- (6) The number of students in the whole school in any year was fewer than that in one class in the present day Barewa College.

These and many other evils that many of you can easily remember were some of the vicissitudes of the so-called good old days, which so many of us describe so proudly with such relish. But who will ever think of a return to the good old days? Were those old days really good or bad? Well, I would say that they were good only in the lessons that they teach us; for what else is history but a catalogue of woes, which helps us to avoid making foolish mistakes.

The question is have we really learned anything from our experiences? As far as I can see, perhaps the only lesson so far grasped is that one can only be made a good boy or a good citizen for that matter, through coercion and suppression, which unfortunately cannot be made to endure. This is also unfortunately our political experience -hence the coups and counter-coups of today.

When are we going to learn to be good boys or good citizens without the whip and the gun? This is a challenge to our educators and our leaders. When are we going to appreciate the present and aspire with honesty and sincere devotion to a better future, instead of only looking back with exaggerated admiration to the past with all its faults?

I left Zaria on 14 March 1945 and arrived Sokoto on the 'Ides of March', the 42nd anniversary of the conquest of Sokoto by the British. It was also the day that marked the end of an extended feud at the Sokoto Middle School, where I had come to be its Science Master. The headmaster, Mallam Alhaji Dogondaji, and a number of his dissident senior staff had been forced to resign. Mallam Dogondaji, who was then packing out, directed me to Abubakar Sokoto, his acting successor.

I was lodged at the school guesthouse which comprised an outer sitting room (zaure) and two round huts. But since the school was still on vacation, I was told I could proceed to my village if I so desired, an offer, which I declined for two main reasons. I wanted to get the science laboratory, which had been dormant for some time, in good shape before the school resumed. I also wanted to settle down in Sokoto before deciding on whether to commit myself to a proposed marriage which my family was hastily trying to arrange.

Besides, I came back to Sokoto at a time when there was acute economic hardship caused by the war and a drought-induced famine. The famine, known locally as *halima*, introduced *garin kwaki* (grated fried-dry cassava) into the menu of many Sokoto families. Sokoto was also tense politically as a result of workers' legitimate demands for their Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) which public sector workers elsewhere had already been paid with arrears. Another reason was the triumphal return from prison of Sardauna of Sokoto, Ahmadu Rabah, to his position as councillor following his successful appeal against a controversial one-year jail term in 1943 by the Sultan's court for alleged fiscal misdemeanour.

To be continued.

Arts & Entertainment

BOOKS

The boy becomes a man! (V)

Continued from yesterday

But when the results came, I was amazed to find my name and that of Yusufu Kaduna as the successful candidates. This was bad news and I vowed not to go to Kaduna. The headmaster and a number of our teachers tried in vain to persuade me. It was no use speaking to my family because they too were vehemently opposed to the idea of my going to a place where they believed I might get lost, or at best return as "an atheist, fully Europeanised and corrupted". Eventually, it was the personal intervention of Sultan Abubakar III, which compelled my going to Kaduna, and it was he himself who took me there when he went for a conference of northern traditional rulers.

Sultan Abubakar III's part in ensuring that I went to Kaduna College stemmed directly from the pledge I made to his predecessor, Sultan Hassan, in 1935. Unable to convince me to accept the offer of admission, our headmaster, Mallam Alhaji Dogondaji reported me to Sultan Abubakar and specifically drew his attention to the pledge I had made to his predecessor. The Sultan spoke to me very kindly, assuring me that my going to Kaduna would do both myself and my people a lot of good, and that he had no doubt that I would gladly agree to take up the admission for his sake and that of the country. After I deferred to his advice, he told me that he himself would be taking me to Kaduna. A few days later, I was summoned to the palace where one of his aides, Muhammadu Buba, said he had been asked to look after me while on the Sultan's entourage that was leaving for Kaduna by road the following morning. We set out as planned and spent a night at Gusau. On arrival in Kaduna the next day, we checked into the Sultan's Lodge at Anguwar Sarkin Musulmi. It was from there that I first saw a train as it roared along the rail line from Zaria. This was in January 1941.

A day after our arrival, I was escorted to the college in Kaduna south by one of Sultan Abubakar III's aides. My escort handed a letter from the Sultan to the acting Principal, Mr Tom Baldwin, who then called in Mallam Bello Kagara, the Arabic teacher. Both spoke to me kindly and gave me a lot of encouragement. But since the college was on vacation, Mr Baldwin asked me to return home and come back fully prepared to work and succeed when the college resumes. My impressions of the college, which comprised only ten scattered bungalows amidst lots of mango trees, was one of disappointment.

On our way back to the Sultan's Lodge, I enquired from my escort if where we went was really the college. He explained that it was but that it was only a temporary site. The permanent site, onto which the college moved when it was transferred from Katsina, was now and beautiful, somewhere in northern Kaduna. But that it was being used temporarily by British NCOs stationed in Kaduna following the outbreak of World War II. The substantive Principal, Mr Eric L. Mort, he added, did not want the college closed. So determined to continue, "even under the mango trees if necessary", that Mr Mort drove round Kaduna looking for a suitable place.

