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**Indeed:  
'Progress is the Activity  
of Today and the  
Promise of  
Tomorrow'**



**Courtesy:  
GOMBE PROGRESSIVES PAVILLION**

**Alh. Muhammad Danjuma Goje**

**STAR FEATURE**

**Making a  
living in the  
desert**




**Pages 24 & 25**

**COUNT DOWN TO CENSUS 2006  
(21 - 25 March)**

**36 DAYS TO GO**

**ALL PERSONS WILL BE FINGERPRINTED TO ENSURE  
NOBODY IS COUNTED MORE THAN ONCE**



**Courtesy: National Population Commission**

## As public hearings begin next week... Mantu, Okpara exempt themselves

Chairman of the National Assembly Joint Constitution Review Committee, Senator Ibrahim Mantu and his vice, Rep. Austin Opara have decided not to attend the public hearings scheduled to begin February 22 in six zonal centres across the country, citing growing public scepticism against the panel leadership. Mantu announced his decision to stay away during the committee's meeting last Wednesday. The committee has dissolved into six tour

**By Habeeb I. Pindiga,  
Assistant Political Editor, &  
Aideloje Ojo, (Minna)**

groups with a chairman and vice chairman for each group. But Mantu and Opara are not part of any of the six groups. Rather they would wait to their leadership position when the tour reports would be considered. The hearings are to hold simultaneously in Lafia (North-central), Maiduguri (Northeast), Katsina (Northwest), Osogbo (Southwest),

Abakaliki (Southeast) and Port Harcourt (South-south). The group chairmen and their deputies are Senator Dalhatu Tafida and Rep.

Abdul Ningi for Northeast, Senator Ifeanyi Araraume and Rep Abubakar Bwari for Southwest, Senator Iyabode Anisulowo and Rep

Abdurrauf Tukur for North-central, Senator Jonathan Zwingina and Rep Mao Oluabunwa for Southeast, Senator Oserheimen Osunbor

and Rep Abiodun Akinlade for Northwest and Senator Abubakar Sodangi and Rep Iquo Minima for South-south. **Cont. on Pg. 2**

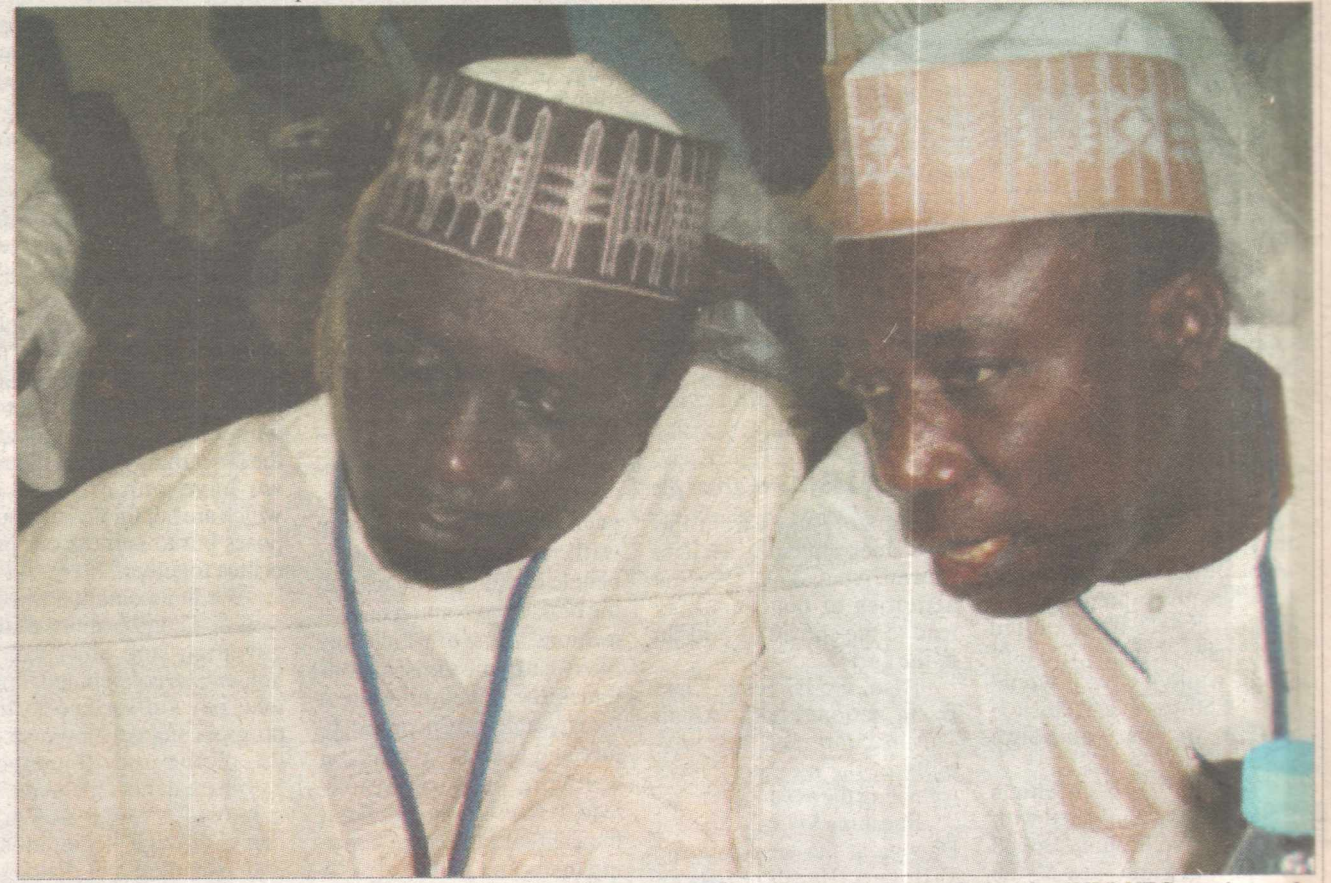
## Farm workers tested for bird flu

The federal government has started testing people who have fallen ill close to where the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus was found, a World Health Organization (WHO), official said at the weekend.

**From Abdullahi Bego, in  
Maiduguri, Lawal Ibrahim,  
Kaduna**

abroad," she said. Sadiq said the WHO has received information about two people who were feared to have contracted the disease in Kaduna state close to Sambawa Farms where one of the poultry samples that tested positive for H5N1 came from. But she said there was no certainty for now and authorities wanted to avoid causing panic. Experts fear the H5N1 strain which has killed at least 88 people in Asia and the Middle East since early 2003, may mutate into a form that can spread from human to human. They fear this could cause a global flu pandemic that could kill millions. The outbreak of H5N1 in Nigeria, its first known appearance in Africa, has worried health experts but left almost all those in the affected areas in Kaduna, Kano and Plateau states ignorant of the danger facing them. H5N1 has been confirmed on four farms in the three northern states and other farmers and villagers are reporting mass deaths of poultry. In the countryside, farmers in normal clothes and sandals are using their bare hands to throw dead and dying

No human cases of bird flu have been reported but the virus has killed tens of thousands of poultry. "Our field officers are already there in those farms and nearby. We are monitoring and taking samples. We are concerned about the possibility of a human case," said Lola Sadiq, in charge of coordinating the bird flu response at WHO headquarters in Abuja. "This is a tropical environment where there are lots of diseases, so we need to watch closely and take a lot of swabs. They will be tested here first and if there is any suspicion (of bird flu), they will send samples



**Kebbi State governor, Adamu Aleiro (right) and his Kano State counterpart, Ibrahim Shekarau during the ANPP NEC meeting at the party's secretariat, Abuja... weekend.**  
Onigbinde. **Pic: Felix**

## Sacked NEPC staff allege violation of due process

**'We've presidency approval'**

Over 500 staff of the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), who were recently relieved of their appointments have protested the procedure for their retrenchment. Their sack they allege violates civil service provisions and contravenes the recommendations of the National Export Strategy on the basis of which the new management said it carried out the retrenchment exercise. The sacked workers also picked holes in what they term "the secret recruitment of favourites and family members of top executives" without following laid down pro-

**By Hamisu Muhammad,  
Business Reporter**

cesses. In a 23-page petition addressed to members of the governing board of the council, a copy of which was made available to *Daily Trust* in Abuja, the sacked workers alleged that the consultancy firm hired to recommend staff for sack did not "properly assess the capabilities of officers", just as they protest the competence of the company which carried out the restructuring exercise in November last year. The petition titled: "Request for Intervention in the

Ongoing Illegal Mass Retrenchment Exercise at the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC)," dated January 31, 2006, reads in part: "The exercise was carried out without the involvement of a single member of the management (directors and deputy directors). Indeed, the purported sack was also not in line with the federal government's guidelines on restructuring. "The supervising ministry was not involved in the absence of a governing board", it added. The NEPC on November 30, 2005, issued sack letters to 514 of its 660 workers as

part of a restructuring exercise which the management under Mrs. Gladys Modupe Sasore, said will make the council slim and more efficient in promoting non oil exports. Among the affected staff were two directors, two deputy directors and five assistant directors. The petitioners also view as immoral, the appointment of Mr. David Gbenga Ashiru, suspected to be Mrs Sasore's son, as the general manager in charge of marketing while he doubles as her special assistant. *Daily Trust* made concerted efforts to get the response of the Council to the issues raised in the petition. **Cont. on Pg. 2**

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# News

## Mantu, Okpara *Cont. from pg. 1*

Based on a timetable for the constitution review exercise after the hearings, the 80-man committee would go for a retreat at the Obudu cattle ranch, Cross River state to consider the tour group reports for onward transmission to the two chambers of the National Assembly on March 23.

Meanwhile, Mantu has ruled out obtaining a bank loan for the cash-strapped exercise.

Records of proceedings of the committee's February 1 meeting quoted the chairman as saying the panel could not unilaterally seek monies from outside the Assembly's purse.

The committee, according to him, has N100 million in its pocket and "that the amount would not be sufficient to meet the cost of publicity, duty tour allowance of members and staff, printing and binding of documents and other logistics such as engagement of consultants, etc.

The chairman further stated that the committee could not unilaterally obtain a bank loan without the mandate of the two chambers and therefore advised that the committee should look inwards to fund its activities.

The records of proceedings also confirmed media reports that the committee has decided to jettison the reports of its subcommittees and use the 1999 constitution as a working document instead.

"The meeting debated whether to consider the reports submitted by the subcommittees before or after the zonal hearings. After exhaustive deliberations, members resolved that in the interest

of fairness and transparency, Nigerians should be allowed to discuss the entire provisions of the 1999 constitution and to propose amendments as they may consider necessary," the records said.

Meanwhile, the Northern Speakers Forum has called for state public hearings on the constitutional amendments as against the zonal public hearings being considered by the National Assembly.

The Forum, in a communiqué issued over the weekend at the end of its 9<sup>th</sup> conference held in Minna, supported constitutional amendment but condemned attempts to amend the constitution to accommodate the third term tenure of some political office holders.

"The Forum called on Mr. President to actualize his promise to establish the Niger Basin Development Commission to address the annual flooding of the River Niger," the communiqué said.

The Speakers also called on all the states in the North to commit between 30 and 35 percent of their annual budgets to commercial agriculture.

They reiterated their stand on the indivisibility and indissolubility of Nigeria as a nation.

"The Forum wishes to call on the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to allow the Plateau State House of Assembly to freely conduct their investigations of allegations of corruption and money laundering against the governor of Plateau State," the communiqué said.

## Banning Kano Hisba, unconstitutional

**P**rof. Auwalu Yadudu of the Faculty of Law, Bayero University, Kano, says the president, the Inspector-General of Police and the National Assembly, have no power under the constitution, to ban any organization established by a law duly passed by a state House of Assembly.

He told *Daily Trust* in Kano yesterday that if the federal government or the Inspector-General of Police believes states have no powers to set up a parallel police outfit, they should take the case before a competent court of law to obtain an order proscribing such an outfit.

Proscribing such outfits verbally as was done by the Inspector-General of Police of the Kano *Hisba* corps is illegal, he said.

Prof. Yadudu, a renowned constitutional lawyer, argued that any allegation the federal government or police has against such an outfit should be tabled before a court to be upheld or turned down.

On the allegations by the Minister of Information that the Kano *Hisba* leader is training *Jihadists*, Prof. Yadudu said, "if you think the *hisba* commission or any of its leadership is doing something illegal, the powers you have is to prosecute them for what you consider to be illegal but not to ban them.

"You don't have that power to ban them. Of course, they may be in the process of not prosecuting them, but banning, proscribing is only in a military regime. You do that outrightly," he argued.

From Musa Umar Kazaure,  
Regional Editor Kano

The former Special Adviser on legal matters to late Head of state, General Sani Abacha, said the issue of *hisba* being a parallel security institution to the Nigeria police does not arise because the functions of the *hisba* is clearly stated in the law establishing it.

"They don't have the powers to arrest people or prosecute them, or jail them.

## I was not robbed, says Makarfi

**G**overnor Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi of Kaduna State has debunked rumours that his Jabi road residence was burgled even as his aide confirmed that the governor has not relocated to Kashim Ibrahim House.

Speaking during a courtesy call in his office by the Northern Union, Makarfi cautioned that people should not come up with ridiculous and unbelievable rumour just to castigate a person.

"I never knew people can go this far to cast aspersions the unity the North so badly craves cannot be achieved with people going about with such tales about others," and urged northern leaders to forge unity among the people at all strata, as unity is very important for progress to be achieved.

"Unity of the mind, unity of the community, unity of the people is important in any developing society. That is why we have governors and the Governors Forum, though we have our differences which are not for divisive purposes but to harness our priorities together."

While he extolled the efforts and contributions of the governors and other stakeholders, he condemned those who pay lip service to the progress and development of the region and its people. Saying that the targets can be achieved, though not in a hurry, through negotiations, understanding and dialogue.

"There are many of us who tend to criticize but they do not attend the Northern Governors Forum. They were not even represented by their deputies yet they accused the governors of unseriousness. What unseriousness are they saying?" he fumed.

Makarfi noted that the

Incidentally, every Nigerian citizen, whether belonging to the *hisba* or not, has the power to arrest under our constitution anyone committing an offence."

