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**MONDAY COLUMN**

Bukar Zarma on:

**Who will defend the constitution?**

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**SPORTS**

**Enyimba picks Champion's League Cup ticket**

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**THIS SPACE IS FOR SALE**

# ACF meets over Obasanjo's second term

**North-East PDP roots for Atiku as successor**

The Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) will meet this week to deliberate on President Olusegun Obasanjo's second term bid even as the North-East zone of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has picked his vice, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, as his successor in 2007.

The meeting is coming on the heels of last week's announcement in Abuja by the Presidential Liaison Officer (PLO) to the Senate, Alhaji Kashim Ibrahim

By Simon Imobo-Tswam

Imam, that the president and his vice would be presented for re-election in 2003.

Imam had said that "there is no credible alternative to President Obasanjo in 2003. When the time comes, our party will re-present President Obasanjo and Vice-President Atiku Abubakar for a second term."

Even though the national chairman of the ruling PDP, Chief Barnabas Gemade,

stated later that the presidential aide was speaking for the presidency and not the party, the silence from the president himself has prompted the ACF meeting.

The Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the ACF, Alhaji Bukar Zarma, told *Daily Trust* on Friday in Abuja that: "the ACF meeting, which holds anytime this week, will consider Obasanjo's candidacy which has come as a surprise to many of us. Many people had thought he would not seek a second term."

The former editor of *New Nigerian* continued, "the ACF is unlikely to endorse president Obasanjo for a second term, unless certain clearly defined conditions

are met.

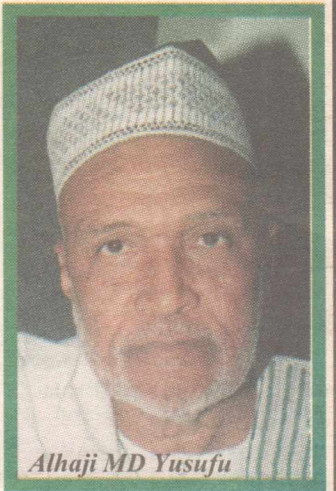
"The ACF's decision on who to support in the next presidential election would be reached in a very difficult way from the manner it was done during the 1999 presidential election."

The Deputy National Publicity Secretary also said "opinion among ACF on the president's re-election bid is sharply divided, but there is growing consensus about whom to support in the next presidential election."

The meeting, which  
*contd. on pg 2*



President Obasanjo



Alhaji MD Yusufu

**PRESIDENTIAL JET**

## Senate, Reps in crucial meeting tomorrow

By Henry Omonu and Reuben Yunana

The House of Representatives has recalled all its members on tour within and outside the country to return to Abuja, in preparation for the crucial voting tomorrow on whether or not President Obasanjo should have a new presidential jet.

The Senate will also con-

vene tomorrow after being forced twice in two weeks to suspend its six weeks recess as a result of disagreements between it and the House of Representatives over the 2001 supplementary Appropriation bills I and II

President Obasanjo's request for N5.46 billion to purchase a new presidential jet had been approved by the Senate, but the House of Representatives turned it down even as the Speaker, Ghali Na'Abba, is said to have met Obasanjo, urging

him to re-present the request for the jet when the House reconvenes after its recess.

Moreover, another reason the House leadership decided to recall all members is the likely joint sitting tomorrow, of the Senate and House of Representatives to resolve by voting the differences in the 2001 supplementary budget as passed separately by both chambers.

While the House of Representatives approved the sum of N146.825 billion as the supplementary budget,

*contd. on pg 2*

## NNPC undersupplies fuel to Nigeria by 35m litres, says NUPENG

The National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG) said at the weekend that the perennial fuel shortages in the country will continue, as the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) currently supplies 35 million litres less of the national fuel requirement.

National president of the union, Comrade Brisley Awe, who disclosed at a workshop organised for Petroleum Tanker Drivers (PTD) branch of the union in Jos, said the increasing number of vehicles on the Nigerian roads was not being serviced with the corresponding fuel needs.

This he observed, was traceable to the inability of NNPC to process enough crude to fuel the rising number of vehicles in the coun-

By Osborne Adi Jnr.

try which he put at over five million.

According to him, the 300,000 barrels of crude oil which NNPC processes for daily consumption, produces only 15 million litres, arguing that even if the five million vehicles were to consume 10 litres of fuel daily, the country would need

*contd. on pg 2*



Mr. Gaius Obasanjo, NNPC MD

## African leaders bury OAU, launch AU

African leaders gathered in Zambia yesterday for the final summit of the Organisation of African Unity - the last of 37 annual meetings stretching back to the era of the continent's decolonisation from European masters.

Dozens of presidents and prime ministers will bury the OAU with full honours and assist at the birth of a new African Union (AU), modelled on the lines of strong regional groupings in Europe, Asia and the Americas.

The AU, which in time will have a parliament, central bank and a commission to run it with extensive powers, will hold its first summit next year in South Africa, Africa's economic giant.

"The OAU was formed in 1963 to ensure that no country was left in the hands of the colonial masters," Zambian President Frederick Chiluba, host of the valedictory OAU summit, which opens today, told *Reuters*.

"Africans realise that we can't leave a loose body like the OAU to run the affairs of the continent in a world where strong regions are coming together," he said before welcoming Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, an architect of the AU structure and a financial sponsor of many OAU summits when they are held in cash-strapped nations such as Zambia.

*contd. on pg 2*

## States get N31.3 billion in June

By Reuben Yunana

The 36 states of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) received a total of N31.275 billion as monthly allocation for the month of June.

A release signed by the Accountant-General of the Federation, Mr. J. K. Naiyeju, the amount includes N6.881 billion derivation fund paid to the oil producing states.

These are: Abia State, N95,982 million; Akwa Ibom, N1,510 billion;

Bayelsa, N1.246 billion; Cross River State, N0.158 million; Delta State, N2.056 billion; Edo State, N59,742 million; Imo State N172.678 million; Ondo State, N483.340 million and Rivers State, N1.247 million.

According to the release, dated July 6, 2001, the total amount shared stands at N102.249 billion out of which the National Judicial Council got N1.250 billion for the funding of the judi

*contd. on pg 2*

## NEWS

# ABU queries ASUU chairman

The authorities of Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, has queried the acting chairman of the Ahmadu Bello University chapter of ASUU, Mr. Tajudeen Y. Surakat, over an offending publication.

The offending story appeared in the *New Nigerian* of July 5, 2001 under the headline: ABU ASUU to continue strike.

By Tadaferua Ujorha

The query signed by the Registrar of the University, Mr. Mairiga Mani, reads in part: "In the publication, you are reported to have informed the *New Nigerian*, among other things, that the Ahmadu Bello University chapter of ASUU has resolved to continue with the strike, until all outstanding local matters are ironed out

with the university management.

"Your unguarded language and reckless statements to the press with regards to resumption of students are, therefore, unauthorised. You are equally culpable for making unfounded and baseless allegations on promotion matters in the university as reported by *New Nigerian*. Both lapses amount to gross

misconduct for which you must answer."

It would be recalled that the ABU chapter of the ASUU had last Thursday after its local congress commenced a fresh strike, this reaffirming its earlier decision of June 21, 2001 to commence its local strike once the national body suspended its three-month-old strike, if "all outstanding local matters (as contained in the congress resolution of 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2001) are not resolved.

The "outstanding local matters" in reference include promotion matters, membership of congress deduction for the National Housing Fund, rent chargeable on University houses and payment of May and June salaries to all union members etc. He, therefore, advised

students, parents, guardians and sponsors to be on the look out for the official statements of the university for not participating in the three months strike by the national body of ASUU.

The university management has, meanwhile, or-

dered the payment of the May and June, 2001 salaries of deans and heads of departments of the university for not participating in the three months strike by the national body of ASUU.



Prof. Borisade, Education Minister

## African leaders contd. from pg. 1

The ambitions driving the AU concept far outstrip the material resources available to make the vision work. Its budget must be hugely increased from the pin-money used to run the 53-member OAU.

"There must be a reversal of the OAU budget because 80 per cent of that budget goes to salaries and only 20 percent to programmes," South African Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma told *Reuters*.

"Yet the OAU was not set up just to pay staff salaries," she said.

The OAU secretariat noted with satisfaction that only six members were now in arrears after six states - all among the poorest in the

world - settled their debts to the organisation last Friday, just in time to participate fully in the summit.

The OAU said the payment "augured well for the transition to the African Union because it serves as guarantee that the African Union's solvency from the outset would be assured."

Unsurprisingly, many of the bad payers are involved in Africa's plethora of intractable armed conflicts.

The Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia and Sierra Leone are among those marooned in poverty as investors stay away, military expenditure eats into government budgets and millions of refugees struggle to survive on a diet of despair.

"For the African Union to work, armed conflicts will have to be resolved...Africa is a rich continent inhabited by poor people and it is up to us to wake up to the challenge," Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher told *Reuters* in Lusaka.

Africa's towering political figure, former South African President, Nelson Mandela, will press ahead on the margins of the summit with his peace drive for Burundi, one of the broken pieces on the ethnic and political chessboard in the Great Lakes region of central Africa.

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan flew in yesterday but made no comments on arrival.

## States contd. from pg. 1

ciary, out of the remaining N100.999 billion was distributed as follows:

- Federal Government - N47.376 billion
- State governments and FCT - N31.255 billion
- Local government councils - N19.540 billion

-Special funds - N2.808 billion.

Of the special funds the statement said, N1.952 billion goes to the ecological fund, the N0.856 billion is for stabilisation and Residential Accounts.

The sum of N10.621 bil-

lion realised from Value Added Tax (VAT) the Federal Government got N1.593 billion, state government and FCT N5.311 billion and local government councils, N3.77 billion.

## ACF contd. from pg. 1

promises to be a gathering of the economic and political elite in the north according to Alhaji Zarma, is expected to call on other candidates interested in the presidency to come forward and declare their ambitions.

While addressing Senate Correspondents in Abuja on President Obasanjo's re-election bid last Monday, Alhaji Ibrahim Imam disclosed that the North-East Zone would insist on getting the presidential ticket, when it comes to the North in 2007, pointing out that Atiku Abubakar would be presented as the next presidential candidate.

The national vice-chairman of the party in the North-East Zone, Alhaji Song Abubakar, told newsmen in Abuja at the weekend that the zone decided on Abubakar as a reward for his hardwork, commitment and

loyalty to both the president and the party.

Briefing newsmen on the outcome of the PDP zonal meeting held on June 30, in Damaturu, Yobe State, Abubakar said the zone had restated its commitment to the principle of rotation of the presidential ticket between the North and the South.

"When the presidency rotates to the North, the North-East shall take its rightful place as the most eligible zone to present the presidential candidate," he said.

The vice-chairman declared: "Since independence, the zone has never produced a head of state or president, whether military or civilian."

Abubakar further said that the only position the zone enjoyed was the post of Prime Minister, held by late Sir Abubakar Tafawa

Balewa, "who operated under the powerful influence of the respected Premier of the Northern Region, Sir Ahmadu Bello."

He said the zone has resolved to avoid imposing unpopular candidates in future elections, adding that the party has also resolved to hold monthly rallies in various states within the zone, to sustain its massive support and popularity.

*Daily Trust* investigations revealed that the zonal meeting was attended by the Vice-President, members of the National Executive Committee and members of the party's board of trustees.

Others were the chairman and secretaries of the state chapters of the party, members of the National Assembly, Ministers, Special Advisers, and Special Assistants to the president and ambassadors.

about 50 million litres daily to check the incessant fuel shortages.

Awe said apart from the shortfall in production, the poor road network along strategic distribution chains across the country was also responsible for the delay in products delivery as most of the roads connecting the refineries and depots to delivery points were not motorable.

He cited the roads to include Ibadan-Ilorin link, Port Harcourt-Aba-Enugu express way, which he described as worst than tarmac 'C' road and the Warri-Port-

## NNPC contd. from pg. 1

Harcourt road as those that require urgent attention in order to ease the problems drivers encounter on them during bridging.

Earlier, the Group Managing Director of NNPC, Engr. Jackson Gaius-Obaseki, had blamed a section of the tanker drivers for conniving with oil marketers to divert fuel, thus worsening the fuel scarcity being experienced in the country.

According to him, one of the major antidote to fuel scarcity was the full liberalisation of the downstream sector, adding that there was need for sanity in

the sector and that profit rather than exploitation should be the driving force.

"A situation where PMS, for instance is purchased from NNPC at N17 per litre but is sold to the public at some N50 per litre cannot be justified and should be condemned by all."

He maintained that liberalisation of the sector will surely put an end to such trade malpractices, adding that a post-liberalised downstream sector as one of the channels of distribution, will become increasingly important for efficient service delivery.

## Senate contd. from pg. 1

the Senate on its part approved N145.02 billion, a difference of N1.79 billion.

Apart from the total amount of the supplementary budget, the Senate and House of Representatives have been on a collision course over the budget of the National Assembly.

The House had jerked up the allocation of the National Assembly from the initial N500 million made by the Presidency to N2.5 billion, while the Senate approved just N1 billion.

Following the stalemate over which of the budgets as passed by the Senate and House should be sent to Obasanjo for assent, both chambers each constituted a 10-man committee to reconcile the differences in the budget.

Sources informed *Daily Trust* that the negotiating team of the House led by the deputy leader, Mao Ohuabunwa, were, however, told by the team from the Senate that it would only

agree to a reconciliation of the budget figures if the House resolves to approve the N5.46 billion for Obasanjo's jet.

But the position of the House as explained in a letter to the Senate President, Pius Anyim, by the Speaker, Ghali Na'Abba, there was nothing to reconcile about the budget for the jet, as the House never considered the request in the first place.

Na'Abba, therefore, made it clear that the joint harmonisation committee shall only limit itself to resolving the discrepancies in the supplementary bill and nothing else.

Realising, however, that the Senate will not budge from its position, Speaker Na'Abba, in a circular issued by the Clerk of the House, Mr. O. Ogunyomi, directed all members to return to Abuja, so as to attend a crucial meeting of the House fixed for tomorrow at 10:00 a.m.

The circular further

stated that the Speaker has forthwith suspended all trips, local and foreign for House members, just as those lawmakers currently on tour outside Abuja or the country, including those on private engagement have been asked to return immediately to Abuja.

The calculations of the House leadership is that having the superior voting power of 360 members, as against the 109 of the Senate, it stands a better chance of out-numbering the Senate if all its members are placed on red alert.

Baring any unforeseen circumstance tomorrow, the Senate is set to taste the first bitter pill of defeat as provided in section 59 (3) of the 1999 constitution.

The section states that: "Where the joint committee fails to resolve such differences, then the bill shall be presented to the National Assembly at a joint session."

NEWS

**FG destroys N50m seized weapons**

As part of the ongoing war against illegal trafficking and possession of illicit weapons in civil society, a powerful federal government delegation last Thursday in Kaduna, carried out the first open destruction of dangerous arms and ammunition seized by security men across the country.

Among the weapons destroyed were illegally produced local and imported ones seized by the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) valued at over N50 million. They included 428 rifles, 494 pistols, 287 local pistols and 48 dane guns, all recovered between 1998 and 2001.

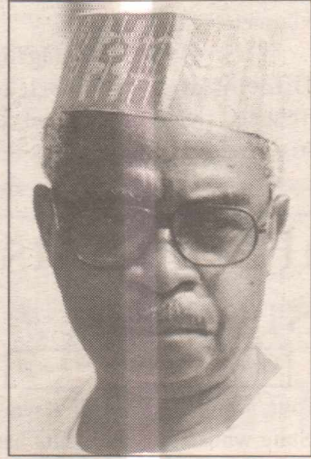
Also destroyed were arms and ammunition seized by the Nigeria Customs Service from 1999 to date estimated at N12.67 million.

The delegation which was headed by the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Vice-Admiral Ibrahim Ogohi, assured observers that the weapons were crushed by a special machine and would be burnt to ashes.

Other members of the delegation were the Chief of Naval Staff, the Chief of Air Staff, the Inspector-General of

By Hammeed M. Bello

Police, the Director-General, State Security Service (SSS) and National Intelligence Agency (NIA), the



Lt-Gen. T.Y. Danjuma (rtd)

Commandant, Nigeria Defence Academy and the Director-General, Defence Industries Corporation (DICON), Ordnance factories.

In his welcome address, the Director-General of DICON, Brig.-Gen. P.O. Edowande said DICON which was established to produce for the nation's armed forces, small arms like rifles, stern sub-machine guns, pistols and their ammunition would meet the defence requirements of the country.

Admiral Ogohi noted in his speech that illegal circulation of illicit arms and ammunition in our society has given way to armed robbery,

endless ethnic and sectarian violence which cumulatively make life and property unsafe.

While citing the cases of Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Sudan and the Republic of Congo whose devastation was aided by access to weapons, the admiral assured of government's commitment to get rid of all illicit arms that could endanger the lives of the citizens.

He also said an all-out approach has been devised by the armed forces, the police, the SSS and the Customs Services in watching over our land borders, the high seas and airports.

**Ghali Na'Abba exonerates legislature from executive's failure**

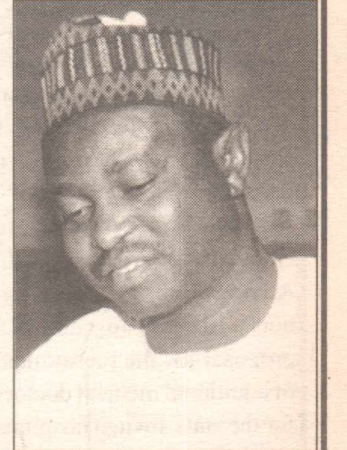
From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Kano

The legislature should not be blamed by Nigerians for the failure of the present government of President Olusegun Obasanjo to solve their most pressing problem of electricity supply and fuel scarcity, Speaker Umar Ghali Na'Abba has said.

He stated that despite the enormous funds voted by the National Assembly for power in the last two years, uninterrupted supply of electricity to Nigerians is still a mirage.

The speaker, who was addressing journalists in

Kano over the weekend, said he expected Nigerians to start reaping the benefits of democracy in the first two years, especially in the areas



Hon. Umar Ghali Na'Abba

of electricity and fuel supply.

"I joined the PDP to serve the people and expect my party to live up to the aspirations of the people, and if it does not measure up, we should be bold enough to say it," Ghali Na'Abba said, adding, however, that Nigeria's problems were inflicted over a long period and solving them would require time.

On the differences between the two Houses over the approval of the funds for the purchase of presidential jet for the president, the Speaker said the problem arises from the National Assembly budget presented, where the Senate Proposed N1.5 billion and the House proposed N2.24 billion. He stated that the attempt to use the National Assembly budget as a weapon to get the house's approval of the president's jet is what members are against.

**National Frontiers moves to wrest power from PDP**

By Reuben Yunana

National Frontiers, one of the emerging political associations in the country, during the weekend concluded a one-day meeting with a resolution to wrest power from the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), come 2003.

The meeting, which was attended by representatives of Afenifere, NEPU and Ohaneze discussed their merger as well as manifesto of a party that would emerge from the merger and the registration of political parties.



Chief Sunday Awoniyi

The meeting urged members to be vigilant against what is perceived as "government's negative stance" on the registration of new parties.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Sunday Awoniyi said: "We are aware that there is a bill for the registration of new parties before the National Assembly, but we have to be vigilant because anything can happen. The bill could be delayed or even thrown out."

He explained that one of the reasons for convening the meeting was to "assess our strength on the ground in all local governments in the country before we put forward our papers for registration."

What could turn out to be the new party's manifesto was also read out to members under the title: "Core values of the National Frontiers."

According to the five-point document, the association is committed to ensuring the survival and

sustenance of true democracy, accountability and transparency in governance.

It is also committed to the survival of the federal system of government that will unite Nigerians as well as address the various ethnic and political tendencies that are threatening the corporate existence of the country.

Other issues addressed by the document include; power sharing, equity, justice, war against corruption, education, agriculture and the economy.

Prominent at the talks were the protom chairman of the association, Chief Edwin Ume Ezeoke, National coordinator, Alhaji Aliyu Habu Fari, Alhaji Bello Mai Sudan, Alhaji Musa Musawa and Alhaji Sa'd Birnin Kudu. Others were General Idris Garba (rtd), General A.K. Adisa (rtd) former Secretary of defunct National Centre Party of Nigeria (NCPN), Kenny Martins and Dr. Paul Unongo.

**Court issues arrest warrant on Abacha's aide**

The Chief Magistrate Court in Kano has issued a warrant of arrest on former Abacha Security Officer, Major Bilyaminu Mohammed (rtd) who now resides at No. 4 Bauchi Street, Kaduna.

Major Bilyaminu is wanted on charges of cheating brought against him by the police in Kano over a Honda Legend car said to belong to Alhaji Hadi Al-Mustapha, brother to Major Hamza Al-Mustapha former CSO to late General Sani Abacha.

According to a letter of petition addressed to the Inspector-General of Police and signed by Messrs. Ibrahim Ahmed Babale, solicitor to Hadi Al-Mustapha, Major Bilyaminu borrowed the

Honda Legend from Hadi sometime in 1995 when he was going to attend a wedding in Katsina.

All efforts to retrieve the car from Bilyaminu failed until his arrest and trial in the 1997 coup attempt, said the petitioner. He claimed that despite Bilyaminu's release by General Abubakar Abdulsalami's regime, he refused to return the car. The lawful owner, the petitioner continued, took the matter before Court 16, Gyadi-Gyadi, Kano for redress and in the course of investigation by the police in Kano, it was discovered that Bilyaminu (Major) sold the car at N400,000 to one Alhaji Mustapha Garba in Kano. He later resold it to

one Muhammed who later sold it to one Engr. Victor. In all the transactions, photocopies of the vehicles' documents were used.

When the original documents were presented to the police by the complainant, Major Bilyaminu was said to have gone to a Kano High Court to obtain exparte order restraining the police from arresting him over the deal. The complainant, the petition said, used legal manoeuvres to block the issuance of the order and since then Major Bilyaminu has gone into hiding, thereby forcing the Magistrate to issue the bench warrant against him.

**Cartoon Contest!**

Entries are invited for a cartoon contest in Daily Trust newspaper. Entries could be on any theme, and they should have contemporary relevance and significance.

**Rules of the contest**

1. All submissions must be original and expressed in the English Language.
2. All entries should provide evidence of talent and imagination.
3. Each contestant is allowed to make three submissions only.
4. The theme of each entry should be clear to any reader.
5. Submissions should be sent to the Editor, *Daily Trust*, P.O.Box 6873, Wuse, Abuja. 'Cartoon Contest' should be written on the top left-hand corner of each envelop. Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> July is the closing date for the submission of entries.

**Note:** If you have already sent your entries, okay, but if not, please make it 26cm wide by 13.5cm deep.

**Prizes**

There would be a first prize of N10, 000. 00, a second prize of N7, 000 .00, and a third prize of N5, 000.00. Each award also attracts a commission to produce cartoons for Daily Trust and Weekly Trust Newspapers.

# NEWS

## Katsina approves N231m for general hospitals

The Katsina State government has approved N231 million for additional construction of new wards and improvement of existing structures in the seven pilot general hospitals in the state.

Information, Culture and Home Affairs Commissioner, Alhaji Suleiman Jibia, disclosed this after the state's executive council meeting in Katsina.

Similarly, the state Commissioner for Health, Alhaji Ahmed Bindawa, has been directed to submit a proposal for the recruitment of additional medical doctors for the state-owned hospitals in an effort to improve health care delivery in the state.

The council equally approved N50 million for the relocation and improvement of NTA Katsina and an undisclosed amount for the building of NTA Daura and Funtua. The commissioner

From Hassan A. Kafori, in Katsina further revealed that another N26 million had been approved for the



Gov Yar'Adua rehabilitation of government vehicles to improve efficiency in the day-to-day running of the government.

He called on citizens of the state to remain supportive and cooperative so that government would achieve its social-oriented programmes on target time.

The Federal Government has expressed readiness to establish a sustainable partnership with British-American Tobacco (Nigeria) Limited in its determination to tackle the menace of desertification in some parts of the country.

The Minister of Environment, Alhaji Muhammed Kabir Sa'id, made this known in a letter to British-American Tobacco, expressing his ministry's appreciation for the company's donation of 10,000 tree seedlings to commemorate the World Desertification Day, and the official launch of the National Action Plan to combat desertification by President Olusegun Obasanjo recently in Maiduguri, Borno State.

Alhaji Sa'id identified desertification as one of the serious environmental problems facing the country that requires urgent attention, while noting that efforts by government to address the problem could only be feasible if stakeholders and

## FG forges partnership to combat desertification

corporate organisations are working in a spirit of partnership. It is estimated that the country is currently losing about 350,000 square metres of its land mass annually to advancing desert in Katsina, Sokoto, Kano, Jigawa, Yobe and Borno States.

The national action plan will involve the planting of a green shelter-belt of trees covering 1,500 kilometres long and one kilometre wide.

Nick Hales, Managing Director British-American Tobacco (Nigeria) Limited, in his reaction, welcomed the partnership with the

government and reiterated the company's commitment to the principles of corporate social responsibility. He said: "We shall closely work with the Federal Ministry of Environment using our experience and expertise in jointly implementing desertification control measures."

## Gov Lawal appoints new assistants

A new Chief Press Secretary to the Kwara State Government, has been appointed. He is Prince Oni Deji, former Information Officer in the governor's office.

He took over from Abdulrazaq Gidado who is now the Special Assistant, Media Affairs.

According to a statement signed by the Commissioner for Special Duties, Alhaji Abdulrazaq Lawal, both messrs Gidado and Deji were among six special assistants including

From Abdul Laro, in Ilorin four non-indigenes of Kwara State whose appointments had been approved by the state Governor, Alhaji Mohammed Lawal.

Others are Messrs Muritala Owire, Special Assistant, Environmental; Wole Badmus, Special Assistant, Student Affairs; Dr. Folarin Okoro, Special Assistant, General Duties; Sulaiman Tahir, Special Assistant, Community Relations; and Irokwe Friday Ukandu, Special Assistant, Vocational Matters.

Barrister Teju Oguntoye is now the Legal Adviser to the

Executive Governor, Alhaji Umar Ghau is Special Adviser, Human Resources Affairs while Chief A.D. Okafor is the new Chairman for the Kwara United Football Club. They will be sworn-in on Wednesday July 11, 2001.

## Turaki orders suspected abductors to return children

The Jigawa State Governor, Alhaji Saminu Turaki, has ordered Mr. Steven Laze and two others suspected to have abducted seven teenagers from Unguwar Gardo village near Birnin Kudu town to produce them within 48 hours or face prosecution.

The governor gave the order when he visited Unguwar Gardo village in Birnin Kudu Local Government Area of the state, where parents of the abducted teenagers complained to him on the missing children, who were allegedly taken to Abuja, Kano and Plateau States by the abductors.

According to the parents, the children were taken away by the suspected abductors - Steven Laze, Barnabas Markus and Solomon Nwadu to assist in educating them, "but for years, none of the children has returned."

The chairman of Birnin Kudu Local Government Council, Alhaji Sa'ad Ayuba, told the governor that the three suspected abductors, who also live in the village, abducted women and children and leased them to wealthy people on paid labour. He explained that the local government council, in conjunction with the parents of the abducted teenagers, had held series of discussions with Laze and his syndicate to return the children but to no avail.



Gov Saminu Turaki

## SSANUU, FG disagree over staff welfare

The Federal Government has another strike on its hands, if it fails to resolve the disagreement with the Senior Staff Association of Nigeria Universities (SSANUU).

Following the Federal Government's approval of a new salary scale and other demands for Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANUU) and Non-Academic Staff Union of Universities (NASU) are asking for equal treatment, maintaining that they cannot be discriminated against in the same university system.

To this end, SSANUU has been negotiating with the Prof. Ayo Banjo-led

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani government negotiation team mandated to negotiate with all unions in the university system.

At a press conference during the weekend, the National President of SSANUU, Mr. Sam Piwuna, said the union had agreed with government earlier in the year to address separately the issues of university



Prof. Borisade

autonomy, funding and governance with the different university unions.

He told newsmen that the union had expected government to settle all issues relating to the problems of the union in the universities. "We have tried to maintain the functioning of the universities while others were on strike with the vain hope that the negotiations will end well for all the unions in the university system," Mr. Piwuna said.

He said, however, that the union has reached agreement with government on a number of issues but that the bone of contention was the issue of staff welfare.

Reports say ASUU's insistence on exclusive treatment for lecturers had stalled government's efforts to address across board all the welfare issues in the university system.

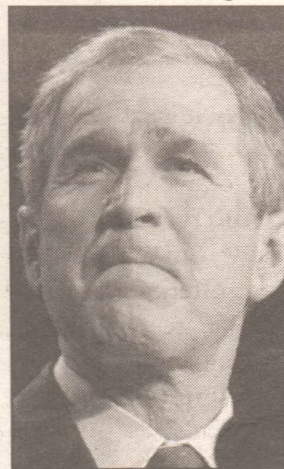
## U.S. secretary advises African leaders

United States of America Secretary of State for African Affairs, Mr. Walter Kansteiner, has advised African countries to look beyond the issue of debt relief and seek wages of

From Samson Ojo and Rakiya Mohammed, in Lagos

relieved or rescheduled, after this the countries would continue to need access to capital.

"There is got to be that capital force available for African private sector to build their future on."



President George Bush increasing their access to capital.

The secretary gave the advise while speaking on an AFTNET interactive dialogue broadcast. The programme, held at the auditorium of the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Consulate (U.S.I.S.) office in Lagos, was to provide a forum for the discussion of President George Bush's Africa policy and U.S. interests in Africa.

His words: "I am particularly interested in what comes in after debt relief. If debt is forgiven,

## Obasanjo appoints a new Chief Economic Adviser

President Olusegun Obasanjo has approved the appointment of Dr. Magnu Kpakol, from Gokama Local Government Area of Rivers State as his new Chief Economic Adviser, to replace Chief Phillip Asiodu who was dropped in June.

A statement from the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Chief Ufot Ekaette, issued in Abuja, said the appointment was with immediate effect. It said that Kpakol, was until his appointment, a visiting Professor of Economics at the University of Dallas, Texas in the U.S., and also Adjunct Professor of Economics at the University of North Texas in Denton, U.S.