He eventually found some vacant bungalows in Kaduna south, which belonged to the Nigerian Railways and obtained official permission to use them as temporary site. One bungalow was converted into an office, four into dormitories and two into classrooms. Three other bungalows became staff quarters, with two teachers sharing one each. Due to shortage of buildings, students in class V, the lowest of the college's three classes, had to be taught first under a mango tree, and later under a temporary shed built of mud and grass. It was in this makeshift classroom that I would find myself when the college resumed some weeks later. Just over 1.5 km away near the railway station, a bungalow was later secured and converted into a laboratory. Life under this makeshift arrangement was, the students' own modest contribution to the war efforts!

I returned to Shagari with mixed feelings about the sort of life that awaited me in a reputable college, albeit one, which looked

Yesterday, we glimpsed Alhaji Shehu Shagari as a schoolboy under the influence of the versatile Waziri Junaidu, the late Waziri of Sokoto, and others. We also noted the excellent bond of love shared by mother and child. This part reveals Alhaji Shehu Shagari as a schoolboy in a community buffeted by the winds of the Second World War. He traverses Zaria, Kaduna and Sokoto, as a pupil, and later as pupil teacher. We encounter more of his teachers, too, and there is a hint, though briefly, of marriage.



The Book

more, like a camp. As the vacation drew to a close, I came back to Sokoto and joined my senior colleagues en route to Kaduna College. Apart from my classmate, Yusufu Kaduna, whose parents resided in Kaduna, I was the only freshman from Sokoto in 1941. Our seniors from Sokoto included Yusufu Jega, Abubakar Tambuwal, Ibrahim Argungu, Mamman Kaura, Tukur Yelwa and Ibrahim Dasuki Dogondaji, who, unknown to us, would become the 17th Sultan of Sokoto in November 1988.

We all left for Kaduna by the only regular public transport, the Nigerian Railway Motors. The lorry conveying us broke down some 24km to Talata Mafara where we spent a night after trekking our way there. We waited most of the following day before the lorry, finally repaired, took us to Gusau and thence we travelled by train to Zaria where we spent another night. Next day we caught another train which finally took us to Kaduna.

On arrival at Kaduna College, Yusufu Kaduna and I were placed in the same residential hall (Lugard House) as Ibrahim Dasuki Dogondaji, our former Middle School classmate but now one-year our senior. The hostel was a bungalow with only four rooms, a kitchen and a boys' quarters, the latter originally meant for domestic staff. Improvised bathrooms and toilets were outside the bungalow. The biggest room contained five beds while the other three had three beds, two beds and one bed respectively. The prefect occupied the boys' quarters. There were three other residential halls; namely,

Clifford House, Dan-Hausa and Mallam Smith, each of which looked exactly like Lugard House. The classroom blocks were of the same size and shape as the dormitories but the partition walls were removed to allow for more space. Fortunately, there was running water and electricity in the college, but lights-out was strictly observed at 9.00 p.m. daily.

Kaduna College in 1941 was a small community of dedicated students and teachers, tucked away in the backwoods of Kaduna south. The student population, drawn from all the 12 provinces of the now defunct Northern Nigeria, was small with about 30 students in each of the three classes in the college. I strongly suspect, then as now, that this might have stemmed from a deliberate colonial government policy to control the pace of educational advance in Northern Nigeria. My own registration number was 394, which clearly meant that the total enrolment in the 20 years that it existed was less than 430, an annual average admission of 20 pupils.

The teaching staff included Mr. Mort who was also the Principal, Mr. M Wood who taught English, and Mr. J M Beckley who was the Geography/History Instructor. Others included Mr. O Onimole who taught mathematics; Mr. Colc, the Science Master; Mallam Bello Kagara, the Religious Knowledge and Arabic tutor; and Mallam Yazidu, the English Instructor. There were a number of staff changes while I was there. Mr. Wood was replaced by Mr. WS de G Rankin; Mallam Abba Habib changed places with

Mallam Yazidu who went to Borno; while Mr. Edward Arthur took over as Science Master from Mr. Cole who went abroad on further studies. A new arts and crafts teacher, Mr. M Okorodudu later joined the staff. Mr. M. Okorodudu later became Agent-General of the Western Region in London.

Intellectual and social life in the college was serious and hectic but interesting. In class V, substantial attention was paid to English with particular emphasis on grammar and the works of William Shakespeare. In the upper classes, the emphasis was on science subjects. The teaching of geography and history was heavily slanted towards Britain and Europe rather than towards Nigeria and Africa. The course on Islamic history was based largely on the distorted works of anti-Islamic authors like Sir William Muir and TR Batten. But I, for one, did not realize this until much later when I myself began teaching the subject at the Sokoto Middle School.