He said the Nigeria police is mandated by law to also enforce any law passed by a State House of Assembly.

He stated that there seems

to be some sort of jealousy between organizations, like the police and customs, and between the police and soldiers, adding that there should not be jealousy but a healthy competition to carry out their constitutional functions which are complementary to each other.

From AbdulRaheem Aodu,  
Correspondent, Kaduna

poor state of Hamdala Hotel and the School of Basic Studies are some examples of what

disunity can do adding that people should not rush to the media to accuse others on simple issues when there are more important work to be done.

## Bird Flu: Key messages and advice

**T**he spread of bird flu in affected areas can normally be prevented.

People should avoid contact with chickens, ducks or other poultry unless absolutely necessary. This is the best way to prevent infection with the bird flu virus.

Children are at high risk because they may play where poultry are found. Teach your children the following basic guidelines:

Avoid contact with any birds, their feathers, faeces and other waste.

Do not keep birds as pets.

Wash hands with soap and water after any contact.

Do not to sleep near poultry.

Do not transport live or dead chickens, ducks or other poultry from one place to another even if you think your birds are healthy.

Handling of poultry in affected areas should be done within the area without transporting them to other areas.

Do not prepare poultry from affected areas as food for your family or animals. The slaughter and preparation of such birds for food is dangerous.

If you unintentionally come into contact with poultry in an affected area, such as touching the bird's body, touching its faeces or other animal dirt, or walking on soil contaminated with poultry faeces:

Wash your hands well with soap and water after each contact.

Remove your shoes outside the house and clean them of all dirt, and

Check your temperature for 7 days at least once daily, if you develop a high temperature (>37.5°C), visit a doctor or the nearest health care facility immediately.

Proper handling of poultry that are ill, suspected of having bird flu or dead is an important control measure to prevent the spread of the disease.

Make sure to keep children away from dead or sick poultry.

If you need to handle dead or sick poultry, make sure you are protected, wear protective clothing such as a mask, goggles, gown, rubber boots and gloves. If these are not available, cover your mouth with a piece of cloth, wear glasses, use plastic bags to cover hands and shoes and fix these tightly around wrists and ankles with a rubber band or string. Wear overalls that can be washed.

If you encounter sick and dead poultry for the first time and are unsure of the situation, inform the authorities immediately and leave the handling of the poultry to experienced personnel (cullers, clean-up personnel, etc).

Decontamination of the yard or chicken pen will help control the spread of the disease.

If possible, ask experienced personnel to help you decontaminate the yard or chicken pen.

If this is not possible and you have to do it yourself, wear protective gear to protect your eyes, hands, feet and other exposed parts of your body as described above.

Dead birds should be buried safely (see next section).

Effective cleaning results in no visible feathers or faeces remaining in the shed.

Influenza viruses can survive for some time in organic material, so thorough cleaning with detergents is an important step in decontamination. All organic matter must be removed from poultry houses as much as possible.

As outdoor areas used by poultry can be difficult to clean or disinfect, poultry should be excluded from these areas for a minimum of 42 days to allow natural ultraviolet radiation to destroy any residual virus. The period of exclusion should be longer in cold weather.

Spraying of disinfectants on vegetated outdoor areas or soil is of limited value due to the inactivation of these chemicals by organic material. Removal of surface soil is not normally recommended unless it is heavily contaminated with faeces.

Dead birds and their faeces should be buried.

As much as possible, seek assistance from your local agriculture authority on how to bury dead animals safely.

When burying dead birds or their faeces, try to avoid generating dust. Spray or sprinkle water to dampen the area first. Bury bird carcass and faeces at a depth of at least one metre.

When the dead birds and their faeces have been properly disposed, clean all areas very well with detergent and water. Influenza viruses are relatively susceptible to a variety of detergents and disinfectants.

Courtesy: US Embassy.

## Bird flu *Cont. from pg. 1*

chickens on fires. They say they do not know the nature of the illness killing the birds.

The government has ordered suspect birds culled and suspect farms quarantined, while it says it would pay N250 for every chicken culled in the campaign against bird flu.

About 1,116 chickens suspected to be infected with bird flu have been destroyed in Katsina State, just as the state government has set up a surveillance committee to prevent the spread of the disease.

The state's commissioner for Agriculture, Alhaji Ali Hussaini Dutsinma, who disclosed this while briefing newsmen in Katsina over the weekend, said the chickens were destroyed at a poultry farm in Rafukka quarters of Katsina metropolis.

Consequently, he said the state has summoned an all stakeholders meeting between officials of his ministry and poultry farmers to sensitize them of the reported outbreak of the disease.

The committee, he said, will carry out an intensive media campaign to sensitize the public poultry farmers on how to prevent the spread of the virus especially to humans.

In a related development, the Village Head of Dagona in Yobe state, where millions

of migratory birds from Europe flock annually, Mallam Lawan Abubakar, says the activities of poachers may lead to the spread of bird flu in the area.

Also, the Director, Chad Basin national park, Alhaji Lawan, confirmed the possibility of the migratory birds spreading the avian influenza.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* in Dagona at the weekend, the Village Head, Lawan Abubakar, explained that although birds and poultry in the village have not shown any signs of unusual illness, the poaching of thousands of migratory birds from Europe poses a serious health risks if the poached birds are infected with the virus.

"These people are like thieves. So, they have their ways of coming around to poach. They kill some of the birds and capture others alive and take them to Kano and other places to sell them," he said.

The general manager of the Chad Basin national park, told our correspondent in Maiduguri yesterday that although poaching is prohibited in the area, the problem still exists and poses a lot of danger to people and the environment.

"Poaching is not allowed in the park and we are empowered by law to prosecute those found doing so. We don't

even allow people to go in without authority. But if people continue to poach and the birds keep coming in their millions, some of which may likely carry the virus, anyone that kills or captures these birds - and some people capture and keep them alive for aesthetic purposes - may lead to the virus spreading if the captured birds are carrying them," he said.

Lawan said experts from the National Veterinary Research Institute, Vom, have visited the Dagona Waterfowl Sanctuary where they conducted tests on some of the migratory birds to establish if they are carrying the bird flu virus.

## Sacked NEPC *Cont. from pg. 1*

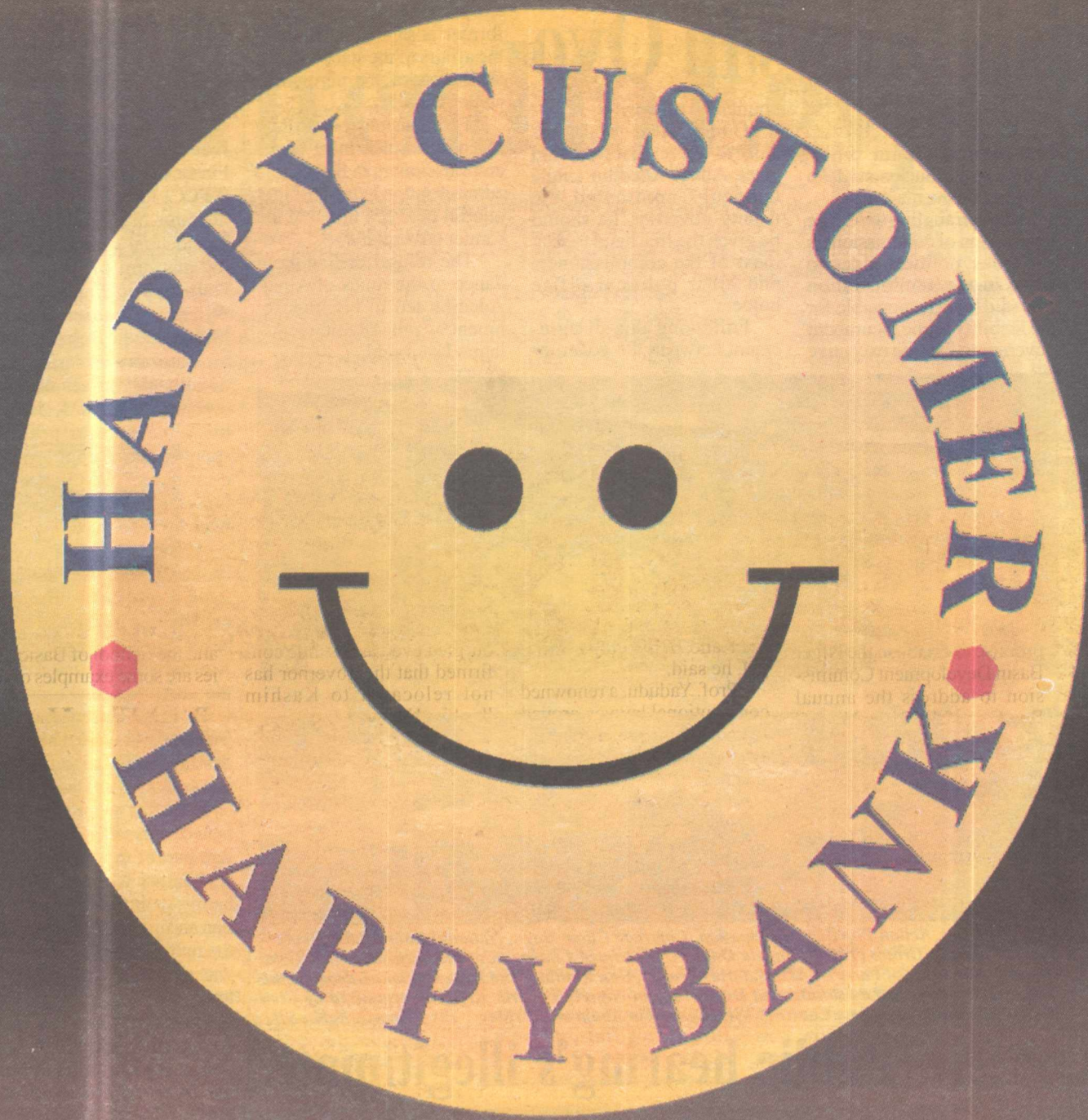
but the management was not forthcoming. From Monday to Friday, February 6-10, 2006, several attempts to get the new general manager (operations) of the Council, Mr. Abbas B. Umaru, to respond to all the allegations in the petition no response.

Mr. Umaru told *Daily Trust* on Friday morning that the council has been acting based on presidential directives, which he said, approved the restructuring exercise.

Asked why the Council's board chairman, Mr. Bunmi

Oni, hails from the South just as the CEO, he said the former is a technocrat who works in a multinational corporation, stressing further that: "It is not Mrs. Sasore who appointed him as board chairman; it is President Obasanjo who appointed him."

He explained that the petition is not the first one. "Several petitions have been written against us since we embarked on the restructuring programme. We are aware of it," Umaru said.



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# News

## Fresh crisis brews in Oyo

Another crisis of confidence between the new Oyo State Governor, Otunba Adebayo Alao-Akala and his political godfather and strong man of Ibadan politics, Alhaji Lamidi Adedibu is currently brewing in the state.

Daily Trust gathered authoritatively at the weekend that the governor has not been able to form a new cabinet due to the overbearing attitude of Adedibu.

The governor had dissolved the former cabinet formed by his predecessor, Rasheed Ladoja, immediately he was sworn-in last month.

Daily Trust investigations in Ibadan revealed that the governor has been unable to submit his list of commissioners to the state's House of Assembly for approval because Alhaji Adedibu insisted on nominating most of the commissioners.

Sources at the Government House, Agodi, disclosed that Otunba Alao-Akala was only given one slot in the nomination exercise and this did not go down well with him.

It was learnt that despite the increase in the number of commissioners proposed so as to accommodate the various interest groups in the state, Otunba Alao-Akala was piqued that he was only given opportunity to pick just

From Olumide Bajulaiye,  
Correspondent (Lagos)

one commissioner while Alhaji Adedibu insisted on nominating the majority.

This wrangling over the nomination of commissioners and other political aides to serve in the administration was said to be responsible for the inability of the incumbent governor to form an executive

council up till now.

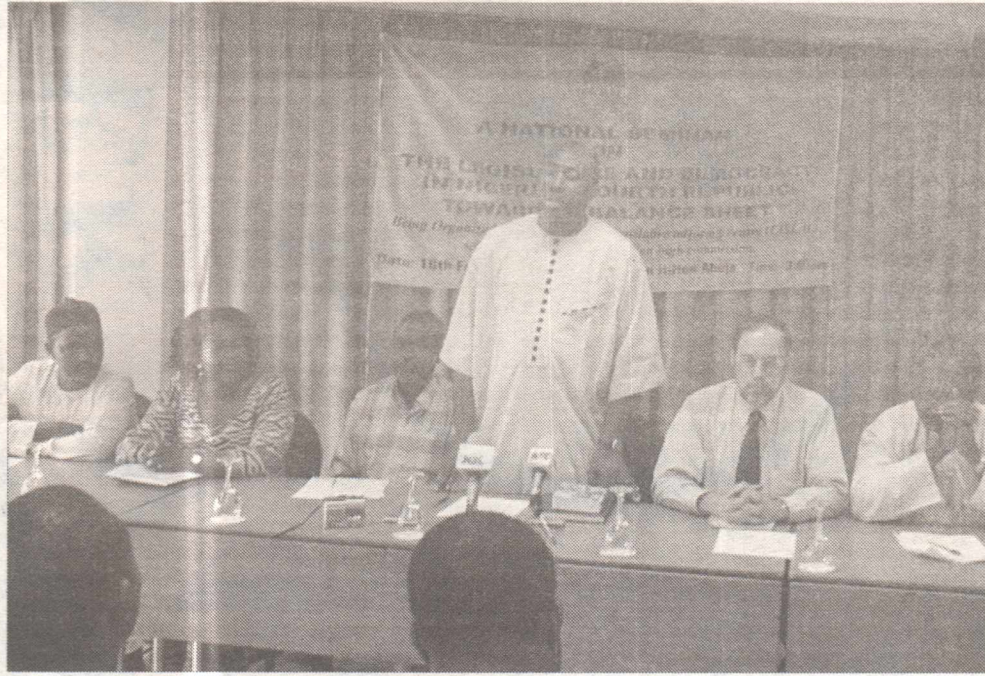
Otunba Alao-Akala was said to have insisted that since Alhaji Adedibu single handedly nominated the deputy governor, he should be given the free hand to pick most of the commissioners and other political office holders.