It added that Kpakol also taught international and development economics in the two institutions and had also served as a consultant of the UNDP.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly called ESTHER NYAM ATANG now to be called MRS ESTHER YAKUBU LAISON. Julius Berger Plc and Public to note

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### SOUTHERN WOMEN FORUM

The general Public is hereby notified that the above named organisation based in Nsukka with Head Office in Abuja is applying for registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission under Part C, Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

The Trustees are:

- a- Chief (Mrs) Edith Abanah Argom - President
- b- Mrs Olufunke Adeyemi - Secretary/Publicity Secretary
- c- Mrs Ekpeyong Ekpeyong - Treasurer
- d- Barrister Enya - Legal Adviser
- e- Mrs Eugenia Moore - Financial Secretary

Any objection to the above should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Area II Garki, P.M.B.198 Abuja. Within 28 days of this publication

Signed: CHIEF (MRS) EDITH ABANAH ARGOM - President  
MRS OLUFUNKE ADEYEMI - Publicity Secretary

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

## Democratisation in Pakistan

**P**akistani military leader, General Pervez Musharraf, on Wednesday June 20, named himself president of the country, shoving aside President Rafiq Tarar, elected by the country's parliament which he also dissolved.

Although the move might have become necessary to bolster Musharraf's bargaining power when he visits India later this month to discuss the thorny issue of Kashmir, analysts are quick to express doubts as to whether he would hand over power and return to the barracks after the three-year period upon which the country's Supreme Court validated his take-over.

His desperate manoeuvres bring to mind the era of General Zia ul-Haq who took over power in a coup in Pakistan in 1977 and transformed into a president a year later and ruled the country with iron fist for 11 uninterrupted years.

On forcefully taking over power from Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in October 1999, General Musharraf suspended the country's constitution and replaced it with a provisional constitutional order. Not done yet, he forced the country's judges to sign a new oath of allegiance to the provisional constitution and sacked those who refused, including the former Chief Justice, Siad-uz-Zaman Siddiqui.

General Musharraf took his oath as president under the provisional constitution he himself introduced, casting doubts as to the constitutionality of his latest move. But the fear of a looming dictatorship in Pakistan is accentuated by the hints from the military government that the general would negotiate with the new parliament to be elected under his supervision in 2002, to 'elect' him president for a five-year term.

Already, political parties in the country have pooh poohed the general's latest move. The leader of the Alliance for Restoration of Democracy (ARD), Nawabzada Nazrullah Khan described it as "a huge deviation from the constitution".

Javed Hashani, president of the Muslim League, the party of the ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, described it as shocking.

With the dissolution of the assemblies, hopes are high that the October 2002 elections will hold but it is also clear that Musharraf would thwart any effort that would return Nawaz Sharif or Benazir Bhutto to power. The two former prime ministers are in exile. This expected development will ultimately question the credibility of Musharraf's transition to civil rule.

Daily Trust believes that nothing short of a complete, transparent transition programme, in which the military does not participate or interfere, is what Pakistan needs.

In this wise, General Musharraf should learn from history and return to the barracks at the expiration of the three-year tenure rather than foist himself on the country in another guise.

## MONDAY COLUMN

### Who will defend the constitution?

By Bukar Zarma

**"**...do solemnly swear/affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Federal Republic of Nigeria...I will discharge my duties to the best of my ability, faithfully and in accordance with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Law...that I will not allow my personal interest to influence my official conduct or my official decision; that I will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria...So help me God".

Many in today's Nigeria will find it hard to believe that two years ago, hundreds, indeed every single person taking over any public office had gone to the town square, clutching the Holy Qur'an or the Bible, (or both, in some cases) and signed this solemn pledge. Not just to the much-abused people of Nigeria but to their equally long-suffering God.

Yet, only two years down this rough road to the 'democratic dispensation', virtually all the constitutional checks and balances have been overthrown, the vision, the mission not to mention the goals, are all but forgotten.

It must indeed have been written in our stars that one of the world's finest constitutions would produce some of the most disappointing outcomes in political and public service delivery.

Local government chairmen, who enthusiastically signed the oath of good conduct at the pain of divine retribution, have abandoned their villages and run away to the cities, carrying along with them the entire treasury belonging to their local council areas. State governors stay put in Abuja on their way to and from London, Las Vegas and Monte Carlo, where, according to the president, they attend proms and organise wild balls for their concubines and fellow travellers. Members of state Houses of Assembly, who should stop this scandal, are so crippled by avarice, greed and envy that they could mount no effective challenge to the rampaging governors.

In the meantime, ever-rising levels of noise generated by intense struggle by ministers and top bureaucrats for bigger and bigger chunks of the loot at the federal level, have all but drowned out the president's shrill voice against graft and abuse of office.

Given this sick and deteriorating condition of the polity, it comes as no surprise that a vast army of demagogues, tribal warlords, self-appointed experts, women and youth activists as well as certified terrorists, would emerge to issue ultimatums, make threats and insist on their own brand of prescription for dealing with this haemorrhage.

Regrettably, like everything else that is to be done in this ill-fated country, the prescriptions these groups are offering strenuously avoid the key malaise, which is the greedy, selfish, short-sighted, undisciplined and fraudulent ruling elite. If we are to go by their bizarre prescriptions, before Nigeria can be cured of its ailments, she must have to be destroyed!

Which is why we are inundated with these rancorous demands and agitations. Some say the country must be divided into tiny pieces with each piece handed over exclusively to tribal warlords. Others say they want a return to the era of huge regional governments, where big tribes can swallow small ones without challenge. Others want all money realised from the sale of oil pumped out of wells within their territory handed over to them intact. However, they want the federal structure to stay in place. The translation of this proposition is that even though they should be allowed to 'chop alone', the rest of the country should keep vigil on them lest they are attacked by

their hungry neighbours.

If you think this is outrageous, wait until you have checked out the Yoruba agenda. True to their reputation, they led the challenge to the 1999 constitution, blaming it all for their failures, insisting that both the constitution and the basis of the country's existence have to be 're-negotiated'.

First, they summoned every one out for a 'sovereign national conference'. But they didn't stop there. They issued a stream of instructions and demands on those they summoned; especially those to come from the north; who were asked to denounce and repudiate first the 1914 amalgamation of the north and the south of Nigeria, which, according to them, was a terrible mistake; make a prior commitment to the revocation of the sovereignty of Nigeria over its territory; agree to a replacement of the states with 'ethnic federating units'; agree that the central government, if there must be one, should confine itself to the defence and protection of the national anthem and the national pledge only.

But despite the early and total rejection of this plot, they have remained intransigent. The more other Nigerians protest, the more they intensify their campaign, using every weapon at their disposal, especially their media. Another clear proof yet of the selfish and divisive application of the media power by the Yoruba elite.

This heavy and sustained propaganda has succeeded in creating pockets of converts from many parts of the country who now accept that the dissolution of Nigeria is "inevitable".

Having the ground thus softened, President Obasanjo, who has always said he was first a Yoruba man before he was a Nigerian, made his move. He mobilised a huge team of activists, gave them generous payments and ordered them to 'collate' all 'mistakes' in the 1999 Constitution so that he would get them corrected. With this ultimatum, the team did as told - they stopped just short of saying everything written in the constitution was in error!

Chief Obasanjo was not done yet. He asked the hapless Professor Jerry Gana, who now goes with his proper title of "Minister of Orientation" to mobilise Nigerians and meet the challenge posed by this gravely flawed Constitution.

But no. And again, no. This is hypocritical, dishonest and wrong. You cannot talk of flaws in a constitution. One man's mistake is another man's protection. What use are constitutions if they cannot define and regulate the rights and entitlements of the different segments of society? You change one sentence and you have short changed one party and elevated the other. It's robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Members of the National Assembly, who are the true representatives of ALL Nigerians, (the rich and the poor, the ones that have overwhelming media power and those that cannot even read, the ones who have oil wells at their backyard and those without even water to drink;) are the last line of defence of this constitution against the threat by the revisionists.

The National Assembly has said they do not trust and will not take President Obasanjo's word for it. Not only that; they have gone ahead and set up a high powered committee, under the leadership of the Deputy President of the Senate, to go round the country and find out whether Nigerians really want the constitution re-written.

Meantime, the emotional cry of this beleaguered constitution can be heard in all parts of this country. Can the National Assembly lift this cruel siege and come to the defence of the constitution? Will they? Can they? History will tell.

Zarma, a former editor of the New Nigerian, is the deputy national publicity secretary of the Arewa Consultative Forum.



#### LETTER OF THE DAY

##### OBJ, reshuffling is not the answer

**P**resident Obasanjo should bear it in mind that cabinet reshuffling cannot help him in his reckless quest for leadership. We expect more drastic changes in the various sectors not in the bunch of sycophants called ministers.

You should provide us with basic needs. (Please do you know that as of now garri is unobtainable to the common man?)  
Yunusa Hamza F/Dutse,  
P. O. Box 185, Gwaram,  
Jigawa State.

## Opinion

## Buhari, please speak out

By Yakubu Yakubu

I wish to appeal to General Muhammadu Buhari, former Head of State (1984-85), to organise a press conference and disabuse the minds of the people and the Nigerian press of about the statement attributed to him (*Thisday*, June 3, 2001) calling for the election of only a Muslim as the next president of Nigeria.

Gen. Buhari at the launching of a book on Sharia in Sokoto (June 2, 2001) was quoted as urging Nigerian Muslims to ensure that they vote massively for a Muslim as the next president, which is the only way that Islam could be promoted.

I can bet all my life-savings that General Buhari was misquoted or rather misinterpreted since the speech was made in Hausa language. As a statesman, a leader of thought, a converted democrat and a gallant civil war veteran (who risked his life to unite this country), Buhari would never turn to bigotry.

Already, reactions to the now famous "speech" are being churned out daily especially in the Lagos based media, calling for the head of Buhari. A meeting of the 19 chapters of the Northern Christian Association of Nigeria has equally called on Christians to vote only for a Christian president. They called him "a jihadist" who actually was the one that brought Nigeria into the Organisation of Islamic Conference, OIC. Not to be left out, the pan-Yoruba group, *Afenifere*, said it doubts the credentials of Buhari as a true Muslim. Moreover, the group said the human rights record of the former Head of State and his failure to help Chief Abiola (a fellow Muslim) in the June 12 struggle have put the General's piety to question.

Interestingly, the people of the so-called Middle Belt (an integral part of the North) have joined the fray in castigating the embattled general. In an independent stand, former PDP national chairman, Chief Solomon Lar suggested the removal of Buhari from the National Council of States, an advisory body made up of our past heads of government. A self-acclaimed pro-democracy coalition, Northern Coalition for Democracy and Justice, cried out that "the mafia from the North does not want the common man to be empowered, because he would revolt." More and more of such vitriolic comments are still raining down on the poor general who has not yet said anything.

General Muhammadu Buhari's silence on the matter is unsettling. Is he toeing the line of past (and present) Northern leaders who would just "siddon de look" until the storm is over. It would be years later when we would hear or read in some memoirs that "I was misquoted by the Lagos/Ibadan press." To ask another question, is Buhari merely waiting to see those that actually don't like him before pulling the wool off our eyes?

I am worried about the situation not for Buhari's personality but for the future of my beloved country. What is involved here? Politics? But Buhari still denies any political ambition despite the proposal by a cross-section of the Northern elite to make him run for the presidency. Is the press still licking the wounds of the infamous Decree No 4, or is it the after-shock of the 1999 press campaign to liquidate PTF together with Buhari? Time will tell.

Though military rule is an aberration, General Buhari knows quite well that he led a government made up of Christians and Muslims. Moreover, in a democratic system where elections are held, how can there be a ballot without the Muslims and the Christians, and not to forget the African traditionalists.

Coming down to specifics. At present, we have three political parties. How on earth can AD, APP or PDP nominate their presidential candidates (in 2002) strictly on their being Muslims. If really the Buhari theory exists, how realistic is the counter-move by CAN to vote only for a Christian candidate. Would the Christian delegates (during the party convention) in party A move over to party B, while the Muslims in party B cross over to party A. To postulate further, what would be the fate of party C, or would the African traditionalists present a flag bearer there?

On election day (sometime in 2003) which category of voters would come out to cast their vote? If the Christians voted 100 percent for party A and the Muslims voted 100 percent for party B, and the majority carried the vote, what will happen next?

It has to be a winner-takes-all government to really portray the dichotomy of the two religions. This means that all ministers, special advisers, special assistants, board members etc. must be of the same faith with the religiously elected president.

Considering the trickle-down effect in politics, the trend would not stop at the presidential election because the fever must have infected the local government, governorship, state and National Assembly elections. And certainly, since elections begin from bottom up, there would be no Nigeria for any presidential election to take place in, God perish the thought!

Absurdity in the Nigerian polity will surely never end as long as our elite and our media cohabit to bring the house down. Otherwise, who would be talking of ethnic nationalities in the third millennium, when we are having the African Union, European Union, etc? President Obasanjo's stand on the SNC issue has been relentless and reassuring. Equally, his approach to the Sharia controversy is what has given us the chance to still live in peace, disregarding the prodding of the media.

Knowing the Nigeria press well, if Gen. Buhari does not speak out now and tell the truth, this spark will spread like wildfire. And the outcome will not be pleasant.

Yakubu is of 234 Cotonou Crescent, Wuse Zone 6, Abuja.

## Tribute to the late Dr. Bala Jibril Mohammad

By Adamu Mohammed Hamid

I write to set myself on record on receiving the sad news of the sudden and tragic death of a most versatile, most erudite and most electrifying intellectual Nigerian. The death of Doctor Jibril greeted our ears as a shock of the millennium.

Many may not know Dr. Bala, perhaps because his life, almost as a whole, was buried in the university. He was indeed a pure academic, yet a vibrant social transformer. He talked down to the brass tacks and struck the nail on the head. He had never been identified with a roundabout approach in speech, style or procedure, a man of no nonsense and an academic of some sort.

Now I would have to be more articulate in picking my words though writing with a very heavy heart. Personally, I knew Dr. Bala Jibril since 1991 as a lecturer. Throughout my stay with him in the university, he had never sacrificed truth for anything, nor had he compromised his position on it. He was once picked to become the secretary of a local government, one year later, he resigned and returned to the university, simply on the basis of truth and principle.

And all the more added to his credit, Dr. Bala preached and was a model of simple life. His simplicity was always reflected by his mode of dressing, and of course by the myriad of papers he had presented during his lifetime.

Let me say, without the fear of being subjective, just out of admiration of his speeches and papers, that Dr. Bala was the most fluent Nigerian I knew - at least from 1991 to 17 June 2000 when the

angel of death laid its cold claws on his soul. English oratory had indeed lost a great advocate.

Dr. Bala took enormous interest in the political arrangement of his country, especially the relationship between the leaders and the led. Most times, he was easily touched by the decisions of those in authority. He spent the two hours of his lecture on substantive analyses, praising or condemning policies or decisions with vivid reasons based on rock-solid foundations and structures of clear thinking. One-hour lectures were hardly ever enough for his topics (either academic or current).

Sir, you have certainly upped and died on us when your scholarly waves are most needed by this country. All your life, you had yearned for and cherished the ideals of democracy, sacrifice and altruism. Now that democracy is here, and your ideas are freer to reach wider horizons, you are no more. Death has overtaken thee. May thy lord have mercy on thy soul.

A glaring testimony to what Dr. Bala lived and died for, which is the pursuit of academic excellence, is that, it was his students who identified his corpse after the ghastly motor accident that claimed his life in Bauchi. Later, the registrar of the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU) was contacted and he relayed the message to the registrar UniMaid for attention. The concerns started from the academic environments.

Dear sir, your quiet end left in us a

vacuum very hard to fill. No word is enough as tribute to you. You have prepared us well for the challenges we are facing today, and much more, made us who we are now. Inherent in your life is the legacy of greatness which we will continue to cherish until we catch up with you in the great beyond. Please pass our goodwill tribute to your colleague Mallam Usman Gidado (also our former lecturer) who passed on just two years ago in a motor accident as well.

I see Dr. Bala's life as symbolic and reminiscent of that of his namesake - the late Dr. Bala Muhammed - late political adviser to the Rimi administration, Kano State. They bore the same names and shared the same political schools and ideological principles. The late Dr. Bala of Rimi's administration led a common life as well and was assassinated in cold blood in the early eighties because of the principles he maintained. Both held doctorate degrees and died real activists of the common man.

Though short-lived, you led a vibrant and exemplary life. May Allah give us a befitting replacement for you. With tears in my heart, I bid you a most endearing farewell.

Go well the spear of my heart.

I pass my condolence to Mallam Gambo Danjuma and Abubakar Musa, colleagues of Dr. Bala at the department of mass communications, University of Maiduguri, and to the entire department on this great loss.

Hamid is of Muassasatu Usaliddeen, No. C290, Railway Road, Bauchi.

## The avoidable deaths in Nasarawa State

Ali Joseph Dominic

The unfortunate but tragic death of Alhaji Ibrahim Musa, the Sarkin Azara who also was the special assistant on special duties to the governor of Nasarawa State, Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu, the *Sarkin Yakin Keffi* and others on that fateful morning of 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2001 and thereafter in the hands of some "unknown non-indigenes" of the area calls to question the genesis, the remote and immediate reasons that had led to the dastardly act by the gangsters or hoodlums.

Before the sad events took place, the people of Nasarawa State which was created out of Plateau State on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1996, had enjoyed relative calm and peace although there had been some isolated cases of misunderstanding existing amongst the ethnic groups especially the Tivs until the introduction last year (2000) of the draconian, unpolitical decision by the state and local governments in the state which gave birth to the vocabulary of "indigene" formula as a political tool that has brought with it ever since then, a cold war situation into the state hence the bitterness, acrimony, hatred, apprehensions and what have you, amongst the over 35 ethnic groups that could be found within the 13 local government councils of the state.

Since the introduction of the monster called "indigeneship" into the state, things have not been all the same and as such the bitter seeds of discord and suspicions which have existed amongst the ethnic groups became entrenched in their minds and the result of that decision had led these indigenes who had resided in the other local governments outside their "home" ethnic local governments were forced out of employments as a result of the "go home" directive to your local governments which unfortunately had led most of them to be retrenched due to surplus manpower available in their home local governments.

The question is who brought the unpolitical and undemocratic idea to the attention and subsequent wholesale acceptance and implementation by the state governor as the chief executive and the chairmen of local government councils in the state on the indigeneship palaver without first weighing on the pros and the cons? And of the elected members of the local government and state legislatures as regards to the decision to give the nod to introduce it in the 13 local governments of the state?

No doubt the decision to introduce and to give approval and thus recognise the indigeneship status into the local governments especially, is the one albatross that has been facing the young state ever since which would continue to haunt the state for some time ahead, therein lies the present predicament in the state.

Those who had murdered in cold blood the late Sarkin Azara did so probably because they believed rightly or wrongly as the case may be that he was among the architects for the introduction of indigeneship issue in the state which they felt hurt or adversely affected as they presumed, they were being systematically schemed out of the sphere of things via the political tool by denying them indigeneship status and not to talk of a restricted franchise and employment and means of a livelihood hence they decided to strike (though in a brutish manner) which they believed was their last option by beheading the Sarkin Azara whom they saw as a threat to their existence as a people and a group in the area, nay the state at large.

The other question is: Would there be any relative calm and

peace again in the area and the state at large with the sword of Damocles dangling as is represented in the vexatious issue of "indigeneship" status which is the cause of the present bloody situation and tension in the state?

Would the state government be able to control the situation positively to its logical end?

Truly speaking and based on the cloudy/hazy but very tense situation on the ground, it seems that the only antidote or best option or solution to the seeming tense situation in the state lies in finding an acceptable compromise which includes an outright abrogation of the earlier decision on the indigeneship status by the state/local governments without which peace, unity and progress would continue to elude the state and which means more bloody encounters coming ahead sooner or later.

Going into memory lane, one could see that what is now Nasarawa State was a part and parcel of the defunct Benue Plateau, and later Plateau State, which comprises of various ethnic groups such as the Alagos, the Eggons, Rindres, the Tivs, Meghilis, Birom etc. who had lived together for years but who regrettably are now being politically classified as non-indigenes in the (created) state which is the tragedy facing the young state today.

Other threats to pace, progress, mutual trust and co-existence amongst the various ethnic groups in the state which could snowball as a result of the indigene palaver as a spill over could spell doom to the people and the state if not properly or carefully handled is the religious factor.

Therefore, declaring an indigene of the state *persona non grata* in some local governments of the same state is a costly mistake and an ill wind that will blow no one any good and could spell doom and disaster for the people and the state at large.

Our elected leaders in the local government, state and federal legislatures must be prepared to legislate and make only those laws that would unite us instead of dividing us.

They must preach peace and unity at all times instead of creating problems for the people and the nation in general.

We, therefore, need to borrow a leaf from Governor Orji Kalu of Abia/MATK who had sent a bill to the state House of Assembly for consideration and approval with a view to granting indigeneship status to any Nigerian who is resident in the state for at least 10 years the privileges of being given indigeneship status and employment offer in the state and also the Fagge Local Government Council of Kano State for selecting a non-indigene to assist in the running of its affairs where Mr. Anayo Nduba an Ibo man from the eastern part of Nigeria representing Sabon Gari East Ward who was elected the adviser on ethnic and religion affairs of the local government. (See *Daily Trust* newspaper of 27-6-2001).

Nasarawa State House of Assembly and state assemblies nationwide should borrow a leaf from Abia State and Fagge LGC in Kano State as we need peace.

If we should allow the present situation to escalate beyond what is presently on the ground then I guess there could be no one that would be left alive to enjoy the much cherished peace and progress in the state.

Enough is enough!

Dominic is of c/o Dr. James A. Kagbu, Chemistry Department, Ahmadu Bello University, Samaru-Zaria.

**HOUSE SPEAKER REMOVED BECAUSE OF BLEACHING**  
NEWS



**YOUR LETTERS**

**OBJ: The diminished farmer**

President Obasanjo is an acknowledged farmer. Thus, under normal circumstances, he, more than the average Nigerian, should appreciate the importance of affordable food at the market place. So, rightly, one would have thought that President Obasanjo as an ardent farmer, who owns one of the largest private farms in the country, would be the last man to make Nigerians go hungry on the basis of food crisis in a country that is blessed with huge agricultural resources and endowments.

The story in the May 12, 2001 edition of *Post Express*, titled: "The tale of a failed farmer", written by Funke Egbemode is very captivating in the sense that the story portrayed the president as a man who has abandoned his primary constituency of farming at the expense of impoverish Nigerians only to swim in the murky waters of politics.

It is quite incredible to see a high-class farmer like Obasanjo, who has gained national recognition as a farmer, allow more than 100 million Nigerians under his rulership to languish in hunger occasioned by dearth of foodstuffs.

The reasons recently adduced by President Obasanjo for the present economic hardship being experienced by Nigerians are incomprehensible. Perhaps, the government of Obasanjo might have thought it wise to play on the sensibilities of Nigerians when the president posited that the present high cost of foodstuffs was as a result of insufficient crop yield on the part of farmers. This excuse coming from government is laughable, because in the face of the existing galloping inflation, no reasonable analyst should expect any *garri* seller to stick to his former price when it is clear that prices of other goods and services, which they also use, have shown an upward trend.

By now, it ought to have dawned on the president that the hike in the price of *garri* and other staples indicate that all is not well with the nation's economy. Therefore, to bring the country out from the throes of economic quagmire, the president should embark on a total review and overhaul of the economy to enable it meet with the expectations, yearnings and aspirations of the people.

Two years after President Obasanjo took over the reins of democratic governance, Nigerians are beginning to feel that we enjoyed a better economy and improved standard of living during Abacha's regime, the very man Obasanjo has been busy criticising while leaving our economy in the blues.

It is a pity that Obasanjo though an enterprising farmer, has obviously failed to make Nigerians enjoy his farming prowess and potentials due to a lot of distractions and shadow chasing.

Nkemka Ubani  
21, Ahmadu Bello Way,  
Jos.

I'm surprised with the level of advert on the pages of newspapers and magazines by state governors and local government chairmen. If they must advertise why should they include the rehabilitated projects? I'm sure every governor is advertising towards continuity in office (*Tazarce*).

I think they don't need any advertisement to continue in office. Since most of them believe and have

**Advertising incompetence**

even told the media both electronic and print that, "it's God that gave them the power and opportunity, to be in government house," why can't they believe in Him again come 2003 if they know they are doing the right thing and stop the adverts. Let them wait for His call again if they actually mean what they are saying with all their heart. "God doesn't fail

and he has never failed" why the rush for 2003? However, I personally think the money being used for such expensive advert pages in colour should be used for the betterment of the electorate. The advert rate is expensive and I'm sure advert will not make anybody to vote them into office although advertising is known to be persuasion, but

I doubt if that of our excellencies will persuade anybody. The only purpose is to display and show their performance but I think if it must be done let it be done locally in the print and electronic media owned by the state for the immediate electorate to see. If it is actually what you are saying that is being advertised why extending it to the national level?

Please and for God's sake wait for that divine call as most of you have been saying. Let your performance speak for itself. God doesn't sleep, the electorate and Nigerians are not blind, and we can see things for ourselves. There is no need to keep on making so much noise about your performance at the expense of the masses. I'm sure the advert is not being done with your personal money. Some are even advertising what they don't even know when and how it was built under the pretence of rehabilitation as part of their projects. I think our excellencies are making fools of themselves because we have two good eyes to see, one good brain to think, one good heart to decide and two good ears to hear and one good mouth to indict or vindicate any elected officer vis-à-vis their performance.

The noise and the adverts should be stopped please. We can distinguish between bad and good, right and wrong, evil and good deed. I see no reason why we should be told and reminded about any performance on the pages of newspapers, magazines, radio etc.

Murjanatu A. Sa'eed,  
Jos,  
Plateau State

**Pilfering still reigns in government**

The views of Pastor Segun Belo-Osagie, in *The Punch* of May 6, 2001 on pilfering in government made an interesting reading. His position that those who are preoccupied with condemning Umaru Dikko, Abacha and IBB are the very people who benefited immensely under the tutelage and influence of the men they run down may not be out of place.

Today, what is most manifest in the polity is that Nigeria has now built a horde of sycophants; praise singers and hypocrites who have desecrated the social order with their hide and seek rhetoric.

Although many Nigerians still vilify the late General Abacha, right now it is as if corruption has been institutionalised in the country and given a centre-stage in the scheme of things.

There is no day we do not hear about the corrupt practices of top government officials. Even Chief Bola Ige, the Attorney General and Federal Minister of Justice, who ordinarily should be government's chief prosecutor, has been accused of fraud as he has been invited by the National Assembly to clear the air on the N2.5 billion short-changed bank

interest payable on NEPA money that was lodged in Afribank, Abuja. But on this issue a lot of questions must be asked. Is there no standard method the government uses in conducting investigations? While some Nigerians are brought before the National Security Adviser, some are brought before the so-called Special Investigative Panel (SIP), while another set of Nigerians are brought before the Police, SSS or the Akanbi anti-graft tribunal for similar allegations. Where then is fairness and equity if we apply different rules to different people in the same situations?

Daily, we hear of ministers, aides and advisers awarding dubious contracts by over-invoicing and paying staggering mobilisation fees to

contractors that are supposed to bring returns to them, even when such contractors abandon the projects after receiving mobilisation. Regrettably, in spite of these shortcomings, inadequacies and deficiencies, it is surprising that the president still preaches anti-corruption doctrines when corrupt practices take place under his nose.

President Obasanjo should stop deceiving Nigerians with his anti-corruption campaign. The trial of Mohammed Abacha, Anache and company is surely manifesting as a diversionary act to shift attention away from the government's failing policies.

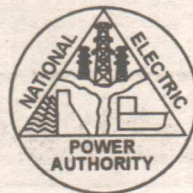
Shuaibu Sarki,  
NNPC/PPMC Depot,  
Maiduguri.

**Thumbs up for Murja**

Permit me a space in your widely read newspaper to show my appreciation for Malama Murjanatu Sa'eed of Wadata Pharmacy, Jos, for her contributions in the northern voice newspapers (i.e. *Weekly/Daily Trust*) the papers that protect our rights and the medium that we use to reply the dirty reports of Lagos/Ibadan press.

In one of your write-ups, you called for those asking Media Trust to award you a prize to consider Paul Mamza & Co. We are not saying that they don't deserve it, but we consider you as a woman, so with you I now agree that what a man can do a woman can do better.

Dini Sa'eed Modibbo,  
P. O. Box 654,  
Gombe,  
Gombe State.



# NEPA

## NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY

### PRESS RELEASE

## NEPA Weekly Situation Report (14)

### OUR BULLETIN FOR WEEK NO.14:

(24/06/2001 TO 30/06/2001)

#### 1. PEAK DAILY GENERATION FOR THE PREVIOUS AND CURRENT WEEKS

PREVIOUS WEEK (17/06/2001 TO 23/06/2001)			CURRENT WEEK (24/06/2001 TO 30/06/2001)	
DAY	DATE	GEN(MW)	DATE	GEN(MW)
Sunday	17/06/2001	1813	24/06/2001	1863
Monday	18/06/2001	1746	25/06/2001	1825
Tuesday	19/06/2001	1774	26/06/2001	1875
Wednesday	20/06/2001	1749	27/06/2001	1901
Thursday	21/06/2001	1791	28/06/2001	1918
Friday	22/06/2001	1791	29/06/2001	2008
Saturday	23/06/2001	1843	30/06/2001	1908

#### 2. PROJECTED AVERAGE PEAK GENERATION FOR THE PREVIOUS AND CURRENT WEEKS

PREVIOUS WEEK (ACTUAL) (24/06/2001 TO 30/06/2001)	CURRENT WEEK (FORECAST) (01/07/2001 TO 07/07/2001)
<b>1900MW</b>	<b>2158MW</b>

#### 3. PEAK WEEKLY GENERATION FROM EACH POWER STATION IN THE PREVIOUS AND CURRENT WEEKS

STATION	PREVIOUS WEEK (ACTUAL) (24/06/2001 TO 30/06/2001)	CURRENT WEEK (FORECAST) (01/07/2001 TO 07/07/2001)
KAINJI	201MW	121MW
JEBBA	257MW	170MW
SHIRORO	255MW	250MW
EGBIN	857MW	852MW
SAPELE	251MW	247MW
AFAM	24MW	30MW
DELTA	308MW	212MW
IJORA	NIL	20MW
CALABAR	1MW	1MW
ENRON	61MW	61MW
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2215MW</b>	<b>1964MW</b>

(Low water level at Kainji, Jebba & Shiroro)

#### 4. PROJECTED AVERAGE DAILY GENERATION FROM EACH POWER STATION IN THE PREVIOUS AND CURRENT WEEKS

STATION	PREVIOUS WEEK (ACTUAL) (24/06/2001 TO 30/06/2001)	CURRENT WEEK (FORECAST) (01/07/2001 TO 07/07/2001)
KAINJI	200MW	121MW
JEBBA	260MW	170MW
SHIRORO	250MW	250MW
EGBIN	860MW	852MW
SAPELE	240MW	247MW
AFAM	80MW	30MW
DELTA	240MW	212MW
IJORA	15MW	20MW
CALABAR	1MW	1MW
ENRON	60MW	61MW
<b>AVERAGE TOTAL</b>	<b>2206MW</b>	<b>1964MW</b>

(Low water level at Kainji, Jebba & Shiroro)

#### 5. AVERAGE ESTIMATED DAILY NATIONAL DEMAND FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE, 2001= **3500MW**

#### 6. HYDROLOGY

Lake water level at Kainji, Jebba and Shiroro is low at this period of the year hence reduction of generation output from the hydro based Power Stations.