The richness of the college library was a great incentive to those with a large appetite for reading. I readily took advantage of the facilities and read numerous books on my own. Indeed, there was a time when I read one book each day for several days. Later, I concentrated on science subjects, particularly biology and chemistry which were among my best subjects. The college also encouraged drama and debate, a stimulus that spurred the students to build an open-air theatre. Other extra-curricula activities that the college promoted included farming, gardening, swimming and boating. I was particularly attracted to such associations and clubs as the scout movement, debating and dramatic societies. Without all these, life in the school would have been much less interesting given the constraints that the Second World War inflicted on public spending and the hardships it brought on the Nigerian people generally.

Due largely to wartime scarcities, the school authorities introduced very stringent austerity measures. Food rationing was the order of the day. Food like rice, yam and guinea-corn were served only once a week. At one time, the only available foodstuff was gari, which we ate at breakfast, lunch, and dinner! Potatoes, maize and cassava from the school farm occasionally supplemented this. School uniforms were made out of thick hand-woven cotton cloth (*gwado*), while shortage of writing paper compelled us to resort to unused parts of old exercise books. About the only notable physical changes were the additional mud buildings and huts necessitated by the expansion in admission of new students into forms III and IV. On the whole, life at Kaduna College was tough, but the students were quite happy and proud to belong to this premier institution; one which was to produce most of the Northern Region political elites.

We all worked hard towards our final examinations in 1943, but this seemed to have been inspired not by greater academic or career aspirations but by the desire to achieve. There was not a single university in Nigeria, and only one post-secondary school, the Yaba Higher College established in 1934. The war also seemed to have severely curtailed the chances of going abroad. There were plentiful low- and middle-level job opportunities for us, but not a single high-level post in the entire Northern regional civil service was held by an indigene.

Naturally, our ambitions then were modest. Mine was to be a veterinary assistant, no doubt because of my interest in biology and perhaps also because of my informal links with the veterinary service over a decade earlier. Since 1930, my village of Shagari had served as a camp where all the cattle in the area were immunized against various cattle diseases. Over the years, I had made friends with many of the veterinary staff who worked there, and naturally developed



Crime & Punishment



Court rules Thursday in suit against Obasanjo, Attorney General & others

Stories by Uwem Umo

A Federal High Court sitting in Abuja has adjourned ruling to Thursday, February 1, 2001, on a motion ex parte instituted against the President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo and the Attorney General of the Federation by 67 alleged armed robbers seeking to enforce their fundamental human rights.

Moving the motion on Monday before Justice (Mrs.) C.M. Olatoregun, Counsel representing the 67 accused persons, Mr.

Adetokunbo Kayode said the 67 detained persons are seeking the leave of the court to enforce their fundamental Human Rights.

Mr. Kayode leading eight other counsels said in his submission that the application is brought pursuant to sections 46(1) of the 1999 constitution.

Leading counsel who is also the 1st Vice President of the Nigerian Bar Association said the application conforms with orders one rules 2 (1) (3) and (6) and order 4 rules (1) and (2) of the fundamental rights enforcement procedure

rules of 1999 and section 66 (A) of the 1999 constitution.

Mr. Kayode who also leads the Human Rights Committee of the NBA said he was seeking the leave of the court to extend time within which the applicants may apply for the enforcement of their fundamental human rights.

He prayed the court to make a declaration that their continued detention in Kuje prisons for periods ranging between 3-8 years without trial is unconstitutional, illegal, null and void and leave to serve a motion on notice to all the respondents.

He said the application was supported by a statement as well as two affidavits adding that they have complied with order one rules 2 and 3 of the Fundamental Rights procedure rules adding that these were sufficient for the court to rule in the favour of the applicants.

Counsel for the detained persons further deposed that there was a prima facie case before the High Court of violations of Human Rights and asked for an extension of time where upon the presiding judge fixed Thursday, February 1, 2001 for ruling.

It will be recalled that

67 Nigerians are being detained in Kuje prisons between 3 and 8 years on the orders of an Abuja

Chief Magistrate Court who according to the lawyers is not competent to try the case of robbery for which they are complaining against.

The detainees, since their first appearances in court have never been brought to court again hence their suit seeking court leave to release them from prison because they have been kept for too long without trial.

Others also joined in the suit include the Inspector General of police and the FCT Comptroller of Prisons.



Chief Justice M. L. Uwais

Robbers set securityman ablaze

The police in Abuja have begun a manhunt for a six man gang of armed robbers who raided the Texaco petrol station along the Abuja-Zuba expressway on January 25, 2001 in which a security man was shot dead in a room which was later set ablaze.