Following this disagreement between the governor

and his political godfather, the former is said to be running the affairs of the state with the assistance of the permanent secretaries.

The insistence by Alhaji Adedibu to pick most of the commissioners in the Ladoja administration led to the bitter quarrel between him and the former governor.

The refusal of Ladoja to dance to the tunes of Alhaji Adedibu led to his impeachment by pro-Adedibu legislators last month.



L-R: President, Action Popular Participation, Comrade Chom Bagu, National Coordinator, Transition Monitoring Group (TMG), Angela Odal, A. B. Ahmed Chairman of the occasion, Hon. Uche Onyeagucha, Chief of Party USAID Reforms Project, Dan Rathbun and Hon. Chijioko Edeoga at the National Seminar on Legislature and Democracy in Nigeria's fourth Republic organised by Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), held in Abuja on ...Friday. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje.

## Constitution review: Public hearing's illegitimate, undemocratic -ACF

The Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), has described the proposed public hearings on the review of the 1999 constitution as illegitimate, undemocratic and a waste of public funds.

The socio-cultural organization also observed that procedures such as the public hearings belong to the era of military regimes that were unelected and, "had no other means of connecting with the people," unlike what obtains in a democracy where there are institutions saddled with that responsibility.

The ACF, in a communiqué issued by the Gombe state chapter at the end of its meeting on Saturday, further observed that in a democracy, "it is the duty and privilege of the national and state assemblies to deal with the issues of constitutional amendments - as enshrined in the constitution itself."

The communiqué, signed by the state chairman of the forum, Dr. Sulayman Kumo, also said that while the 1999 constitution requires a review, the matter should be left to the 2007 national and state assemblies to study and deal with exhaustively.

The meeting also advised that the work done by the Mantu committee should be left for the post 2007 assemblies to deal with while money budgeted for the public hearings should be used on more meaningful developmental projects across the country.

Among areas that should

From Muhammad  
Abubakar, Correspondent  
(Gombe)

be amended in the 1999 constitution, according to the ACF, are some provisions of chapter 11 on the directive principles of state policy, saying

also that the judiciary must be made totally independent of the executive by giving it total control of its approved budget, among others.

It also called for the removal or radical review of the "immunity" provisions in the constitution and the re-introduction of the 1979 provisions on the role of Emirs and

Chiefs.

The meeting, held in Gombe, had in attendance the business community, political elites and some senior citizens of the state including Professor Buba Bajoga, former MD, of NITEL, Professor Idris Muhammad of NPI, Ambassador Yerima Abdullahi and AIG Adamu Abubakar (rtd).

## Religious crisis averted in Sokoto

The Sokoto state government, weekend closed the state's School of Nursing and Midwifery to avoid a breakdown of law and order when a female student described Prophet Muhammad (SAW), as a terrorist which provoked the Muslim community to stage a peaceful demonstration on major streets of the state capital yesterday.

The peaceful procession which coincided with the global protest by the Muslim Ummah as a result of a derogatory cartoon by a Danish newspaper against the holy prophet, was well attended as thousands of demonstrators marched through all the major streets of Sokoto chanting *Allahu Akbar, Allah Akbar*.

The state government urged the Muslim community to remain calm, assuring that appropriate action would be taken to avoid a re-occurrence.

However, some of the protesters made several attempts to force their way into the institution but they

were held back by the presence of armed mobile policemen.

The protest march organised by the state's chapter of the Muslim Students Society of Nigeria (MSSN), the National Association of Muslim Youth Organisations (NACOMYO), HISBAH and other religious bodies, was accompanied by heavily armed policemen.

The three-hour protest which took place on a Sunday when Christian worshippers were in their places of worship, was peaceful and no one was stopped from going to church and there was no attempt to confront worshippers at various churches in the state capital.

A Christian worshipper who spoke with Daily Trust on condition of anonymity, expressed dismay over the action of the Danish newspaper and the utterances by the female student.

Speaking to Daily Trust shortly after the peaceful

demonstration, an official of the MSSN in Sokoto, Malam Masud Tanko, said the procession was staged by the Muslim body to express displeasure over the two separate incidences, adding that the MSSN would meet on Monday (today), to deliberate on the next plan of action.

Also speaking, the national president of NACOMYO, Malam Muhammad Lawal Maidoki, told Daily Trust that his organization would not relent in its efforts to see that the female student who provoked the Muslim Ummah in Sokoto was brought to book to serve as a lesson to others.

Meanwhile, the Sokoto state commissioner of health, Alhaji Abubakar Zaki Amali Tambuwa, has said the student has been sent home to avoid the outbreak of violence at the school.

The commissioner said the school would be reopened in the next two weeks for academic activities to continue.

## My travails act of God -Marwa

Speaking for the first time in public after his encounter with operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), former Military Administrator of Lagos State and presidential candidate under the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), retired Brigadier General Muhammadu Buba Marwa, on Saturday described his travails as "an act of God" even as he graciously thanked his kinsmen and political supporters for dropping their contemplated demonstrations against the government over his detention.

General Marwa who spoke in Michika, his home town, Adamawa state, at a reception in his honour organized by the people of the Northern Senatorial zone of the state to show solidarity with him, noted that his Tribulations were part of his destiny. "I cannot put blames on anybody. It was destined by God that what transpired between myself and the EFCC was part of my destiny".

Marwa who was visibly happy with the warm reception accorded him, simply told the tumultuous crowd that he was overwhelmed with their love, affection and solidarity adding that "what actually counts in friendship is how you treat your friend or brother in terms of his adversities".

The presidential hopeful charged his supporters to be law abiding and to obey constituted authorities. He said what the country needs now was serious prayers for unity and cohesion and peaceful elections devoid of rancour.

He said as a patriotic Nigerian, he remains loyal to the present administration and urged his supporters to wholeheartedly extend the goodwill they have for him to President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Earlier in his speech, the chairman of the reception, Mr. Peter Salihu Gogura, expressed his appreciation to God and the good people of Adamawa State over their earnest prayers for the return of their son, General Buba Marwa.

Mr. Gogura who is also the chairman of the PDP in Michika L.G.A, maintained that "for once, I have never contemplated Marwa's return. Marwa is a man whom many can die for. As you can see today, a simple reception has completely metamorphosed into a moral and political revivalism of the people. We are really gladdened".

The journey to Michika, 250km from Yola, which ordinarily should have taken three hours, lasted for over twelve hours because of the spontaneous and impromptu reception organized for the General by virtually every community on the way that had the opportunity of erecting a simple canopy and a banner for the August

From Hamza Edris,  
Correspondent (Yola)

visitor to notice their presence as they rolled out drums of solidarity for him and his entourage.

## Nigerians mourn Beko

From Olumide Bajulaiye,  
Kayode Ajibola

Nigerians from all works of life have been visiting the home of late Dr. Beko Ransome-Kuti who died on Friday. Beko a medical doctor died of Lung cancer at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital.

A statement by the family of the deceased signed by Mr. Oludotun Ransome-Kuti, on Saturday said the first human rights activists passed on at 11.20pm.

Beko was born on August 2, 1940 to the family of the famous Ransome-Kuti of Abeokuta, Ogun state. Until his death, Beko was involved in the preparation for a sovereign national conference.

Speaking at the deceased's home in Lagos, President of the NLC, Mr. Adams Oshiomhole, described Beko's death as painful, saying that the death came at a time when the Nigeria nation required formidable fighters like him against bad government.

Beko who was flown out of the country last month died after a prolong illness, barely a week after his elder sister, Dolupo was buried.

Dr. Beko was an unrelentless and dogged fighter who believed in an egalitarian society where equality is the hallmark of human existence.

Reacting to the death, first National Vice President of Abeokuta Grammar School Old Boys Association (ABOSBA), Chief Gbemi Sodipo, described the Beko as a selfless man who fought for the progress of humanity.

He expressed shock over the death, saying that he did not expect him to dies so soon.

Asked if Dr. Kuti really achieved his aim of a better Nigeria, Sodipo said what mattered most was that Beko contributed his quota to the development of the Nigeria, urging other activists to continue the struggle.

According to him, the late human rights activist had been a fighter right from school, further describing as a nonconformist.

The late Dr. Beko Kuti was a student of Abeokuta Grammar School, 1956 set with registration number 3166 while that of his late Afrobeat brother, Fela Anikulapo-Kuti was 3168.

Also reacting, the national secretary of ABSOBA, Mr. Olayinka Opaleye, described the late Kuti as a genius, adding that he was not surprised at the activist nature of Dr. Bekko.

Current principal of the school, Funsho Ogun, described him as a radical and dogged fighter, saying Abeokuta Grammar School will definitely miss him.

# News

## Gen Murtala lecture holds today

An international symposium to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> memorial anniversary of former Head of State, late General Murtala Ramat Mohammed, holds in Kano today. The lecture with the theme: "Leadership Question and the Quest for Africa's Development," will feature seasoned academics and contributions from a cross-section of the nation's political leaders.

The guest speakers are Professor Ali Mazuri, Professor Jibril Aminu and Dr. Patrick Wilmot. Today's occasion is also expected to be attended by Presi-

By Emmanuel Bello,  
Political Editor

dent Olusegun Obasanjo as special guest of honour with the Vice President, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, alongside all former presidents and heads of state of Nigeria as distinguished guests.

The event, organised by the Centre for Democratic Research and Training, will hold at the indoor sport hall, Kofar Mata, Kano, with Governor Ibrahim Shekarau as chief host. Royal fathers of the day are the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammadu Macido, the Emir of Kano, Alhaji Ado Bayero and all chairmen, state's council of traditional rulers in the country. Wife of the late head of state, Hajiya Ajoke Mohammed, will be the mother of the day.

Similarly, the Murtala Mohammed Foundation (MMF), has organised a memorial lecture for Tuesday, 14 February with the theme: "Africa - A New Agenda." The keynote speaker is the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, Mr. Jack Straw.

In an invitation letter made available to *Daily Trust* signed by the executive secretary, Murtala Muhammed Foundation, Mrs Aisha Oyebode, guests were informed that the meeting will hold in the auditorium, ECOWAS secretariat, Abuja. The foundation's chairman is President Olusegun Obasanjo.

General Murtala Ramat Mohammed, born in Kano on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 1930, joined the Nigeria Army and got commissioned in 1961 as a second lieutenant. Rising rapidly in his chosen profession, he became the Head of State on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 1975, after successfully toppling Gowon's government. He was assassinated on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 1976, leaving behind a widow, Hajiya Ajoke Mohammed.



Minister of State Education, Dr. Grace Oguche signing her Oath of Office before President Obasanjo during the ceremony held at the State House, Abuja... recently.  
Pix: Joe Oroye

## Reclamation of Abuja master-plan must go on, says el-Rufai

Sufuyan Ojeifo,  
Special Correspondent

Minister in the Presidency and Chairman of the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), Mallam Nasir el-Rufai admitted at the weekend that the task of reclaiming the bastardised Abuja Master-Plan has not been easy, but assured that the administration would not be daunted by it.

He spoke Friday at the commissioning of the multi-million naira Akwa Ibom State Governor's Lodge built by the Governor Victor Attah administration at the highbrow Asokoro District of Abuja.

The minister said that the master-plan had been "terribly distorted" before the present administration of President Olusegun Obasanjo came into office, thus making it difficult to quickly correct the bastardisation that took many years to cause.

He said that the administration would stop at nothing to sanitise the nation's capital in a deliberate bid to turn it into one of the best cities in the world.

Speaking earlier, Governor Attah said the building of the Governor's Lodge was part of his administration's commitment to "delivering democracy dividends to the people of the States".

He disclosed, on the occasion attended by the Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Board of Trustees, Chief Tony Anenih, that other thirty projects of importance to the people of the State were at various stages of completion and would be commissioned as soon as they are completed.

According to him, "These projects include, among others, construction of roads, provision of electricity and potable water to towns and villages in the state and I.T. centres".

Attah said that all the projects embarked upon by his administration complied with the due process. He said that his administration was motivated to embark on the projects because that was the essence of the mandate given to him by the people and

## N1.6 bn controversy: Dariye's claim is an admission of guilt - NOA boss

Sufuyan Ojeifo,  
Special Correspondent

Director-General of National Orientation Agency (NOA), Alhaji Idi Farouk said that Plateau State Governor, Chief Joshua Dariye has done a great disservice to the people of the State by diverting the N1.6 billion Ecological funds to other purposes.

He said in an interview with journalists at the weekend in Abuja that "if the statement credited to Governor Dariye were true, he is already with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), it is an admission of guilt and I believe the EFCC or indeed anybody so charged with responsibility of prosecution should be alive to its responsibility.

"Prosecution should take its course and the EFCC should be alive to its responsibility and if it is true, the EFCC would take the matter further to the court. I just hope it is untrue that he said that money that was meant for ecological fund was disbursed in the manner he said it was disbursed".

Farouk said that there was ecological devastation in Plateau State arising from erosion,

## Why ANPP supports constitutional amendment - Etiebet

By Emmanuel Bello,  
Political Editor

The All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), national chairman, Chief Don Etiebet, said the party endorses the review of the 1999 constitution to allow changes that would aid the "proper running of governance in our country."

Speaking to *Daily Trust* yesterday in an exclusive interview, Chief Etiebet said that the constitution has many grey areas that must be amended if the country must move forward. He said that all "disciplined party members should adhere to all the decisions reached on Friday at the NEC meeting when it was agreed that the constitution was due for review.

On the report that the ANPP caucus of the National Assembly may boycott the public hearings and the constitution review,

Etiebet said that he expects that as law-abiding and faithful party members, the legislators will keep faith with the resolutions of the party's highest decision-making body.

He said that the party had not taken a stand on the third term issue prior to the NEC meeting because "most of the views expressed on the matter were personal. But now, the NEC has met and we have made our position explicit on the issue."