### ENERGY SAVING

#### BELOW ARE SOME USEFUL TIPS ON HOW YOU CAN SAVE ENERGY, BY:

- Ensuring, for example, that when they are in use, your refrigerator or freezer is not overfilled. They operate more efficiently and economically only when filled to Capacity.
- Making sure that your refrigerator or freezer is not set to run colder than necessary. We recommend that you always follow the manufacturer's Instructions.

- Ensuring that when using the oven for meal cooking, try to use it for a full meal rather than using both oven and surface units. If you have three dishes to be cooked at slightly different temperatures, pick the mean temperature to cook all three. (For example, the mean of 325, 350 and 375 degrees temperature is 350 degrees).
- Making sure you do not use oversized water heaters. The oversized water heater wastes energy heating unneeded water. It should in fact be avoided to reduce your initial cost.
- Switching off all appliances not in use. Especially, when you are not home, remember to switch off your water heater, air-conditioners, television sets or indeed all lights you do not need before dark.
- Switching off security lights.
- Switching off street lights during the day
- Ensuring that when cooking with the electric cooker you use pots or pans that match the ring sizes.
- Using energy-saving bulbs
- Ensuring that you do not fill the electric kettle just to make a cup of tea. Use just enough water to cover the ring. Hot water kettles come in different sizes, you may choose the one to meet your needs.

Next, we serve you the power demand and energy consumption of some domestic appliances:

APPLIANCE	TYPE	RATING	POWER DEMAND IN KILOWATT (KW)	RATED CURRENT IN AMPERES (AMPS)	NO. OF HRS. TO CONSUME ONE UNIT OF ELECTRICITY (i.e. 1 KWH)
Water - heater	50 litre	1200watt	1.2	5.2	0.8
	100litre	2500watt	2.5	11	0.4
Cooker (4-plate With oven)	Small	6000watt	6.0	26	0.2
	Regular	8000watt	8.0	34	1.2
	Large	10500watt	10.5	45	0.1
Single-plate Cooker	Portable	1800watt	1.8	7.7	0.6
Fan	Table	0.08HP	0.06	0.25	1.7
	Standing	0.1HP	0.7	0.3	1.4
	Ceiling	0.3HP	0.2	0.9	4.5
Air-Conditioner	Small	1.5HP	1.1	4.7	1
	Medium	2HP	1.5	6.5	0.7
Refrigerator	Small	0.2HP	0.15	0.6	7
	Medium	0.25HP	0.19	0.8	5
	Large	0.3HP	0.22	0.9	4.5
Television- (Black & White)		200watt	0.2	0.9	5
Television (Colour)		300 watt	0.3	1.3	3

- 1000watt=1Kilowatt (1KW)
- 1 HP=0.746 Kilowatt
- 1KWH=One unit of electricity=1KW x 1 HR. i.e. 1 Kilowatt used for 1hour.

Finally, we appeal to all our esteemed customers and all good Nigerians to endeavour to report faults promptly wherever and whenever they occur. There are faults sections and complaints centres in all our 56 district offices spread across the country. Only such prompt reports can enable us attend to faults promptly to make life a lot easier for you.

*We thank you for your understanding and patience.*

**LET US CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF OUR COUNTRY.**

*Management*

## TRUST INTERNATIONAL

## Foreign &amp; Diplomatic

**P**rofessor Mboup, you wear many caps. I believe you are also the person, or one of a team in Senegal, who identified HIV2 as a separate strain of the AIDS virus and the one prevalent in this region?

Exactly. Yes, with the collaboration of the Harvard Institute, we were really the originators of this discovery along with others. We were able to be the first to document the presence of this new strain of HIV in the region. [The French AIDS' specialist] Montagnier's group was the one to isolate it, but we were the first to describe and document this strain.

Since 1985, we have also conducted many studies of HIV2 and I can say that most of the knowledge of HIV2 in the world is coming from this collaboration.

**How do you see the current situation of HIV/AIDS in Senegal? Everyone talks about a success story, and the low rate of HIV infection here, but how successful is it and is there room for improvement?**

Through different programmes and a programme of evaluation and assessment, we have been able to document the growth of AIDS. And, for at least ten years, we have been able to maintain a stable prevalence rate of about one percent. There are many contributing factors.

First: the structural situation and stability of the country, also a blood transfusion programme started in the 1970s and a Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) programme and the registration of prostitutes.

Secondly, an early response to the (AIDS) epidemic. The national AIDS programme in Senegal was the first one of its kind in Africa.

Also, three, political will has been very strong since the beginning and we also have a regular budget from the government and its involvement and support.

Another factor was the response of all sorts of organisations and the involvement of groups in the community, such as religious leaders, women etc and awareness and education programmes that targeted certain sectors of the population, commercial sex workers, the youth etc.

Another factor is the evaluation and assessment through a Sentinel Surveillance Programme, a behaviour surveillance programme and research. I think through these, we have been able to document the progress of AIDS in Senegal and, yes, I think there has been some success. But, despite the low HIV/AIDS prevalence rate, we still have to strengthen all efforts being developed to maintain this situation.

**So what are the greatest challenges ahead for Senegal?**

To maintain the prevalence level of about 1 percent (of HIV infection among adults) and avoid any increase. There are still other factors, migration, behaviour changes and many other challenges to tackle. But when you see, as I say, how widespread the response has been to the problem, we are encouraged, but we must work out at maintaining our progress.

**With high-risk areas such as prostitution, commercial sex workers etc, how are you coping?**

Senegal has had a programme of registration of female sex workers since 1970. This was really important, because it allowed us, first, to have an idea of the prevalence rate in this population. Also, because of the system in place, we were able to conduct considerable research to document HIV1 and HIV2.

Prostitution has been regulated and this is important, because people can practise prostitution as long as they satisfy two criteria - that they are older than 18 and are having regular check ups for sexually transmitted diseases. This was a good opportunity also for us to educate this population.

In our new strategies, we would like to focus more on this core group (commercial sex workers) as a bridging group to the population. We started this 16 years ago, but we still continue to educate them. This has enabled us to document a very important decrease of STDs and HIV in this population. Also there is widespread knowledge, at least 100 percent, of HIV/AIDS and prevention measures (that is, condoms - high condom usage) among prostitutes. So, I think this is a very important programme and this was done in (the capital) Dakar and other regions (of Senegal). This is important and allows us to have this type of success.

**Professor Mboup, what about drug treatments and anti-retroviral medication for HIV/AIDS?**

We have been able to start an initiative, over the past two years when these drugs were beginning to be available in many developing countries, with the aim of showing that it was possible to treat people in Africa (with anti-retroviral) with the same outcome as found elsewhere in the world.

This national pilot programme allowed us to fulfil the criteria to have a reduction (in price of these drugs). The real challenge now is how we can maintain top quality for follow up and also expand this experience at country and sub-regional level. The trial with anti-retroviral was with 130 people living with AIDS in Senegal.

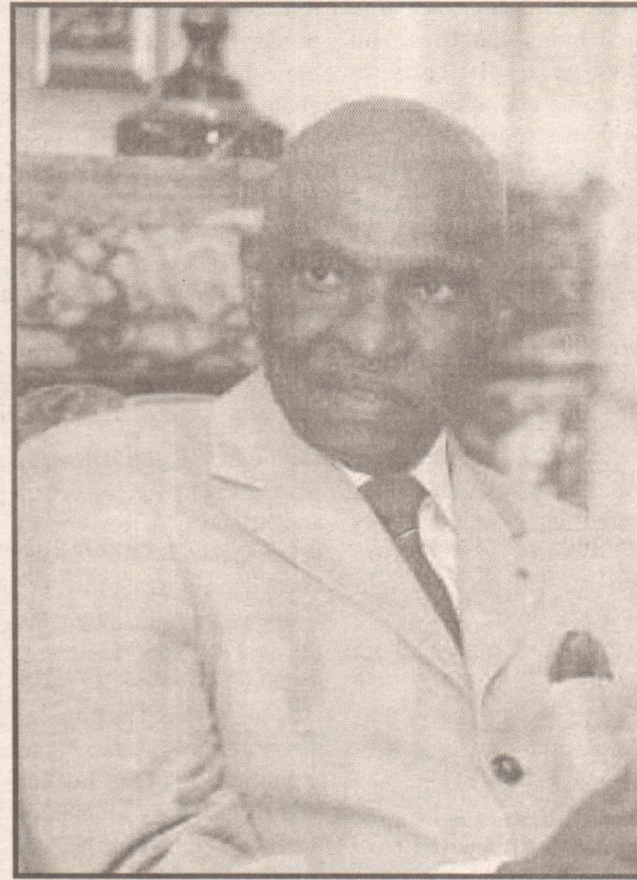
**So that's 130 people out of the 80 thousand estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in Senegal, 3000 of whom have died? That was just a sample.**

Yes. We need to go step by step. Of these 80 thousand, we need to know how many people are really accessible and whether they need and can take this medication. Because, even in developing countries, there are criteria for starting anti-retroviral HIV treatment.

**So how do you identify the people and what are the criteria for joining the national programme to be allowed anti-**

## Why the spread of HIV is low in Senegal

*Senegal's low HIV infection rate is the envy of other African nations and has been attributed to excellent and early planning. One thing that has helped Senegal to focus on, and take pride in, its national anti-AIDS campaign is the involvement of prominent and home-grown scientists, such as Prof. Souleymane Mboup, a professor of Microbiology at the University of Dakar, Senegal. He spoke to allAfrica.com's Ofebea Quist-Arcton, on Senegal's success story. Excerpts:*



President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal.

**retroviral?**

We defined some criteria, which are very well documented worldwide, in other countries. You have to be a symptomatic, well non-symptomatic, with a CD count of less than 200 and a viral load of more than 100. Those are the people who really need it (anti-retroviral medication), but we need to follow up people on a regular basis and demonstrate that we can. The initial pilot programme documented the feasibility of Senegal to continue this programme.

Now it's done we are going forward and looking at how we can expand it around the country. But we really need to maintain the same quality of follow-up. So I think that even if all the conditions were in place, we need some time to expand this programme so that we can maintain the same quality of treatment for people, as well as follow-up and compliance, to avoid resistance.

This needs to be step by step, but I think we are on the road to accomplishing this objective.



United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, centre, poses with delegates to the United Nations General Assembly's 26th Special Session on HIV/AIDS last Tuesday, at the United Nations

**What about the price, what about cost of anti-retroviral?**

The price is becoming more accessible because, as you know, in US dollars, in developing countries, the figure was about US\$12,000 for (anti-retroviral) treatment for a person for a year. Now we can get it at US\$1,800 per person annually and, subsidised by the government, some people have access to anti-retroviral at US\$10 a month.

This is very accessible and for some people who have no means, or for medical personnel, they are not paying at all for the medication. This is a system we need to maintain.

The highest cost for the treatment is about US\$80 a month, that's the highest price you can pay in Senegal, so the price has decreased drastically.

**So, Professor Mboup, people who are HIV positive or have AIDS in Senegal and fulfil the criteria for selection, when will they have access to anti-retroviral drugs? How soon will that be a reality?**

I think that it is very difficult to give an exact date. But it is our objective, in the next one to two years, we would like to multiply by at least 16 to 20 the number of people receiving this (anti-retroviral) treatment.

I think maybe things will change as well, with an easier regimen and reduced prices and I think this will help. As I say, one of the conditions is not to rush too much, but to be sure to keep up the quality of follow-up for our patients. This will be the most important criterion and should be done through existing infrastructure. But the situation should evolve within one or two years and will help to accelerate developments.

**What about research in Senegal for an AIDS' vaccine?**

Yes, research for a vaccine is becoming very high priority now at all levels; at the international level, but even at country level. You must have heard that regional health ministries in the sub region are really pushing for that.

And also we have many groups and many initiatives. You heard about Bill Gates (founder of Microsoft) giving, I think, US\$100 m for AIDS vaccine research? So, I think this will really push things forward and maybe very soon things can evolve. And as you know also, there are some trials in the US and in Thailand and maybe this year we will have some idea of the results of these trials, which will be very valuable knowledge to establish if the vaccine can work or not or can be improved to work. So I am very positive that things can go very, very fast in the next year.

**Are you personally involved in the search for a vaccine that might be found to combat AIDS?**

I would say yes, because we are working on many projects that can help, either towards understanding the situation to develop a vaccine or seeing what kind of vaccine will be available. We are not waiting, we too are contributing. This is my whole life.

As you know, we have a network of surveillance of different subtypes which show that here, in West Africa, the major subtype is a recombinant virus of two subtypes (A & G, which we call CRF02, CRF recombinant form circulating number 2). This was very, very important and also, through our research on HIV2, we were able to show that people previously infected by HIV2 have partial protection. All those things are very important to help move in the direction of future vaccines.

# TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA &amp; THE MIDDLE EAST

## Refugees in Guinea subject to abuse

Refugees in Guinea are vulnerable to serious human rights abuse at the hands of Guinean authorities and civilian vigilantes, Human Rights Watch has said in a report.

Guinean security personnel and civilians regularly harass refugees near their camps or as they move through the country to safer areas. Checkpoints along the roads are particularly dangerous locations, where refugees are often subjected to arbitrary strip searches, beatings, sexual assault and extortion.

In the report, "Refugees Still at Risk: Continuing Refugee Protection Concerns in Guinea," Human Rights Watch has also documented the cases of refugees who were tortured or beaten to death while detained in Forecariah Prison, southeast of Conakry.

"These people are fleeing terrible civil wars, and they should not be subjected to more abuse when they reach their place of refuge," said Peter Takirambudde, executive director of the Africa division of Human Rights Watch. "This is not simply a moral argument, it is a fact of international law. Guinea must live up to its responsibilities."

For a decade, Guinea has hosted several hundred thousand refugees who have fled the conflicts in Liberia and Sierra Leone. This is one of the largest refugee populations in Africa, surpassed only by that in Tanzania, which is a bigger country.

More than 40,000 of these refugees have recently been relocated from embattled border areas to camps in the interior of Guinea. Despite this

—*Human Rights Watch* improvement, the refugees' long-term safety is still under threat, Human Rights Watch said.

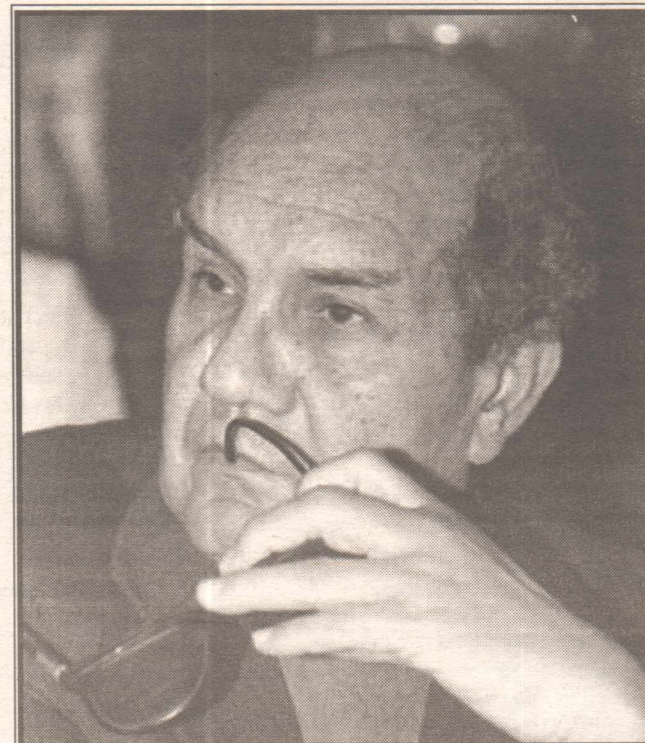
Refugees have very little information about the situation in the new camps, on the roads in Guinea or in their home countries, and have great difficulty in accessing and obtaining the help of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The number of UNHCR protection officers in the rest of Guinea is insufficient and subject to a high turnover.

Many refugees have been arrested for such arbitrary reasons as their age and size and have been held for periods up to several weeks in Guinean detention facilities in Forecariah, Guéckédou, and Kissidougou, often without

charge. Still more refugees are vulnerable to all of these abuses because no valid refugee identification cards have been distributed by the Guinean government.

Many Guineans blame the refugees for the conflict at the border. While Guinea does have legitimate concerns about the threat to national security posed by rebel infiltration from Sierra Leone and Liberia, these concerns do not excuse the harassment and physical threats that cause refugees in Guinea to live in fear, Human Rights Watch said.

Since September 2000, a combination of Sierra Leonean Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels and armed Liberian forces have repeatedly attacked and burned refugee camps and Guinean villages along the border, killing, injuring, abducting, and forcing their residents to flee. The Liberian government has also launched cross-border attacks, accusing Guinea of providing support and hosting a Liberian rebel group, the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD).



The Tunisian Interior Ministry said June 20, 2001, Mohamed Moaada, head of a splinter group, the Movement of Democrat Socialists and an outspoken opponent to President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali government, was jailed because he breached the conditions of his release on parole. Moaada was sentenced to 11 years in prison in July 1995 for what the government said were his illegal contacts with Libyan secret agents but was freed six months later on parole.

## UN team visits Liberia

A five-member UN delegation is in Monrovia to look into whether Liberia was respecting a UN resolution calling for an end to its support for rebels in neighbouring Sierra Leone, a source in Liberia has disclosed.

The head of the mission, Cameroonian Martin Chungong Ayafor told Reuters news agency: "We are here to know how the Liberian authorities are implementing UN resolution 1343".

UN sanctions on Liberia

came into effect on 7 May after Monrovia failed to show that it had complied with the UN Security Council's demands that it stop supporting and trading with Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF). The sanctions include a ban on the import of rough diamonds from Liberia, a travel ban on senior government officials and their spouses, and the extension of an earlier arms embargo.

Two days before the imposition of sanctions Liberian

president Charles Taylor described the measure as "unjust and illegitimate" and said it was taken without consideration of the views of the Organisation of African Unity and the Economic Community of West African States.

## Gulf of Guinea commission treaty adopted

A treaty establishing the Gulf of Guinea Commission has been adopted by the Heads of State and Governments of its member states.

A communiqué issued at the end of a two-day meeting in Libreville, Gabon, Tuesday said member-states have committed themselves to the acceleration of the establishment of the organs of implementation of the Commission, especially the Secretariat.

Nigeria, acknowledged as "the prime mover of the idea" was represented by President Olusegun Obasanjo, with Foreign Minister, Alhaji Sule Lamido taking an active part in the meeting of the council of ministers.

The Libreville meeting was hosted by El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of Gabon, President Miguel Trovoadá of Sao Tome and Principe and President Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of Congo were also present. The Congolese Prime Minister, Peter Mafauy Museage and Angola's Minister of Interior, Fernando

By Suleiman Mohammed

Dapiedade Dias Dos Santos, represented the respective Presidents.

During the Libreville meeting, member states pledged their commitment to working for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in the countries of the Gulf of Guinea.

They noted the "cooperation and significant steps" taken on issues concerning the demarcation of boundaries.

## Zimbabwe veterans hold white farmers hostage

A group of Zimbabwean war veterans has been holding four white farmers hostage and threatening to kill them after beating up some of their workers, a neighbouring farmer said on Saturday.

Lindsey Campbell told Reuters that 60 veterans invaded Iain Kay's Chipesa Farm, 50 miles east of the capital, on Friday. They chased away his 120 workers and forced Kay and his son David to lock themselves in the farmhouse.

Lindsey said Iain and David

Kay were joined later on Friday in the farmhouse by two neighbouring farmers, Kim Nilson and Trevor Steel, who had come to try to help.

"Since yesterday, these four farmers have been hostages. They are being prohibited from coming out and they are being threatened with death," she told Reuters by telephone from her farm in the nearby town of Marondera.

"The situation is quite tense because some of these people have broken down some doors, and are behaving in very violent manner," she said.

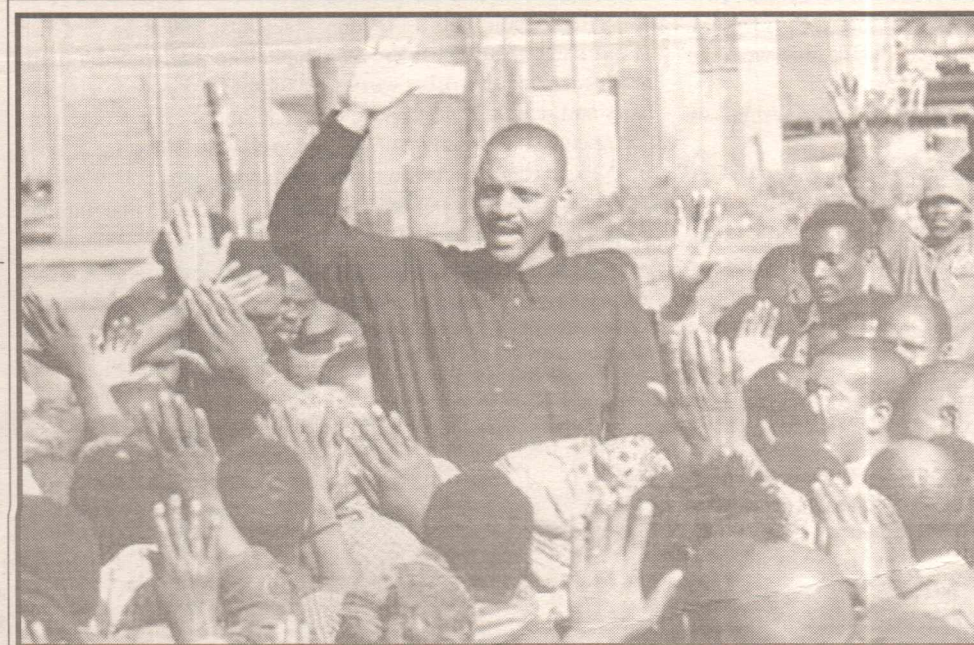
A police official said some

police were on the scene investigating the incident.

"I don't have any details but we have some men on the ground there, and they should be able to care of the situation," he told Reuters.

A police constable was shot dead at Iain Kay's farm in April last year when it was first invaded by militant supporters of Mugabe's ruling ZANU-PF, led by veterans of Zimbabwe's 1970s independence war.

Iain Kay was severely assaulted at the time and left for dead. The invaders moved out of the property months later, but have been coming back now and then, threatening to occupy the farm



Member of the Pan African Congress (PAC) Ka Plaatjie addresses thousands of poor blacks July 5, 2001 who paid 25 rand (\$3.11) for a plot on a dusty field owned by the government and private farmers. Heavily armed South African Police on Thursday arrested more than two hundred black squatters on land near Johannesburg illegally sold by an opposition party.

## Palestinian boy shot dead in Gaza

Israeli troops have killed an 11-year-old boy at Rafah, near the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt.

The Palestinians say he was shot dead while playing in the street but the Israelis say their forces came under attack and returned fire.

The dead boy was identified as Khalil Ibrahim Al-Mugrabi by hospital officials, who said he

was shot in the head.

The boy was the 17th Palestinian to be killed since the adoption of a truce brokered by the United States three weeks ago. Over same period of time, nine Israelis have been killed.

The head of Palestinian Security in Gaza, Abdel Razeq Majaide, condemned the incident as "another crime" by Israel. He said it violated Israel's declaration of ceasefire.

The Israeli army said Palestinians threw hand grenades and petrol bombs and gunmen fired on Israeli soldiers posted at Rafah throughout Saturday.

In another incident, two Israeli soldiers were lightly injured when a roadside bomb exploded near the West Bank village of Asira al-Shamaliya, near Nablus.

The violence raged a day after Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon returned from Europe acknowledging disagreement with European leaders there over his policies against Palestinians.

But Mr. Sharon told journalists he believed he had achieved his main aim - to get the Israeli position well understood.

"There may not be complete agreement, but it's totally clear there is understanding," he said.

## OAU summit begins today in Lusaka

Zambia, host to the upcoming Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit which begins today in Lusaka, Zambia, has called for "concerted action" to deal with the continent's challenges.

"The challenges that our founding fathers sought to address 38 years ago remain alive and relevant in today's world," Zambian Vice President Enoch Kavindile told the OAU's council of ministers at a welcoming ceremony on Thursday.

"New and even more complex challenges which require much more concerted action and common vision have

been added to the list of tasks that we must resolve," Kavindile was quoted saying in a Xinhua report. "It is only by acting in unison that we can guarantee the sustenance of the OAU, or the African Union (AU) which we are establishing."

The three-day 74th ordinary session of OAU Council of Ministers ended on Saturday after hammering out an agenda for the summit from 9-11 July. The AU, modelled loosely on the European Union, was the brainchild of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, the report said. It would consist of an executive, a central bank, a monetary fund, a parliament and a court of justice.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

World Report



A police officer tackles a youth during scuffles between groups of white and south Asian youths in the centre of Bradford, northern England last Saturday.

Eighty police hurt in riots

Eighty police officers have been injured during a night of widespread rioting in Bradford.

Burning buildings and cars lit up the sky as police were attacked with baseball bats, hammers and a hail of bricks, bottles, petrol bombs and fireworks.

The trouble started in the city centre but spread to the largely Asian area of Manningham, where it lasted until the early hours of yesterday.

Hundreds of riot police were still trying to establish control after several hours of running battles with about 1,000 Asian youths.

Police said 12 white and 16 Asian people, aged between 14

and 56, had been arrested.

Two white men received knife injuries - one suffering a slash wound to his back and the other a stab wound to a leg.

The worst of the violence was in Whiteabbey Road, one of the main routes through Manningham.

The police regularly charged the crowd with shields and batons but were forced to retreat repeatedly as the crowd surged forward.

Mohammed Amran of the Commission for Racial Equality in Bradford said the situation was out of control.

"The police were quite heavy handed," he told BBC News.

But Chief Superintendent Stuart Hide, of West Yorkshire

Police, said: "Our priority is public safety and officers' safety."

"What we are seeing is wanton violence, which is putting lives at risks."

"Police officers have come under attack from groups of youths with bricks, baseball bats, hammers and petrol bombs."

"Two police horses have been injured, one of them has been stabbed."

"There are reports of at least six members of the public, local people, who have received injuries and are being treated in hospital."

"There has been damage to cars, one public house, two shops and other premises in the Manningham area."

"There can be no excuse for this criminal behaviour and we would urge those involved to clear the streets and go home."

"Our intention is to return the city to normality as soon as possible."

Bradford is the latest northern town to suffer race rioting this summer.

Oldham and Burnley have both had serious incidents but the trouble in Manningham is on a much more serious scale.

Bradford, with an Asian population of about 100,000, has a history of good relations between different ethnic groups.

This week, Home Secretary David Blunkett granted the police special powers to ban marches and outdoor meetings in Bradford until 27 September.

The Anti-Nazi League held a counter-demonstration in Centenary Square attended by about 500 people, mainly Asian men.

Witnesses said the violence appeared to have started when a group of white men emerged from a pub and hurled racist abuse at the crowd.

Community leader Abu Bashir told BBC News that the police needed to find ways to communicate more effectively with young Asians.

"We need to recruit more Asian police," he added.

Gun battle kills two in Jamaica

At least two people have been killed in Jamaica, after a gun battle between security forces and opposition party members in the capital Kingston.

The opposition said 10 people were killed and several more wounded in the clashes, early on Saturday morning.

The leader of the opposition Jamaica Labour Party, Edward Seaga, is accusing the Jamaican government of conducting a sustained violent campaign against him and his supporters.

A police news release said two police officers were killed but did not mention the opposition and warned people to stay away from the Tivoli Gardens region in the west of the capital, Kingston.

Mr Seaga said that police and soldiers invaded the area, where he has his headquarters, firing indiscriminately.

He said 10 people were left dead and another eight wounded.

A news release issued by

his party said that 10 hours after the incident bodies were still lying on the ground and anyone who tried to retrieve them, as well as television camera crews, was being fired at by police.

The security forces were warning people to stay away from the area.

The JLP has been circulating pictures of the blood-covered bodies on the internet.

But the official Jamaican police report of the shooting incident did not mention opposition party members.

It said a police operation in Tivoli Gardens came under heavy fire from unknown gunmen which left a police corporal and an officer attached to a special anti-crime force dead.

It said four other officers and a number of other people were wounded.

The police also said that their vehicles and two police stations were attacked by gunfire and bombs.

Their report advised residents not to go into downtown or west Kingston as heavy gunfire continued to erupt in those places

Croatia to extradite Hague suspects

The Croatian Government has agreed to arrest and extradite war crimes suspects to The Hague tribunal - but four ministers resigned over the decision, sparking a political crisis.

Prime Minister Ivica Racan said he would seek a confidence vote on the issue "as soon as possible," and would resign if he didn't get parliamentary backing.

On Friday, the war crimes tribunal's chief prosecutor, Carla Del Ponte, went to Zagreb to urge Mr Racan to act without delay on sealed indictments for two suspects.

As in Serbia, the decision to cooperate with the tribunal has caused a rift between reformers and nationalists, and could bring down the Croatian government.

Mr Racan also faces demonstrations from war veterans and nationalists.

"I am afraid of unrest. Every normal person should be, now that the tourist season has started, but I hope it will not come to that," he said.

Disturbances took place when one former commander, General

Mirko Norac, was arrested in March.

The decision came late on Saturday after an all-day emergency cabinet session.

Deputy Prime Minister Goran Granic and three other ministers, all members of Mr Racan's key ally, the Social Liberal party, resigned immediately afterwards.

The Social Liberals have 23 members in the 151-seat parliament, with the strongly nationalist HDZ, the former ruling party, holding another 41.

If the Social Liberals decide to oppose the government, Mr Racan's Social Democrats will be in danger of losing the confidence vote.

The UN war crimes tribunal served two sealed indictments almost a month ago.

The names in the indictments have not been revealed, but Croatia's state news agency, Hina, citing unidentified government sources, said the likely suspects were retired General Ante Gotovina, a commander during the 1995 offensive, and Rahim Ademi, a general of Kosovo Albanian origin.

Typhoon death toll reaches 121

The death toll from Typhoon Utor's rampage through the Philippines has risen to 121 with 130 injured and 44 people missing, civil defence officials said on Sunday.

Most of the deaths occurred in the northern mountain resort of Baguio City and nearby provinces hit by landslides and flooding at the height of the typhoon on Thursday.

The Office of Civil Defence said nearly 830,000 people across the main Philippine island of Luzon were displaced by the typhoon with the total damage to agriculture and property put at almost \$21m.