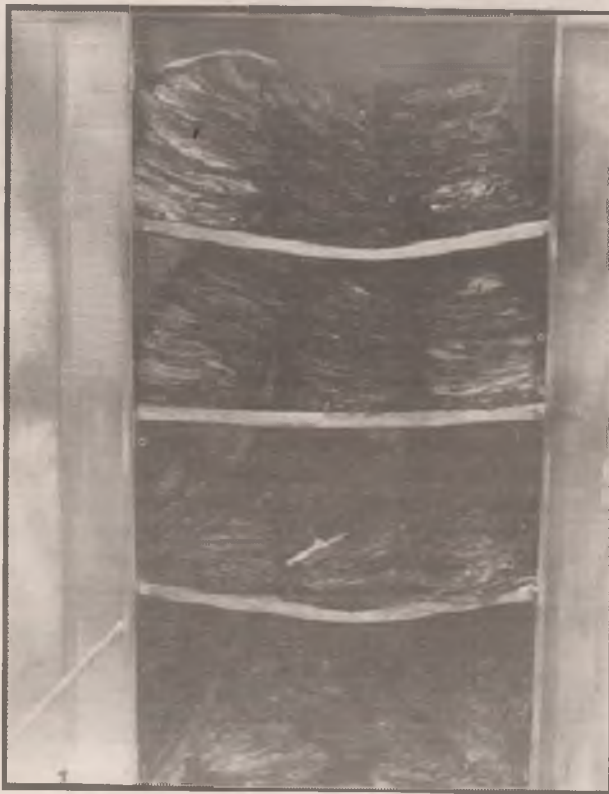
According to the manager of Gugu Oil Nigeria Limited, the owners and operators of the Texaco Petrol Station, Mr. Ibrahim Sulciman, the armed gang struck at about 2.45 a.m. on that fateful day, fired several shots into the air and broke into some offices smashing cupboards and drawers and generally ransacking the

several threats by the armed men who promised to deal with him if eventually they opened the door.

The rampaging armed marauders were said to have successfully kicked down the door, shot Yakubu twice in the head scattering his brains and finally put the house on fire while the second security man escaped with a fractured leg.

Meanwhile, the gang succeeded in stealing only N1,600.

The police Public Relations Officer for the FCT Command, Mr. Ofem Arikpo confirmed the incident to *Daily Trust* when contacted and added that "it is only a matter of time and the police will catch up with them".



A steel shelf full of case files completely destroyed when fire gutted Abuja High Courts 9 & 10 Wednesday, January 23, 2001.

Police declare Uchena Duru missing

The police in the FCT have declared one Uchenna Duru missing.

According to a police bulletin issued by the FCT police image-maker, Mr. Ofem Arikpo, the missing man, aged 24 hails from Awo-Omamma in Oru East Local Government Area of Imo State.

The missing man said to be light in complexion and about 5 feet tall is a textile trader who shuttles between Aba and Lagos and was last seen on December 19, 2000.

The police solicits for any information concerning the missing man and such should be directed to Garki Police Station or Mr. M.S. Shuaibu, Federal Ministry of Commerce, Transport

Section, Garki, Abuja or the father of the missing man at Federal Ministry of Commerce, Federal Secretariat, Owerri, Imo State or any police station.



Missing Uchena Duru

Alagbon fire: IG orders audit of homicide, fraud cases

The Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Musiliu Smith, has ordered an audit of all sensitive and major homicide and fraud cases being investigated by the Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID) Alagbon Close, Ikoyi, Lagos, which was gutted by fire on January 21, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports.

Police sources told NAN at the weekend in Lagos that the audit was sequel to rumours that sensitive case files on murder and large-

scale fraud cases were among documents destroyed in the fire.

Speaking with NAN on the investigations so far, the Force Public Relations Officer, said: "We have been able to identify the cause of the fire. The fire was caused by electricity surge from NEPA supply."

Iwendi, however, said that the committee set up by the Inspector General and headed by the Assistant Inspector-General of Police in charge of the FCID, Mrs. Bimbo Ojomo, had been mandated to find out the

number of case files destroyed in the fire.

The committee has also been mandated to find out whether or not the fire outbreak was as a result of sabotage, he added.

The police spokesman gave an assurance that as soon as the committee completed its assignment, the Inspector-General would look at it and the findings made public.

Meanwhile, all sectional units under Ojomo's supervision, including the special fraud unit headed by Mr. Ade Ajakaiye, a

Commissioner of Police, have been instructed by the committee to compile the names and file numbers of all the pending cases.



IGP, Musiliu Smith

Former Police Sgt. To appear in court for killing father

A former police sergeant, Ezekiel Fajemi will appear in court today to answer charges of patricide.

The former police sergeant according to reliable sources will appear in court for allegedly conspiring with one Yakubu Maikasuwa to kill his father Fajemi Knudowan said to be about 78 Years old.

The suspect whom police described as an applicant is to appear in court under section 96 and 22 of the penal code to answer charges of conspiracy and culpable homicide.

The suspect who is being detained at the State Criminal Investigation Department of the FCT police command was said to have invited his father into his room and thereafter strangled him.

The incident according to the police happened on January 7, 2001 after a minor family disagreement.



Mr. Dika Bwala, FCT Police Commissioner, whole place.