Explaining why ANPP governors moved against the third term issue having initially supported the review of the constitution, an exercise believed to make way for the third term project, Etiebet observed that the Nigerian press

suffers from the 'Orwellian theory'. His words: "the problem with journalists in this country is that they speculate a lot. If you report that the governors supported third term, maybe you should go and ask them why they are now opposing it. It is a case of thought apprehension. You are scared of what will happen and out of fear, you base your report on your apprehension."

On the forthcoming congress of the ANPP in March and the fears that the national chairman will seek re-election, Chief Etiebet dismissed it as "mere rumour". I was part of the decision to hold the meeting in March because in 2003, we had problems with time. So we ensured that we shall have ample time to work out the modalities of a presidential candidate and the campaign. We wanted to avoid the fire fighting way.

"I was part of the plans and time-table to terminate our present executive in March. But you know that our party people don't want me to go. They don't

want me to leave the ANPP. So you have to know that it is part of our collective agreement as leaders of the ANPP that we dissolve the NEC in March.

But if they want me to stay on after March it all depends on the party and the people. We will all leave in March, that is the decision," he said.

Commenting on his relationship with Lt. General Jeremiah Useni (rtd), who is reported to have started a new faction of the party, Chief Etiebet said that he has no personal problems with the former FCT minister. "We were all in Abacha's government together and whatever happens is just politics. He has his own type of politics and I have mine. If he has a group, who scores 51% will win. This is democracy and the camp with the largest number will carry the day," he said.

On his relationship with Governor Attah of Bafra, Chief Etiebet said that there is no animosity between them, putting down their reported disagreement as "political activities."

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# CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

## Alien docked for possessing 20 Nigerian passports

A citizen of Niger Republic, Alhaji Zakari Mohammed, has appeared before an Abuja chief magistrate court for allegedly being in possession of 20 Nigerian passports suspected to be used in human trafficking.

According to the police report, the accused person who is alleged to be an ex-officer with the Nigerian army was arrested at Bulu Bridge on Cameroun - Nigerian border.

He was alleged to have been conducting himself in a suspicious manner which made the police to search him.

The report stated that when he was searched, 20 Nigerian passports were reportedly found on him, he claimed this belonged to some Nigerians that were stranded in Sudan.

The police however said that when investigations were conducted, they discovered that the accused person, Zakari Mohammed, alias Katako, was involved in passport racketeering in collaboration with a syndicate that engage in human trafficking.

The police alleged that during interrogations, the suspect claimed the passports were handed over to him by two people, Alhaji Aminu

Ruby Rabi Senior  
Reporter

Bangore and Alhaji Aminu Funtua, both indigenes of Kano state who claimed they had ferried the owners of the passports to Sudan.

and send them back to them.

The accused person who has been in prison custody, told the court to allow him talk but when allowed to do that, he talked incoherently.

DSP Ibrahim Bako, to explain to the court why the suspect was not composed.

DSP Ibrahim Bako told the court that the accused person was suffering from 'split personality

conclusion by ordering for a medical examination of the suspect.

He urged the court to make an order directing the embassy of Niger Republic to come to the aid of the accused person

position to stand trial.

Chief Magistrate Usman Shaibu granted the prayers of the prosecutor after he attempted to question the suspect but to no avail as the suspects could not



Some of the victims of human trafficking who were apprehended by vigilant immigration officers at Idiroko border

He said the duo told him that they intended to transport the owners of the passports back to Saudi Arabia so they instructed him to take the 20 travel documents to Nigeria to renew them

He kept scratching his head and looking into space as he spoke, the only words quite audible were 'Allahu Akbar'.

Chief Magistrate Usman Shaibu called the prosecuting police officer,

syndrome' which has left him in a confused state.

He said since he is not a medical doctor, and could not determine the mental state of the accused person he would like the court to draw its own

by providing him with a lawyer.

Bako also told the court to direct the prison authorities to arrange for the medical examination of the accused in order to determine if he is in a

make intelligible statement.

He adjourned the case to Friday for the response from the embassy and medical reports from the prison authority concerning the health of the accused person.

# CRIME & PUNISHMENT

## Four househelps arrested for theft

By Shehu Abubakar, Reporter

Four househelps working in the house of a member of the House of Representatives in Abuja, have been arrested by the police over the alleged theft of a cheque for N350,000.

Briefing newsmen in his office weekend, FCT Commissioner of Police, Mr. Lawrence Alobi, said that the suspects attempted to withdraw the sum of N350,000 from the legislator's bank.

Mr. Alobi said the suspects are Okafor Kanayo, Sonny Okoh, David Etuk and Sunday Nwanko. He said they were arrested in the bank while attempting to withdraw the money.

He said when they stole the cheque leaflet and filled it, one of the suspects phoned the bank manager and told him that he was the holder of the account and was calling him from his office at the National Assembly.

The suspect allegedly told the manager that he was sending his boy with a cheque to withdraw the sum of N350,000 from his account. The manager was said to have assured him of speedy service.

Apparently satisfied that they had made all the necessary contacts for the smooth withdrawal of the money, the suspects presented the cheque to a bank cashier.

On his part, the bank manager who knows the legislator in person observed that the voice of the caller and the GSM number, with which the call was made, did not tally with those of the actual account holder.

The cashier (names withheld), the police said, also noticed some irregularities between the signature on the stolen cheque and the one on the signature card of the legislator.

The vigilant cashier was said to have drawn the attention of the bank manager who phoned the legislator to confirm if he signed the cheque and sent the young men to make the withdrawal.

The customer was reported to have denied sending anybody to withdraw money from his account and also denied giving anybody a cheque of that amount in recent time.

The manager alerted plain-cloth policemen attached to the bank who placed the suspects under close surveillance.

The suspect were said to have been asked to wait for the cash while their cheque was being processed.

When the legislator arrived the bank and met his houseboys waiting to make the withdrawal, he was said to have urged the policemen in the bank to effect their arrest and also complained that he has lost several valuable items and money to them before.

The FCT police boss said the suspects have made confessional statements and will soon be charged to court.



Some armed robbery suspects paraded at the Lagos State police command... recently

# 14-year-old, friend in court for attempted murder

A 14-year-old male student has been arraigned before a Lokoja Upper Area Court for attempted murder.

The suspect who is from Otutu quarters, Adavi-Eba in Kogi state, is standing trial along with his teenage friend, for allegedly attempting to kill his mother, Hajiya Rakiat Shidi, over N2,000.

He was alleged to have held his mother and his elder brother's wife, Mrs Ibrahim, at gun-point, demanding that the money be given to him otherwise he would take their lives.

The prosecuting police officer, Sergeant Elizabeth Andrew, told the court that the elder brother of the accused, Saidi Ibrahim, eventually rescued the women before the

teenager could pull the trigger.

She said the incident was later reported at Okengwe police station.

Andrew said during police investigation, it was discovered that the second accused was the owner of the gun which the first accused used to commit the offence.

The accused pleaded not guilty to the charge, saying

that the allegations were false.

Andrew told the court that investigations into the case was in progress and applied for an adjournment, while opposing the granting of bail to the accused.

Counsel to the second accused, Mr. Y.S. Adeiza, said his client should be deemed innocent and granted bail because he has not been convicted of any wrong doing.

He urged the court to use its discretion to grant him bail.

The president of the court, Mr Levi Animoku, in his ruling, said the application for bail was premature and ordered that the accused persons be remanded at the federal prisons, Okene.

Hearing in the case has been adjourned to March 8.

## Treasurer arrested over fake currencies

A treasurer in Ahoada East local government council of Rivers State has been arrested for allegedly paying pensioners with fake currency.

The suspect, Umebidi Sampson, was alleged to have committed the offence on January 31.

He was alleged to have received N2.36 million from the state treasury for the payment of pensions.

The state's police command public relations officer (PPRO), Mrs Ireju Barasua, alleged that the accused conspired with others to replace N150,000 with fake notes.

Barasua said the information on the illegal deal was received on February 1, which prompted the arrest.

Fake currencies, she alleged, were found on him and he also confessed to committing the offence.

## Gambian, employer in court over sewing machines

A Gambian will today appear before an Abuja magistrate court, Wuse Zone 6, on a three court charge of criminal breach of trust, cheating and theft.

The suspect, Alhaji Dabo, a tailor and fashion designer, was accused by his employer, Hajiya Mariyam, wife of a director in the Ministry of Federal Capital Territory (MFCT), of breaking into her

By Shehu Abubakar, Reporter

store and stealing a sewing machine and a CD radio valued at N700,000.

According to the FIR, Mariyam was said to have reported to the police that Alhaji Dabo whom she employed as a tailor since 2004, had cheated her over N1 million worth of goods and entrusted 18 sewing ma-

chines, a CD radio machine, air conditioners and some furniture but somewhere along the line, Alhaji Dabo allegedly stole one of the sewing machines.

Alhaji Dabo who was charged under sections 312, 322 and 289 of the penal code, denied all the charges.

The case is adjourned today for hearing while the accused had since been released on bail.

# BIRD FLU CONFIRMED IN NIGERIA

## — News



# YOUR LETTERS

# Uncouth outburst of a legislator

A public analysis in a recent publication diagnosed an attribute of democracy as the unquantifiable degree of freedom it provides for expression of thoughts.

But that freedom stops where and when it infringes on the right of others.

In democracies the world over, several factors play themselves out before elections are won and lost. In Nigeria, for instance, it is public knowledge that elections are not won on the pages of newspapers or the gift of eloquence. How then many professors of mass communication have not made presidents or even governors of their respective state?

For the smooth conduct of government business, the three arms of government complement each other; that is, the executive implements, the legislature legislates for good governance, while the judiciary interprets laws in matters of conflict. Members of the national and state assemblies are supposed to be honourable men and women legislating for common good. The mandate of any constituency freely or coercively given to its representative is to attract dividends in the area of roads, health institutions, water, qualitative education, etc.

However, one Mohammed Onusagba of Kogi State House of Assembly either seems to be ignorant of his role as a legislator or threading the path of mischief. In a recent interview he granted one of the national weeklies, he threw caution to the wind and disparaged even his colleagues in the state assembly as a bunch of immature politicians, not capable of their mandate. Onusagba is a two-term legislator and I expect some measure of maturity and camaraderie in his legislative assignment. In him I see a political culture of gansterism of rascality which is an ill-wind that will ultimately consume its initiator.

When it comes to excuses, the world is full of great inventors. Some spend half of their lives telling what they are going to do and the other half explaining why they didn't do it. Why is Onusagba

hurling missiles at his colleagues and cudgels against the governor for his own failures? Even among his colleagues in the assembly, the speaker and other principal officers are revered not probably because of their persons but their positions.

Democracy is at its fledgling state in Nigeria and all hands must be on deck to ensure its sustainability. That is why when the legislature reasons with the

executive in some key areas, it does not translate into abdication of responsibility. This is one area Onusagba does not know or has refused to understand. I may not dwell on the aspersion cast on his colleagues as they are capable of taking their own decisions.

However, a mind-boggling aspect of that interview was the attack on the personality and integrity of the state's chief executive, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris. Let

me be philosophical here. Character is something you either have or not. Some people try to make something for themselves, others try to make something of themselves. Tryon Edward said "Thoughts lead on to purpose; purposes go forth in action; actions form habits; habits decide character and character fixes our destiny." In Edward's position, I situate Muhammad Onusagba's verbose vituperation.

Whatever we are or are going to be in life is influenced by our upbringing. If you are trained to be courteous, you will grow to respect people, otherwise you won't appreciate anything good in others. You will even find fault in yourself.

Francis Bacon said, "Envy has no holidays. It has no rest. The envy that compares is foolishness." Washington Auston reflected:

"The only competition worthy of a wise mind is within himself. Nothing gets you behind faster than trying to keep up with the people who are already there." Envy provides the mud that failure throws at success and that was why St. Chrysostom said, "As a moth grows a garment, so doeth envy consume a man."

Idris who came as a child of necessity, and currently working round the clock to ensure even development does not find favour with Onusagba and his sponsors. Who is fooling who? The good people of Kogi State know better and are wiser. I do not want to jump into conclusions that the hatred is not for the person but the race.

The leopard cannot change its spot. What I see in Onusagba is a hangover. A Congolese proverb asserts, "Wood may remain ten years in water, it will never become a crocodile. Worn-out paths are for worn-out men."

Frederick Klopstock remarked, "He who has no opinion of his own but depends on the opinion of others is a slave." To only dream of the person you are supposed to be is to waste the person you are. Onusagba, be yourself at least for once.

What people want is progress. The person who never changes his opinion never corrects his mistakes and that is why the road to success is always under construction. Yesterday's formula for success is often tomorrow's recipe for failure.

Let us resolve to play politics of development rather than of destruction. While wise legislators are attracting dividends of democracy to their constituencies, Onusagba is busy destroying or denying his people what should be rightly theirs. His people should be wiser now.

Musa Usman, Koton-Karfe, Kogi State.

# Religious leaders and Nigeria's critical moment

"There is role wandering aimlessly in search of a hero. This role is beckoning us to move, to put on its costume and give it life." - Gammel Abdul Nasir, ex-President of Egypt

The legendary Egyptian statesman and leader, Gammel Abdul Nasir might not have had Nigeria in mind when he made that statement. But had he been referring to Nigeria in general and our religious leaders in particular, he would have hit the nail squarely on the head, considering the situation that has been prevailing here for sometime now.

Wherever one turns in Nigeria, it is obvious that these are critical times. Let's consider corruption, for example. Despite the relatively commendable war being fought against the monster called corruption, it is still thriving in every sphere of our public life. Indeed, at no other time in our history have vices such as corruption, bribery, sleaze, 419 and the like flourished at such an alarming rate. Virtually on a daily basis, we are bombarded with stories about corruption and graft in high places involving millions upon millions of naira.

Only recently, the then Senate president, Senator Wabara, was along with others, involved in the now famous 'bribe-for-budget' scandal. Earlier, the FCT minister, Mallam Nasir el-Rufai, had alleged that certain senators demanded bribe from him. In the same vein, the immediate past Inspector-General of Police, Tafa Balogun, is still entangled in a legal duel over the billions of naira he allegedly stole from public coffers.

Also, two state governors (Alaímyeseigha and Ladoja) were recently impeached with

corruption featuring prominently on the list of their offences. On his part, Governor Dariye of Plateau State is fighting hard to save his political life over a similar allegation. The list goes on and on.