Baguio City Mayor Bernie Vergara said parts of the popular mountain resort were still submerged in water, with electricity supplies still cut.

"Our drinking water has not yet normalized, mud is still coming out of the faucets. It may take another week for us to fully normalize," Mr Vergara said.

"This is the worst calamity that has hit us, we hope this never happens again," he said.

Utor produced winds of up to 170km/h (105 mph) which dropped heavy rains across Luzon triggering widespread flooding and landslides.

Power lines were cut as northern provinces were isolated when bridges were destroyed and roads were blocked by fallen rocks and debris.

Relief work and medical

missions continued in the affected provinces yesterday, the civil defence office said.

The storm blew out of the Philippines on Thursday and headed for southern China.

By Saturday Utor had claimed three lives and razed 4,700 houses in China's southern Guangdong province, said China's state media.

Odd World

Man passes primary school exam at 75

A Cameroonian man who dropped out of school in 1940 has passed his primary school exam at the age of 75, state radio in the Central African country reported over the weekend.

"I had very much wanted to pass this exam so as to command more respect from within the village council," the man, whose name was given as Atangana, told the radio after receiving his First School Leaving Certificate in Bertoua in East Province.

Children start school between the ages of four and six in Cameroon and normally get the certificate after about seven years of study.

Atangana, a pupil of the Catholic Literacy Centre, said he hoped his perseverance would help him find peace with God.

"You know, at 75, my days in this world are numbered. That is why I wanted to learn how to read and write so that I can read and understand the Bible, the word of God. In these old days I want to reconcile myself with God," he said.

The report did not say why he had not taken the exam while at school.

Another quake hits Peru

Another strong earthquake has hit southern Peru, causing panic and some damage in the country's second largest city, Arequipa.

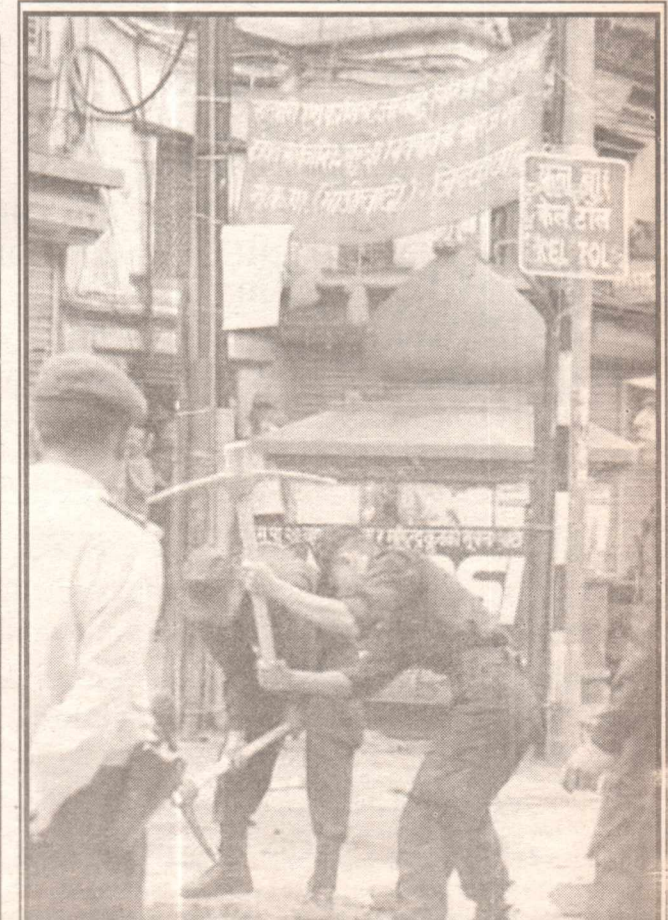
Local media reported that a few houses collapsed following the quake on Saturday, but there were no reports of serious injuries.

The Geophysical Institute of Peru said the quake's epicentre was located in the Pacific Ocean.

The earthquake was the third to hit the area in as many days, and came just two weeks after a quake with a magnitude of 8.1 devastated parts of Peru killing at least 75 people and leaving tens of thousands homeless.

President-elect Alejandro Toledo announced on Friday that he had secured \$52 million in international aid to help earthquake victims during a 12-day official tour of the United States and Europe.

Authorities said an earthquake with a magnitude of five struck on Friday in the same zone.



Nepalese policemen dig a trench to defuse three small explosives, booby-traps hung on the red banner by Maoist rebels in Katmandu, Nepal... recently.



**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT (FMOT)  
BUKAR DIPCHARIMA HOUSE  
CENTRAL DISTRICT AREA, ABUJA**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**ENCROACHMENT ON NIGERIAN RAILWAY  
CORPORATION'S VESTED LANDS BY  
FEDERAL, STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

1. This is to put the PUBLIC on Notice that by FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CONCLUSION [C45 (00) 3 OF 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 2000, Council approved the revocation of all the Certificates of occupancy issued to individuals and/or corporate bodies by respective State Governments in respect of Railway lands.

2. However, all holders of such Certificates of Occupancy are directed to contact the General Manager RAILWAY PROPERTY COMPANY LIMITED (a subsidiary of the NIGERIAN RAILWAY CORPORATION) at 7 Race Course Road, Kaduna for possible regularisation of their stay on the lands.

3. Federal, State and Local Government desirous of using unallocated, unoccupied Railway vested land should apply for lease of such lands and applications would be duly considered.

4. Federal, State and Local Governments and/or their agencies currently occupying Railway Lands without the express approval of the Nigerian Railway Corporation or Railway Property Company Limited, desirous of continuing their occupation on such lands, should also forward their applications to Railway Property Company Limited for consideration.

5. Applications for regularisation should reach the said Company within 30 days from the date of publication. Any person or organisation that does not take steps to regularize his/her stay on the land within the above stipulated time does so at his/her own risk.

*Signed*

**MR. JOHN O. HIRSE mni  
PERMANENT SECRETARY,  
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT  
FOR: HONOURABLE MINISTER**

**EAGLE CONSTRUCTION LIMITED**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The attention of the management of **EAGLE CONSTRUCTION LIMITED** has been drawn to the likely existence of a company with the name of **Eagle Builders**. Close as the name is to our company name, it is not in any way related to **EAGLE CONSTRUCTION LIMITED**.

For clarity we state below facts that distinguish us and eliminate any mix-up in our identity and that of any other company:

- |                                |   |  |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| ▪ NAME                         | : | <b>EAGLE CONSTRUCTION LIMITED</b>  |
| ▪ RC. NO:                      | : | 36893  |
| ▪ DATE OF INCORPORATION        | : | 13 <sup>th</sup> January, 1981   |
| ▪ REGISTERED OFFICE            | : | 20 <sup>B</sup> Wase Road, Jos   |
| ▪ BRANCH                       | : | Plot No. 1179, CZ B6, Mabushi,<br>Off Nnamdi Azikiwe Express Way, Wuse-Abuja   |
| ▪ MEMBERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS: | : | 1. Alhaji Mahdi Mohammed Abubakar (Chairman)<br>2. G. Micheletti (Managing Director)<br>3. Alhaji Musa Abdullahi (Director)<br>4. G. Noca (Director) |

We appeal to the public to please contact us for clarification in the event of any further mix-up in our name with others at our addresses and on phone numbers as stated below:

No. 20<sup>B</sup> Wase Road, Jos  
P.O. Box 6540  
Jos  
Tel./Fax: 073-465565

Plot No. 1179, CZ B6, Mabushi,  
Off Nnamdi Azikiwe Express Way,  
Wuse II, Abuja  
Tel: 09-5238946: Fax: 09-5232002  
e-mail: [ecl@tiscali.it](mailto:ecl@tiscali.it).

**Signed: Management**

# BUSINESS DAY

## NEPA sure of 4,000mw target by December -MD

The National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) will meet the target of providing 4,000 megawatts of electricity in the country by December this year, as directed by President Olusegun Obasanjo.

The Managing Director of the Authority, Mr. Joe Makoju, said in a message to the West Africa Business Association (WABA) meeting in London that the Authority was providing up to 2,500 megawatts out of the country's total capacity of 5,888 megawatts.

Makoju, who spoke through Mr. Sebastian Koka, the representative of NEPA in London, said contracts for the rehabilitation and refurbishing of power stations had been awarded to reputable contractors, while more than 4,000 transformers would be purchased before the end of the year.

He said NEPA's efforts would be complemented by Independent Power Providers (IPP) who are

encouraged to get involved in the provision of electricity to the people in line with the authority's aim of "unbending" the power distribution system.

He stated that 24 million dollars (about 3.1 billion) had been voted for the new metering and billing system, which he said, would eliminate problems associated with the current billing system.

Makoju also disclosed that the World Bank loan of 120 million dollars (N15.6 billion) would be utilised to redistribute and strengthen transmission lines to facilitate achieving the set target.

He announced that an increase of 50 percent tariff would come into force by the end of this month, while another increase would be made before the end of the year to cover operational costs of the authority.

The Managing Director urged WABA to assist NEPA by attracting foreign investment in the power sector.

NAN reports that WABA is a group of about 170 companies and entrepreneurs having business interests in or with West and Central Africa, with the Nigerian chapter under the chairmanship of former Head of State, Chief Ernest Shonekan.



Joseph Makoju, NEPA, M-D

## Virgin Atlantic declares interest in Nigeria's rail sector

Sir Richard Branson, the Chairman of Virgin Atlantic Airways, which made its debut into the Nigerian aviation market, last week has declared the interest of the company to invest in the country's rail transport sub-sector.

Speaking when he met with President Olusegun Obasanjo in Abuja, Branson, who did not disclose when the interest would manifest, said that the effort was part of plans to boost business relationship between Nigeria and Britain.

On how the company intends to go about the business, he said that Virgin Atlantic would rely on the experience it would gather in operating Britain's railway system, which it had taken over.

He said that the British government had not invested in rail transport development in the past five years, but that Virgin Atlantic was already working toward improving on that country's rail transport system, adding that changes would begin to manifest in the next 18 months.

On the advantages of the new Lagos-London route, which the airline started plying, he said that Nigeria had been saved the problem of one airline monopoly which "held the country back."

He said that the airline's inclusion on the route would provide some relief to

travellers as Virgin Atlantic's charges were 100 U.S. dollars lower than that of British Airways, which monopolised the route for two decades.

On recruitment of personnel, he said that many more Nigerians would be engaged by the airline and that a dual training system that would take place in Nigeria and Britain had been worked out for the new staff.

NAN reports that the inaugural flight of Virgin Atlantic on the new route took place with the landing of the company's Boeing 747 aircraft at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja.

It will be recalled that Nigeria and Britain signed a "dual designation agreement" on the Lagos-London route on April 10, thereby granting Virgin Atlantic the authority to operate flights into the country.

In his remarks during the visits, Obasanjo expressed optimism that Virgin Atlantic's entry into the nation's aviation market would "bridge the gap created by the British Airways monopoly."

## First Bank denies 20% holding in Econet

The Managing Director of First Bank Plc., Mr. Bernard Longe has denied the bank's ownership of 20 percent equity of Econet Nigeria Limited.

Longe who aired this at the bank's "facts behind the figures" at the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) Lagos explained that the bank's investment in Econet and Nigerian Telecommunication Limited (NITEL) was in the form of debenture.

Although he hinted that the bank still has the option of transforming the debentures into equity shares according to Longe, First Bank's performance in 2000/2001 was impressive and if the result of its re-engineering efforts over the years.

Said he: "Total Assets rose by 17.9 percent from 180.6 billion as at 31st March 2000 to N212.9 billion. Deposits rose by 16.5 percent to N148.3 billion. Gross Earnings increased by 8.35 percent from N26.9 billion to N29.1 billion."

The President, O. Razak

## NLC faults retention of foreign inspection agents

The Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC), has expressed disgust at the Federal Government's insistence on retaining its contract with foreign inspection agencies despite the revelations of the fraud being perpetrated by its foreign partners.

The congress also praised the Nigerian Customs for exposing the fraud perpetrated by foreign pre-shipment inspectors who failed to carryout their duties after being paid one percent of the value of imports. The NLC also advised the government against privatising the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA).

The congress boss, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole called on the Federal Government to terminate its pre-shipment contract with foreign inspection agencies. He explained that with the introduction of 100 percent inspection of imports, the payment of one percent of the value of imports would have a spill over effect on the supply and prices of goods in the country.

Comrade Oshiomhole



Comrade Adams Oshiomhole, NLC President

From Samson Ojo, in Lagos

argued that many of the genuine importers are those who borrowed money from financial institutions with a high interest rate, and some of which could not secure paid jobs.

The NLC boss explained that the new policy would only result in many of them having their goods dropped at the ports as it would over stress them.

Comrade Oshiomhole posited that the foreign inspection agencies have performed worse than the Nigerian Customs and to retain them will amount to increasing the hardship of Nigerians.

He explained: "businessmen after paying pre-shipping are now faced with the dilemma of destruction inspection."

According to the NLC boss, the Federal Government's failure to terminate the foreign inspection agencies contract is an indication that government preferred to enrich foreign pre-shipment inspectors with tax payers money.

## Imported missing motorcycles found in Alaba

From Tokunbo Oloke, in Lagos

The 56 allegedly missing motorcycles at the container terminal Apapa port may have been discovered at Alaba market in Lagos suburb.

The news of the sudden disappearance of these motorcycles from a container filtered around the port over the weekend and the clearing agency threatened to sue the Nigeria Ports, Authority (NPA).

As a result of this development, security was beefed up and port's detectives swung into action aimed at getting to the root of the matter.

As a matter of fact, the source at the port told *Business Day* that some specification for these items were found at Alaba market.

The source was baffled on how such item could be stolen from the port where different security operatives are operating.

He said: "I do not intend to enter into any litigation with anybody so far those items are recovered intact," the source added.

Already, the source disclosed that the port detectives have arrested those who are connected with the alleged stealing and investigation is on.

When the Police boss in charge of port's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) was contacted for comment, the Sergeant on duty said "our boss is not around and our boss is the only one capable of commenting on such matter."

## Gana to speak at Africa-Europe investment conference in London

The Minister of Information and National Orientation, Professor Jerry Gana, is among several eminent personalities invited to speak at the Africa-Europe Trade and Investment Conference and Exhibition (AET Fair 2001) in London scheduled for November 5 to 7.

A statement made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in London said that other speakers include the Deputy Executive-Secretary of ECOWAS, Dr. Remi Aribisala, the British Minister for Development, Baroness Valcrie, the Secretary-General of SADC, Dr. Prega Ramsamy, Chairman of Transparency International, Mr. Peter Eigen, and Vice-President of European Investment Bank, Mr. Martin Curwen, among others.

The statement, signed by Mr. Bala Sanusi, a member of the organising committee indicated that the exhibition would be held at

the famous Brabiean Exhibition Hall.

The conference, organised under the auspices of the African Renaissance Institute in collaboration with the World Bank/IMF Africa Club, is a follow-up to a similar event, Africa-America Business Forum, held four years ago in Washington in the U.S., during which businesses worth more than 60 million U.S. dollars were struck.

Mr. Kapembe Nsingo, former Zambian Finance Minister and co-chair of the conference said that its primary aim is to "examine the enormous business opportunities and potential existing within the two continents."

## NAFCON chairman assures host communities on projects

Host communities of the National Fertiliser Company of Nigeria (NAFCON) were on Wednesday last week assured that abandoned projects initiated by the company years ago, will be reactivated as part of its social responsibilities to its host communities.

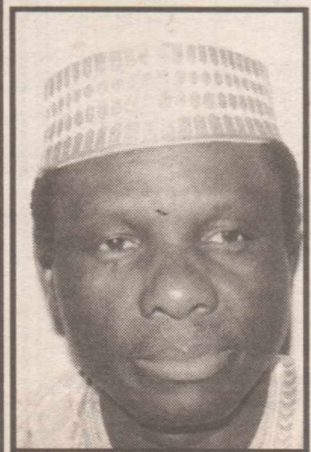
The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that NAFCON, established in 1987 to help boost food production and export trade, crumbled as a result of corruption, and poor recruitment policies in less than 10 years of its existence.

As part of the programmes to bring the company back to life, the

Federal Government in February appointed a new board which was inaugurated by Vice-President Atiku Abubakar on May 30.

The Chairman, Board of Directors of the company, Alhaji Hassan Adamu said during his visit to the Traditional Rulers of the communities in Onne, Rivers State, that "the company and Onne community hared a strong partnership in progress."

Adamu, who is "Wakilin Adamawa" said that although NAFCON had been undergoing some difficulties over the years, the Federal Government was poised to resuscitate it.



Prof. Jerry Gana, Information Minister

# BUSINESS DAY

## Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE) Price List as at 06/07/2001

COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE
7UP	5.62	5.90	0.28	23	48,200	272,527.00
ABATEX	1.14	1.14	0.00	1	25,999	29,638.86
ACCESSBANK	1.25	1.20	0.05	8	65,550	78,860.00
AFPRINT	0.94	0.94	0.00	8	44,316	41,251.38
AFRIBANK	8.50	8.92	0.42	40	382,898	3,389,807.13
AGIP	30.00	30.20	0.20	31	75,635	2,264,681.30
AGLEVENT	1.18	1.18	0.00	1	50,000	59,000.00
AIICO	3.70	3.85	0.15	7	29,532	111,357.95
ALUMAÇO	0.90	0.90	0.00	1	81	72.90
AP	9.34	19.34	0.00	13	261,086	5,047,856.04
ASHAKACEM	15.20	14.50	0.70	12	14,642	220,567.60
AVONCROWN	1.62	1.62	0.00	1	200	324.00
BAICO	0.71	0.71	0.00	1	200	142.00
BCC	4.79	4.79	0.00	6	14,034	67,222.86
BERGER	2.54	2.60	0.06	20	66,169	168,910.86
CADBURY	23.77	24.80	1.03	41	64,296	1,576,204.02
CCNN	3.07	3.07	0.00	2	3,700	11,359.00
CFAO	2.25	2.30	0.05	14	114,676	26,101.18
CHARTERED	8.06	7.67	0.39	8	117,000	897,390.00
CMB	0.68	0.68	0.00	2	31,016	21,090.88
COOPBANK	2.14	2.14	0.00	4	23,800	50,932.00
CORNERST	1.81	1.80	0.01	2	5,380	9,684.00
COSTAIN	1.24	1.18	0.06	1	30,000	35,400.00
CUTIX	3.40	3.25	0.15	2	4,000	13,000.00
CUTIX	3.40	3.25	0.15	2	4,000	13,000.00
DELGLAS	6.40	6.40	0.00	1	333	2,131.20
DNMEYER	15.00	15.00	0.00	6	7,650	114,750.00
DUMEZ	2.40	2.40	0.00	1	1,000	2,400.00
DUNLOP	3.30	3.16	0.14	20	134,622	426,505.52
EKOBANK	1.78	1.78	0.00	9	235,061	428,091.22
ETERNAOIL	1.27	1.21	0.06	9	115,917	141,320.42
EVANSMED	1.32	1.28	0.04	2	13,000	16,760.00
FIRSTALUM	1.80	1.80	0.00	3	5,000	9,000.00
FIRSTBANK	32.83	32.84	0.01	635	2,608,202	85,205,919.94
FLOURMILL	17.00	17.15	0.15	56	331,868	5,631,069.94
FSB	5.96	6.00	0.04	37	329,327	2,009,439.57
GOLDEREW	0.83	0.82	0.01	1	200	164.00
GROMMAC	0.81	0.81	0.00	1	100	81.00
GUARANTY	5.70	5.70	0.00	14	207,046	1,180,162.20
GUINNESS	37.31	38.00	0.69	29	100,720	3,794,343.52
HALLBANK	5.10	5.10	0.00	4	11,100	56,610.00
IGL	5.97	5.97	0.00	13	45,712	271,900.64
IMB	1.82	1.91	0.09	37	725,628	1,341,575.36
INLANDBANK	1.70	1.62	0.08	2	70,875	114,817.50
IPWA	1.20	1.20	0.00	1	250	300.00
JBERGER	47.00	47.00	0.00	12	39,706	1,817,299.40
JOHNHOLT	2.28	2.17	0.11	4	43,000	93,310.00
JOSBREW	0.67	0.68	0.01	2	10,800	7,336.00
LASACO	1.24	1.24	0.00	1	1,000	1,240.00
LAWUNION	1.57	1.57	0.00	1	5,000	7,850.00
LEVBROS	24.20	24.40	0.20	67	365,445	8,842,492.74
LIONBANK	1.30	1.30	0.00	2	3,000	3,900.00
LONGMAN	5.40	5.25	0.15	2	1,000	5,250.00
MANNYBANK	1.81	1.85	0.04	8	23,500	42,935.00
MAY&BAKER	3.86	3.86	0.00	13	248,529	960,347.94
MOBIL	63.50	64.00	0.50	17	25,617	1,630,185.27
NAL	5.96	6.25	0.29	31	1,793,343	11,208,393.75
NASCO	0.69	0.69	0.00	2	30,000	20,700.00
NB	27.30	27.45	0.15	74	511,650	13,937,897.00
NBC	20.00	20.50	0.50	25	91,969	1,895,014.95
NEM	0.73	0.76	0.03	4	27,181	20,657.56
NESTLE	65.00	62.00	3.00	20	66,446	4,117,908.50
NIDBFUND	7834.15	7634.15	0.00	1	600	4,580,490.00
NIG-GERMAN	2.53	2.53	0.00	10	14,937	37,790.61
NIGERINS	5.46	5.19	0.27	5	30,000	157,100.00
NOLCHEM	44.39	42.18	2.21	16	15,435	651,048.30
OKITIPUPA	0.70	0.70	0.00	1	300	210.00
OKOMUOIL	9.00	9.45	0.45	4	4,100	37,395.00
OWENABANK	3.65	3.59	0.06	4	107,500	385,980.00
PFIZER	5.44	5.44	0.00	1	5,000	27,200.00
PRESTIGE	2.55	2.43	0.12	3	10,700	26,307.00
PZ	13.40	13.80	0.40	40	218,052	3,005,734.45
ROYALEX	5.10	5.10	0.00	3	1,504	7,670.40
RTBRISCOE	1.35	1.35	0.00	3	10,000	13,500.00
SAVANNA	1.25	1.21	0.04	13	5,047,475	6,107,759.50
SKBEECHAM	2.38	2.46	0.08	6	6,771	16,451.91
TEXACO	63.01	63.01	0.00	14	5,335	336,158.35
TOTAL	63.50	66.50	3.00	33	122,107	7,907,433.30
TRADEBANK	1.04	1.04	0.00	4	4,350	4,524.00
TRIPPLEG	1.29	1.28	0.01	3	3,550	4,579.00
UAC-PROP	2.60	2.73	0.13	22	338,500	907,585.00
UACN	3.59	3.75	0.16	67	351,897	1,265,652.96
UBA	14.95	14.95	0.00	89	857,558	12,810,568.62
UBN	36.61	36.61	0.00	211	1,914,970	67,451,622.43
UNIC	2.35	2.30	0.05	2	1,500	3,490.00
UNIONDICON	15.40	15.40	0.00	3	1,650	25,410.00
UNIPETROL	43.00	43.00	0.00	46	59,218	2,594,162.92
UNTL	3.15	3.15	0.00	5	5,600	17,640.00
UPL	4.00	4.00	0.00	3	2,300	9,200.00
UTB	4.75	4.90	0.15	27	381,286	1,849,196.40
UTC	1.44	1.44	0.00	11	56,516	84,516.15
VINLEER	3.11	3.11	0.00	1	500	1,555.00
VITAFOAM	4.40	4.21	0.19	24	268,243	1,133,965.44
WAPCO	38.00	39.90	1.90	86	1,757,444	68,043,741.28
WEMABANK	3.00	3.00	0.00	53	227,849	684,099.88
WTN	2.14	2.19	0.05	1	2,800	6,132.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>2,232</b>	<b>21,544,674</b>	<b>340,198,309.82</b>

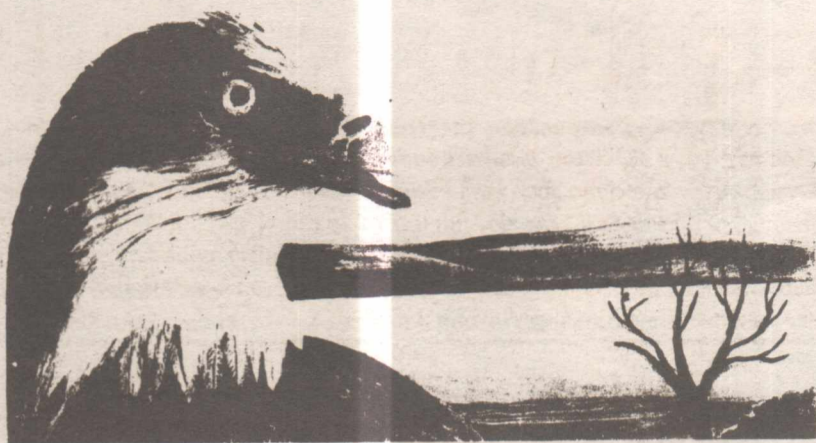
## Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE) Gainers/Losers as at 06/07/2001

Gainers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
TOTAL	63.5	66.50	3.00
WAPCO	38.000	39.90	1.90
CADBURY	23.77	24.80	1.03
GUINNESS	37.31	38.00	0.69
NBC	20.00	20.50	0.50
OKOMUOIL	9.00	9.45	0.45
AFRIBANK	8.5	8.92	0.42
PZ	13.40	13.80	0.40
NAL	5.96	6.25	0.29
7UP	5.62	5.90	0.28
LEVBROS	24.20	24.40	0.20
UACN	3.59	3.75	0.16
FLOURMILL	17.00	17.15	0.15
UTB	4.75	4.90	0.15
AIICO	3.70	3.85	0.15
UAC-PROP	2.60	2.73	0.13
SCOA	1.90	1.99	0.09
IMB	1.82	1.91	0.09
SKBEECHAM	2.38	2.46	0.08
BERGER	2.54	2.60	0.06
WTN	2.14	2.19	0.05
CFAO	2.25	2.30	0.05
MANNYBANK	1.81	1.85	0.04
NEM	0.73	0.76	0.03
JOSBREW	0.67	0.68	0.01

Losers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
NESTLE	65.00	62.00	3.00
NOLCHEM	44.39	42.18	2.21
ASHAKACEM	15.20	14.50	0.70
CHARTERED	8.06	7.67	0.39
NIGERINS	5.46	5.19	0.27
VITAFOAM	4.40	4.21	0.19
LONGMAN	5.40	5.25	0.15
CUTIX	3.40	3.25	0.15
DUNLOP	3.30	3.16	0.14
PRESTIGE	2.55	2.43	0.12
JOHNHOLT	2.28	2.17	0.11
INLANDBANK	1.70	1.62	0.08
COSTAIN	1.24	1.18	0.06
OWENABANK	3.65	3.59	0.06
ETERNAOIL	1.27	1.21	0.06
UNIC	2.35	2.30	0.05
ACCESSBANK	1.25	1.20	0.05
SAVANNA	1.25	1.21	0.04
EVANSMED	1.32	1.28	0.04
TRIPPLEG	1.29	1.28	0.01
CORNERST	1.81	1.80	0.01
GOLDBREW	0.83	0.82	0.01

Summary of Transactions			
	OPENING	CLOSING	% AGE CHANGE
MKT.	630,842,975,925.04	634,186,56,162.40	0.53
INDEX	10,670.24	10,726.79	0.53
DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE	No. OF COMPANIES
2,232	21,544,674	340,198,309.82	96

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## Privatisation UPDATE

### NEPZA issues one month deadline to companies with approvals to mobilise into CEPZ

The Nigeria Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA) has directed would-be investors, who had obtained provisional approvals to establish in the Calabar Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) to mobilise into the zone within a month, failing which they would lose their approvals.

The NEPZA general manager, investment services and promotion, Mr. Adebisi Opejimi, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja the weekend, that the authority was compelled to take the decision following "numerous receiving from more business-like companies.

He said that the deadline became necessary, to ensure that companies already holding approvals from NEPZA mobilised investors, who had been inundating the authority with requests to establish in the CEPZ.

According to him, their requests have not been approved, approvals were utilised, and those not utilised, withdrawn before new approvals could be issued.

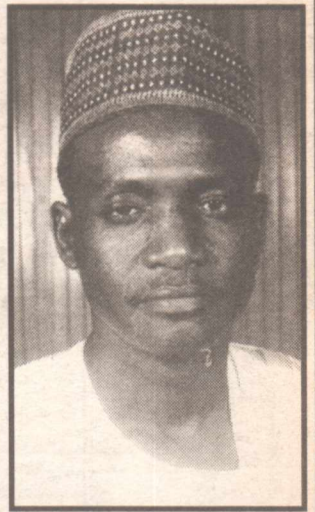
Opejimi said that NEPZA had earlier notified the companies concerned in writing, of its intention to withdraw the provisional approvals if they failed to mobilise after the grace period of six months, beginning from August 2000.

He said the concession was extended by another six months, beginning from

January this year, when the initial moratorium lapsed.

Some of the requirements now being considered before approvals are given, he said, included financial capability of the investor, which must be authenticated by NEPZA, feasibility study of the proposal, and export market of the company applying for approval.

NAN learnt that 34 companies had been granted provisional approvals to establish in the CEPZ, and only 11 of them had mobilised and commenced operations.



Mustapha Bello, Commerce Minister

### BPE offers Pakistani bank for sale

The Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) has advertise invitation for Expression of Interests (EOIs) by strategic investors in the United bank Limited (UBL) of Pakistan.

In a statement issued in Abuja, the bureau's spokesman, Mr. Joseph Anichebe said the advertisement for FOI's was on behalf of the Privatisation Commission (PC) of Pakistan in furtherance of the bilateral relationship between the bureau and other agencies implementing privatisation programme in other countries.

Osborne Adi NJR., Business Editor

According to him, the privatisation commission of Pakistan is offering interested strategic investors up to 26 percent equity shares and management control of the company.

The advertisement, which is currently running in Pakistan and other international journals besides Nigeria, is expected to close by July 23rd, 2001.

UBL is one of Pakistan's three leading commercial banks, having a country-wide and international branch network. It has full service license covering commercial, retail banking consumer and investment banking activities in Pakistan and most other countries where it presently operate.

Anichebe said, an extensive stream currently being implemented by UBL's management toward the preparation for privatisation of the bank.

He said the bank's privatisation represents an attractive investment opportunity for Nigerian investors interested in investment abroad and those interested in leveraging UBL's extensive presence and market share.

"Investors are also expected to indicate their experience in the banking and financial sector, international development as well as involvement in the acquisition and operation of entireness requiring turn around and managerial restructuring.