Mr. Sulciman narrated to the police in Kubwa division how the late security man, 25 years old Kashimu Yakubu locked himself up in a room and refused to open despite



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Balance Sheet

As At 30th June, 2000

	2000 N'000	1999 N'000
ASSETS		
Cash and Short Term Funds	4,512,537	2,823,588
Bills Discounted	3,198,100	3,565,842
Investments	147,966	134,366
Loans & Advances	4,225,964	2,232,793
Other Assets	433,639	299,935
Fixed Assets	516,998	222,757
	<u>13,035,204</u>	<u>9,279,281</u>
LIABILITIES		
Deposit Liabilities	10,883,010	5,579,865
Taxation	70,226	51,745
Other Liabilities	1,256,169	2,931,916
	<u>12,209,405</u>	<u>8,563,526</u>
CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
Called-up Share Capital	613,178	510,981
Statutory Reserve	148,934	79,131
Bonus Issue Reserve		102,196
Revenue Reserve	63,687	23,447
	<u>825,799</u>	<u>715,755</u>
Shareholders' Funds	<u>13,035,204</u>	<u>9,279,281</u>
Confirmed credits and other obligations on behalf of customers and the corresponding liabilities thereon.	<u>1,954,792</u>	<u>2,176,991</u>

Profit And Loss Account

For The Year Ended 30th June, 2000

	2000 N'000	1999 N'000
Gross Earnings	<u>1,803,958</u>	<u>744,883</u>
Profit Before Taxation	293,749	209,163
Taxation	(61,071)	(50,615)
Profit After Taxation	<u>232,678</u>	<u>158,548</u>
APPROPRIATIONS		
Statutory Reserve	(69,803)	(47,564)
Proposed Dividend	(122,635)	(102,196)
Retained Profit for the year	40,240	8,788
Reserve Brought Forward	23,447	116,855
Transfer to Bonus Issue Reserve		(102,196)
Balance Carried Forward	<u>63,687</u>	<u>23,447</u>
Alhaji Falalu Bello	<i>[Signature]</i> V/Chairman/Chief Executive	
Alhaji Lamis S. Dikko	<i>[Signature]</i> Executive Director	

Auditor's Report

To The Members Of Intercity Bank Plc.

We have audited the Balance Sheet of INTERCITY BANK PLC ("the Bank") as at 30 June, 2000 and the related profit and loss account and statement of cash flow for the year then ended, prepared under the historical cost convention and on the basis of the accounting policies set out in the financial statements.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

The Bank's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Bank's circumstances consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary, in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion, we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements, and assessed whether the Bank's books of account had been properly kept.

Bank and Other Financial Institution Act 1991

Based on our audit and representations received, the Bank did not contravene any provision of the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act, 1991 during the year ended 30th June, 2000.

Opinion

In our Opinion,

- The Bank's books of account have been properly kept.
- The financial statements referred to above, which are in agreement with the books of account give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Bank as at 30th June, 2000 and of its profit and statement of cash flow for the year then ended, and comply with the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act, 1991, relevant Central Bank of Nigeria Circulars and Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990 and relevant statements of accounting standard issued by the Nigerian Accounting Standards Board.

[Signature]
PANNEL AWOBO YUSUFU & Co.
(Chartered Accountants)
Kaduna - Nigeria



BSD/G3/18/6/VOL.8/32

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(3) Quarter page	7.25" x 3 Cols	17,314.20	19,512	24,606	51,620.00
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Strip Ad Colour (FP)	2" x 6 Cols.	36,909.00	=	Colour	
Front page solus	6" x 2 Cols	32,976.00	=	Colour	
Back page solus	6" x 2 Cols	28,593.00	=	Colour	
Series Discount					
Strip Advert (ROP)	2" x 6 cols	12,654.00		5-10 insertions 2.5%	
Earpiece(Front page)	2" x 2 cols	6,309.00		11-20 insertions 5%	
Earpiece(Back page)	2" x 2 cols	5,130.00		-	
Earpiece(Abuja Trust)	2" x 2 cols	4,500.00		-	
Classified Adverts	1" x 1 Col	675.00		21-50 insertions 10%	
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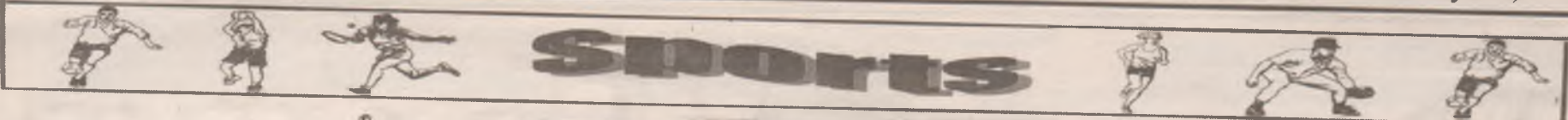
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Becker in new romance with German singer

Former Wimbledon champion Boris Becker has started a romance with a rap singer who was once voted Germany's "most erotic woman," German popular newspaper Bild reported on Monday.