Curiously, all the public officials involved in these ungodly actions are well-known as staunch Christians or Muslims. Aside from the fact that all of them had sworn with the holy Bible and Qur'an to serve the country loyally and as enshrined in the laws and constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, their actions make a mockery of that solemn vow. Yet, surprisingly, none of them is known to have been disfellowshipped or disciplined one way or the other by his religious leaders.

One is not trying to imply or suggest that our religious leaders should behave like village headmasters, arming themselves with *koboko* to flog any church member who errs. But a situation whereby not even a muted voice of condemnation is raised against the outrageous conducts of so-called staunch Christians and Muslims is certainly worrisome, to put it mildly.

A few years ago, as I was being honoured with a traditional title by my people in Ogbadibo LGA of Benue State along with other notable sons of the soil such as Ogbeh (the former PDP national chairman), I learnt of an outrageous case. A certain representative of the people was said to have pocketed the money meant for the provision of a social amenity for the community. Barely a few weeks later, the same public servant came home to organise a certain programme (thanksgiving or so) in a church. Needless to say, the

programme in question went ahead as scheduled, with the pastor of that church showering blessings upon him. Nothing was said about the community's commonwealth which he had embezzled!

Earlier, in the course of inspecting the building project which I was sponsoring for the Catholic Church in my home town (Agbaha-Otukpo in Ogbadibo LGA of Benue State), I encountered a church elder who had said to me, and I quote: "Chief Mohammed, we appreciate what people like you have been doing in this community over the years. Even though you are not in government nor holding any public office, you have been using your personal resources to touch people's life immensely in different ways. May God bless you immensely all the days of your life."

To be candid with you, I was profoundly touched by these words. Coming from a respected Christian leader like that, I felt humbled by the outpouring of gratitude. My appreciation was however diluted when my mind flashed back to the ungodly antics being indulged in by some Christians occupying different public positions; officials who have betrayed the trust and confidence reposed in them by virtue of their offices, yet are being allowed to go scot-free by those who ought to know better.

Granted, our church or religious leaders cannot be held accountable for the waywardness of their flock. After all, each individual is responsible for his/her own actions, and must be held accountable for same. Nonetheless, as the shepherd of their flock, they are expected to speak out boldly to if

condemnation of the excesses of those entrusted with public offices.

Come to think of it; the whole essence of being a religious leader is to tender to the moral and spiritual welfare of your members. And, needless to say, that includes the chastising of those who stray from the path of righteousness; those whose moral courage is weak, and those who sacrifice godliness on the altar of their personal interests and idiosyncrasies.

What should be done? Before we provide the answer, it is pertinent to consider that statement by Gammel Abdul Nasir again: "There is role wandering aimlessly in search of a hero. This role is beckoning us to move, to put on its costume and give it life."

In Nigeria, the role that is wandering in search of a hero is none other than the role of religious leaders who should behave like Prophet Jeremiah as is recorded in the Bible. Religious leaders who will speak out against the moral degeneracy of their adherents. Pastors, priests and Imams who would say it as it is to the vagabonds in power (apologies to the late Fela). God, please bless Nigeria with as many of such leaders as possible.

Chief (Dr) Moham med S. Itodo is the Akanaba I of Af'ona Otukpo, Benue State.

Reactions to articles published in this paper may be directed to the editor via the email address: editor@dailytrust.com

# REFLECTIONS

By ISSA AREMU

## Murtala Muhammed: What manner of memorial?

*"Africa has come of age,"* So courageously declared the late General Murtala Muhammed at the extraordinary summit of the Organisation of African Unity in Addis Ababa on Sunday 11th January 1975! The historic speech was the first and the last to be delivered by the African patriot that was Nigeria's then head of state at an international forum before his brutal assassination a year after. For a continent in which there is a huge memory deficit, it is imperative that we recall the words on the marble of Murtala about what he saw as the lot of Africa spanning ages. According to him: *"For too long we have been kicked around; for too long have we been treated like adolescents who cannot discern their interests and act accordingly; for too long has it been presumed that the African needs outside 'experts' to tell him who are his friends and who are his enemies."*

True to his commendable resolve to put an end to servitude, Murtala went beyond a rendition of historic woes and despair but pointedly insisted that the dinner party for Africa's oppressors was over! Hear him: *"It is no longer under the orbit of any extra-continental power. It should no longer take orders from any country, however powerful. The fortunes of Africa are in our hands to make or mar."*

Thirty years after, the critical question persists. What lessons has the continent learnt from the age-long experiences in subordination, dependency, exploitation and indignity that the late General courageously decried and even dared to halt through a decisive historic vote for the recognition of MPLA as the sole representative of Angolan peoples contrary to the favoured West's puppets in UNITA and FNLA? The answer may not be far-fetched. A critical look at the "official" memorial under the auspices of Murtala

Muhammed Foundation (MMF) reveals that either the organisers did not read Murtala very well or they just chose to subvert his legacy of independence and African reminiscence altogether.

How would anybody for God's sake generously make available Murtala's memorial platform for Jack Straw, the British Foreign Minister to talk on God-knows-what about Africa? It is bad enough to ignore Murtala's challenge that Africa "is no longer under the orbit of any extra-continental power," but it is even more untenably too cheeky and too cheap to offer a pan-African legacy for sale to those who attach little or no price to it and who are even contemptuous of what Murtala stood for altogether!

Britain was among the notable countries Murtala engaged in his historic liberation speech in Addis Ababa in 1976 of subverting Africa's commitment to decolonisation and putting an end to apartheid.

With respect to apartheid South Africa, General Murtala rightly observed thus: *"The Western Powers have bluntly refused to take any positive action either in the form of military or economic sanctions, which will dissuade the regime in Pretoria from pursuing its criminal policy. Rather, they are encouraged to persist through increased investment, military collaboration and other forms of cooperation."* Angola, Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa have long been liberated, thanks to the resistance of the oppressed peoples themselves and the solidarity decisively offered by Nigeria and other frontline states.

But Britain, United States and Portugal of different governments under various parties which Murtala rightly accused as axis of complicity in African oppression and colonialism have not expressed regrets for repeatedly bursting UN sanctions against apartheid

and even opposing the release of Nelson Mandela from prison. Africa without Murtala seems to believe in nothing which explains why it can fall for anything or anyone like Jack Straw.

It is not the person of Jack Straw as such that is the issue here (the British electorate do know him and others in his government with respect to Iraq as liars!), but the issue is his politics with respect for world peace, freedom and justice. He is the arrow head of the Tony Blair government that cooked up intelligence report to mislead British electorate and legitimise the Bush-Blair senseless war of attrition in Iraq. It is obviously a disservice to Murtala's memory to use his name to offer a platform for a top-down talk from those who bombed another promising Third World country (which Iraq used to be) into stone-age! Jack Straw is no late Robin Cook who had a "point of departure" with the government committed to war for no just cause. Nor did he feature in Gordon Brown-Tony Blair Aid/Trade-for-Africa debate (whatever the worth of the debate!) What then qualifies Jack Straw to get visa for an African forum like Murtala Day certainly beats the imagination!

It was Miriam Makeba (please note NOT Bob Gedoff!) in one of her tracks devoted to the late Murtala Muhammed who reminded us that *"Murtala is gone but his words live on; words that will not die; words that will not waste!"* The late Murtala never subscribed to the notorious policy of TINA (There Is No Alternative), which explained why he opted for independence in place of dependency and freedom for the oppressed in place of servitude. It is therefore gratifying that Mabbaya House in Kano offers an alternative platform to truly reflect on the times and works of one of the ever-engaging, committed, sincere and decisive Nigerians; sorry, African leaders in post-colonial Africa.

# Opinion

## SMEDAN and its business clinics

The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) recorded a milestone recently with the official commissioning of the Akure Business Support Centre. The centre which was commissioned by the Ondo State governor, Chief (Dr) Olusegun Agagu, is the first among the number of such centres to be opened this year.

The agency has planned to establish at least one Business Support Centre in each state capital and Abuja. The centres are established in partnership with the state governments. Thus, the Akure Business Support Centre is a Joint Venture of SMEDAN and Ondo State government. Another of such centres will be officially opened in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). It is called the Abuja Enterprises Agency - a joint initiative of SMEDAN, Federal Capital Territory Authority (FCTA) and British Department for International Development (DFID).

The establishment of Business Support Centre across the country has been considered a very vital instrument for the achievement of sustainable and internationally-competitive Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)-driven economic growth. It is a platform for reaching small enterprises with services that will help them grow. Even entrepreneurs or prospective entrepreneurs wishing to start new businesses come to the centre to seek and receive assistance.

Business promoters in Nigeria face a number of challenges ranging from infrastructure, technology, raw materials, finance to market. Today, if you ask 100 prospective small business promoters what their major problem is, not less than 75 would tell you it is finance. But what SMEDAN has discovered is that the issue of finance is usually exaggerated. Those who have genuine need for finance do not know how to approach major financiers successfully.

Some of those who have accessed funding do not know how to effectively and efficiently utilise such funds in order to derive maximum returns. The reason for this experience is not far-fetched: there is a pervasive problem of weak capacity in terms of business knowledge, skills and attitudes.

This explains why SMEDAN places a lot of emphasis on how to fill this gap, in addition to providing pertinent information that would ensure sound and right business decisions. There are various government initiatives in the area of business development and financial assistance that failed as a result of factors which are both external and internal to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, particularly internal factors such as low management capabilities, improper or total lack of record-keeping, poor knowledge of the market, low operational technique

capacity, lack of knowledge of regulatory standards, and a host of other factors.

It is common knowledge that most of MSME operators are doing their businesses within a complex and high cost business environment. A number of them are making profits but not at any significant incremental rate capable of moving them to the next level.

One major missing link in the history of enterprises promotions and development in Nigeria is lack of business support as well as efficient and up-to-date information services. It is in the effort to fill this gap, and also to emulate the fast-growing economies of the world such as China, India, and Malaysia, that SMEDAN has initiated the institutional mechanism under which Business Support and Business Information Centres are being established.

A Business Support Centre is a platform for business awareness creation and sensitisation. The emphasis here is on how to start and run a business, source for finance and how to access them, understanding and developing right attitudes to business and so on.

The place of information in running an enterprise cannot be overemphasised. Operators need information on sources of raw materials, machines and equipment. They need information on legal and regulatory requirements for starting, growing and running businesses, as well as information on markets. At the Business Support Centres and Business Information Centres, information is provided in both print and electronic forms and government has approved the provision of Internet access and connectivity and its implementation is ongoing.

The centres provide access to capacity-building. There are opportunities to acquire knowledge and skills in areas such as book-keeping, budgeting/financial control, preparation of business plans, and adherence to quality control standards, business management, information technology, and other knowledge-based issues. Already, a team of professional Business Development Service Providers (BDSPs) has been commissioned for these services.

A Business Support Centre is a clinic of some sort. This is where the problems of businesses are diagnosed and appropriate prescriptions are made by experts - the Business Development Service Providers. The Business Support Centres are outreaches for extension services. They offer opportunities for sharing of new ideas/innovations as may be available from time to time.

It is also a place for mentoring. It affords practical learning opportunities from the experiences of successful entrepreneurs. SMEDAN will be pooling together a volunteer corps of

professionals within and outside each state for this purpose.

One of the major roles of SMEDAN is facilitating access to finance. At each centre, entrepreneurs are introduced to major financiers after they have been guided to meet their lending requirements.

The programmes and activities of SMEDAN are targeted at, among others, women and youths. The agency places special emphasis on women, youths and disadvantaged groups within the society. The BSCs will coordinate special programmes for these groups.

Besides, these centres will coordinate the agency's programmes for enterprise clusters and cooperatives in the states. They will also see to the formation of new clusters and upgrading of existing ones.

For the full potentials of the Business Support Centres to be realised, and to achieve the objectives for which the centre is being set up, the state governments should encourage all the local government areas and many communities and groups as possible within the state to partner with SMEDAN to establish Business Information Centres, which are expected to serve as the linkage between the grassroots, the government and the Business Development Service Providers (BDSPs).

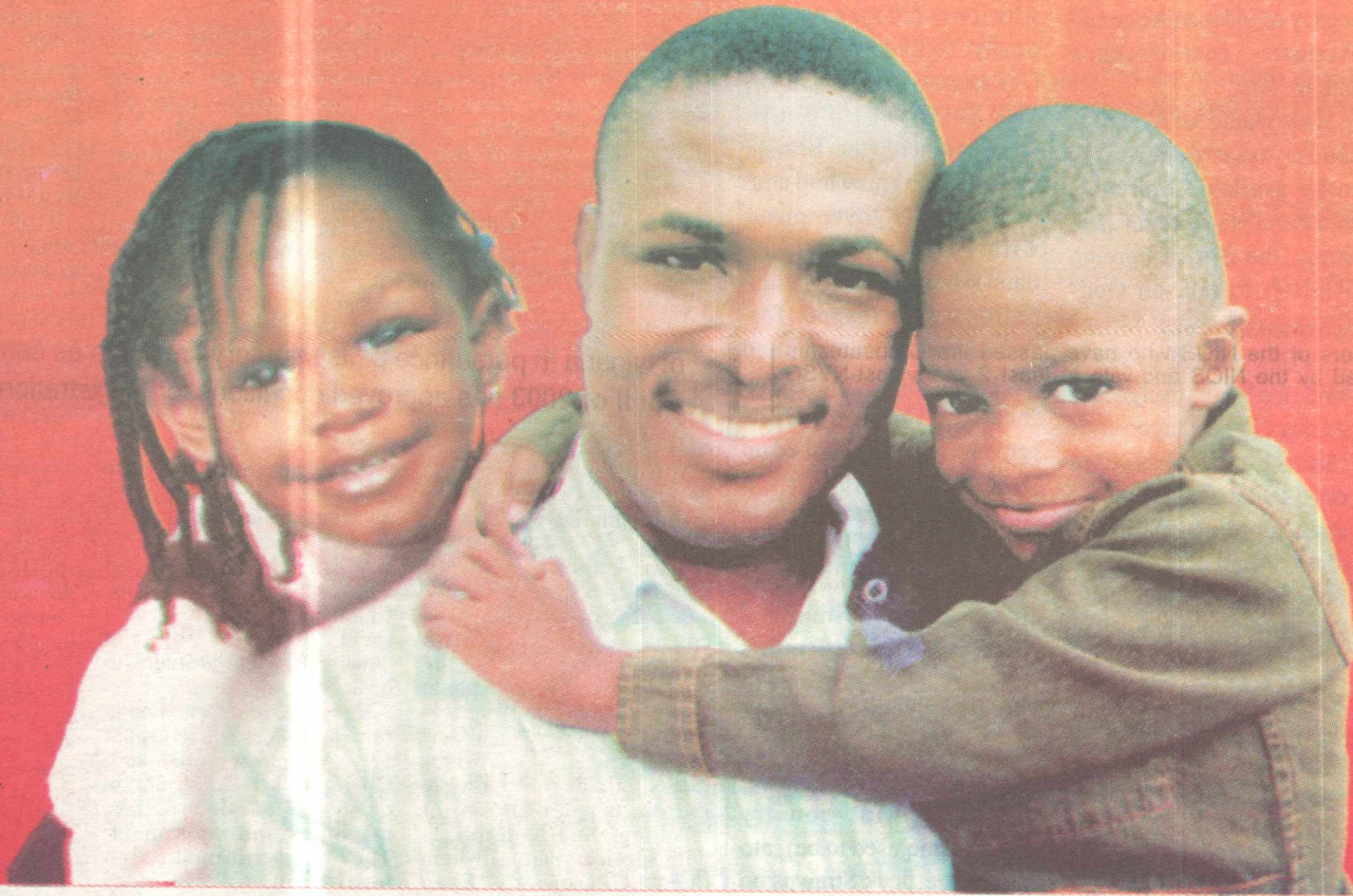
Also, Business Membership Organisations (BMOs) like National Association of Chambers of Commerce, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA), National Association of Small-Scale Industrialists (NASSI), National Association for Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME) and other chambers within the states are encouraged to use the facilities at the centres. This will facilitate linkage and assistance from governments at all levels and from developments partners.