### el-Rufai says privatisation programme still on course

The Director-General of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) Malam Nasir el-Rufai, last week took a critical look at the ongoing privatisation programme of the federal government and said: "it is right on course."

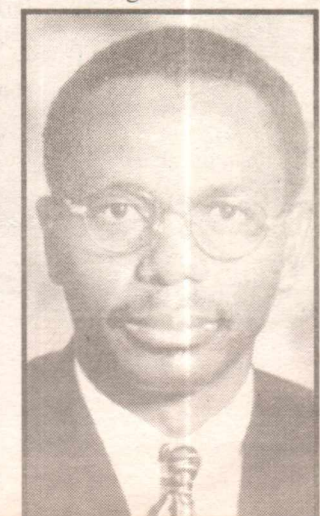
Speaking at the weekly interactive forum with newsmen in Abuja, el-Rufai said that critics of the exercise had failed to appreciate the rudiments and mechanism of privatisation anywhere in the world, and had, therefore, jumped into hastily conclusions.

He declared: "The programme is going on well as scheduled. I wish the various interest groups had not been fighting us, I wish also that other interests had not sabotaged our efforts."

He said that "privatisation is usually a difficult and controversial exercise the world over," explaining that as "a serious

business, several interest groups and high stakes" were also usually involved.

El-Rufai said that the success of any such programme depended largely on the focus, sincerity of purpose, transparency and determination, as well as the capacity to "resolve all contending issues."



Nasir el-Rufai, BPE, D-G.

# Just a note to inform you about the #500 note

It's a mixture of green and grey colours with a dash of red on the back



FRONT



BACK

## SECURITY FEATURES



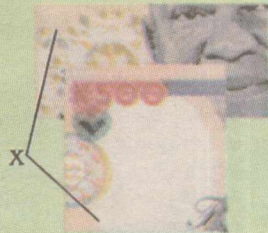
**RAISED PRINTS SENSED BY TOUCH:** Many areas especially the portrait, oil rig, letterings and the denomination numerals on the front and back are engraved. These items are coarse/raised prints which can be felt by touch.



**EMBOSSED EAGLE:** At the bottom left corner on the front side, the eagle is embossed on a gold background.



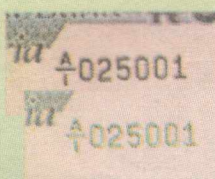
**COLOUR SHIFT:** On the front side of the note, at the bottom right corner, the denomination numeral 500 is printed to show a colour shift. This is observable when the note is tilted at different angles. The colour changes from green to **Deep Blue**.



**TINY PRINTS:** On the left side of Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe's portrait, '500 Naira' is repeated several times in tiny prints. See arrow marked (x) above.



**WATERMARK:** The picture of Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe appears again in the watermark when the note is held against light. Also visible in the watermark is the bold print 'CBN 500'.



**VISIBLE UNDER ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT:** The serial number on each note is black to the naked eye but turns green under ultraviolet light.



**SECURITY THREAD:** The security thread ordinarily looks broken but when held against light, you will notice the following: (a) It is a dark continuous line. (b) 'CBN' is repeated on the line.

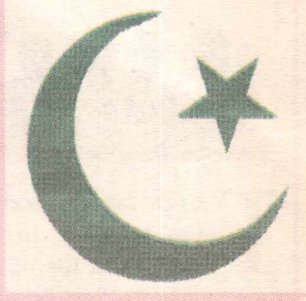
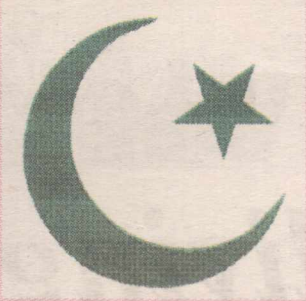


**VISIBLE UNDER ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT:** The N500 note paper has scattered invisible fibres which appear red and blue under ultraviolet light. The figure 500 also becomes visible and shows in green.

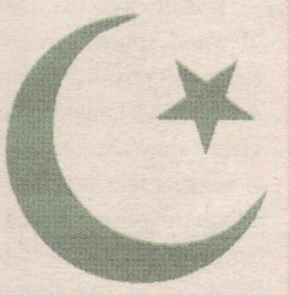


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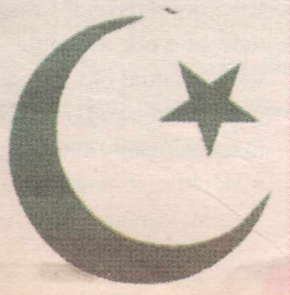


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**AREMO OLUSEGUN OSOBA**  
Executive Governor,  
Ogun State





# They split wood for a living

By Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman

The next time you see a man wearing torn knickers on top of a trouser without a shirt, do not be too quick to conclude that he is mad. The next time you see a labourer toiling at his job under the hot sun, looking dirty and cleaning his face of sweat, please reserve your assumption that you are better than him. Else you either get stunned at his intellectual aptitude or be simply surprised at what he has to show for his sweat.

Adamu Hassan and Umaru Mohammed are both 39 years old. They hail from Katsina State. While Umaru is from Dutse Local Government Area, Adamu is from Yelwa Local Government Area of the state.

Adamu and Umaru can hardly be seen without an axe on their shoulders. They are both *maipaskere*, the Hausa name for wood splitters.

Perhaps the only physical differences between these young men are that Umaru has an oblong face, while Adamu has a round face.

Splitting firewood could not convince one of the magnitudes of physical strength in these men, until I had a handshake with them. In fact I could not help shouting and begging to be released by them. And they both laughed, describing my palms as those of a baby.

Born in their various Local government areas in 1962, Umaru and Adamu have amazingly common life experiences, which they did not hesitate to share with *Daily Trust*. They are both born of poor parents who happen to be family friends. Neither Umaru nor Adamu had primary education. According to these men, they couldn't find any need for western education as there was scarcely any means of getting even one of the three square meals a day without going out to labour. Adamu said: "My friend, and I knew each other at the age of five when we used to follow our fathers out for labour. Our fathers were both *maipaskere* (wood splitters) that time, and they were friends. They were not educated too, so we did not even have the courage to go to school."

As if to demonstrate the knowledge they have of each other, Umaru quickly chipped in while nodding his head "and my father and Adamu's father are not alive now; they died long ago. Only our mothers are alive now."

"Was it the same year your fathers died, and do

you know what was responsible for your father's death?" *Daily Trust* asked. Umaru replied amidst laughter: "No, it was not the same year but they both died of sickness."

At this point Adamu who indeed is a relatively calm personality, was seen with his hands on his cheeks, quite suggestive of some deep reflection on a certain unpleasant experience in the past. Unlike Umaru, Adamu never found any need to go ahead sharing his life experiences with *Daily Trust* as he became uncomfortable and suspicious of such an unprecedented encounter.

With his head down and his eye half closed, he said "and when you leave here, we may not see you again; and you said that you were going to take a photograph of us. I will not allow you to do that."

But Umaru, in his cheerful and unsuspecting manner told his friend that there was no problem sharing their life experiences with people, as it may be a way of getting assistance. Umaru then continued, "We are five in my family, from my mother's side. My father married three wives, and I am the second born of my mother."

"And me too," Adamu said, "I am the first born of my mother. My father had two wives. We are seven altogether in my family."

Umaru and Adamu grew up together in Katsina State.

lost their fathers, they inherited the working tools and went ahead with the job of wood splitting. Umaru said, "We inherited *maipaskere* business from our fathers and it is a job we love so much "ama aquoi wahala fa" (showed his palms to *Daily Trust*).

he has three children. In his words: "I have only one wife because I don't want to marry more than one. Although I have not built a house of my own, but it was from this job that I was able to marry and today I have three male children."

Umaru has a similar

a boy, and a girl," he said.

Perhaps the wisdom in these young men is revealed in the very fact that their children are presently attending primary schools in Katsina. Adamu's first son is 10 years old. The second is eight years old while the third and fourth are six and five years old respectively.

Umaru has only two children - a boy of eight years and a girl of seven.

More astonishing is this comment Adamu made: "Times are hard we know it, but perhaps what the individual needs is a calm and secluded environment to sit and reflect on the opportunities God has granted to man in this world; It is ample and unlimited, and if you understand

that this job is a very difficult one. So, we don't want our children to continue with it as we did when we lost our fathers. They would be educated and be like you," he said, pointing at the *Daily Trust* reporter.

According to these men, they were attracted to Abuja because it is the federal capital. They felt that there were prospects here in the city, and so in July 1999 they made their first move into Abuja. Since then Adamu and Umaru only travel back to Katsina occasionally to see their families. They have since rented houses in Kuchi-Guoro, a satellite town of the federal capital.

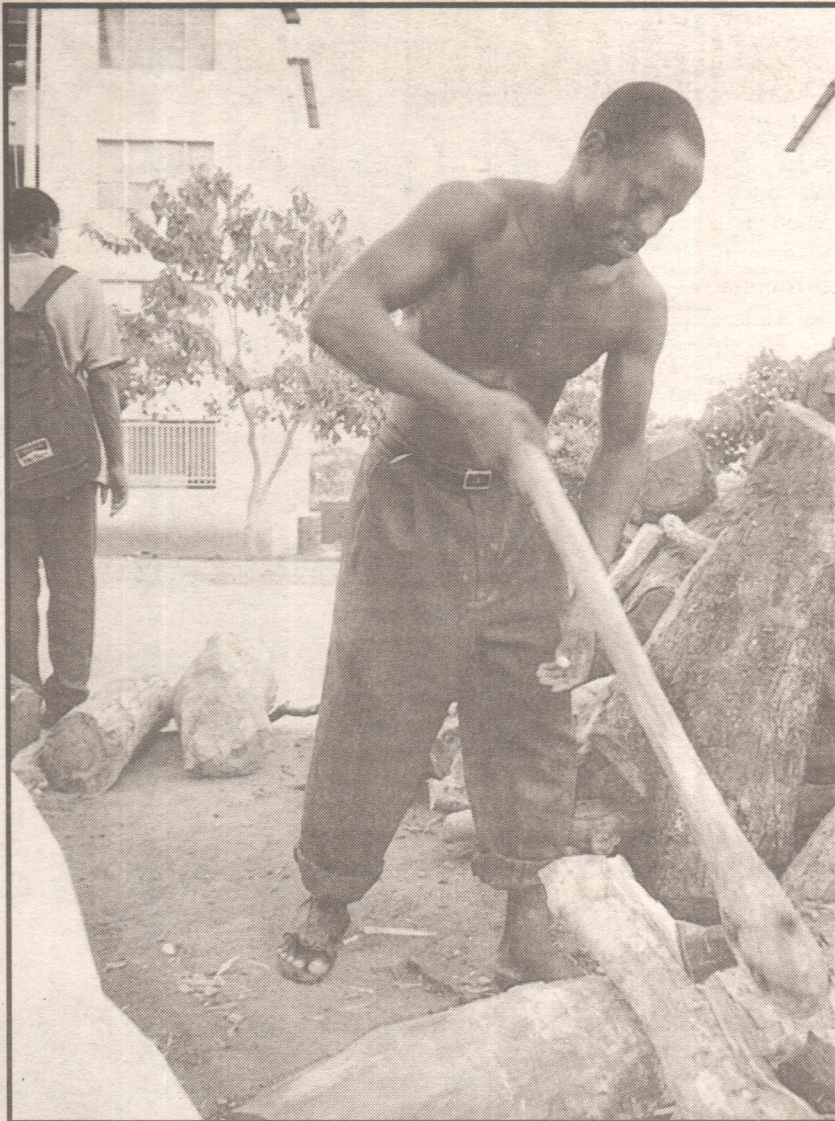
According to Adamu, both of them were making arrangement as at press time to invite their mothers for the very first time to Abuja.

It is obvious that the job of wood splitting requires enormous physical strength. Adamu and Umaru are not giants; they are not huge as to suggest that they possess adequate physical energy that meets the requirement of the kind of job they do. Besides, wood splitting to them is an everyday job that begins in the morning and ends in the evening. How and where then do these young men derive the energy with which they tirelessly carry out this work?

Adamu informed *Daily Trust* that they use charms to carry out their job. His words: "Although the job requires physical energy, but we also use charm to do it. That is why we don't get tired easily."

*Daily Trust* sought to know the name and nature of the charm used by these men. Adamu replied: "The charm is in liquid form. We obtain it from roots. The name is *Jiko*. We soak it in water for several days and then drink the solution."

These men could not estimate what it would cost a customer for them to split one log of firewood, but when they are contracted to split wood, they would make appropriate charges. Income level depends on the magnitude of work available, but with gradual savings over time, Adamu and Umaru live today as happily married men with children and sufficient household amenities to forge ahead with life.



Hassan Adamu

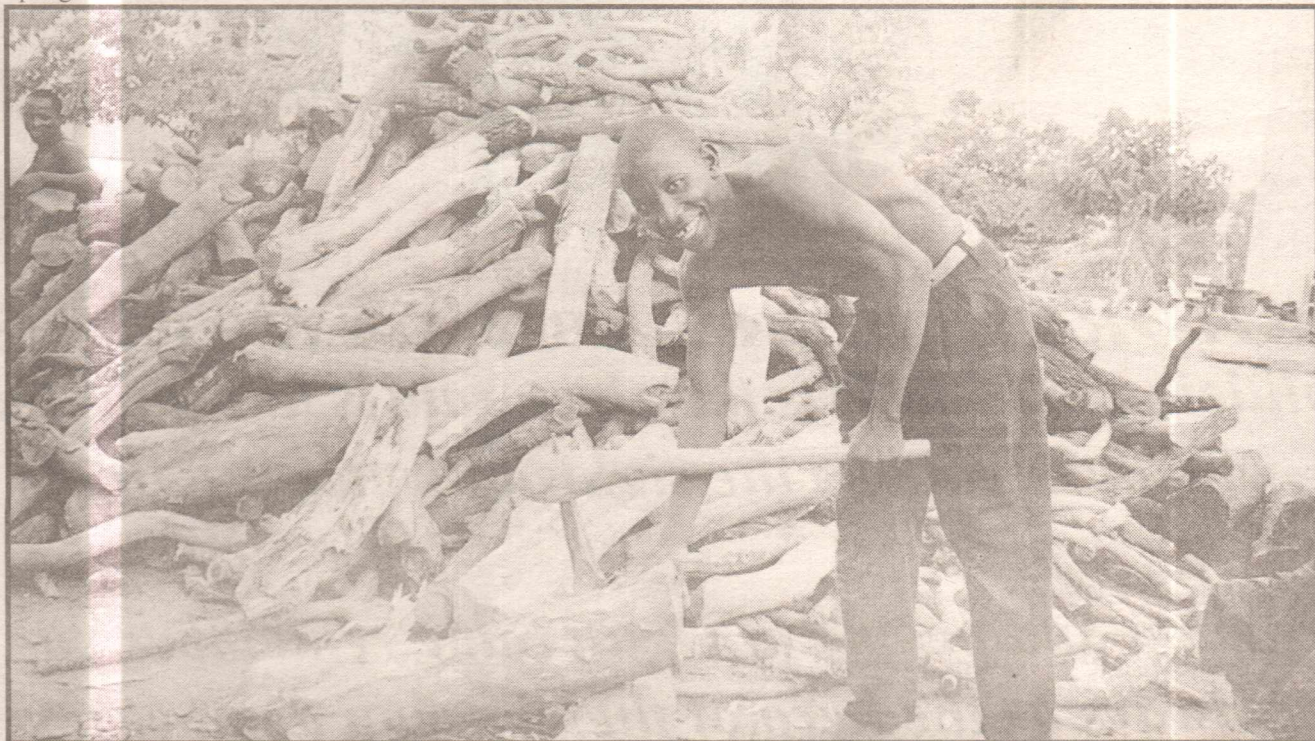
Pix by Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman

The truth is that these men have had their palms badly injured, due to the hard labour of wood splitting.

experience to recount. He informed *Daily Trust* that he got his wife and two children from his job of wood

it, life will please you."

Incredible! Many people would find it difficult to believe that such statement,



Muhammadu Umaru cheerfully goes about his work

As friends whose paternal parents were both engaged in the same line of business, Umaru and Adamu picked interest in each other and thus became friends. When they

Nevertheless, they have something to show for it.

Adamu informed *Daily Trust* that it was from his labour as *maipaskere* that he was able to marry, and today

splitting. "I am not educated, and I don't have another job. From this job, I got the money with which I married my wife and presently maintain her and my two children-

laced with wisdom, could come out of a labourer's mouth. But as if that was not enough, the man went ahead saying, "we know the values of education, and we know

NEWS

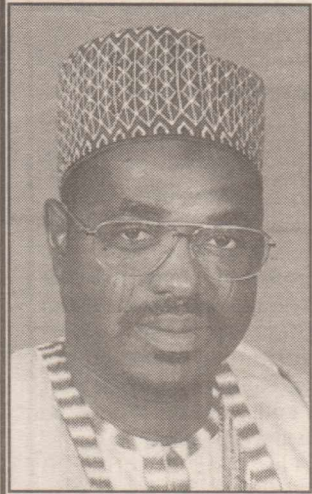
**Niger police boss commends journalists**

The Niger State Police Commissioner, Alhaji Tsoho Usaini, has commended media correspondents in the state, for coverage of the command's activities.

He was speaking in his office when the state correspondents chapel of the NUJ, paid a courtesy call on him.

Welcoming the correspondents, the commissioner reiterated the popular adage that 'the pen is mightier than the sword' and that he was not in doubt about the superior function of the reporters over other professions.

He, therefore, called on the correspondents to assist the police in stemming the tide of criminal activities



Gov Abdulkadri Kure

and maintain law, peace and order in the state.

Alhaji Usaini said he recognized the fact that journalists have access to information that could lead to the arrest of criminals and therefore, journalists have a big stake in the sustenance of peace in the society.

While recognizing the past contributions of journalists to the development of the nation in general, the commissioner particularly praised the media for dethroning dictatorship. He said he was exceptionally enthused by the nascent democratic atmosphere since it has enabled the police to undertake their assignment without harassment.

Furthermore, he called for tolerance between the press and the police, and also the need for patience as the two bodies cannot totally avoid collision in the course of carrying out their duties.

Praising the excellent relations existing between the police and the press established by his predecessor in the past, he promised to improve upon it,

From Kashim Sule, in Minna adding that his romance with the Lagos press when he served there will go a long way in guiding him.

He called on the press to educate the people in the state about police and their activities, as some people who have no contact with

police think that police were idle.

"The police are working for lawful citizens as well as undesirable elements in the society. Since people who have not had bad experiences with criminals are in majority, their safety should be attributed to the police," he said.

**Unproductive politicians worry about state INEC - Deputy speaker**

The establishment of state electoral commissions by various state governments has been described as a source of worry for non-performing politicians. Deputy Speaker of Katsina State House of Assembly, Dr. Rabi Kurfi, disclosed this to Daily Trust in an exclusive interview in Katsina.

From Hassan A. Karofi, in Katsina

to be mindful of their leadership roles. Nevertheless, Dr. Kurfi warned state governments against interfering with the activities of the electoral bodies which are meant to be independent.

"Although human

He said that the state electoral commission is a constitutional provision that allows state government to create the body for local election. "I do not foresee any danger associated with such good move," he stated.

Dr. Kurfi emphasized that only politicians, especially local government chairmen who did not perform will be afraid of the electoral body, "may be because they could not get through with what they want," he argued.

He further said that the establishment of the electoral bodies is a step forward to our nascent democracy.

He, therefore, urged politicians who fear the establishment of such bodies

**Group takes up fight against women, children enslavement**

An American-based human rights organization has concluded plans to launch a campaign aimed at stemming the menace of poverty and other harmful traditional practices against women and children in the African continent.

From Bassey Ita, in Calabar

Abakpa, the campaign will involve a 5,000 women march, donations and gifts as well as tutorials and documentaries.

"The 5,000 women will be divided into groups, each person in each group will carry placards, trek the

The campaign tagged: "Eagle combat," will be launched in a number of African states, especially those worse poverty and human rights abuses.

According to the chief executive officer of the organization, Engr. David

**Forum makes case for lawmaker**

From Ibrahim Ka-Almasih, in Kaduna

Sanga Progressive Forum (SPF) has dismissed the recent recall of the member of Kaduna State House of Assembly representing Sanga constituency, Dr. Emmanuel Amwe, by the people of the area as dubious.

In a press conference in Kaduna, the SPF said the lawmaker was one of the

major contributors to the social and economic development of the area long before he was persuaded by the people of the area to join politics, adding that having being elected legislator representing the constituency, Dr. Amase continue to redouble his efforts towards the development of the area.

The SPF said Dr. Amwe was so popular that no well-meaning individual or group from the area would have wished that he be recalled, adding that Mallam Yakubu Baba Ahmed, through whom the purported recall letter was written and addressed to the Independent National Electoral Commission, Abuja, was sponsored.

"Afterall he (Ahmed) failed when he put his litmus paper to test by going round the polling units, one after the other in the whole local government so as

to convince INEC with constitutional 2/3 vote of no confidence by the electorate," the SPF stated.

The SPF chairman, Hon. Yakubu M. Akuga, who read the text of the press conference, said further that the allegations of non-performance enumerated in the recall petition were all false including the allegations that the lawmaker did not stay in the constituency, had no liaison officer within the constituency; has never initiated any bill or motion that touched the lives of the people; and refused to attend sittings of Kaduna House of Assembly for a period of more than half

The SPF accused the suspended chairman of Sanga Local Government Area, Mr. Frank Baba, of frustrating the social and developmental contribution of the legislator in his constituency.

mentioned against women in particular.

On the march aspect of the campaign, the Cross River-born, American-based human rights crusader stated that the trekking exercise will cover four miles (to and fro) in which each participant will be provided a tin of peak milk, fruit juice for replenishing lost energy as well as a bumper package of N8,000 on completion of the four-mile trek.

**CAS performance best in Nigeria - Commissioner**

The academic performance of Kano State College of Arts, Science and Remedial Studies (CAS) has been rated the highest in the country.

Of the 24 colleges in the country, Kano State came first in Arabic studies with 92.7 percent, Chemistry 51.3 percent, Hausa 93 percent,

From Jamilah Nuhu Musa, in Kano

English Literature 100 percent, Physics 94 percent, Geography 52 percent, Biology 64 percent and Government 86 percent.

Briefing newsmen in Kano, the state Commissioner for Education, Alhaji Usman Alhaji, said that there is the need to highlight the success story of CAS in Kano State. The commissioner said that there has also been an increase in subject combination.

According to him, formerly arts had seven subjects, now there are 16, social management had 19, now there are 34.

He further stated that these combinations has afforded students the opportunity to pursue various disciplines in universities across the country.



Gov Kwankwaso



Lt-Gen. Ishaya Bamaayi at Oputa Panel in Abuja ... last week.

Pix: Felix Onigbinde

**Adamawa procures N20m CSM vaccine**

The Adamawa State government has procured vaccine worth over N20 million to fight against cerebro-spinal meningitides (CSM) in the state.

Speaking to journalists in Yola, the state Commissioner for Health, Alhaji Ahmadu Samemi, said the vaccine would enable the state government to guard against the spread of the disease in the next two years.

He said the government

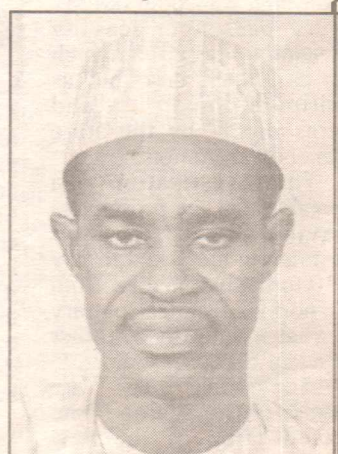
From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, in Yola

decided to increase the quantity of the vaccine following reports of the outbreak of the disease in the neighbouring Taraba State.

According to him, the government had to take prompt action on the issue because it did not want anything to jeopardize the lives of its citizens.

On the impending nurses' strike in the country, the commissioner said that the action could be averted if the nurses' union heeds the

advice of the Federal Government which has cautioned against the strike.



Gov Boni Haruna

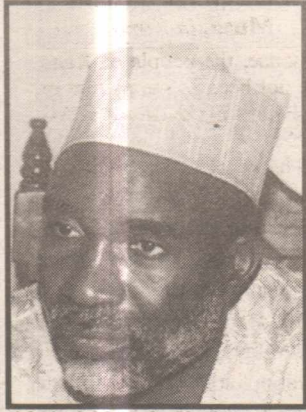
NEWS

# Nyako blames govt over high cost of commodities

The National President of Practising Farmers Association of Nigeria (PFAN), retired Admiral Murtala Nyako, has blamed the high cost of agricultural commodities on the inability of government and other agricultural agencies to effectively train farmers on how to achieve "efficient agricultural production."

Nyako, a former Chief of Naval Staff, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) recently in Kaduna that government had embarked on large-scale importation of commodities this year, because farmers did not produce sufficient commodities in the previous year.

"The biggest problem in agricultural production is the lack of proper education of farmers on efficient farming in produce like cocoa, palm oil, groundnut, and staple crops," he added, stressing: "even



Admiral Murtala Nyako said our agricultural industries were forced to close down since there was not enough produce to sustain their operations."

He urged the government to evolve effective strategies, especially on seed selection, harrowing, planting mechanisation, and application of input at minimal cost, adding that efficiency in food production is the surest way to self-

reliance.

Nyako decried the collapse of extension delivery services in most agricultural training and research institutions, a situation he attributed to improper technical training on modern farming.

"We need applied science and new technologies to improve food production," he added, pointing out that government's inability to

## Gov Osoba pledges to offset salary arrears of lecturers

The Ogun State Governor, Chief Olusegun Osoba, has promised to offset, in due course, all salary arrears owed the academic staff of the state-owned Olabisi Onabanjo University (OOU) Ago-Iwoye.

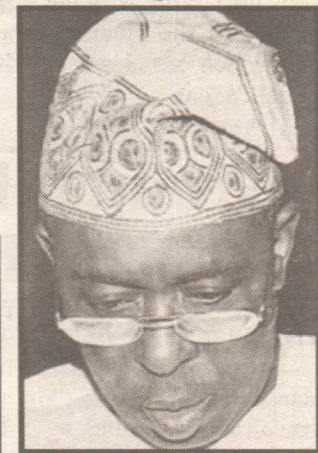
Osoba, who made the pledge at the government house, Abeokuta while presenting nine new Toyota

grant his association's request for a meeting to discuss the problems was discouraging its members.

He disclosed that members of the association had contacted some large-scale fertiliser manufacturing companies abroad, to invest in the country and also assist in providing the commodity in large quantities for sale to farmers.

Nyako said in spite of the federal and state governments' efforts at ensuring the availability of fertiliser, the commodity is still scarce and unaffordable, especially to small-scale farmers.

Hiace buses to the three tertiary institutions owned by the state government, however, urged the OOU lecturers to go back to the



Gov Osoba class since ASUU had called off its three-months nationwide strike.

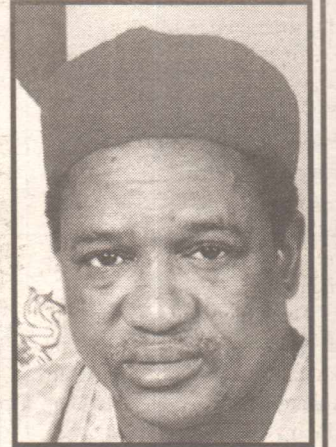
The governor had driven one of the 18-seater buses round a section of Abeokuta, accompanied by some university administrators,

## Yobe govt disposes 632 houses

Yobe State government has announced modalities for the disposal of 632 housing units on owner-occupier basis, an exercise that would fetch the state government N335.2 million.

Addressing newsmen on the sale, approved by the State Executive Council two weeks ago, the Commissioner for Housing, Alhaji Ibrahim Umar, said: "All government houses would be sold to interested persons."

Such houses, he explained, included government housing estates, residence of the Secretary to the State Government and the Head of Service, commissioners' quarters, as well as the legislators'



Gov Abba Ibrahim quarters, with their prices ranging between N80,000 to N1.65 million.

He said while interested civil servants would have the amount deducted from their salaries within a period of 10 years, non-civil servants and corporate organisations would be given one to two years to complete payments.

The commissioner noted that the state government had approved the construction of 500 houses in Damaturu and 1,020 others in the 17 local government areas of the state, saying: "Contract for the construction would be signed very soon."

The state government sold 1,065 houses last year on owner-occupier basis at a total cost of N142.8 million.

## Christians will never accept Sharia in Bauchi -CAN

In reaction to Bauchi State government's plan to implement the Sharia legal code in the state, the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Tafawa Balewa Local Government branch, has disclosed that Christians in Bauchi will not accept Sharia or anything related to it in the state.

According to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Hausa service broadcast monitored in Abuja, Tafawa Balewa CAN's chairman, Revered Markus Mupa, said since 1999 when the state government started preparation for the Sharia implementation, CAN has never been invited for any discussion on the matter.

He stated that: "It is

impossible to just wake up and hear that Sharia implementation has begun here."

On the recent sectarian crisis in the area in which 14 Christians were killed, the reverend also accused the state government of being bias.

In their reaction Muslims/Hausa communities in Tafawa Balewa Local Government, who had been displaced to neighbouring towns, have refused to return to their homes.

Speaking through their spokesman, Malam Salisu Shehu, the displaced people said, "it has become necessary for us to abandon our homes and belongings

because of fears of attacks from Christians, even as the security agents deployed to protect our lives, are biased.

"If they notice that you are not a Christian, they do not protect you from any attack. So you will not see any Muslim or Hausa people in the place now."

He said until government takes necessary measures to protect them, it would be of no use for them to return.

## Lack of funds may stall NDDC's operations

Successful operations of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) may be stalled if the Federal Government does not release funds for capital projects six

months after NDDC's take-off.

Sources within the commission told Daily Trust over the weekend that since the organisation began its operation six months ago, it has only received a take-off grant of N1.2 billion from the Federal Government.

It was gathered that the oil companies operating within the region, five of which are supposed to contribute about three percent of the fund, failed to do so.

Also, the nine states that constitute the Niger Delta geopolitical region have not really shown the expected concern in their contribution towards the capital projects funds for the NDDC.

Meanwhile, the Press Secretary, Mr. John Araka, told Daily Trust at the weekend that despite the odds, the management of the

commission was determined to put smiles on the faces of every common man in the Niger Delta region.

"We want to make sure that we get all our acts right

so that before we start awarding contracts, we would be sure that there are monitory apparatuses to check fraudulent and "smart" contractors," he said.

## BERDA Director donates cup to school

The Executive Director of Benue Rural Development Agency (BERDA), Engr. (Dr) Emmanuel Ikume Yuwa, has commended the authorities of Mount Saint Michael's Secondary School, Aliade, for working tirelessly to bring back the institution to its lost glory.