After divorcing his wife for seven years, Becker 33, was quoted as saying the new romance with Sabrina Setlur, 27 was not behind his break-up with wife Barbara, with whom he has two children. He also denied media reports the singer was pregnant.

"I'm happy the game of hide-and-seek is over," Becker was reported as telling a Bild journalist who has found the couple in a

luxury hotel in New York. The paper splashed pictures of the pair standing together and smiling for the camera.

"She is not pregnant. And we are not yet thinking a but marriage. The truth is that we have met privately a few times since early December.

Becker, three-times Wimbledon champions, announced he was leaving his wife in early December. Becker at first said he would not divorce. But a financial and custody battle ensued.

The two were divorced on January 15 in Munich and the Beckers reached an out-of-court financial settlement reported to be worth 14 million dollars that



Tennis star Boris Becker in his playing days

was finally sealed on Friday.

"My marriage to Babs was already broken before I met Sabrina," Becker said. "We're divorced. I'm 33.

And I'm the kind of guy who needs a woman at his side... Sabrina and I are not planning to get married. I've had enough of that for now."

Bild said Becker had

taken a paternity test in London to clear up reports alleging he had fathered a daughter with a Russian woman.

"That is all being taken care of," Becker said. "I am a serve-and-volley man. I decided a few weeks ago to clear up issues on every front. After that I hope that others will dominate the

headlines for a while.

"There is an incredible hysteria surrounding me at the moment. After (German) Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, there were more articles about me printed in the last year than anyone else. That's insane.

Becker burst on to the world sports scene as a teenager, becoming the youngest man ever to win Wimbledon at the age of 17 in 1985. The German public has enjoyed watching the player grow up into one of the country's most famous sporting personalities.

His private life has long fascinated the country. The German popular press has revelled in his liaison with Sultur, who is the daughter of immigrants from India.

Briefs

New Zealand win World Cup Sevens

Winger Jonah Lomu scored a hat-trick as New Zealand beat Australia 31-12 in the final to win the Rugby Union, World Cup Sevens for the first time on Sunday.

Australia, for whom Brendan Williams finished the tournament as top try-scorer with 14, had earlier ousted champions Fiji in the semi-finals. Hosts Argentina provided the other major surprise when they beat South Africa in the last eight.

Calcavecchia romps to record win

Mark Calcavecchia started Sunday's final round with a six-stroke lead but did not stop there, charging to an eight-stroke triumph and breaking a 46-year-old PGA Tour record in the process.

Calcavecchia, who collected a top prize of 720,000 dollars, shot a final-round 67 to finish the feather-interrupted tournament with a 72-hole total of 256, 28 under par.

Azharuddin challenges life ban in court

Former Indian skipper Mohammed Azharuddin launched a court challenge in Monday to the life ban imposed on him last month by the Indian cricket board over match-fixing allegations.

His lawyer said Azharuddin filed a petition in the civil court of his home city Hyderabad, naming as respondents the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), its president A.C. Muthiah and K. Madhavan, the BCCI vigilance commissioner.

Maier hopes to fulfil childhood dream

Austria's Hermann Maier hopes to fulfil a childhood dream when he bids for gold in Tuesday's super-G at the world championships.

The overall World Cup champion had to share the super-G world title with Norwegian Lasse Kjus two years ago in Vail, Colorado. This time, he wants to crown all to himself.

Ravens back up boasts with Super Bowl demolition

The brash Baltimore Ravens backed up their boasting and then some, scoring on offence, defence and special teams to record a crushing 34-7 victory over the New York Giants in Super Bowl XXV on Sunday.

Baltimore's record-setting defence did what it has done all year, shut down the opposition, force turnovers and dominate the game from start to finish.

Hundreds of Baltimore Ravens football fans danced and cheered in the

streets of the championship team's hometown on Sunday, braving sub-freezing temperatures to celebrate the first Super Bowl victory by a Baltimore team in 30 years.

Hordes of youths flooded out of bars and restaurants of downtown neighbourhoods in spontaneous celebrations that snarled traffic around the city's Inner Harbour area hours after the Ravens defeated the New York Giants 34-7 in Super Bowl XXXV

While celebrating his victory in the city that once cast him off, Trent Dilfer swore he felt no bitterness and no sense of redemption.

"I'm not lying," I'm not holding my tongue," he said several times after his Baltimore Ravens stunned the New York Giants 34-7 in Super Bowl XXXV on Sunday.

After nine surgeries and untold days and nights and years of pain, winning a Super Bowl made it all worthwhile for Baltimore Ravens defensive tackle

Tony Siragusa.

"This feeling, it really has a purpose," the colourful 33-year-old Siragusa, an 11-year veteran, said after Baltimore's 34-7 victory over the New York Giants on Sunday.

Raul goal puts Real seven points clear

An 82nd goal minute goal from Spanish international striker Raul gave Madrid a 1-0 victory at Valencia on Sunday to extend their lead to seven points at the top of the first division.