SMEDAN is highly concerned about the sustainability of these centres. The best way to guarantee this sustainability is to allow these centres to live up to their names. They must be run as a business.

Secondly, the people of the states where these centres are located should see the centres as their own. They should protect the investment and then patronise the centres. The services rendered at the centres are not absolutely free. The beneficiaries have to pay a token, so that they will appreciate them. It has become common knowledge that what is offered free is not much appreciated. So what the federal government is doing through SMEDAN is subsidising the cost of doing business for MSMEs. It is expected that they should appreciate this and reciprocate the gesture of government by cooperating with the agency to serve them better.

Mr. Levi Anyikwa is the Chief Press/Public Affairs Officer of SMEDAN.

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Tel/Fax: 2622355.

E-mail: niqs@infoweb.com.ng  
website: http://www.niqs.org

### YEAR 2006 PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS

#### 1. EXAMINATION SCHEDULE:

The Year 2006 Professional Examinations of the Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors has been scheduled as follows:

- (i) Examination Dates: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2006
- (ii) Examination Centres: Abuja, Benin City, Enugu, Kaduna, Lagos and Port Harcourt.

#### 2. ELIGIBILITY OF CANDIDATES:

- (i) **Probation Examination:**  
Registered Technicians of the NIQS or equivalent in Cognate discipline such as Architecture, Building Technology, Civil Engineering etc.
- (ii) **Graduateship Examination:**
  - a) Registered Probationers of the NIQS
  - b) Registered Technicians of the NIQS who have passed the NIQS Probation Examination.
- (iii) **Test of Professional Competence (TPC) Examination:**
  - a) Registered Graduate/Probationer members of the Institute with not less than two years post-NYSC experience
  - b) Registered Probationers of the NIQS who have passed the Graduateship Examination conducted by the NIQS and with at least 2 years post-NYSC experience.

#### 3. LOG BOOKS AND DIARIES

Candidates applying for the TPC Examination are presumed to have submitted to the Institute's Secretariat their Log Books and Diaries covering the first twenty-four (24) months of their practical experience while the logbooks and diaries covering the second and final installment of twelve months are expected to reach the Institute not later than May 12, 2006.

All Logbooks and Diaries should be addressed to the Chairman, Education Committee (Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors) through the NIQS Secretariat.

#### 4. EXAMINATION FEES: (NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERABLE)

	Probation Exam.	Graduateship Exam.	TPC Exam.	Prof. Competence Interview
Full Exam Fee	N12,000.00	N12,000.00	N12,000.00	N 9,000.00
Re-sit Exam Fee	N 9,000.00	N 9,000.00	N 9,000.00	N 9,000.00
Log Book Re-assessment Fee	N 6,000.00			

#### 5. METHOD OF APPLICATION

- (i) Entry Forms for all the Examinations are obtainable from the Institute's Secretariat or the State/Zonal Chapters of the Institute at a cost of =N=1,500.00 each. Candidates are also advised to obtain a copy of the revised Syllabus, Rules and Guidelines for the Institute's Examinations at a Cost of =N=600.00 per set (2 volumes) for more details.
- (ii) All payments could be made by **Cash or Bank Draft payable to "The Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors"** directly into the institute's account with **Chartered Bank Plc, No.76, Adetokunbo Ademola Street, Victoria Island Branch, Lagos. Account Number 1111398281 or First Bank of Nigeria Plc, NIJ House Branch, Adeyemo Alakija Street, Victoria Island, Lagos. Account Number 243-20300-00781.** Payments can be made at any branch of these Banks nationwide.  
**A copy of the pay-in-slip should be forwarded to the Institute after payment to update our records.**
- (iii) Each completed Application Form with photocopies of all relevant credentials including letter of election/registration for the current NIQS Membership Grade, the appropriate Examination Fee or evidence of payment of fee and 2No. self-addressed envelopes (each with stamp) etc. are to reach the Institute's Secretariat not later than **7<sup>th</sup> April, 2006.**
- (iv) Candidates re-sitting any of the papers not listed in the revised Syllabus should clarify the status of their re-sit papers from the Chief Examiner through the National Secretariat.
- (v) **Late Entry:** Applications received after **Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2006** but not later than **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2006** may be considered if accompanied with additional =N=6,000.00 late entry fee.
- (vi) **Notice To All TPC Candidates**  
Please be advised that the Measurement Exam for TPC consists of Two (2) separate papers of three hours each.  
The first paper is on Building Works and Services, the second paper is on Civil and Heavy Engineering Works.

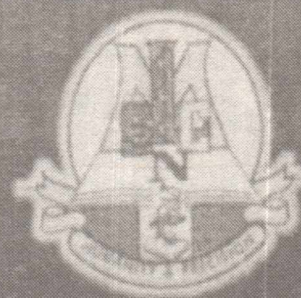
#### 6. TEST OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE INTERVIEW

- (i) The Test of Professional Competence Interview will provisionally hold on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2006** at **Abuja, Enugu and Lagos** and the Application Forms are obtainable at the Institute's Secretariat or at State/Zonal Offices at a cost of =N=1,500.00 each.
- (ii) **Eligibility**
  - (a) Those who have passed the written Test of Professional Competence (TPC) Examination and satisfactorily completed their Logbooks and Diaries.
  - (b) Those referred in a previous Professional Competence Interview.

**NB:** (i) Candidates who previously had problems with their Diaries and Logbooks must submit updated Logbooks and Diaries as instructed but such must reach the Institute's Secretariat not later than **May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006.**

- (ii) Late entry for the Professional Competence Interview may be accepted from successful candidates for the Year 2006 TPC Examination but not later than **31<sup>st</sup> July, 2006.**

Signed:  
Secretary General



## MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE COUNCIL OF NIGERIA

8, HARVEY ROAD, (BLOCK D), P.M.B. 1048, YABA, LAGOS NIGERIA  
Tel: 01-7745280, 5870565, Tel/Fax: 01- 863368  
Email: medlabcon @ yahoo.com

### CONDITIONS FOR REGISTRATION AS MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN/ASSISTANT

The Governing Board of the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria in pursuance of its statutory functions as contained in Act II of 2003 has approved conditions for Registration and Issuance of Identity tags for these categories of members: Medical Laboratory Technicians and Medical Laboratory Assistants.

These categories of members should among other things, hold:

- A. Medical Laboratory Technicians Certificate of the council.
- B. Medical Laboratory Assistants Certificate of the council.

#### 1. Registration Form

- Medical Laboratory Assistant -N750.00
- Medical Laboratory Technician -N1, 000.00

#### 2. Registration Fee

- Medical Laboratory Assistant -N1, 500.00
- Medical Laboratory Technician -N2, 000.00

#### 3. News Bulletin (Per Annum)

-N2, 000.00

#### 4. Identification tag

-N1, 000.00

#### 5. Annual Retention Fee

- Medical Laboratory Assistant -N1, 000.00
- Medical Laboratory Technician -N1, 500.00

Completed Registration Forms must be returned with two (2) recent passport photographs, and all relevant credentials.

Concerned individuals are directed to obtain Registration Forms on payment of the prescribed fees from the Office of the Registrar, Medical Laboratory Science of Nigeria

8, Harvey Road, **OR** Abuja Liaison Office  
P.M.B. 1048, Yaba, Plot 2 Ahmadu Bello Estate,  
Lagos Chrisgold Shopping Mall,  
Keffi - Abuja Road, Mararaba.

Note that this Registration process is mandatory for all Council Certified Medical Laboratory Technicians and Assistants as non-compliance will run contrary to provisions of ACT 11 2003 which prescribed sanctions for all offenders.

The closing date for submission of completed application forms is June 30, 2006.

Further information and requirements would be provided on application.

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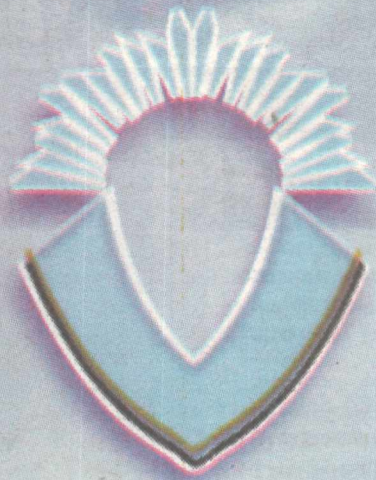
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- Carol School,  
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Agidingbi, Ikeja.
- Rotoy Private School,  
35B, Bishop Aboyade Cole, Victoria Island, Lagos.
- Kaduna International School,  
1, Wurno Road, Kaduna.
- Tessy's Book-World,  
2, Rumuokuta Round-about, Port-Harcourt.
- Education Chosen High School,  
29, Yakubu Gowon Way, Jos.
- All Skye Bank Plc branches.

- **Completed forms should be submitted to any of the outlets on or before 3rd March, 2006.**
- **Entrance Examination will hold on Saturday 11th March, 2006.**

**Enquiries: Mrs Remi Fawehinmi: 08023292272, Mrs Helen Momoh: 08037882020**

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# Business Trust

## Africa

### UN bills Ivory Coast over riots

The UN secretary general has sent a \$3.5m bill to Ivory Coast's president for damage

caused to UN property and equipment during last month's riots.

President Laurent Gbagbo's supporters were behind four days of protests against the UN in January.

They accuse the UN of interfering in the country's internal affairs.

Ivory Coast has been divided between the government and rebels since a failed coup attempt more than three years ago.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan wrote to President Gbagbo, saying he was concerned that the Ivorian security forces had largely failed in their responsibility to ensure the safety of UN personnel and facilities.

"These events have also

had a negative impact on the peace process," he wrote.

Last month, President Gbagbo's supporters attacked and damaged the UN's headquarters in Abidjan, and UN offices in the west of the country during the violent protests.

This followed a call by UN-backed international mediators for the national parliament - which is controlled by those loyal to the president - to be dissolved as its mandate had run out.

This week the UN Security Council imposed sanctions on two youth leaders accused of helping to organise the attacks on the UN, as well as on a rebel commander.

### Cape Verde to vote for president

The frontrunners are current President Pedro Pires and his long-time rival and former incumbent Carlos Veiga. Mr Pires beat Mr Veiga by just 17 votes in the 2001 poll. His hopes this time have been boosted by his party's win in parliamentary elections last month.

Economic development and the reduction of poverty have dominated the campaign in this former Portuguese colony.

Cape Verde has a high unemployment and crime rate, but is also seen as politically stable with an emerging prosperity.

Both leading candidates - who would rule for the next five years - have pledged to promote faster economic growth and tackle crime.

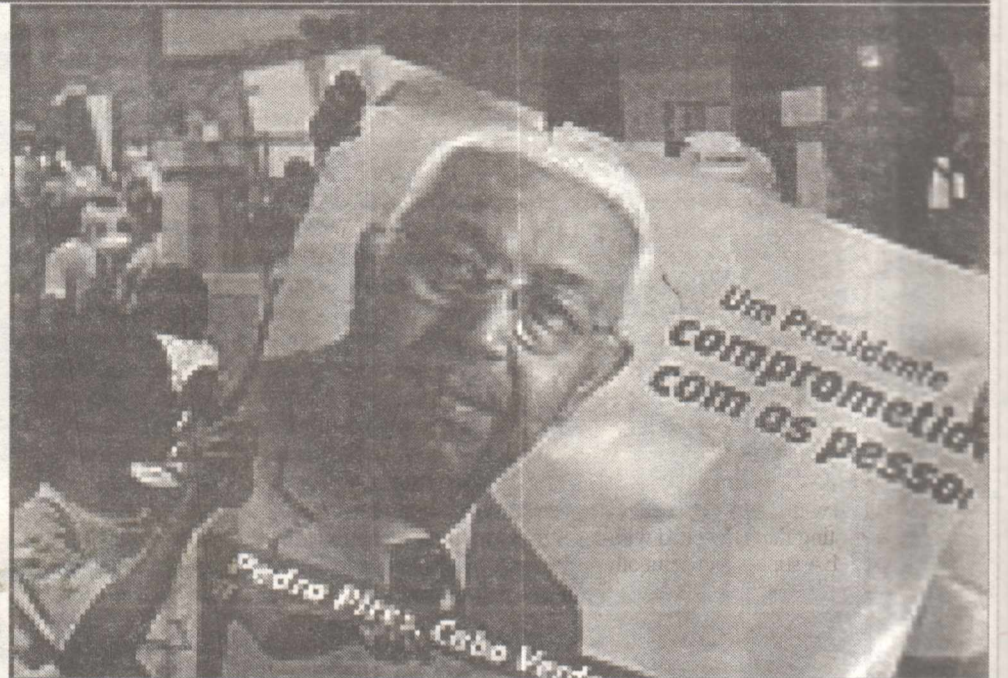
Mr Pires' ruling African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde (PAICV) won January's parliamentary elections with 52% of the vote.