Engineer Yuwa gave the commendation at Aliade recently while donating a cup to the school as BERDA's contribution towards the successful hosting of this year's graduation and prize giving day. He explained that the donation was to spur the

students to develop interest in the sciences, so as to enable them become engineers to pioneer the rural transformation of Benue State, nay, Nigeria.

The Executive Director, who was represented by the secretary of the agency, Mrs. Josephine Shango, appealed to the Old Boys of the institution and philanthropists to make similar donations to the school in order to motivate the students to read courses that would be relevant to them and society at large.

Responding, the principal of the school, Mr. Charles Orbunde, expressed his gratitude to the Executive Director and promised that the Cup would be given to the right recipient.

In his vote of thanks, the Vice-Principal (Administration), Mr. Abur said the presentation marked the beginning of the great things that would happen to the institution, adding "the gesture would further encourage our young students to aspire for greater laurels."

## Zamfara commuters, NURTW disagree over fare

Unless the Zamfara State government intervenes in the current crisis that erupted between passengers and members of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) Gusau central motor park branch, the situation will be the worst of its kind in the area.

Investigations conducted by Daily Trust in Gusau, showed that the genesis of the crisis started as a result of the introduction of N10 additional transport fare on every passenger leaving Gusau for other cities, which the passengers described as "intimidation and harassment" by the state branch of the union.

The investigation also revealed that the passengers leaving Gusau for other destination are asked to pay N10 to the union apart from the normal charges, contrary to what is being done in other states of the federation.

According to the investigation, since the introduction of the new system of generating illegal revenue, as was described by one of the victims who

From Salisu Zakari Maradun, in Gusau



Gov Ahmed Sani refused to mention his name, passengers have been complaining, and in fact, blows are sometimes exchanged as well as tongue-lashing among others, when it came to their knowledge that apart from Zamfara State, there is no other state, where this kind of dishonesty is being practiced.

It further revealed that no passenger could leave Gusau Motor Park without settling the union the said N10.

Some of the passengers

who spoke to our reporters expressed dismay over the new development in the state.

Mr. Peter Agagu, a passenger who was on his way to Sokoto from Kaduna to attend a lecture at the Usman Danfodio University, Sokoto, explained that he was shocked when he was asked to pay the additional N10 where Sharia legal system is being practiced: "I thought everything is fair here, because we were made to believe that the Sharia is to minimise hardship," he said, stressing that there is the need for the state government to intervene in the situation.

## UNIJOS begins academic activities this week, says PRO

Lectures and other academic activities are expected to commence at the University of Jos (UNIJOS) this week, the Principal Public Relations Officer of the University, Mr. Steve Atowo, has said.

He told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Jos that lecturers have already resumed following the call-off of the three-months strike by the Academic Staff Union of

Universities (ASUU).

"Many lecturers have reported to their various departments and lectures are expected to commence anytime from this week," he said.

According to him, as soon as the university authorities conclude necessary arrangements, students would be called to resume lectures.

A NAN correspondent

who visited the institution reported that many students, particularly those who did not travel out of Jos, were seen around the administrative block trying to ascertain the exact situation.

Commercial activities within and outside the university have commenced in earnest, following the re-opening of the university as commercial photographers were seen having a field-day.

# INSIDE POLITICS

## APP factions clash in Ilorin

A violent political clash erupted in Ilorin at the weekend between two rival factions of the All People's Party (APP) leaving several people injured and throwing a section of the state capital into confusion.

Trouble started when a group of party followers allegedly attempted to block a chieftain of the party, Dr. Olusola Saraki and his entourage from passing through Idi-Ape area on his way to the airport via Oja-Oba market.

Reports said Dr. Saraki had visited his Agbaji family house and was on his way to Lagos when the incident occurred.

The timely intervention of the Magaji-Are, Alhaji Zubairu and the divisional police officer in charge 'C' division, Isale-Oja, Alhaji Abdulkadir saved what could have resulted into a major bloodbath.

They persuaded Dr. Saraki not to lose his temper and allow peace to reign by turning back, which he consented to and made a u-turn following the Owode area to the airport.

During the confusion at Idi-Ape/Oja-Oba area, many vehicles were vandalised, while several people were injured. Others were either stabbed or sustained injuries in their attempt to flee the trouble spot.

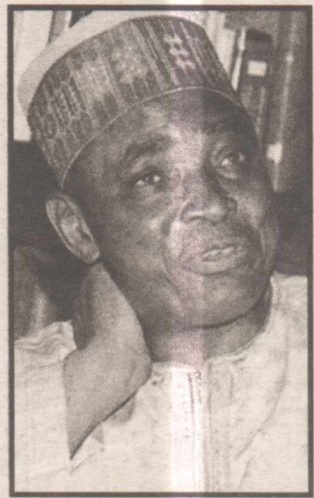
Although some of those injured were treated at the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital, the state commissioner of police, Alhaji Ghazal Lawal said there was no clash whatsoever because the police acted swiftly to check the situation.

He said police moved in on time to the scene to prevent the clash.

In her reaction, a former commissioner in the state, Hajia Nimota Ibrahim confirmed that Dr. Saraki was waylaid at Idi-Ape area while returning from Agbaji resulting into a clash between the two rival factions.

**From Abdul Laro, in Ilorin**

However, the publicity secretary of the APP in Kwara, Comrade Abdulrauf Bello said whoever might be involved in vandalism cannot be a member of APP.



Saraki

"As a party, we should try not to set the state on fire as we have no other state to claim," adding that "a peaceful atmosphere is required since we cannot develop in a riotous situation."

Comrade Bello advised all concerned not to be provoked to scuttle democracy but seek conflict resolution through democratic process.

## 2003: APP says it won't impose candidates

The National Secretary of All People's Party (APP), Chief George Moghalu has assured Nigerians that contrary to the practise in other political parties, the APP has no plan to impose candidates on the people in the next general elections come 2003.

The party scribe noted that when popular and accepted candidates are allowed to run for elections, less problem and less friction are often experienced in the bid to sell the candidate to the public.

Addressing newsmen in Abuja on the just concluded party congress in some states of the federation, Chief Moghalu observed that the result of the congress was a manifestation of the spirit of

**By Ikenna Emeka Okpani**

party discipline which APP practices.

According to him, the All People's Party (APP) has held successful congresses in Kano, Kaduna and Imo States. Others are Abia, Jigawa, Niger and Borno, including Edo and Lagos.

However, the congresses could not hold in two states, Nasarawa and Rivers. "The congresses for Nasarawa State could not hold against the backdrop of ethnic hostilities in that state while that of Rivers State was postponed indefinitely as a result of fortuitous combination of positive political factions which could soon unfold and you will be briefed accordingly," Chief Moghalu said.

He announced that the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the party would be meeting later this month at Birnin Kebbi where issues relating to party members flirting with new political associations will be thrashed out.

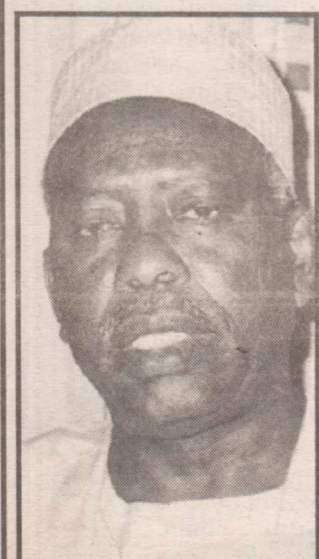
The APP, he said has already written to those elders involved in the formation of new associations, adding that some of them have vehemently denied the allega-

their suspension.

In a statement made available to *Daily Trust*, and signed by the national director of publicity, Alhaji Ibrahim Modibbo, the lawyers of the APP national secretariat said Bafyau and his group decided to withdraw the case based on their defence, adding that the case has been struck out.

It could be recalled that Pascal Bafyau along with three other national officers of the party had dragged the party, the national chairman, Alhaji Yusuf Garba Ali and Chief George N. Moghalu, the national secretary before an Abuja High court challenging the decision of the national executive to suspend them for anti-party activities.

The case came to a climax last Tuesday, when the plaintiffs decided to withdraw the case.



Yusuf Ali

The new speaker of the Kano State House of Assembly, Alhaji Yau Abdullahi Yanshana has solicited the support of journalists in the state to enable the House succeed in its assignments.

Receiving the newly elected executive members of the correspondent's chapel in his office, Alhaji Yau Abdullahi Yanshana said that the house had lacked adequate publicity in the past.

He explained that despite the fact that many bills have been passed since the inauguration of

## Kano speaker appeals for support from journalists

**From Jamiulah Nuhu Musa, in Kano**

the house, the people of Kano have not been in the picture of happenings in the House of Assembly.

The speaker said that with the new leadership the doors of the assembly would be thrown open to newsmen.

Earlier, the chairman of the correspondent's chapel, Mallam Aliyu Askira has said that there is the need for the house of assembly and the press to cement their relationship as parting in progress.

He assured the new speaker of journalist's co-operation in the state.

## Parties sign peace accord in Kebbi

The three registered political parties AD, APP and PDP in Kebbi State have signed an undertaking to ensure hitch free and fear elections into the controversial Kebbi-north senatorial seat and Danko/Wasagu state house of assembly seats.

The state resident electoral commissioner, Alhaji

**From Kabir Dogo-Daji, in Birnin-Kebbi**

Muhammadu Namadina Abdulrahman and the national electoral commissioner in charge of Sokoto, Zamfara and Kebbi States, Alhaji Ladan Baki OFR witnessed the signing of the undertaking.

Alhaji Namadina, told the

leaders of the parties that the aim of the meeting was to brief them on the preparedness of the commission to conduct the by-elections to fill the vacancies into the national and state assemblies.

He reminded them of the reasons that led to the postponement of the by-election earlier scheduled for April 27, 2001. "The postponement of the elections was the only option left to any sensible person considering the alarming and disturbing security reports received by the commission," he said.

According to him, the importation of thugs from within and outside the state, the accumulation of local weapons and the accusations and counter accusations of intent to rig the elections were the factors responsible for the postponement of the elections in the interest of peace, law and order.

The resident electoral commissioner further said that it was very disheartening to note that it was the first time in the annals of history of the growing and promising state, that elections were postponed to ease tension

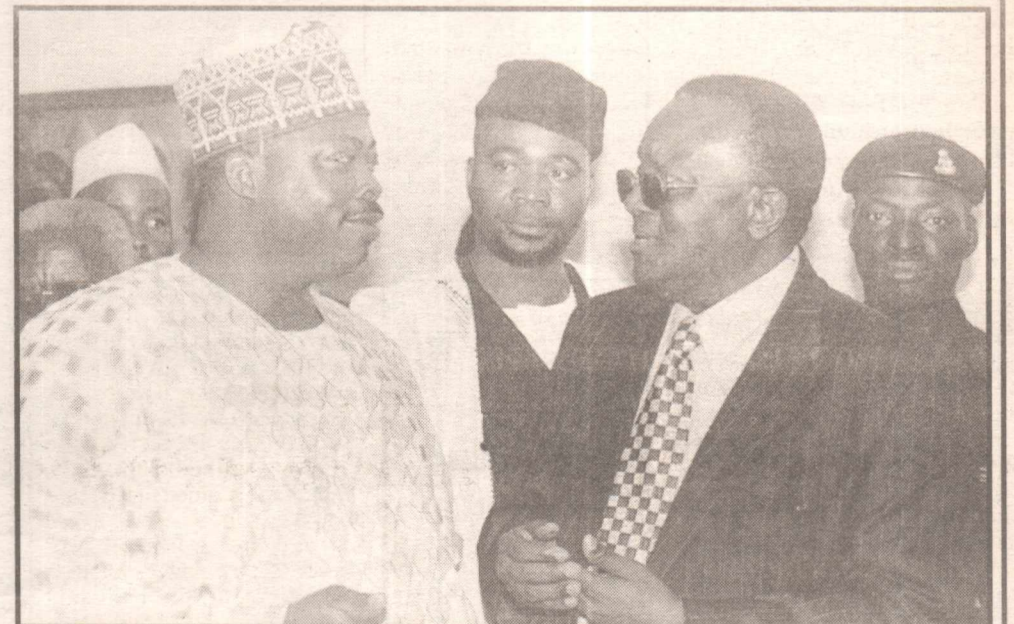
among the warring political party leaders and electorates.

He added that, the commission cannot be sure of conducting transparent, credible and hitch free elections if the rules and procedures governing the conduct of the elections are grossly violated by politicians and other stakeholders.

"Let me remind our distinguished political leaders that the protection of life and property of our people should be paramount in our action," he said.

However, the commissioner revealed that the by-elections into the vacant seats of Kebbi north senatorial district and that of Danko-Wasagu west state assembly constituency would only be conducted when the commission is satisfied with the sincerity of the three political parties towards ensuring peaceful conduct of the elections.

According to him, a date for the by-election would be fixed very soon, adding that the commission has taken all necessary measures to ensure that the election is conducted in a peaceful atmosphere.



Senator Idris Abubakar (left) discussing with human rights lawyer and national chairman, National Conscience Party (NCP), Chief Gani Fawehinmi at the National Assembly, during the senate public hearing on the draft electoral bill. Pix Felix Onigbinde

## Rivers Assembly probes taxi driver's death

The Rivers State House of Assembly has inaugurated a committee to look into the recent tragedy that took place in Port-Harcourt, when a taxi driver Mr. Oyewumi was beaten to death by some members of the city council's task force.

Speaking to newsmen in Port Harcourt, the chairman human rights committee of the assembly, Chief Monday Eleanya who lamented the death of the victim, said the activities of the task

**From Aisha Momo, in Port-Harcourt**

force members were going out of hand and based on this, the House has mandated his committee to investigate the circumstances surrounding the murder of Oyewumi.

The minority leader, Mr. Magnus Abe who raised the issue on the floor of the house said a situation whereby members of the task force set up by local governments take laws into their

hands by intimidating innocent citizens was unacceptable in a democratically elected government.

Eye witnesses said the incident took place along Afikpo street in the Diobu area of Port-Harcourt, where *Daily Trust* gathered, Oyewumi was accosted by the task force team after who demanded to see his daily tickets. It was learnt that the late driver's pleas that he operates in Obio/Akpor local government area

the state and not Port-Harcourt city council fell on deaf ears, as the task force members during the ensuing scuffle poured a substance suspected to be petrol on Oyewumi and set him on fire. Sympathisers who came to the scene of the tragedy, tried to save Oyewumi's live by taking him to the University of Port-Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH) where he died despite the intensive care unit of the hospital.



# I.T. WORLD



## Armed bandits vandalise NITEL station

**A**rmed robbers have vandalised about five million naira worth of Nigerian Telecommunication equipment at Jere.

According to a statement from NITEL last week, in Abuja that the bandits violently disconnected two automatic 27 KVA generators and two window units of air-conditioners.

NITEL said that Jere, about 115 kilometres away from Kaduna on the Kaduna-Abuja Expressway, was a strategic NITEL Digital Transmission Station linking the entire North West and Abuja to the country's telecommunications networks.

The theft was reported to the police and efforts were being made to replace the generating sets including salon power and standby batteries, the serve said.

In another development NITEL cuts over 14,000 digital lines in Aba and the Area Code

**By Hassan Idris**  
of Aba (082) remains the same, as the 14,000 lines will complement the 5,000 lines primary centre/local exchange (EWSD)

which has been serving the town since November, 1999, the source said.

The main Aba exchange has a capacity 10,000 digital lines

with 220,000 - 229,999 ranges of the first exchange, the second exchange has a capacity of 4,000 digital lines and a number ranger of 350,000 - 353,999, the source said.

## Support information technology bill project - IT Professional

**T**he President of Information Technology Association of Nigeria (ITAN), Mr. Chris Uwaje has called on the various arms of government to support the IT policy bill project which would build an efficient and secured National Digital Nervous System (NDNS).

The call was made by Mr. Uwaje in his speech at the seminar on National IT policy versus Digital Revolution held penultimate week, in Lagos.

Mr. Uwaje believed that for

**From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos**

the industry to flower the policy must be forged into a bill that would be passed by the National Assembly into an Act, saying that government should not stop at policy formulation but should ensure that the policy was implemented with all seriousness.

He enjoined the Executive Arm, National Assembly, IT professionals and stakeholders as well as users at all levels to be committed, hardworking and dedicated to IT development as

their national duty.

In the same vein, the minister of science and technology, Professor Turner Isoun, represented by Professor Gabriel Ajayi, the Director of the National Information Technology Development Unit (NITDU), has stated that government is determined in its commitment to build needed infrastructure and embark on capacity building in order to transform the appalling situation in the industry.

The minister stated that government would need private sector support to successfully wage the needed battles to put Nigeria in the world technology map.

## You and your computer

**By Sagir Abubakar**

### Hooking onto the Internet

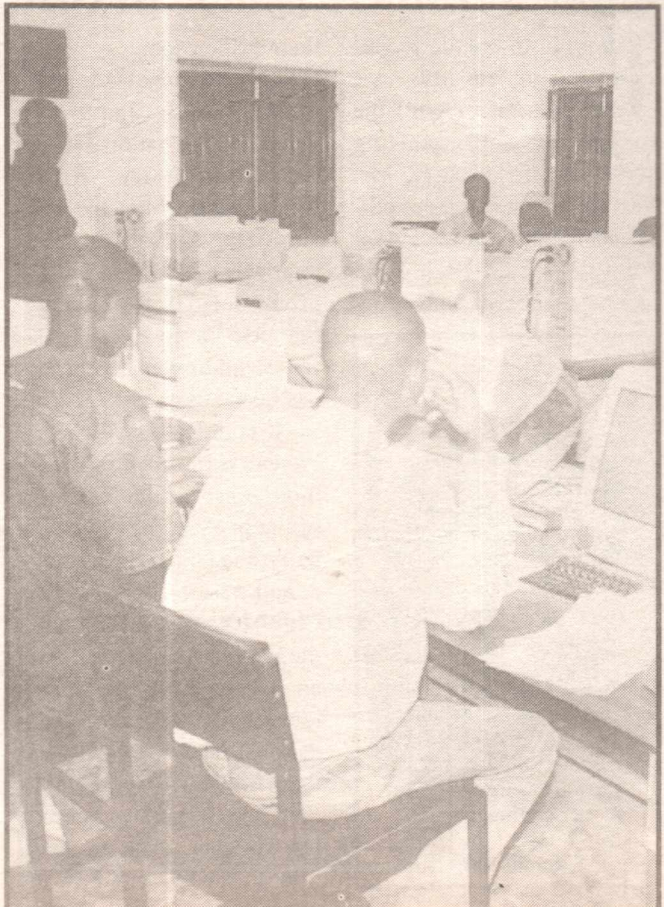
**C**omputer: you can use almost every computer to get hooked to the net, but don't forget the slower your computer is the more time you will waste on the net and that means more money from subscription.

Even if you have unlimited access, the time you will waste is really something to avoid. When using a slow computer you have to keep in mind that you will not enjoy all the multimedia - video, audio, flash etc., on the web. Then what do you need? You need at least Pentium 333Mhz or above and at least 64M of RAM (Random Access Memory).

**Modem:** You also need a modem if your computer is outdated (sorry, too old). Well the modem is a piece of hardware that translates your computer language (digital) to analogue language used by your telephone line thus lets you receive information and data from the internet. But don't worry if you have the latest motherboards they normally come with modems to save you buying one.

**Telephone line:** Your normal NITEL line is enough for you to set up your Internet connection. For this it is better if you use a separate line for your Internet connection.

**ISP:** Whether you are going to use a private Internet Service Provider or NITEL as your Internet Service Provider (ISP) you are advised to subscribe for an unlimited access.



Internet Browsers

## We want to create digital opportunities

### - NITDA director

**T**he National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) was established to implement the country's information technology policy. The Director of the body, Prof. Gabriel Ajayi, unveiled its programme to Daily Trust. Below are excerpts:

**What is the role of the National Information Technology Development Agency?**

The National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) is mandated by the Information Technology policy to implement the policy and co-ordinate all the activities of information technology in Nigeria.

**What is your responsibility in the NITDA?**

I am the pioneer director, I am expected to build-up the new agency. I am expected to supervise and make sure that the national I.T. policy is executed and of course I became the chief-executive officer for the organisation that would ensure that the digital divide is transformed to digital opportunity for Nigerians. Also to make information technology available to all Nigerians.

If you look at the policy document and the mission. Because of the programmes of the government that wants to use I.T. for education or job creation, poverty alleviation or wealth creation and then for global competitiveness.

**Some commentators say Nigerians are very good in problem but when it comes come the problem there are**

I think with the type of cooperation we have been re-

ceiving from the Presidency, and the honourable Minister of Science and Technology, we are determined to make information technology a



Prof. Gabriel Ajayi

showcase and to make it develop, in the sense that, we have our focus, and we are going to achieve the focus. We are determined because without solving this problem Nigeria will not be able to participate in the global socio-economic development.

Unfortunately we have not been able to participate in the industrial revolution because we were colonised

us to...

information technology revolution which is changing all aspects of human endeavours.

**How is the NITDA going to be funded?**

The NITDA would be funded by government initially, and then NITDA is also going to generate funds through our activities because we are going to go into joint venture with private sector on many aspects of information technology.

Secondly, the National Information Technology Development Fund (NITDEF) is to be set up with the initial government contribution to it.

At the same time if you look at the policy about 3 percent of the national capital budget is expected to be contributed for information technology development.

Again, some aspects of the taxes and two percent of the taxes on imported I.T. equipment is supposed to be passed over to NITDA.

**How is your organisation going to work with the private sector to manufacture computers etc?**

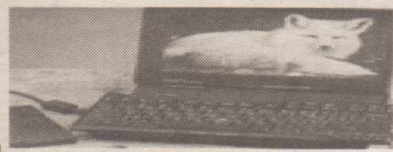
Thank you very much, that is a very good question. I will recognise the private sector as the driving force for the development of I.T. in this country. We have in our plan to create information technology parks starting with the one in Abuja and then extending to the zonal headquarters and to the states. In the IT parks, some infrastructural facilities are to be provided. The private sector should be encouraged to come and invest in the IT parks. You know manufacturing of computers, as well as inventing and other aspect of IT manufacturing for the people who come to the IT parks, provided they satisfy some conditions. There are fiscal measures such as tax rebate, tax holiday incentives for them other private sector to be able to invest.

**Don't you think the tax to be paid by computer importers, which should be contributed, to NITDA would increase the cost of imported computers?**

No, you get me wrong. The completely knocked down computer component parts, the tax on them is 1.5% but for complete assembled IT equipment the tax is 7.5%. This is not high, it could bring down the cost of computers.

We want people to have assembly plants. We want people to invest in manufacturing computers, IT equipment that will bring down the prices, it will create jobs, it will create wealth.

So it is not only bringing IT equipment, we want them to manufacture them in Nigeria.



# I.T. WORLD



## Intel launches fastest chip

Intel Corp. has introduced its two fastest chips, running at 1.6 billion and 1.8 billion cycles per second, and said that the company would offer a 2 gigahertz chip later this quarter.

The world's largest maker of chips used to power computers said that based on robust yields — or the

success it was having in manufacturing new chips with few defects — the company plans to accelerate the timing of the release of its 2 gigahertz chip to sometime during the current third quarter.

The new Pentium 4 chips running at 1.6 gigahertz and

1.8 gigahertz, or billions of cycles per second, are designed to power the world's fastest desktop personal computers.

Pentium 4 chips are geared to business users that run the latest data-intensive software programs and for consumer PC users who run demanding digital video and audio and three-dimensional graphics used in advanced video games.

The Pentium 4 1.8 gigahertz chip is priced at \$562 in quantities of 1,000, while the 1.6 gigahertz version is priced at \$294, again in quantities of 1,000.

## American city scans streets for criminals, spots 19

Tampa, a city in the US state of Florida, is using high-tech security cameras to scan the city's streets for people wanted for crimes, a law enforcement tactic that some liken to Big Brother.

A computer software program linked to 36 cameras began scanning crowds Friday in Tampa's nightlife district, Ybor

City, matching results against a database of mug shots of people with outstanding arrest warrants.

European cities and U.S. government offices, casinos and banks are already using the so-called face-printing system, but Tampa is the first American city to install a permanent system along public streets, *The Tampa Tribune* reported penultimate

Sunday.

A similar system was used at Super Bowl XXXV, which was held in Tampa last January.

"Tampa is really leading the pack here," said Frances Zelazny, a spokeswoman for Visionics Corp., which produces the "Facelt" software. The software has raised concerns over privacy, ethics and government intrusion.

"This is Big Brother actually implemented," said Jack Walters of the Tampa chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. "I think this just opens the door to it being everywhere."

But Tampa Detective Bill Todd says Facelt is no different than having a police officer standing on a street holding a mug shot.

At the Super Bowl, a Visionics competitor, Graphco Technologies, wired cameras around Raymond James Stadium and in Ybor City.

The computer spotted 19 people at the crowded stadium with outstanding warrants, all for minor offences. But no arrests were made.

"During the Super Bowl, we got overwhelmed," Todd said. "That's the other thing: When you get a match, how quickly can you get to these people?"

Business owners have mixed emotions about the new technology.

"I don't know if I like it," said Vicki Doble, who owns The Brew Pub. "It may be a bit too much."

Don Barco, owner of King Corona Cigars Bar & Cafe, approves of the cameras but says they may not be as effective as the city hopes.

"Sometimes these high-tech toys, tend to give a little too much credence to what they do," he said.



Microsoft chief software architect and co-founder, Bill Gates

## The PC at 20

By Lincoln Spector

The road from 1981's IBM PC to today's systems — and all the revolutions, evolutions, and fumbles in between.

There are plenty of reasons why Windows PCs are so unstable. And one of the biggest is history — 20 years of it, now. Today's Wintel (shorthand for Windows on an Intel processor) systems descend directly from the original IBM PC. Announced in August 1981, it was a product that IBM rushed to market with no inkling that it was setting a worldwide standard that would prevail for decades to come.

Of course, all that history has its good side. IBM's machine was extremely versatile, infinitely upgradeable, and well documented — strengths that led to the PC's initial success and enduring ubiquity. But those same virtues led to a haphazard evolution that piled one problem on top of another.

With their beautiful graphics, multitasking applications, and networking talents, today's gigahertz-plus systems seem a far cry from the PCs of two decades ago. Still, at the heart of every 21st century Windows-based computer lies an IBM PC.

"What's amazing," says Dan Bricklin, whose Visicalc was the first PC spreadsheet, "is that you can take software for the original PC and run it on today's Windows [systems]."

Since 1981, PC technology has seen remarkable advances — and more than a few false starts and outright blunders. So let's look back and see how today's systems got the way they are. Return with us now to the dawn of PC history . . .

If you were in the market for a personal computer back in 1980, you had plenty of choices. Many popular models of the day ran an operating system from Digital Research called CP/M. Commodore's PET and Tandy/Radio Shack's TRS-80 were also established players. And two guys named Steve had a big business selling the Apple II.

Those systems were aimed at hobbyists who liked to write programs in the BASIC programming language. The major supplier of BASIC was Microsoft, a little company in Bellevue, Washington, headed by a Harvard dropout named Bill Gates.

IBM, the biggest-name in serious — that is to say, large and business-oriented — computers, took notice of the nascent personal computer industry in 1980 and assigned a veteran manager/engineer named Don Estridge to get an IBM PC to market. Under strict deadline pressure, IBM engineers in Boca Raton, Florida, made decisions that are still with us today.

For instance, David Bradley,

who was a member of Estridge's engineering team, recalls, "The system would hang, and the only way you could fix it was to turn it off. So I built a warm reboot into the keyboard code. I invented Ctrl-Alt-Delete, but Bill Gates made it famous."

The tight deadline meant that the system had to be built with existing technology. Its central processing unit was Intel's 8088. The 8088 was a 16-bit chip — a zippier, more powerful CPU than the 8-bit CPUs used by most early microcomputers. But to keep costs down, the 8088 talked to other components via an 8-bit bus.

Why didn't IBM stick with the popular CP/M operating system? Legend has it that Digital Research president Gary Kildall skipped a meeting with IBM execs to go flying or hang gliding. A more likely story is that Digital Research refused to sign IBM's nondisclosure agreement.

One fact is undeniable: Digital Research had yet to deliver a version of CP/M for Intel's 16-bit CPUs. So Tim Paterson, an employee of a small hardware vendor called Seattle Computer, wrote a CP/M-like operating system for that company's computer, which used Intel's 8086 processor (basically an 8088 with a 16-bit bus).

"I didn't have time to do it right," he recalls, "so I did it quick and dirty." In fact, his creation, officially called 86-DOS, was nicknamed QDOS — Quick and Dirty Operating System.

When IBM told Bill Gates about its problems with Digital Research, Gates had a solution. Microsoft acquired a license for, and later bought, QDOS from Seattle Computer, then licensed it to IBM. It was renamed IBM Personal Computer DOS (or PC-DOS) when sold by IBM, and MS-DOS if sold by anybody else.

But when the PC hit the market, PC-DOS was one of three operating systems that IBM offered. The others were existing ones with lots of apps: CP/M (Digital Research had come up with an 8088-compatible version) and Softech's UCSD p-System. How did an upstart like PC-DOS get any traction? Price played a big part: PC-DOS cost \$40, while CP/M was \$450 and UCSD p-System was \$550.

Nobody was prepared for the IBM PC's instant, explosive success. And that clamour was for a machine whose \$1265 base model didn't include a monitor, a video card, a parallel or serial port, an operating system, or a floppy drive. According to Bradley, IBM hoped to sell

241,683 PCs over five years. Before those five years were up, the company was selling nearly that many units a month.

And certainly no one expected the standard to last for decades. The PC industry "wasn't seen as having a present, much less a future," remembers Mitch Kapor, creator of Lotus's 1-2-3 spreadsheet.

Why was the PC a hit? For starters, it was a well-designed, well-built machine from a name that businesses knew. Clever ads, with an actor imitating comedy legend Charlie Chaplin, also helped.

And the PC was quickly supported by a raft of third-party applications, such as word processors (MicroPro's WordStar, SSI's WordPerfect, and others) and Ashton-Tate's dBase database manager.