Real lead the table on 45 points with Deportivo La Coruna in second spot on 38 after they were held to a 2-2 draw at Athletic Bilbao on Saturday.

Meanwhile Filippo Inzaghi grabbed a hat-trick for Juventus as the Turin club kept up the pressure on Serie A leaders Roma with a 4-0 home win over Vicenza on Sunday.



Fig. . . Real's motivator

Roma remain three points clear of Juve after comfortably beating Napoli 3-0 with goals from Marco Delvecchio, Francesco Totti and Gabriel Batistuta.

Di Canio dumps Manchester United out of Cup

West Ham striker, Paolo D. Canio outwitted the Manchester United defence on Sunday with a memorable 75th minute goal to send the favourites crashing out of the English FA cup.

Di Canio defeated the off-side trap after a shrewd pass from Frederic Kanoute left him with only goalkeeper Fabien Barthez to beat.

The Italian striker, who has been linked to a possible transfer back to Naples in Italy, said after the match that he will continue his career at the London club.

"I love it here at West Ham," he concluded.



Di Canio

Agassi leads in champion race after Melbourne win

Andre Agassi is second. Leads the ATP Semi-finalists in Race after winning the Melbourne, Sebastien Australian Open final on Grosjean of France and Sunday against Arnaud Australian Pat Rafter, Clement of France, who are third and fourth respectively.

Score Board

African World Cup Results

Togo	0	Cameroun	2
Ghana	1	Liberia	3
Nigeria	3	Sudan	0
Algeria	1	Namibia	0
Egypt	0	Morocco	0
Madagascar	1	Cote d'Ivoire	3
Congo	0	Tunisia	1
South Africa	1	Burkina Faso	0

Serie A Results

Atalanta	4	Udinese	2
Juventus	4	Vicenza	1
Roma	3	Napoli	0
Brescia	1	AC Milan	1

English FA Cup Fifth Round Fixtures

Sunderland	Vs	West Ham
Chelsea	Vs	Arsenal
Liverpool	Vs	Man City
Leicester/Bristol	Vs	Kingstonian
Charlton/Tottenham	Vs	Stockport
Southampton	Vs	Transmere



SPORTS



Abuja national stadium to be commercialised—Ekeji

The 38-million naira new national stadium complex currently under construction in Abuja will be commercialised to ensure proper maintenance of the edifice and its facilities, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports.

Mr. Patrick Ekeji, director of venues and facilities in the federal ministry of sports and social development, told NAN at the weekend in Abuja, that "the stadium and its adjoining facilities will be commercialised to generate resources for its operation and maintenance."

Ekeji said that the stadium, which would be fitted with the state-of-the-art equipment would need constant maintenance services, to "effectively and efficiently" meet required international standards.

According to him, "the direction to commercialise the new stadium is to allow for active private sector

participation in the running of sporting facilities for optimal growth and development of sports in the country."

He said that sports ministry was encouraging the private sector to build and operate stadia and other sporting arena to minimise government's continued involvement in sports development and administration.

Ekeji, an ex-international, called on the organised private sector and committed entrepreneurs to explore the possibility of running sporting facilities for optimal growth and development of sports in the country."

He said that sports ministry was encouraging the private sector to build and operate stadia and other sporting arena to minimise government's continued involvement in sports development and administration.

Ekeji, an ex-

international, called on the organised private sector and committed entrepreneurs to explore the possibility of running different sections of the stadium and its facilities on business basis.

NAN reports that the stadium's 5,000 units games village also under construction would be sold to interested Nigerians after the 2003 All-Africa Games in Abuja.

Meanwhile, the director expressed optimism that the work on the stadium's main bowl would be completed ahead of schedule because "construction of the main bowl started about three weeks ahead of take-off time."

He expressed satisfaction with progress of work on the main bowl, being handled by Julius Berger construction company, adding that "judging from the pace of work and what is going on at the site, the contractor will complete work before



Abuja National Stadium. . .the 38 billion naira edifice will be commercialised after completion next year.

the December 2002 deadline."

Ekeji said that the new

stadium and the facilities, when completed would be test-run for at least

a month before the commencement of the games tagged "Abuja 2003."

NFA, Eagles in pay row after Sudan win

The Nigerian Football Association (NFA) and players have resolved a dispute over bonus payments after a tense stand-off at the weekend.

Nigeria beat Sudan 3-0 in their group two World Cup qualifying match on Saturday, putting them top

of their African zone group.

But after the match, the Nigerian players rejected a 4,000 dollars winning bonus, saying they were entitled to 5,000 dollars.

A huge row ensued and the players threatened to boycott a government banquet organised in their honour.



Sunday Oliseh

NFA press officer Austin Mgbolu, who was at a truce meeting between the parties said the players had made "a wrong assumption."

"We're yet to do this but they assumed that 'looking into the situation' means the NFA had acceded to their request."

Team captain Sunday Oliseh said their argument was that during the 1994 and 1998 World Cup finals, each player received 5,000 dollars to pacify the players."