The PAICV first came to power under a one-party system upon independence from Portugal in 1975, with Mr Pires, now 71, as Cape Verde's first prime minister.

Mr Veiga's Movement for Democracy (MpD) won the first multi-party elections in 1990. Carlos Veiga lost by 17 votes in the last presidential election. The 56-year-old Mr Veiga served as premier for the next 10 years until the PAICV regained power in 2001.

Mr Pires has appealed to voters by arguing that "we should have a government and president of the same political family" to ensure continuity.

While Mr Veiga's supporters say the constitution will be better upheld if the head of state is different to the party in power. About 325,000 Cape Verde citizens are registered to vote. Of these, about 20% live abroad - mostly in Portugal.



Pedro Pires was the first president after independence in 1975.

### Rumsfeld takes message of support to Algeria

The United States on Sunday pressed its efforts to support

moderate North Africa countries amid worries about Islamic extremism, with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld taking his message to Algeria.

The United States and Algeria, the second biggest country in Africa, began military exchanges last year as Washington sought backing for its campaign against global terrorism.

Rumsfeld arrived there from Tunisia on a three-day trip to North Africa and was due to visit Morocco next. The United States regards the three countries as moderate forces in the region and important allies.

While Algeria and neighboring Morocco have much history and cultural heritage in common, they have had tense relations, particularly over Western Sahara.

Morocco, which annexed Western Sahara in 1975 when former colonial power Spain pulled out, fought a guerrilla war with the Polisario Front which is based in south-western Algeria and is seeking the desert territory's independence.

A senior U.S. defense official traveling with Rumsfeld said the United States was striving to encourage regional cooperation between Algeria and Morocco, as well as

Tunisia, but the Western Sahara dispute was a stumbling block.

"Secretary Rumsfeld obviously is not there to negotiate this," the official said. The Pentagon acknowledges that it is a delicate task for the United States to develop a relationship with Algeria without unnerving Morocco.

Rumsfeld met senior leaders in Algeria and was to meet with President Abdelaziz Bouteflika later in the day.

The official said the United States was considering the possibility of military equipment sales to Algeria with which Washington opened a military-to-military relationship last year.

The official was not specific about the nature of the possible sales beyond saying it might involve equipment useful for counter-terrorism.

"They're looking to replace their jet aircraft, and I don't think that's in the realm of possibility yet," the official said.

Between 150,000 and 200,000 people have been killed in Algeria since an Islamist uprising began in 1992 after authorities canceled legislative elections that the Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win.



U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld speaks with reporters following a tour of the Carthage Museum in Carthage, Tunisia February 11, 2006.

### Graft evidence stuns Kenyan MPs

Kenyan MPs who interviewed the exiled former anti-corruption investigator said they were "astounded" by evidence of alleged government corruption.

John Githongo - who gave his testimony in London - has directly implicated several Kenyan government ministers in an alleged multi-million dollar scam.

The head of the delegation said Mr Githongo's information would be acted upon following a report to parliament.

Last year, the whistleblower fled to the UK after he received death threats.

Kenya's Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee does not normally move outside the confines of the National Assembly building in downtown Nairobi.

But this weekend, senior members led by committee chairman, Uhuru Kenyatta, flew to the Kenyan High Commission in London.

They wanted to hear and see for themselves John Githongo's testimony and evidence of corruption in the Kenyan government.

Mr Githongo said he could not give his testimony in Kenya because of death threats.

Mr Kenyatta said they have been shocked at what Mr Githongo had told them.

"Without a doubt, some of us are actually amazed and astounded by the extent of information that he has.

"Ultimately, everything that we have heard, all the evidence that we have gathered, all the material that we have collected will be made available to our parliament, to the people of

Kenya and to the world as soon as this report is completed," he said.

The scandal may undermine President Kibaki's administration

Mr Kenyatta said John Githongo was thorough, convincing and willingly gave his testimony under oath.

At the heart of the allegations are claims that government ministers colluded in deals worth hundreds of millions of dollars with companies that either did not exist or massively inflated their prices.

And Mr Githongo has started naming names.

As a result, Kenya's finance minister has resigned, and the energy minister and vice president are having to fend off calls for them to resign too.

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# Trust International Middle East

## Iran reaffirms nuclear treaty commitment

Iran reaffirmed its commitment to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty on Sunday, a day after its hard-line president implied Tehran was considering withdrawing from the pact after being reported to the U.N. Security Council.

The declaration by the Iranian Foreign Ministry came as inspectors from the U.N. nuclear watchdog arrived in the Islamic republic over the weekend to evaluate what controls remained on nuclear sites and equipment after Tehran reduced the agency's monitoring power to a minimum, diplomats said.

A diplomat told The Associated Press Saturday that some seals and cameras had been removed within the last few days, suggesting that happened without IAEA supervision. But others familiar with the probe said Sunday they doubted the Iranians would make such a move before the arrival of the inspectors.

The diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak on the issue.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi urged a peaceful solution to the dispute over his country's nuclear program.

"We are still committed to the provisions of the NPT. But we can't accept its use as a (po-

litical) instrument. We will cooperate in the treaty and the safeguards' framework," Asefi said at a weekly news conference.

On Saturday, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad rejected U.S. and European pressure to freeze the country's nuclear program and hinted that Iran might withdraw from the treaty.

"The nuclear policy of the Islamic Republic so far has been peaceful. Until now, we have worked inside the agency (IAEA) and the NPT regulations," he said in a speech before tens of thousands of Iranians marking the 27th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

"If we see you want to violate the right of the Iranian people by using those regulations (against us), you should know that the Iranian people will revise its policies," he said.

He did not specify what changes Tehran envisioned, but it was believed to be a threat to withdraw from the NPT and the IAEA.

Tehran repeatedly has stressed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty allows it to pursue a nuclear program for peaceful purposes and it has said it will never give up the right to enrich uranium to produce nuclear fuel.

The U.S. and its European allies believe Iran is seeking to

develop atomic weapons. The IAEA reported Tehran to the Security Council, which has the power to impose sanctions, earlier this month after talks failed between the Iranians and European negotiators.

Uranium enriched to a low degree can be used for nuclear reactors, while highly enriched uranium is suitable for warheads.

The foreign ministry spokesman urged the IAEA and

Europeans to keep open diplomatic channels.

"The agency and other parties should not block roads to Islamic Republic of Iran and should solve the case in the framework of the regulations," Asefi said.

He rejected comments by British Foreign Minister Jack Straw, who said last week that there was no proof but "very high level of suspicion" that Iran was trying to build a nuclear weapon.

"How do you apply a policy of non-trust toward Iran when there is no proof that Iran is trying to divert its nuclear program toward a weapon?" Asefi asked.

## Sharon in critical condition after surgery

Ariel Sharon was stable but critical after an emergency surgery to remove nearly 2 feet of his large intestines, his seventh operation since suffering a debilitating stroke last month, the hospital treating the premier said Sunday.

The four-hour operation on Saturday was successful, but the Israeli leader's already slim chances for recovery were even dimmer, doctors said. Sharon has yet to awaken since his stroke on Jan. 4.

Israelis closely followed their

77-year-old leader's latest ordeal, with TV stations repeatedly breaking into regular programming for updates, but the country already has come to terms with his departure from politics.

Sharon's political heir, Ehud Olmert, quickly took the reins as acting prime minister after Sharon's stroke, and appears poised to lead Sharon's centrist Kadima Party to victory in March 28 elections.

Sharon was rushed to surgery Saturday morning after doctors, who had noticed abdominal swelling, conducted a CT scan and a laparoscopy, or insertion of a small camera through the abdominal wall.

Surgeons detected necrotic or dead tissue in the bowels and removed 50 centimeters (20 inches), or one-third, of the large intestine, said Hadassah Hospital director Dr. Shlomo Mor-Yosef. It was his seventh operation since suffering the stroke.

The necrosis was either caused by infection or a drop in the blood supply to the intestines, something common in comatose patients, the hospital director said. Mor-Yosef said doctors did not find blocked blood vessels.

Mor-Yosef said Saturday's surgery was relatively simple, and that Sharon's main medical problem continues to be the coma. Asked whether Sharon could come out of the coma, Mor-Yosef said: "All possibilities remain open, but with each passing day, the chances are lower."



Iranian Intelligence Minister, Gholam Hossein Mohseni Ejehei, center, attends during a demonstration to mark the 27th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, in Tehran, Saturday Feb. 11, 2006. The Iranian president on Saturday rejected Western pressure to freeze the country's nuclear program and issued a veiled threat to walk away from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

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SENATOR IBRAHIM MANTU

# APPRECIATION

On behalf of all political associates, loyalists, teeming supporters and admirers of the former Governor of old Kano State and Former Minister of Communications, Dr. Mohammed Abubakar Rimi, we wish to express our sincere appreciation to all the people who through personal visits, representations, phone calls, messages and the medic condoled us over the heartless murder of his wife, Hajija Sa'adatu Mohammed Abubakar Rimi and the death of his son Adamu Mohammed Abubakar Rimi.

Our special appreciation goes to His Excellency, President Olusegun Obasanjo, His Excellency, Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, His Excellency, Kano State Governor, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau, and His Royal Highness, Emir of Kano Alh. (Dr.) Ado Bayero.

We also express our sincere appreciation to former Heads of State, General Yakubu Gowon (rtd), General Muhammad Buhari (rtd), General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida (rtd), General Abdussalam Abubakar (rtd), and also President Shehu Aliyu Shagari and former Head of Interim Government, Chief Ernest Shonekan.

Our sincere appreciation also goes to the Speaker House of Representatives, Hon. Aminu Bello Masari and entire members, Senate President Ken Nnamani who sent a Delegation of Distinguished Senators and all Senators who condoled us, Former Senate Presidents, Chief Evans Enwerem, Mr. Anyim Pius Anyim, Chief Adolphus Nwabara, Former Deputy Senate President Mr. John Wash Pam, former Distinguished Senators and Members of the House of Representatives who condoled us.

We also express our appreciation to their Excellencies Governors, Mr. Orji Uzor Kalu of Abia State, Mr. Bom Haruna of Adamawa State, Mr. Chris Ngige of Anambra State, Alh. Ahmed Adamu Mba'zu of Bauchi State, Senator Ali Modu Sheriff of Borno State, Alh. Danjuma Goje of Gombe State, Alh. Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi of Kaduna State, Alh. Umaru Musa 'Yar Aduwa of Katsina State, Alh. Mohd Adamu Aliero of Kebbi State, Alh. Ibrahim Idris of Kogi State, Alh. Abdulkadir Kure of Niger State, Alh. Abdullahi Adamu of Nasarawa State, Alh. Bola Ahmed Tinubu of Lagos State, Alh. Bukar Abba Ibrahim of Yobe State, Alh. Sani Yariman Bakura of Zamfara State, the Government Representatives of Sokoto, Benue, Plateau, Jigawa, Kwara, Taraba, Akwa Ibom, Enugu, Ebonyi, Rivers, Cross Rivers, Delta, Edo, Imo and Ogun States.

Our appreciation also goes to all serving and former Ministers who condoled us, Head of Service of the Federation, Alh. Mahmud Yayale Ahmad, National Security Adviser General Aliyu Gusau (rtd), Former Governors, Civilian and Military, Former Speaker of the House of Representatives Alh. Ibrahim Salisu Buhari, Speakers of States Assemblies and the Members who condoled us, Supreme Court Judges, Federal Court of Appeal Judges, Federal High Court Judges, States Chief Judges, States High Court Judges, States Grand Khadis and Khadis who condoled us.

Our special appreciation also goes to His Eminence, the Sultan of Sokoto, Shehu of Borno, His Highness, the Emir of Gwandu, Lamido of Adamawa, and their Royal Highnesses, Emirs and Chiefs of Katsina, Zazzau, Etsu Nupe, Suleija, Nassarawa, Daura, Ilorin, Keffi, Hadejia, Gumel, Katagum, Misau, Biu, Dutse B/Gwari, Jama'are, Ringim, Borgu, Lafia Bare-Bari, Mafara, Fika, Mubi, Lapai, Damaturu, Gbong Gbong Jos, Atta of Igala, Ohinoyi of Igbiraland, Deba, Langtang.

We also express appreciation to ACF Chairman Chief Sunday Awoniyi, Former PDP Chairmen Chief Solomon Iar, Mr. Barnabas Gemade, Chief Audu Ogbe, ANPP National Chairman Chief Don Etiebet, ANPP National Deputy Chairman Lt. Gen. Jeremiah Useni (rtd), PDP National Chairman Sen. Ahmadu Ali, Former ANPP National Chairman Dr. Yusuf Garba Ali, National Protem Chairman MRDD Alh. Gambo Jimeta, H.E. Arc. Kabiru Gaya, H. E. Alh. Abba Musa Rimi, Titi Ajanaku, Alh. Aminu Saleh, Alh. Magaji Danbatta, H. E. Alh. Abubakar Hashidu, Owelle Rochers Okorocho, Chief Tom Ikimi, Chief Jim Nwobodo, Chief Chukwuemeka Eziefe, Alh. Ibrahim Tahir Talban Bauchi, Prof. Anjo Abdullahi, Dr. Suleiman Kumo, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole, V. C. BUK, V. C. Abuja, V. C. NSU, Dr. Olu Onagoruwa, Otunba M.A. Jobi, Ambassador Noam Katz, Alh. Musa Musawa, Alh. Lawal Kaita, AVM Hamza Abdullahi (rtd), AVM Nura Imam (rtd), AVM Mukhtar Mohammed (rtd), Alh. Umar Aliyu Shinkafi Marafan Sokoto, Dr. Mahmoud Tukur, Mr. Daniel Iyke

Otti, H.E. Alh. Saidu Barda, H.E. Alh. Saleh Minchika, Gen. Halliru Akilu (rtd.), Brig. General Lawal J. Isa (rtd.), Alh. Aminu Alhassan Dantata, Khalifah Isyaka Rabi, Alh. Aliko Gote, Alh. Muhammadu Ndimi, Zanna Dujima of Borno Alh. Bukar Mandara, Dr. Olusola Saraki, Chairman, KASTU, Alh. Bature Abdulaziz, Prof. Maurice Iwu, Dim Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu, Owelle of Onitsha and Former IG's M.D. Yusuf, Ibrahim Coomassie, Ibrahim Attah, Police, SSS & Other Security Org., Press, Lebanese Comm.