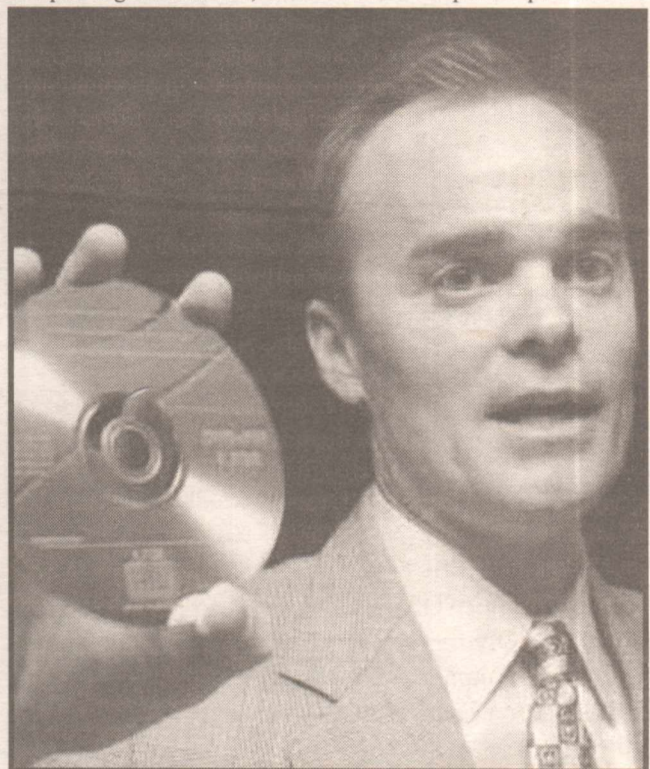
Peter Norton developed the first version of Norton Utilities to restore a file that he'd accidentally deleted on his own system. And Andrew Fluegelman invented shareware with PC-Talk, a programme that made it relatively easy for modem users to dial in to services such as CompuServe and the Source. (Later, Fluegelman helped start a magazine you may know: PC World.)

But it was Kapor's 1-2-3 that cemented the IBM PC's reputation as a business machine when the program debuted in early 1983. By taking advantage of the personal computer's 16-bit CPU, 1-2-3 could offer revolutionary features such as on-screen menus.

IBM's Estridge — who was to die in a plane crash in 1985 — and his team wanted other companies to supply a broad selection of peripherals, so they designed the PC as an open, well-documented system. They got the peripherals, but they also got something else: clones.

In 1982, a start-up called Compaq released a "portable," sewing machine-size computer that worked with software and add-in cards that were designed for IBM's PC. This was possible not only because the PC was an open system, but also because IBM had used off-the-shelf parts. Any company could buy an Intel CPU and a Microsoft operating system.

By 1984, numerous companies were competing in the IBM-compatible market, including Compaq-like start-ups (Columbia, Eagle, Leading Edge) and established manufacturers (ITT, Tandy). But IBM still led the pack. In 1983, Big Blue released the PC/XT, introducing the hard drive as basic equipment (a configuration with a mammoth 10MB disk went for a cool \$4995). And in 1984, it upped the ante with the PC AT, the first PC built around Intel's 80286



Sean McDonald, a marketing manager for Dell, holds a new 4.7GB DVD+RW disc at the PC Expo in New York.

processor, running at a blazing 6 MHz.

IBM's lead slipped in 1986, when Compaq shipped the first PC based on Intel's 32-bit 80386 (or 386 for short). As a chip, the 386 was a landmark that made today's windowing, multitasking environments possible. Overall, though, Compaq's system was little more than an AT clone with a better CPU and faster RAM access. Still, it was the latest, greatest PC of the time — and it wasn't from IBM.

Big Blue's dominance faded further in 1987, when the market failed to accept its much-hyped PS/2, the machine designed to replace the AT. Suddenly, the term IBM compatible no longer seemed appropriate. From then on, they were just PCs.

And they still ran MS-DOS. In fact, most of them are still

running MS-DOS; it's just not visible. And that's one reason for Windows' notorious instability: Windows 95, 98, and Me are complex, multitasking, 32-bit operating systems whose underpinnings descend from the little OS Tim Paterson knocked together in 1980. It's as if someone replaced an old shack with a grand mansion — built upon the shack's foundation.

In 1990, IBM and Microsoft went their separate ways. IBM continued to improve and sell OS/2, and Microsoft bet the farm on Windows. And that same year, Windows 3.0 changed everything. A huge advance over earlier Windows versions, it became the first environment other than DOS to come preinstalled on most PCs.

Culled from *PC world Magazine*.

## Usenet harbours viruses

—experts warn

A part of the Internet that predates the Web, and once was one of the busiest places online, is becoming a breeding ground for some of the Net's most vicious viruses, says one security firm.

That corner of the Internet is Usenet, a series of newsgroups dedicated to topics as diverse as the Los Angeles Lakers, Unix system administration, or any imaginable permutation of sex. On Usenet, people interested in those topics can meet, discuss, and post files. But along with debates and downloads, viruses are spread and archived there, says Dmitry Gryaznov, the manager of advanced virus research at McAfee, a division of Network Associates.

Gryaznov, a member of the VirusPatrol project at McAfee's Avert Labs, has been studying viruses on Usenet for more than

five years. Despite the perception that Usenet is increasingly irrelevant in the face of the Web, its population is actually growing, he says. The volume of Usenet posts grew 20 percent from January 2001 to April 2001, he says. And those new visitors are likely to encounter a flood of viruses, including Trojan horses, backdoors, and tools used to take over PCs for use in denial of service attacks, he says.

Such viruses rarely advertise themselves as viruses, but are typically disguised as image, movie, or sound files. Many newsgroups are devoted to sharing files of these types, as well as trading pirated software. Often the files users download are not what they appear to be, but instead are programmes that install viruses or backdoors on PCs without the user's knowledge, Gryaznov says.

Sex-related and other file-trading newsgroups are among

the most popular on Usenet and are favorite targets for virus writers, he says.

"More and more people are joining [these newsgroups] because it is free stuff," he says. But virus writers are joining too.

Separating the viruses from the legitimate posts is no easy task because of the volume of messages posted to Usenet each day. More than 230GB of data are posted to newsgroups each day, and a single virus may be posted as often as 200 times per day, according to Gryaznov's research.

Many of the viruses found on Usenet are well-known and destructive. They include the Happy99 virus and the LoveLetter (I LoveYou) virus, which wreaked havoc worldwide to the tune of \$10 billion in 2000. The Melissa virus, which caused \$80 million in damages in March 1999, began its life in newsgroups, with the first-ever posting of the virus appearing there, Gryaznov says.

# Arts & Entertainment

Recently, the Embassy of The Peoples Republic of China held a pictorial exhibition at the Abuja Council of Arts and Culture. According to Mr. Dong Jiang, Second Secretary at the Chinese Embassy, the exhibition was principally organised to draw global awareness to Beijing's desire to host the 2008 Olympics. According to Mr. Jiang the exhibition was co-ordinated in a total of three parts. The first part was composed of pictures highlighting scenes from Beijing. Here the audience was treated to the dynamic life and activities that prevail in Beijing Society. Meanwhile, according to a leaflet which accompanied the exhibition about 85 percent of 12 million Beijing residents support Beijing's bid to host the 2008 Olympic games'.

Beijing has a flourishing history of over 3,000 years, and the effort

## Exhibition of Chinese culture

By Tadaferua Ujorha

to hold the 2008 Olympic games has progressed with the Slogan 'New Beijing

exhibition involved scenes from Lhasa which was appropriately called 'a day in Lhasa' and this proved to be both romantic and

and quintessential aspects of Lhasan culture were on display here.

The third part of the stirring exhibition was composed of Chinese Arts and Crafts. There were typical Chinese paintings on display. According to Mr. Jiang, most Chinese artists drew immensely from their immediate environments in the expression of their talents. Thus Iron, feathers, softwood, shells, bark and cotton were utilised to yield the moving and unforgettable works that went on display.

Mr. Otemu E. Akpodiete, a Nigerian Sculptor, will leave today for China on a 70 day contact with Sculptors and artists from all over the world. They will be in Changchun a chinese City. Mr. Akpodiete is the only Nigerian selected to participate at the gathering. The theme of

his contributions is friendship, peace and love, and he intends to use metal fabrications to express his vision of the world. Mr. Akpodiete added that the

world, and the gathering at Changchun is an attempt in this direction. Mr. Akpodiete obtained a B.F.A in 1981 and in 1991 he secured an M.F.A. from the university of Nigeria, Nsukka, he is presently Head of fine arts at the



A lady from Tajik

Great Olympics' and themes of 'Green Olympic High tech Olympics' and Humane Olympic'.

The second part of the

wise. There were typical images from Lhasa which is almost synonymous with Tibet, Shops, streets, grocer, markets, the aged



A colourfully attired lady from Miao

authorities at Changchun are trying to form a cultural arcade of sculptors drawn from all parts of the

Abuja Council for Arts and Culture, and chairman, Society of Nigerian Artistes, Abuja Chapter.

The Millennium Art Expo which will feature Nigeria's 20<sup>th</sup> Century art development has been scheduled to begin today at the Muson Centre, in Lagos.

The expo with the theme "20-2000, History of Contemporary Art in Nigeria" will have Governor Bola Tinubu as the Special Guest of Honour at the Opening Ceremony.

Professor Yussuf Grillo would be Guest Speaker at the One-day special event which will feature thought provoking art talks, and entertainment activities.

The organiser of the programme Sacl Consulting, a Lagos-based Communications and Marketing Consultancy disclosed that 20-2000 is intended to recollect the genesis, celebrate the Progress made so far and look into the bright future of arts in Nigeria.

According to the Sacl Consulting "the masters

## Nigerian Art on parade

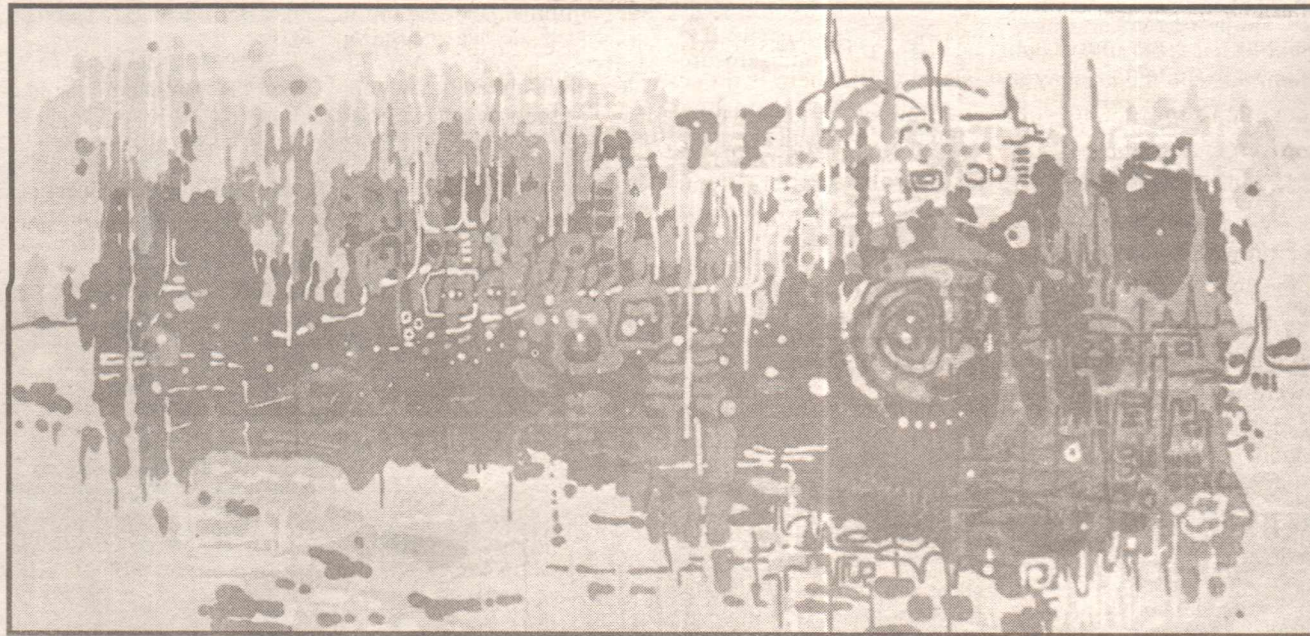
By Rakiya A. Mohammed in Lagos

who have helped to fashion arts in Nigeria will have their works on display. Some of these masters are no longer with us but have good representatives in the works they left behind"

Daily Trust learnt that the best of carefully selected art works from more than 30 leading artists will be on display. Among whom are Aina Onobolu, Yusuf Grillo, Ben Enwonwu, Tola Wewe and Lara Ige-Jack.

It would be recalled that Nigeria's contemporary art history is usually traced to 1920, when Aina Onobolu held the first Solo exhibition.

The show is sponsored by AES Nigeria Barge Limited, operators of the Lagos Independent Power Project, in celebration of successful generation of power from the Project.



'A City in the North' by Gani Odutokun



'Zaria City' by Gani Odutokun

# Feature

## The riches of Delta state

At 10, Delta state is one of the youngest states in Nigeria. In terms of wealth or revenue, however, the state stands head and shoulders above the rest of all the other states of Nigeria.

The 13% derivation formula gives the state some N2.1bn monthly. This means that Chief James Ibori, the flamboyant governor has nearly N200m to spend daily. For this, it is only reasonable to expect that Asaba, the Delta state capital should reek, not only of oil, but of money as well. Since politicians and Community leaders from this area have made so much noise about the deplorable living conditions of "their people", it is also reasonable to expect that the streets of Asaba and other majors towns should be bustling with gay, happy well-dressed and well-fed people.

While it will not be fair to the Ibori administration to say that one sees the opposite of what one expected Delta States, it is however paradoxical that one sees nothing in Asaba, Warri, Agbor or Ughelli (the four major towns in the state) to indicate that one is travelling through the richest state in Nigeria. Those journalists familiar with the terrain did commend the notable improvements in the network of roads linking towns and villages with one another. But it was difficult to determine which roads were built by the two-year old Ibori administration and which ones were inherited. By his own admission however, the state government had, from May 29/1999 to date, "either rehabilitated or constructed 237 streets in urban centres of Asaba, Warri, Agbor, Sapele, Ughelli and Efurun amongst others; we have also within the same period either constructed or rehabilitated intercity roads covering 401km." These statistics as far as inter-city roads are concerned is tenable; but apart from Warri the figure of 237 urban roads in the towns mentioned was not immediately apparent. More still, the little progress that has been made in road construction and maintenance in this waterlogged, erosion-prone oil-rich state must be given special appreciation. A 7.5km road in Ughelli for example, costs the Delta state government all of N45m. The same length of road in,

**Garba Deen Muhammad** say Kaduna State, would not have costed more than 3-5 million naira.

Disposable income or money available to individuals for satisfying their primary or secondary needs does not appear to circulate freely in Delta state. In some urban centres including the state capital, urban squalor is glaring and rural poverty is

ford two or more houses) or not rich enough to afford even a small house.

As for other basic needs such as Health, pipe borne water and electricity, Delta state is no more blessed – or cursed – than other states in Nigeria who rely on monthly grants that is less than what accrues to Delta. Governor Ibori himself admitted that the issue of basic amenities is indeed a problem but

able-bodied youths no longer find it necessary to waste time going to regular, formal employment, instead, youths in Warri constitutes themselves into gangs and use every method from begging to outright kidnapping to line their pockets. At the Warri general hospital where Ibori is making a brave effort at renovating the entire ancient hospital (built in 1909) a group of youths who

if Benin is besieged by armed robbers, Warri is "blessed" with kidnapers. Like in Benin, the visiting journalists were careful not to wander too far from their lodgings, reasoning sensibly "If the Warri youths could kidnap oil company executives for money, who is a bloody nose reporter to take chances?"

Urban crime by the way is not the only similarity be-

Ajaokuta-Aladja railway line which has a major presence in Delta State as well as the Ughelli power plant by NEPA. But that is about all. In terms of roads hospitals and industries Delta state does not enjoy much federal presence. Indeed at the peoples forum (an interactive session involving the peoples, the journalist, the state governor or the minister). Delta has complained loudly about the absence of Federal structures in the state, Deltans complained loudly about the absence of federal presence in the state.

Prof. Gana, however, assured them that the NDDC is designed to address just such issues.

But what about the riverine people; those who directly bear the brunt of oil exploration? Well frankly speaking we didn't see them. Somebody from the crowd asked why the journalists did not visit the riverine areas. For the first time the professor was momentarily taken aback. But he quickly recovered and passed the buck – backwards – to the Delta state commissioner for information, the affable Mrs Judith Enamafor. Gana responded with "well you see in this town, our guide has been the commissioner for information and we followed her to every place she invited us."

One final thing worth mentioning about Delta state is the fact that the state seems to have no Deputy Governor. Whereas in Edo, we were conducted by the energetic and friendly deputy governor, in Delta, the deputy if he exists did not appear at any function including our two encounters with the governor.

Even at the peoples forum which the governor could not attend, because he had to attend the South South governors meeting, the governor was represented by the commissioner for women affairs.

Somehow despite the warm reception, most of the visiting journalists sighed with relief when the convoy finally headed out of Delta state, towards Yenagoa, the Bayelsa state capital located some 150km to the East.

**Garba Deen Muhammad is the staff of Daily Trust.**



Mrs Stella Obasanjo

apparent as we observed while criss-crossing the state. While there is no noticeable effort towards providing modern accommodation in the rural communities, the Ibori administration has completed a massive housing estate in Asaba, the state capital.



James Ibori, Delta State Governor

But even here, Asaba residents express reservations about the eventual beneficiaries of those ultra-modern bungalows since the project is called "commercial housing project" which means when completed it will then be sold to the highest bidders. And in Delta as in Edo and indeed in most parts of Nigeria one is either very rich (so that he can af-

his administration is coming to grips with the problem as according to him, the state government has so far extended electricity to more than 206 rural communities and completed 115 rural projects. The visiting journalists were taken to three rural communities in the state where the government had commissioned either electricity projects or water schemes or both. In one of these communities Ogbello/Isoko the locals were so pleased with the state government that they accorded us a warm reception. Amidst infectious swinging and dancing the two beneficiary communities (Ogbekollo and Isoko) presented the minister of information and his entourage a traditional cash gift of over N11,000.00 collected from individuals on the spot! A journalist impressed by the gesture observed "may be that is why God has blessed them with Oil. Because of generosity".

But there are a few elderly Deltans (as Delta indigenes call themselves) who will disagree that having oil is strictly speaking, a blessing, at least for now.

In Warri for example,



Mrs. Mariam Babangida

had waited all day followed professor Gana and his entourage to every part of the hospital making demands – until they were finally "settled," If they were not settled according to the norm "pepper no go rest". Smaller and less confident urchins meanwhile parade round the visitors' buses and cars saying "make una do something now."

Certainly the state government is not in any way ignoring the potential danger posed by the Youths. Apart from renovating all the primary schools in the state (all primary schools in Delta are painted in the same colours it is also making an impressive effort towards building a permanent site for the state University at Abraka where over N1.1bn is committed. There is also the Songhai project where youths are given comprehensive education in self-sufficiency.

Whether all these efforts will pacify the youths remains to be seen because the problem seems to be more attitudinal than structural or economic such as lack of suitable employment. The youths generally feel that "with oil in the backyard who needs to work?" Thus

tween the twin states of Edo and Delta, the states have fiercely competitive spirits. Between, them, they can boast of a handful of national figures; Edo is proud of Chief Gabriel Igbiniedion, our Super Minister Tony Anenih, Delta can boast of Alex Ibru and Raymond



Prof. Jerry Gana, Min. of Information

Dokpesi (Guardian AIT, Raypower). And if the first lady Stella Obasanjo is from Essan is northern Edo, Nigeria's favourite former first lady Mariam Babangida is from Asaba in Delta State.

But in terms of Federal presence Edo state appears to home a slight edge over Delta. There is the Benin-Asaba dual carriageway serving the two states and the



# Memories are Forever

M.K.O.  
[1937 - 1998]

Great Men don't just live life...  
they change lives for the better.  
That's why your legacies not only linger in our memories...  
they continue to inspire us to care for one another  
as we journey on through this world.

We remember you always.



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# Crime & Punishment



## Robbery kingpin arraigned

A 28 year-old robbery "Kingpin, Lateef Sanni whose gang has been terrorising residents of Ikorodu, in Lagos have been arraigned before a Lagos Chief magistrate court.

The accused and others now on the run on June 19, 2001 were alleged to have conspired to commit felony to wit armed robbery.

According to the prosecutor, Inspector A. Bolaji, the gang leader while armed with dangerous weapons including locally made double-barrel and single barrel shot guns robbed one Mrs. Maria Shonibare of N3,500.00 cash.

In a chat with *Daily Trust*, the complainant, Mr. Omotayo Oke, landlord of the premises which was also attacked by the six-man armed robbery gang, said the accused persons and his gang have not relented even after his court bail.

The complainants told *Daily Trust* that on the day of the incident, he narrowly escaped after he had laid an ambush for the gang.

He said further that another tenant, Mrs. Jesinta Boniface was wounded and robbed of N4,300.00.

The accused robber is alleged to have taken part in other robberies including an attack on Lucky Fibers Company, Iwopin Road, Ikorodu and another attack on Alajede of Ijede's house Oba Fatai Oresanya.

When the case was mentioned in court, no plea was taken from the accused and he was ordered to be remanded in prison custody.

However, bail was later granted the accused person by a Lagos High Court Judge, Mr. Justice Alonge.

Further hearing has been fixed for July, 18, 2001.



Mr. Musiliu Smith, Police I-G

No fewer than 158 ex-employees of the Lagos State Development and Property Corporation (LSDPC) have dragged Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Governor of Lagos State and the State Attorney General (A-G) before an Ikeja High Court, challenging their purported termination from the state civil service.

The plaintiffs are asking the court to declare that their purported termination was unlawful, unconstitutional, null and void.

They are also demanding N159 million being special and general damages for a alleged illegal termination, N7.9 million being special damages as well as a court order reinstating the plaintiffs to their posts.

The plaintiffs claimed further that the purported termination of their appointments was in violation of the agreement dated February 21, 2001, the Labour Decree of 1974, the International Labour Organisational (I.L.O.) convention No 98 and section 6 (B) of the Trade Disputes Act 1976.

They stated also that no where in the civil service Rules does the civil service

# 158 sacked staff drag Tinubu to court



Governor Bola Tinubu

From Adelanwa Bamgboye

commission delegate to anyone the power to summarily terminate their employment, adding that the defendants were not competent to terminate their employment.

In a nine paragraph affidavit of urgency, the plaintiffs claimed that the defendants had been sending members of the Special Task Force to forcefully repossess most of their homes which were acquired on the basis of

housing loans.

In a 35 paragraph statement of claim, the plaintiffs stated that they were perceived antagonists to the LSDPC's management and the LASG as personified by Governor Bola Tinubu.

The plaintiff claimed that this view of the government resulted in unfair treatment being meted out to them, leading to the poor and steady deteriorating relationship between the two parties.

On the strength of this,

the LSDPC purportedly terminated their employment by a letter dated April 11, 2001, over allegations of insubordination, low productivity and redundancy.

According to the plaintiffs, the letter purporting to terminate their appointment are invalid, illegal and a nullity, done in violation of the agreement between the defendants and the plaintiffs union - Amalgamated Union of Public Corporations Civil Service Technical and Recreational Services Employees (A.U.P. C.T.R.E.)

## Adekanye, Osayemeh withdraw petitions

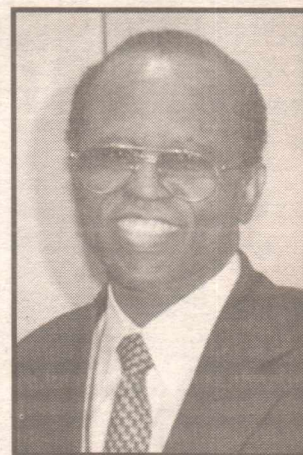
Erstwhile Chairman and Managing Director of liquidated Commerce Bank Limited, Chief Femi Adekanye and Mr. Ralph Osayemeh have withdrawn their petitions before the Oputa Panel No. HRVIC/864/2001.

In a letter dated July 2, 2001 written by a Lagos based legal partitioner, Mr. W.K. Shittu a copy of which was made available to *Daily Trust*, the lawyer claimed that he had been instructed to notify the commission of his client's intention to withdraw the petition immediately.

The lawyer stated: Our clients, in taking this painful decision are guided by the expediency of exploring other options known to law in seeking the much needed

redress and reconciliation considering the fact that the injuries sustained was effected both on their persons as well as on Commerce Bank Ltd. as a corporate entity.

The duo in their petition alleged that their fundamental human rights had been violated and abused in the course of their unlawful detentions without trial for 42 gruelling months during the Abacha regime.



Chief Joseph Sanusi, CBN Gov.

## Court adjourns suit of PDP officials

An Abuja High Court presided over by Justice Usman Kuserki has adjourned the suit filed by three suspended officers of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) till July 12 for further hearing.

The suspended officials are Mr. Emmanuel Ibeshi, National Publicity Secretary, Mr. Gbenga Olawepo, Assistant National Publicity Secretary, and Dr. Harry Marshal, National Vice Chairman, South-South.

They had dragged the party, its National Chairman, Chief Barnabas Gemade and its National Secretary, Dr. Okwesilieze Nwodo, to court to challenge their suspension from the party.

At the resumed sitting, counsel to the plaintiffs, Mr. Femi Falana, told the court that they were just served with the 30 paragraph affidavit accompanying a motion filed by the defendants challenging the

jurisdiction of the court to hear the matter.

He said that although the defence counsel intended to rely on the affidavit, the plaintiffs were entitled to a reply and to seek cost for the delay in service.

Falana said the delay in service was deliberate and asked for time to study the affidavit served on him.

In their submissions, counsel to the respondents said that the affidavit was filed on June 15, and that all "due fees were paid for on that day."

They told the court that they were ready to argue their motion challenging the jurisdiction of the court on the matter.

Mr. Justice Usman Kuserki ruled that the court would take the two applications filed by the respondents on the jurisdiction of the court at the resumed hearing of the case in order to save time.

## Three in court over N1.5m fraud

Three persons, Abdullahi Dahiru, Amarachi Akawuba and Rosemary Adjekum, have appeared before an Abuja Chief Magistrate's Court for using forged documents to defraud one Mr. Francis Ogota of N1.465 million.

The prosecutor, Abdullahi Makama, informed the court that the accused persons sometimes in 2001 and early this year, conspired and forged some documents from eight different ministries with which they duped Ogota, of New market, Wuse, in Abuja.

He named the forged documents as a certificate of occupancy, Abuja Municipal Area Council letter of award of land at Durumi district and Federal Capital Territory (FCT) market management committee letter head papers.

Others are letter headed papers belonging to Psychiatric Hospital, Kaduna, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministries of Solid Minerals and Water Resources as well as nine copies of revenue collectors' receipts of FCT. The accused persons pleaded not guilty to the charges.

## Octogenarian sends S.O.S. to I.G

An 85 year-old woman, Madam Odera Ozobia has sent out a Save Our Soul (S.O.S.) message to the Inspector General of Police alleging that her son's life is in danger.

According to the octogenarian, but for the honesty of some police officers, her son would have been charged with arms

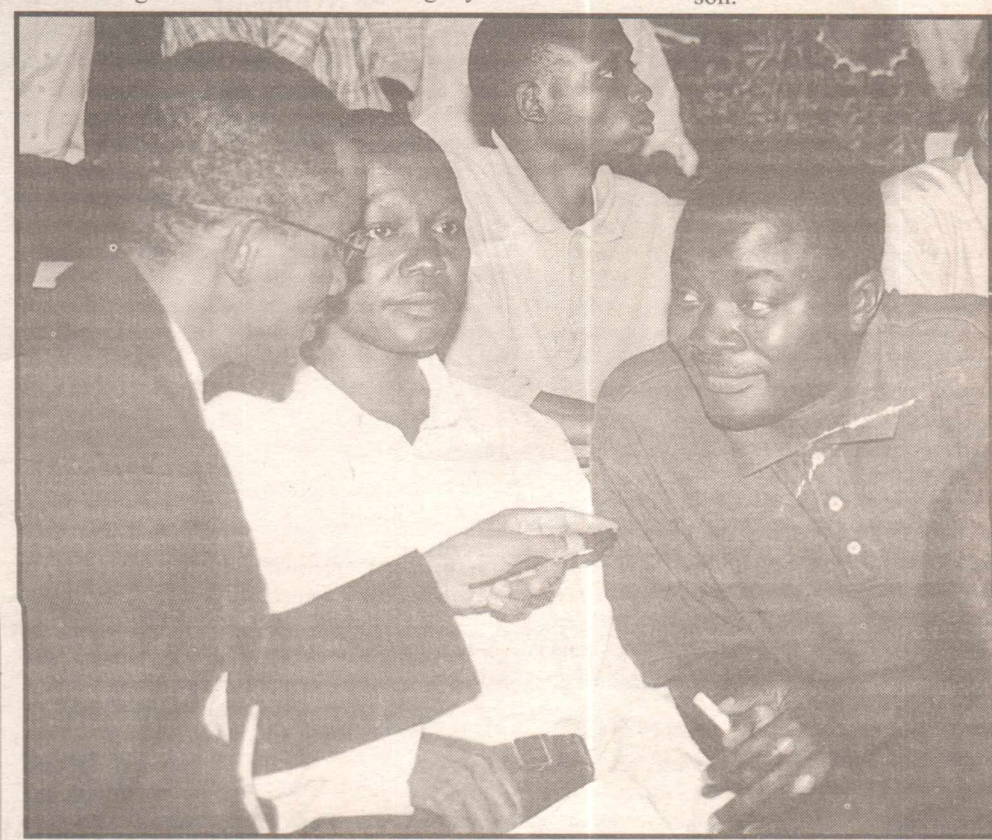
running possibly to over throw the government.

Specifically, Dr. Victor Ozobia was charged before a Lagos Chief Magistrate Court along with five others for allegedly stealing money belonging to Nigerdock.

The octogenarian claimed that "after seven months of investigations nothing concrete was found to hang my son on."

"My family is an upright family that believes in and lives by hard work. I did not train my children to reap where they did not sow, and so it is not in their character to take what is not theirs."

She stated further "As the mother of Dr. Nnamdi Ozobia, I will hold Ojo Maduekwe, the transport minister responsible if anything happens to my son."



Jailed journalist in the 1995 phantom coup plot, Mr. Kunle Ajibade of the News Magazine (right), in a chat with the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) in charge of legal department, Force Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (FIIB), Area 10, Garki, Abuja at the Oputa Panel on Thursday July 5, 2001. Centre is an officer in the FIIB, Isaac Ushie. Pix by: Felix Onigbinde

# Abuja News

## Berger - Idu road needs more FRSC, Police presence

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) and the Nigeria Police would need to intensify efforts at controlling the movement of vehicles in and out of Karmo and Idu areas of Abuja as the traffic situation in those areas have gone beyond the number of officers working there.

Investigations carried out by *Daily Trust* shows that it is common sight to see commercial bus drivers neglecting the long queue of vehicles plying the road thereby causing additional

hardship for the lawful and decent road users.