Meanwhile, team coach Jo Bonfrere said the win over Sudan has restored confidence that his side will clinch the group's ticket for the trip to Japan and South Korea.

"When you win and with as many goals, you're delighted and you get confident that your ambition is within reach," Dutchman Bonfrere said.

"I believe we're capable of qualifying for a third World Cup outing."

Nigeria's next match is at away in march against fellow West African rivals Ghana.

Dearth of talents hamper hockey development

Stories from Akinade Adeniji in Minna

Dearth of talents and high costs of equipment have been identified as the major obstacles in the development of hockey in Nigeria.

Member of the Nigeria Hockey Federation, Alhaji Haruna Umar made this disclosure in a chat with *TrustSports* in Minna at the weekend.

"It is not all the arms of

government that can volunteer the purchasing of twenty-one hockey sticks at the cost of 6,000 naira and 10,000 naira each depending on the quality," the hockey federation executive member said, adding that the shin-guards for the goalkeepers alone is sold between N40,000 and N50,000 each.

He acknowledged Niger State as the home of hockey, having produced national and international players.

According to Alhaji Haruna, the game of hockey

has gone scientific and called on the state governments to support the development of hockey pitches and create new ones where they do not exist.

He commended the Niger State Hockey Association for its efforts at bringing back to its fold, Adamu Kolo, said to be the country's best hockey striker.

Adamu Kolo was until now playing for the El-Kancmi Flickers of Maiduguri in Borno State.



Lagos state hockey players engaging their Abia counterparts during the National Sports Festival last November in Bauchi. The dearth of talents has been identified as the bane of the sport development. Pix Omo Oba

NSSC orders associations to organise sports meets

Sports association's secretaries and head coaches under the Niger State Sports Control Board have been directed to submit their programmes of activities and make sure they organise and make sure they organise competitions every quarter of this year.

Deputy technical director, Mallam Tanko Halilu gave this instruction after meeting with the officer in his office at the weekend.

He also enjoined them to strive very hard at association level to seek sponsorship from sports loving individuals and local

governments.

Malam Tanko Halilu admitted the difficulties entailed in seeking sponsorship but urged the associations intensify efforts and sacrifice their time and resources in their search for sponsorship.

The technical director at the occasion called on all sports philanthropists, corporate organisations, especially construction companies and private sports loving individuals to come to the aid of the associations of their choice in order to uplift sports from the grassroots level.

Morocco plan strong bid for 2010 World Cup

Morocco plans to bid to stage the 2010 World Cup finals, its fourth attempt to secure soccer's showcase event, the country's sports minister said in an interview published on Monday.

The North African country fell in the first round of voting last year to stage the 2006 World Cup finals which were awarded to Germany.

Sports minister Ahmed Moussaoui told *Le Quotidien du Maroc* newspaper that last year's failed bid allowed Morocco to show the world how determined it was to host the event.

"This encourages us even more to fight for 2010," he said. The minister said three main stadia were planned in Casablanca, Marrakesh and Tangiers as part of a five-year 2000-2004 economic development programme.

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Super Eagles' Tiffani Babangida on the prowl against Namibia in a World Cup qualifier. The Eagles are in a pay row with the NFA after the Sudan game in Port Harcourt.

Obasanjo to set up panel on NFA soon

President Olusegun Obasanjo is to set up a judicial panel of inquiry to investigate the activities of Nigeria Football Association (NFA), a top official in the presidency has said.

The official told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja, Monday that the panel became necessary because the president was reportedly tired of "insults" heaped on him each time the national team performed badly or when national players disappointed the nation in international engagements.

The federal government is particularly unhappy by the utterances of football administrators and fans that it is prepared to pull out of the 2002 World Cup preliminaries, if it would lead to the proper re-organisation of the NFA.

However, the official said that the question of pulling out of the World Cup was to have been determined by the outcome of Saturday's World Cup qualifier against Sudan, which Nigeria fortunately won by 3-0.

"That match is viewed as crucial by the federal government in determining whether Nigeria will continue with the World Cup preliminaries," the official said.

It was not possible to ascertain whether government had shifted its position since Saturday in the light of the win, NAN also gathered that government was not happy that the federal ministry of sports and social development was sidelined in the way and manner NFA utilised remittances it received from FIFA.

Furthermore, government's plan to sanitise the football house was based on confidential reports which indicted coaches for collecting as much as 50,000 naira from some players before inviting them to the national camp.

The confidential reports also indicted NFA board members for lacking focus and being unserious with their assignments. NAN also learnt that the government was pushed into setting up a panel, following disclosures made by the technical adviser to the



Dr. Tijjani Yusuf, NFA scribe national teams, Jo Bonfrere when he was invited for discussions on the affairs



Orlando's Anfernee Hardaway is pushing his side towards the NBA playoffs.



William Jobby (left) lost the WBA middleweight title to Julio Cesar Green in one of boxing's most controversial fights.

Professor Nomau's travails, written & illustrated by Buloma Mustapha