The derives, who also use ricketing vehicles, have a way of getting information on the presence of armed traffic officers from their colleagues while committing traffic offences. Once they are informed that there are no FRSC or policemen on the road, they leave the queue entirely and take the lane meant for oncoming vehicles. This frequently results not only to complicated traffic situations on the road, but

serious accidents as well.

It is evident that the drivers only obey traffic rules if they notice the presence of uninformed men hence the need for increased operations on the Berger - Idu road by the FRSC. The case of overloading also thrives on this route with impunity.

The presence of more men of the FRSC and the Nigeria Police would therefore, help to check increasing violation of road traffic rules by these people, which in turn, would check road mishaps.

The Berger junction is also not safe from the rowdiness caused by some of the drivers who, despite repeated calls by the FRSC and the National Union of Road Transport Workers to avoid picking passengers on the road, still continue the practice unabated.

Drivers still pick intra and inter-city commuters from unauthorised locations a the junction, whereby causing serious traffic hold-ups at the Berger junction.

Commuter' on the route expressed serious concern while speaking with *Daily Trust* on the trend. They called for intensified campaigns and stricter surveillance by the authorities to check the practice.

## Head of Service pledges to clear arrears of pension

The Head of Service of the Federation, Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, has



Alhaji Mahmud Yayale

reiterated the Federal Government's resolve to pay the arrears of pensions and gratuity owed civil servants.

Speaking at a ceremony to distribute cheques for pension and gratuity to retirees from the Federal Civil Service in Abuja last week, Alhaji Yayale Ahmed disclosed that by the end of July, government would have off-set all outstanding arrears.

The Head of Service pointed out that 1,908 retired civil servants have so far been paid their pensions and gratuities, adding that by August 2001, the figure would have risen to 2000.

The Head of Service who said that about 150 cheques were yet to be cleared in his office also added that the exercise to clear all arrears of pension and gratuity had started. He said that was a manifestation of the present government's determination for accountability adding that the civil service would want to rededicate its commitment to President Obasanjo's drive for accountability, transparency and honesty which characterised the earlier days of the civil service.

Alhaji Yayale advised recipients of the cheques to prudently manage the money, which he described as an honest and legitimate income derived from their faithfulness in service.

He said government was determined to reduce the hardships being suffered by Nigerians, and called for prayers for the success of the civil service and the government.

Speaking earlier, the permanent secretary, office of establishment and pensions, Dr. Aboki Zawai, said the Federal Government was determined to ensuring that spouses and dependants of deceased retirees enjoy the benefits of their late relatives for life.

Responding on behalf of the pensioners, Chief E.O. Olajide, expressed satisfaction with government's new style of prompt payment of pension and gratuity and appealed for a consideration of monthly payment of pension at state level to serve them the inconvenience of coming to Abuja every month.

### Community leader calls for increased security in Tasha

The Igbo community leader in Tasha II area of the Federal Capital Territory, Chief Agwu Onwuka, has appealed to the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Musliu Smith to increase security in Tasha, following increased activities by armed robbers.

Speaking to newsmen in Abuja last week, Chief Onwuka said the robbers attacked Tasha II almost on a daily basis, thereby putting the lives of the residents in continuous danger. He called on the public authorities to urgently build a police post in the area for constant monitoring of unlawful activities by the police. According to him, that step would be a positive one in the direction to remedy the high level of insecurity in the area.

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# Abuja News

## Winners herbal centre to treat 100 HIV/AIDS patients free

**W**inners medical diagnostic/herbal centre has begun the recruitment of 100 people infected with HIV/AIDS virus for free treatment, as part of their phase II independent clinical trial of the deadly disease.

The chief medical director of winners medical diagnostic/herbal centre and HIV/AIDS research, Jacob Abdullahi, told newsmen at the weekend in Abuja that he began free treatment of HIV/AIDS infected persons as part of his phase II independent clinical trial in order to prove the efficacy of his drugs.

"I would like to assure you that the clinical trials, government has sponsored with N200 million using 10 patients each, we are doing the same thing here and it has taken off since 25th June, 2001, we are sponsoring 100 HIV infected patients in our

By Emmanuel Ande

own phase II independent clinical trial," the medical director stated.

Abdullahi urged Nigerians to be checking their HIV status periodically to avoid the devastating effect of the virus, adding that any time a test shows positive, the affected persons should come to him for the complete clearance of the virus.

He said that winners

medical diagnostic/herbal centre was established with a view to finding cure for the dreaded HIV/AIDS using local herbs that have been subjected to standard scientific procedures for extraction and formulation.

Speaking further, he stated that he acquired a sophisticated scientific equipment used for the management of HIV/AIDS known as nuclisens system machine at the cost of N10

million adding that the system amplifies the genetic material of HIV for qualitative and quantitative estimation using the latest nuclear acid technique, NASBA (Nucleic Acid Sequence Based Amplification).

Commenting on the efficacy of his drugs, he said that retrospective studies were conducted by NIPRD using 30 patients treated with winnie cure and the positive outcome of the result made NIPRD formulate the drug into capsules and further conducted prospective studies noting that in both studies, the safety and efficacy of the drug was confirmed by the institute.

## NAFDAC organises workshop on packaged water, juices

**T**he National Agency for Food Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) is organising a national workshop to tackle the endemic problems of hazardous and poor quality table water, and fruit juices either locally manufactured

or illegally operated into the country.

In a statement, signed by Abubakar Simon and made available to Daily Trust, it said the workshop, which is billed for the 10th of July in Abuja is to beef up the productivity of existing producers of packaged

water, fruit justices and removing bureaucratic barriers facing prospective producers derirous of getting NAFDAC's licences.

The workshop, which was flagged off in Lagos a forthcoming ago, will draw participants from the North Central Zone and Abuja.

## Gwamna completes 98 projects in 2 years

**T**he Executive Chairman of Kwali Area Council Mr. Samuel M. Gwamna, has successfully completed 98 projects in his council within the two years he has spent in office as chairman of the council.

Mr. Gwamna disclosed this at the weekend on the occasion of his two years anniversary in office in Kwali, the council headquarters.

He urged the inhabitants of the councils to imbibe the culture and principle of dedication, hardwork, sacrifice and selflessness as necessary qualities for greatness and improving the lot of the people.

The council boss stated that the area has suffered various forms of disruption arising from military changes of government.

He maintained that as an area council that experienced instability and weakening of all spheres of

humane endeavour, it viewed their leaders with great suspicion due to corrupt and reckless management of their tax money, has ailing and collapsed infrastructures bedevilled with in security of lives and property and continuous deterioration of the quality of life for almost two decades of military rule, it may be difficult to appreciate the degree of progress achieved in the past two years.

"It is satisfying to state that in the short span of two years, this administration had achieved what previous administrations have not achieved in so many years," he said.

Gwamna said further that "it is my responsibility to handle all passengers in the ship I am captaining to safety, I will not allow anyone to get drown, except he that voluntarily gets out of the ship."

On the financial state of the council, he said that the council was operating on zero allocation, pointing out that even staff salaries is being paid by the Ministry of Federal Capital.

Commenting on whether he would recontest in the next election, he said that if his people asked him to do so, he would obey the voice of the electorate.

## WRAPA to assist female detainees with legal aid

By Victor Akobundu

**T**he Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA), has its commitment to assist female inmates in Nigerian prisons.

This was disclosed at the 2nd joint meeting of the Board of Trustees and State and Zonal Co-ordinators of WRAPA, recently, in Abuja.

In her welcome address, the Secretary General of WRAPA, Mrs. Saudatu Mahdi said that WRAPA has recently embarked on a Prison Legal Aid Project, which is aimed at offering legal aid services to female inmates awaiting trial across the country's prisons whose cases deserve assistance in order to actualise their right to fair hearing.

"WRAPA found so many women in custody for various offences without any legal representation or means for it. Many of them particularly those with grave criminal charges have been forgotten in custody," she said.

Mrs. Mahdi disclosed that WRAPA's visits to various prisons across the country revealed that the plight of female inmates were compounded with congestions.

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# SPORTS



Ecuador's Giovanni Espinoza, top, reaches a header over Honduras' Marvin Brown (7) in the second half of the friendly game on Saturday at the Orange Bowl in Miami. The match ended in a 1-1 tie.

## Scoops and Snoops

Trustsports looks at the massive trade in African players taking place in Italy's Serie A this summer.

**A**C Milan have bought Ivory Coast defender Cyril Domoraud from Bastia in France and are ready to sell Nigerian Taribo West to newly promoted Torino.

Meanwhile, Torino have loaned Senegalese midfielder Djibril Diawara to the Premiership club Bolton Wanderers.

Another Ivorian, midfielder Saliou Lassissi, has joined champions Roma from Parma.

African Footballer of the year, Patrick Mboma of Cameroon, could also be on the move. Parma consider putting him on the market and look almost certain to let Ghanaian Stephen Appiah depart for Bologna.

Udinese have signed South African Siyabonga Nomvete from Kaizer Chiefs.

Ghananain Mohammed Gargo is preparing to leave Udinese and is a likely target of Inter Milan now that they have missed out in the race for English defender Sol Campbell.

Sierra Leonian Mohammed Kallon is set to move yet again. His club Inter Milan are considering loaning him out for the seventh consecutive time.

After spells with Lugano in Switzerland, and Bologna, Genoa, Cagliari, Reggina and Vicenza in Italy, Kallon is likely to play next year with Napoli, just relegated from Serie A to Serie B and a serious candidate for an immediate return to the top flight.

The biggest rumours regard Ghana's Samuel Osei Kuffour. The Bayern Munich defender is not for sale, but Italian clubs are doing the best to lure him away.

Lazio were the first Serie A club to be after Kuffour and now their city rivals Roma have joined the chase.

An initial offer of £13m was rejected but a second bid of £16m is reported to be in the offering if the Champions fail in their bid to sign Italian international Fabio Roma are also interested in Moroccan international Abdelilah Saber, up for sale after the relegation of Napoli.

South African striker Philemon Masinga has been given a free transfer from relegated Bari, and is considering several options. He could sign for either Atalanta or Torino.

## CSF sets up third rate Copa America

**T**he South American Football Confederation's (CSF) amazing decision on Thursday to go ahead with the Copa America at six days' notice seems likely to guarantee a third-rate competition in Colombia.

In an age when soccer teams prepare for international competitions in a clinically scientific manner with minuscule attention to factors such as nutrition, altitude and climate, the CSF could be accused of treating its teams as if they were a bunch of amateurs.

In the case of Colombia,

which has one venue at high altitude and another in one of the world's hottest and muggiest cities, good preparation would appear to be especially important.

The continent's leading powers are almost certain to respond by sending second-string teams to a tournament which was fast losing importance and credibility even before the astonishing sequence of decisions and counter-decisions over the last six weeks.

Argentina, who enjoy an emphatic lead in the South American World Cup qualifying competition, have already

said they will not take part.

The Argentines were in training for the event last week but sent their players home after the CSF on Saturday decided that the event would go ahead in Colombia, but would be postponed until next year.

During the previous weeks, the CSF had twice confirmed Colombia as hosts only to take it away on June 28 after the kidnapping of a local soccer official added to the security concerns caused by a spate of bombings in host cities.

Before last Saturday's postponement, Brazil, Uru-

guay, Peru and Colombia themselves had decided to rest their top players.

Peru coach Julio Cesar Uribe went to the extreme of giving his 19-year-old son Julio Edson, a substitute with struggling Uruguayan club Deportivo Maldonado, a first run in the team.

This follows a trend set in recent years when the Copa has played second fiddle to a marathon South American World Cup qualifying competition in which the 10 countries play each other twice over 18 months.

As the team which finish top of the qualifying group can logically be called the best in South America, the Copa America has lost its relevance.

Yet the CSF has failed to even mention this problem over the last six weeks as it has dallied over whether to press on with the competition.

Asked by Reuters earlier on Thursday if holding the Copa at six days notice would force teams to improvise, Colombian Football Federation (FCF) president Alvaro Fina went off at a tangent.

"Improvise? Colombia is ready to hold the Copa," he said.

The decision to restart the Copa came amid speculation that it was prompted by sponsors and television networks who feared losing millions of dollars through the event's postponement.

Amid the back-patting among soccer officials and the jubilation of Colombian president Andres Pastrana, Colombia's Interior Minister Armando Estrada echoed the feelings of many football supporters.

## Ferguson: I'm staying at United

**S**ir Alex Ferguson has revealed that he is close to agreeing a new role with Manchester United.

Ferguson retires as United manager at the end of next season but appears set to remain at the club in a consultancy capacity.

"There have been a lot of discussions between my solicitor, my accountant and the club.

"The most important thing is to continue the connection," Ferguson told The Mirror.

The 60-year-old Ferguson, refreshed after his summer holiday, is keen to remain part of the United 'family'.

"When you work for a club like this it does seem to be your whole family, your life. It's hard to lose that," he said.

"So to keep a connection with the club, in a way in which you are helpful, is

ample reward for spending 16 years here."

The news is a change of heart for the Scot, who was disillusioned following initial discussions with United, which broke down in May.

With no agreement forthcoming, Ferguson announced he would be leaving Old Trafford when his managerial contract expires next summer.

The decision made headline news, with speculation suggesting talks had broken down because of Ferguson's demands.

However, the United manager claims this was never the case.

"There was a lot of stuff that came out about me wanting to be on the plc board and wanting to be chairman of the club.

"Everyone at the club knew that was lies and I didn't like to read it. It is absolute nonsense."



Ferguson

Meanwhile, Ferguson has confirmed that he is under no pressure to sell despite the imminent acquisition of Juan Sebastian Veron from Lazio for £24.7m.

Paul Scholes, Nicky Butt and Denis Irwin all signed new contracts on Friday, following earlier deals with Ryan Giggs, Andy Cole, Jaap Stam, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, Gary Neville and Phil Neville.

## Rahman, Lewis rematch not imminent

**A** second fight between Lennox Lewis and Hasim Rahman is seemingly no closer after both sides deny a deal is imminent.

Earlier reports had suggested that the two camps were close to agreement, with Lewis accepting in principal a £9m purse.

Rahman won the WBC and IBF heavyweight titles with a shock knocking out the British world champion in South Africa on 22 April.

Earlier this month, a New York court ruled in favour of Lewis and said that Rahman was contractually obliged to fight him again.

Rahman's promoter Don King claimed Lion Productions, representing Lewis, had agreed his £9m offer to promote the fight but set out conditions they knew he could not accept.

In a statement on Friday, Lewis said: "I have no prob-

lem with Don King promoting my rematch with Hasim Rahman on 6 October."

But he added his agreement was conditional to King "backing up his offer of £9m to buy out my promotional rights with certain guarantees within the week."

King countered: "They opted to let me put it on but then they're going to turn around and tell me how to put it on.

"They can't do that. That's totally unacceptable."

Donald Tremblay, a spokesman for Lion's US pro-

motion partners Main Event said: "Lennox's team does not believe King is serious about a \$12.5 million offer."

"So what they did was send him a contract which says basically, 'OK, here's a contract, if you're serious show us you're serious'."

## Real set to unveil Zidane

**J**uventus midfielder Zinedine Zidane will officially be unveiled as a Real Madrid player on Wednesday, according to the Spanish sports daily As.

The paper said Zidane will terminate his contract - which had been due to run until 2005 - with the Turin giants on Monday and then travel to Madrid.

A media extravaganza is reportedly being prepared for the unveiling of the World Footballer of the Year.

But Real Madrid have remained tight lipped over the

talks in progress to finalise the deal, which will see Zidane go to the Bernabeu for a reported world record fee of around £43.2m.

"Zidane has first to arrive. Afterwards we will see," said club director general Jorge Valdano.

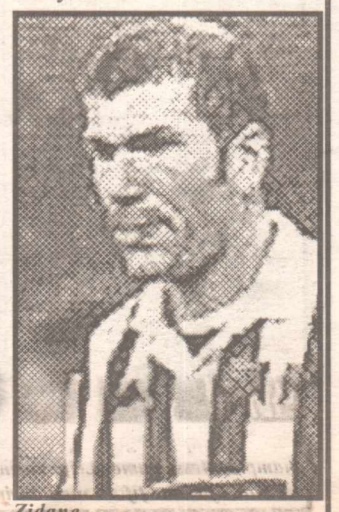
On Friday Juventus general manager Luciano Moggi revealed how he was powerless to stop Zidane's imminent move to Spain.

Moggi explained that the Frenchman had set his heart on joining the Spanish cham-

pions who were equally determined to buy him.

"Zidane has expressed his desire to leave and the Real president Florentino Perez was absolutely determined to take him to Madrid," Moggi told the Spanish sports daily Marca.

Moggi added that the deal for Zidane was not completely done but said that his departure was "more than likely".



Zidane

## Wenger linked with £10m Macca

**A**rsenal boss Arsene Wenger is lining up a £10m bid for Real Madrid winger Steve McManaman, according to reports in The Sun.

McManaman, who joined the Bernabeu club from Liverpool two years ago on a free transfer, is regarded by Wenger as the final part of his summer rebuilding programme.

The Arsenal boss has always admired the 29-year-old England international who has helped Real win the Champions League and the Spanish championship in the last two seasons.

However, McManaman has made no secret of the fact he wants to continue playing on the continent despite Real's desire to bring in a number of new faces, includ-

ing Zinedine Zidane and Flavio Conceicao.

The Gunners have already invested heavily in the transfer market this summer, bringing in Sol Campbell, Francis Jeffers, Richard Wright and Giovanni van Bronckhorst.

But Wenger believes he can cash in on the Madrid club's ambitious spending spree by persuading Macca to return to the Premiership.



# SPORTS



## Okpara leaves PSG for Standard Liege

Nigerian international defender Godwin Okpara has moved to Belgian club Standard Liege from Paris Saint-Germain.

**By Ismaila Umaru Lere**  
The transfer fee was not disclosed. According to the authoritative World Soccer

magazine report, Okpara has agreed on a three-year contract. "I was a reserve at Paris and I can't stay forever on the

substitutes bench or in the reserves," Okpara said. "I have to find a place in a first team otherwise in two years time I will be a worse player for lack of competition."

"I hope to bounce back at Liege and earn a ticket to play with Nigeria in the next World Cup finals."

Meanwhile, Ajax winger Tijani Babangida, is set to leave Ajax after being told he has no future at the club. Babangida who spent last season on loan in Turkey, is attracting interest from Benfica as well as some Premiership clubs.

## Do not take chances, Toro advises NFA

The former NFA Secretary-General, Alhaji Sani Ahmed Toro, has advised the Nigeria Football Association (NFA) to put more confidence in the new Super Eagles players in order to consolidate their position and brighten the country's next chances of playing in Korea/Japan next year.

**From Ardo Abdullahi Hazzad, in Bauchi**  
is still a hurdle to cross but that it would be easy if NFA gives its full support to the indigenous coaches led by Ahmadu Shuaibu. The next match against Ghana according to him is very crucial, as such, all hands must be on deck to see that Nige-

ria scales through for its third appearance in the World Cup finals.

As for the venue of the match to be played on July 29, Alhaji Toro suggested an early selection of the venue which will give the Eagles the opportunity to acclimatise and familiarise with the pitch and atmosphere.

The former Secretary-General of the NFA suggested that the NFA should write for the release of the foreign-based players from their respective clubs and should not take chances and relent because of the Eagles 4-0 away win against Sudan.

Alhaji Sani Toro, who is presently Bauchi State Commissioner for Sports, said there

## LG councils stall Kano sports fiesta

The Kano State Mini Sports festival has been postponed until next Sunday.

**From Jamilah Nuhu Musa, in Kano**  
local government councils have refused to release funds to sponsor athletes from their areas.

The sports officials also disclosed that though some have released about two to three million naira for the commencement of activities,

the money has not been handed over to the appropriate unit which is the common unity and social development division of the council.

The officials also said that an appeal would be made to the deputy-governor to intervene in the matter.

It will be recalled that the governor of the state, Dr. Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso, had announced a donation of N5 million towards the success of the programme.

The governor had expressed determination for the development of various talents from the grassroots.

## NIS has lost focus - Odegbami

National Institute for Sports board chairman, Chief Segun Odegbami, has attributed the decline in the standard of the institute to lose of focus by previous administrators.

**From Babs Oyetero, in Lagos**  
Sydney.

He said that his board, in collaboration with the school management is working assiduously to-

wards restoring the standard of the institute.

"I am confident that these goals are realisable because virtually everybody I am working with share my vision," he said.

According to him, the founders of the institute had good vision for the institute and they worked conscientiously to the realisation of their set out goals.

"The NIS I used to know in the 70s is not the one we are having now," he stressed.

Chief Odegbami noted that the NIS was the backbone of sports development in the past where some distinguished athletes were trained.

The former Green Eagles skipper lamented that the institute started having problems when the founding fathers left while those who came in after them deviated from original plans.

To drive home his point, the former player of Shooting Stars football club of Ibadan said that the Australia Institute for Sports played a major role in the successful hosting of the last Olympic games held in

## IBB Golf Club management indicted over N10m scam

The newly elected Executive Council of Ibrahim Babangida (IBB) Golf Club led by captain Uche Uktonu has called the club management to give account of missing N10 million after conducting an investigation into the club's financial records.

**By Musa Badamasi**  
tigated.

It was also discovered that there are about 71 ghost members of the club whose registration fees was not reflected in the club account but diverted by those now in detention.

Trustsports gathered that membership registration is not less than N100,000 per candidate which every member must pay to access the club's facilities.

Captain Uktonu led executive in a surprised move, closed up on the management team of the club to ensure that probity, accountability and transparency become the guiding principle for the club operators.

Already, seven staffs of the club are under police detention in connection with the misappropriated fund, while others are been inves-

is the club manager.

The feelings among the club members now are that in as much as they supported the investigation exercise, there should be no sacred cow.

According to a member who spoke on condition of anonymity said: "If Captain Uktonu is serious to clean the financial rotten in the club, Mr. Montage need to be really investigated being the head of the management team."

It will be recalled that Mr. Montage was brought to the country by Brigadier John Shagaya (rtd) a member of the club.

## Shanghai to stage 2002 Masters Cup

The 2002 Tennis Masters Cup will be staged by Shanghai, the Masters Cup committee said last Friday.

The cup is the season-ending men's tournament and is co-owned by the ATP, the Grand Slams and the International Tennis Federation.

"I could not be more pleased that Shanghai will become the third city to host the Masters Cup," ATP Chief Executive Officer, Mark Miles said.

"The Tennis Masters Cup will be one of the biggest international sports events ever to be held in China.

"There were many great cities bidding to stage the event. But we were looking to move the prestigious event to another part of the world and chose Shanghai as China has a solid tennis base," he added.

Last year's inaugural event was held in Lisbon and was won by Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten.



Nico Nicolas of Kogi United vies with Oyetayo Bayo of Osun Stars during their Challenge Cup first round encounter in Kaduna...recently.

## Westerhof bounces back

Zimbabwean fans will once again get used to the sight of Clemens Westerhof on the touchline

Former Zimbabwe national coach, Clemens Westerhof, has made a dramatic return to the football club by taking up the post of Technical Director at the country's biggest club, Dynamos.

The Dutch mentor quit as Warriors coach in June last year to take charge of South African Premier League side, Sundowns. But he was given the boot last November when Sundowns failed to reach the Champions League final.

Westerhof has been without a football job since, but speculation is rife that the

outspoken Dutchman may be using the Dynamos post as a springboard for a return to his old job as national team coach.

Zimbabwe have been without a substantive coach since Westerhof left. He has been living in Harare since 1999 and is married to a Zimbabwean.

Westerhof said he will be working for Dynamos for free for the first three months and thereafter discuss a contract.

"I didn't take long to make a decision after I first spoke to Dynamos. I've been out of football for some time and felt it was time I got back into action," Westerhof said.

The 61-year-old coach has spent more than a decade on the African continent, and his high point came in 1994 when he led Nigeria to the African Nations Cup title.

The controversial coach parted company with the Super Eagles after the 1994 World Cup finals in the USA, following a series of rows with Nigeria's football bigwigs.

## APP Chairman salutes Eagles

The chairman of the All People's Party, Alhaji Yusuf Ali, has congratulated the Eagles on the victory over Sudan even as he criticised President Obasanjo's handshake policy.

The chairman who criticised President Obasanjo for what he called "cold reception given to the Eagles on his way out of the country said his party had a great policy thrust for sports.

In a statement from the party headquarters, Alhaji Yusuf Ali asked the Eagles to ensure victory against Ghana in their last match.

"While we thank the Almighty God for the great feat, the party would have to remind the team and NFA that the real battle will be fought on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July, 2001 when the Eagles take on the Black Stars of Ghana in a game that would surely take us to Korea/Japan 2002 World Cup," the statement said.

The former NFA chairman also advised the Eagles to ensure oneness, determination and discipline as these were the hallmark of success in every endeavour.



WBA-NA Super Lightweight Champion Hector "Macho" Camacho Jr., right, takes a left from former world champion Jesse James Leija during a bout at New York's Coney Island, yesterday. Camacho won by technical decision after the fifth round during the first night of professional boxing in Coney Island in 51 years.

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## Goran comeback shatters Henman

*\*Plays Rafter in today's grand finale*

Goran Ivanisevic has crushed Tim Henman's dream of a place in the Wimbledon final by battling back from two sets to one down to win in five sets.

Henman had appeared on the brink of the final on Friday when he came from a set down to lead with some dazzling tennis.

But the rain delays which caused the semi-final to be played over the course of three days broke Henman's rhythm and worked to Ivanisevic's advantage.

After his win, Ivanisevic said, "This is destiny."

"God wanted me to win this game - he sent the rains."

The pair resumed on Sunday with Ivanisevic leading 3-2 on serve in the fifth set.

Both players held their first service games, although Ivanisevic had to come from 0-30 down to do so.

With Henman 4-3 down, a volley into the net and two return winners from Ivanisevic gave the Croat two break points.

Henman saved both with two big serves, but a double fault gave Ivanisevic a third chance to break.

The Croat found another winner and was left to serve for the match.

He double-faulted on his first match point, but set up a second with a second-serve ace.

He made no mistake this time and he now faces Pat Rafter in the final.

Henman had seemed so close to victory on Friday when he battled back from a set down to lead with some inspirational tennis.

The British number one had just one break point in the first set, which was cancelled out by an Ivanisevic ace.

The Croat then played an inspirational game when leading 6-5, as three successive return winners flew past Henman to secure the set.

With Ivanisevic in confident mood at the start of the second set, Henman looked to have missed his

chance when he wasted three break points in the ninth game.

It came down to a tie-break, and this time Henman seized the moment.

After two breaks apiece he converted his second set point with a sharp volley to level at one set all.

The momentum was now firmly with Henman, and he played faultless tennis to wrap up the third set 6-0 in just 15 minutes.

Ivanisevic had no answer to a succession of lobs and winners off both sides and looked increasingly frustrated as he lost serve three times.

But Henman's flow was stemmed by the rain and, when the pair returned on Saturday, it was Ivanisevic who took the fourth set on a tie-break.

The pair had shared two mini-breaks apiece, before the Croat took the set when he fired a service return at the Briton's toes with the score at 6-5.

Just five games into the deciding set, the rains came again leaving the pair

another agonising overnight wait.

And it was Ivanisevic's patience which was rewarded as he secured a fairytale fourth Wimbledon final appearance.

"I don't want to lose again - that would kill me," said Ivanisevic.

"Tomorrow's the biggest day of my life. I don't want to get that plate for a fourth time."

Asked about his opponent in the final, the Croat said: "He's a great friend and a great player - it's going to be tough."

"But tomorrow we are not going to be Honduras' David Carcamo, right, gets turned around as he battles Ecuador's Angel Fernandez, left, for a loose ball in the second half of an exhibition game on Saturday at the Orange Bowl in Miami. The friendly game ended in 1-1 tie.



Honduras' David Carcamo, right, gets turned around as he battles Ecuador's Angel Fernandez, left, for a loose ball in the second half of an exhibition game on Saturday at the Orange Bowl in Miami. The friendly game ended in 1-1 tie.

## Williams retains Wimbledon crown

Venus Williams has retained her Wimbledon title with a three-set win over Justine Henin.

The American second seed claimed the deciding set with a whitewash after the Belgian teenager had fought her way back into the match.

Williams powered to a quick 6-1 first-set win, but the gritty 19-year-old claimed the second set 6-3 before the champion surged ahead in the third.

Afterwards, a delighted Williams said her second Wimbledon championship had proved harder to win than the first.

"This year was a lot more difficult to win," said Williams, "I thought a lot more."

It is the American's third Grand Slam title after

her successes at Wimbledon and the US Open last year.

Williams took the first set in convincing style, despite starting the match with two double faults.

Henin, the first Belgian in a Wimbledon final, held her first service game with style, but fell 0-40 down in her second as Venus turned up the heat.

The Belgian had produced a magnificent display when she came back from a set down to end Jennifer Capriati's Grand Slam hopes in the semi-final.

But she was unable to reproduce that sort of form as Williams took control of the match.

Henin was unable to win a single game as Williams ran out a 6-0 winner in the third set.



Venus Williams kisses her racket for good-luck during her match against Lindsay Davenport in the womens semi-final. Williams retained her Wimbledon title with victory over Belgian Justine Henin...yesterday.

## Enyimba captures Super Four title

By Patrick Andrew  
Enyimba FC of Aba yesterday emerged Nigeria's league champions courtesy of NPA's 2-1 victory over Gombe United.

Enyimba won the champions league ticket even before the final match of the Super Four series against Rangers International FC thus sustained the lingering jinx since 1999 when no regular Pepsi Proleague winner eventually wins the continental ticket.

The Aba-based soccer outfit that was highly motivated by Governor Orji Kalu had earlier beaten Gombe United and NPA of Warri 2-1 and 1-0 respectively to amass six points.

Gombe United that trounced Rangers 2-0 was in contention for the continental ticket until they met their Waterloo in the hands of Enyimba.

Governor Kalu had promised the Godfrey Esu tutored side brand new cars for each player if they won the Super Four League series, a promise that gingered the squad said to parade the best crop of players in proleague to give their best.

NPA's 2-1 victory may have guaranteed them a continental ticket especially with CAF's innovation for each country to field two representatives in the league champions cup fiesta, otherwise the Seaside may pick the CAF Cup ticket depending on Rangers/Enyimba match result which was still in progress as at the time of going of press.

Since the Super Four league series began in 1999, no team that had won the regular proleague had eventually won the continental ticket.

In 1999 when Iwuanyanwu Nationale won the regular league, Lobi Stars won the maiden Super Four, while Katsina United also failed as Julius Berger emerged the nation's flag bearer after winning the Super Four.

The NFA introduced the Super Four in a bid to ensure that the best emerged to represent the country in the lucrative champions league cup that has remained elusive to Nigeria since its inception in 1965.

By emerging champions, Enyimba pocketed N3 million from the sponsors.