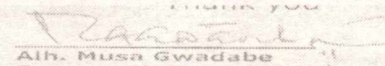
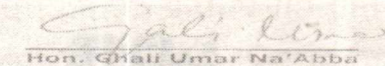
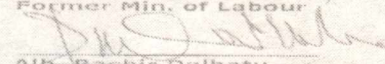

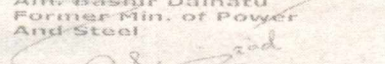
Our endless appreciation also goes to Hajija Aishatu Aminu Kano, Nana Rawlings former first lady of Ghana, Hajija Maryam Babangida, Hajija Maryam Sani Abacha, Justice Fati Abubakar, Wives of Governors of Kano, Jigawa, Katsina, Niger, Hajija Mariya Sunusi Dantata, wife of late Gen. Hassan Usman Katsina, Maman Kano and Hajija Murja Balarabe Musa.

Our Sincere appreciation equally goes to the Ulamas, Chief Imam of Kano, Sheikh Idris Kuliya Alkali, Khalifah Ismaila Ibrahim, Khalifah Karibullah Nasiru Kabara, Dr. Ahmad Ibrahim, Imam of Farfaru Mosque Sheikh Abubakar, Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi, Sheikh Ibrahim Saleh, Sheikh Aminuddeen Abubakar and all religious leaders who condoled us, H.E. Alh. Shabai Lafiagi, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, Deputy Governors of Bauchi, Yobe, Jigawa, Kogi, Kano and Plateau.

We are especially grateful to all sympathizers such as students, politicians and Unions such as African Renaissance Party, Igala Cultural and Development Association Kano, Nigerian Agricultural, Co-operative and Rural Development Bank Limited, JAFQ, Forum of Fourth Republic Elected Councilors, The Nigerian Chamber of Indigenous Contractors, Jesus Life Christian Ministries, Vigilante Group of Nigeria, Guaranty Trust Bank Plc, Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees Kano, Shekarau Awareness Committee, Nassarawa State Student Association BUK, Kungiyar 'Yan Doya', Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria, BON, AFRIBANK, Nahuche Construction Company, Mai Buhu Farm, Zamfara Grains Resources Nigeria, Ltd, Northern Cable Processing and Manufacturing Company, Kano Peoples Consultative Council, Nigerian Institute of PR, MAN Kano, NURTW Kano, AMATA Kano, Lautai Forum, UNIC Insurance, GHON, Islamic Foundation of Nigeria, Alliance For Democracy Kano, CAN, Kusanta (CETO), Kungiyar Samarin Mahautan Jihar Kano, Hadaddiyar Kungiyar 'Yan Kasuwa Ta Kasuwar Kurmi, RATTAWU, NLC, Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Plc, Diamond Bank Plc, NU of Textile Garment & Tailoring, MSS of Nigeria, Destiny Mandate Group, Oyo State Hausa Community, Nupe United- Progressive Association (Nupa), 1983 Graduating Students of Bayero University, Kano, Judiciary Staff Association of Nigeria, MRDD, National Board for Technical Education, Butchers Association Masu Babbakar Kan Shanu, Shekarau Loyalist Forum, Atiku Youth Awareness Foundation, Jama'atu Nasril Islam, The Association of Nigerians Residence In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, ACF, Medical & Health Workers Union of Nigeria, The Council of Women Societies, Nigeria, Federal Road Safety Commission, Nigerian Institute of Surveyors, GESCO, The Islamic Foundation of Nigeria, NICO Insurance Corporation, Nigeria Union of Civil Services Secretarial and Stenographic Workers Kano State, Orji Kalu Presidential Campaign Organization, Birnin Kudu Old Boys Association Class 58 Chapter, Grassroot Organization of Nigeria, Hausa Community Traditional Council, Rivers State, BUK Student's Union Government, Youth Movement of Nigeria, DAAR Communications Limited, Christian Association of Nigeria, Fulbe Development Association of Nigeria, PSP SAWABA, Judiciary Staff Association of Nigeria, Embassy of Nigeria Lome - Togo, APGA, Syrian Arab Consulate, Saudi Arabian Consulate, Niger Republic Consulate, National Youth Council, National Cotton Association of Nigeria, other numerous groups at State, National and International Level who condoled us.

**MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN PEACE, AMIN.**

Thank you.

 Alh. Musa Gwadabe Former Min. of Labour	 Hon. Ghali Umar Na'Abba Former Speaker Nigeria.
 Alh. Bashir Dalhatu Former Min. of Power And Steel	 Alh. Gwadabe Salatima MRDD.
 H. E. Barr. Ali Sa'adu B/Kudu Former Governor Jigawa State	

## ADVERTORIAL

# SETTING THE RECORDS STRAIGHT ON THE MARWA MOVEMENT (TMM)

The attention of The Marwa Movement (TMM) has been drawn to recent newspaper reports suggesting that the Movement is in disarray. Though, Dr. Marwa had made a statement upon release by the EFCC that no comments should come from any of his aides for the time being on all matters appertaining, we are constrained to issue this reaction for two reasons: One, it is important to set the records straight with regard to the shaping national political process and dynamics as it relates to Dr. Marwa, and second, to use this medium to disabuse the minds of the reading public, including Dr. Marwa's supporters about the fallacy celebrated in the said news stories.

A careful reading of the newspaper reports show that the reporters never spoke to anybody in the Marwa Movement. Biodun Odunuga who was quoted is in fact Public Affairs Manager of Albarka Airlines and cannot speak for The Marwa Movement. It may be that the reporters are hostage to unseen influences, forces and pressures who are desperate in their attempt to tarnish Dr. Marwa's hard-earned reputation.

For the avoidance of doubt, we want to state unequivocally that The Marwa Movement is greater than Dr. Marwa as an individual. The Marwa Movement has gone far beyond Marwa and cannot and will never be in disarray for it is a movement that is founded on a philosophy of abiding national values and patriotic commitment to the progress and prosperity of Nigeria. It is a movement that though originally nourished by the peerless contributions of Dr. Marwa to the social, political and economic development of Nigeria has since developed its own inertia. It is a movement that fully supports and is in tandem with the Federal Government in this decisive phase of our democratic consolidation and unparalleled advances in the key economic sectors as a consequence of the on-going economic reforms and restructuring, epitomised by NEEDS.

We wish to state for the information of the reading public, and not necessarily as a direct response to the said fictive news-pieces that the national, zonal, state, local

government and community level structures of The Marwa Movement are alive and well, and still hold their regular meetings at various levels and have been discharging their duties, responsibilities and assignments with matchless enthusiasm and boundless passion, energy, commitment and dedication.

A comment is equally required regarding the EFCC matter involving Dr. Marwa which the reporters expressed opinions on. The EFCC is a government agency with a clear mandate and responsibility. It is bound to look into all matters placed before it. As a law-abiding citizen and Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic who holds all Government agencies in high esteem, Dr. Marwa attended to the EFCC invitation and dutifully cooperated with them, believing that the matter will be thoroughly and professionally investigated.

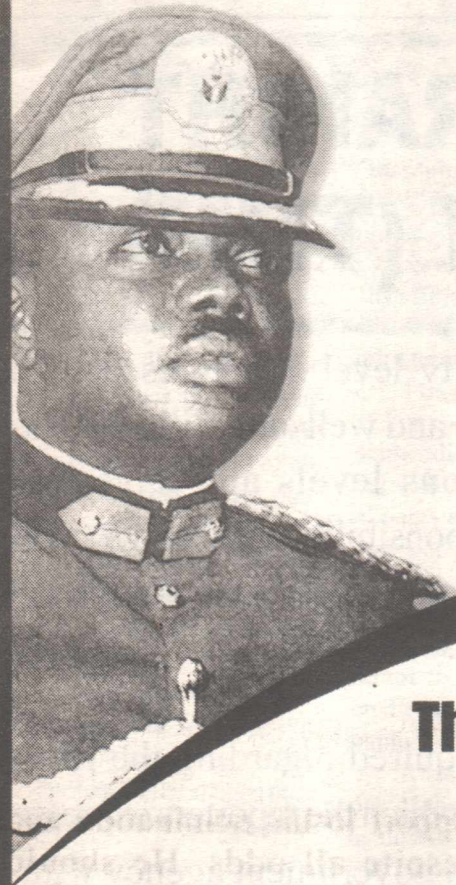
Dr. Marwa, and the entire Marwa Movement believe in the rule of law and due process, and operate on the affirmational thesis that such a process should not be corrupted, thwarted, bent or pressured to attain a certain end, but must be supported and allowed to run its full and logical course.

In conclusion, the realization of any political aspiration by anyone is ultimately a product of the divine law of destiny which rests with God. If our politicians were to truly believe in this law, there would have been far less rancour and acrimony in the polity. Only God, the Almighty, the All knowing, the All seeing knows tomorrow. No one else. Dr. Marwa and the entire Marwa Movement are fervent believers in destiny as the political process unfolds and we will continue to work and walk in this direction, with fact, commonsense, decorum, ethical responsibility, continued support and loyalty to the Federal Government and the Fear of God as our guiding principles.

Signed

ENGR. MOHAMMED LAWAL  
SECRETARY

THE MARWA MOVEMENT



# 10th ANNUAL

## MURTALA MUHAMMED MEMORIAL LECTURE

### The Murtala Muhammed Foundation (MMF)

Under the Distinguished Chairmanship of

**President Olusegun Obasanjo**

Cordially invites the general public to the

### 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Murtala Muhammed Memorial Lecture

Theme:

## AFRICA: A NEW AGENDA

Keynote Speaker

**Right Honorable Jack Straw**

United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary

Date: Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2006

Time: 10.00 a.m.

(Members of the public are to be seated at 10.00 a.m prompt)

Venue: The Auditorium, Ecowas Secretariat  
60 Yakubu Gowon Crescent  
Asokoro District, Abuja

#### CONTACTS

Mrs. Aisha Oyebode  
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www.murtalamuhammedfoundation.com

# VANGUARDS OF DEMOCRACY

NO. 227 Akintola Street, wuse Zone 1, Abuja. Tel: 08058081725

## RE-DISSOLUTION OF SOKOTO STATE ANPP EXCO BY CHIEF DON ETIEBET

Our attention has been hijacked by a very shocking joke that was revealed by Chief Don Etiebet, who in a comic manner announced the dissolution of Sokoto State Executive Council of ANPP.

In a similar manner the Chairman also exhibited openly his high sense of anti-democratic tendency by pronouncing the support of the council to the proposed constitutional amendment

These two issues that Chief Etiebet made pronouncements on are so sensitive that as proponents of peaceful co-existence and vanguards of instilling and upliftment of democracy and its forces, we find it necessary to call Etiebet to order.

We cannot join issues with chief Etiebet for two reasons; one we regard him as an irrelevant politician who could not deliver even a local councillorship seat of his ward, talkless of his local government or state. Secondly, this is also a party chairman who has lost control as a result of his lack of clear vision and high sense of leadership. This earned him suspension by democratic and highly patriotic individuals who have genuine stake in the party.

It is glaring that most of the ANPP Governors in attendance at the meeting were there in order to settle a score of which they achieved. In order to support our claim we would like the readers of this piece to follow the analysis on individual governors below.

The case of Governor Sheriff and Hon. Kumalia who have been in serious conflict for long is an open secret to almost every Nigerian. We are therefore convinced that the Governor was at the meeting to ensure that sanctions were meted on Hon. Kumalia and the truth was revealed as Kumalia was pronounced suspended by Chief Don Etiebet.

In the case of Zamfara State governor, Ahmed Sani his fear of the growing popularity and the strength of Senate Minority Leader, Senator Lawal Shaibu, also a potential and promising Gubernatorial Candidate made him to ensure that the Distinguished Senator was suspended from the party.

The most surprising case is the issue of Kano State Governor, Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau who was a party to the decision of the Kano People's Forum, which denounced any form of constitutional amendment and was also part of the illegal NEC meeting last Friday.

Another thing is that Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau should remember that we know God gives power to whom He so wishes, but the acceptance of General Buhari, the ANPP Flag bearer had massive influence on his election. Therefore, his joining forces with Etiebet to support constitutional amendment is a betrayal of trust given to him by General Buhari, Kano people and the entire northern people

Another disturbing development is the presence of the Deputy Governor of Sokoto State, Alhaji Aliyu Magatakarda Wamako

who of recent we noticed he is becoming an agent of destruction than a loyal Deputy Governor. In order to bring out clear the circumstance of his presence people should know that he petitioned the Sokoto State ANPP EXCO and the State Government which Chief Don Etiebet hinged his claim on and dissolved the state EXCO. The act of such dissolution was unilateral and absurd, as there was no any petition from party executive or member from the state.

This has depicted that Alhaji Wamako has betrayed the confidence and trust that made the people of Sokoto State and the ANPP itself to lend their support to his nomination and endorsement for two terms despite all odds. He should remember that his nomination lead to the decampment of illustrious and prominent party members including the 2003 PDP Gubernatorial Candidate in the state. He is therefore biting the finger that feed him i.e. in the persons of the State Governor and the Party Executive council that all supported his nomination.

We are therefore at this point sending some wards of caution into the ears of so called party leaders like Etiebet and his crowd that such behaviors will greatly destroy the party. This is because the decision taken at the illegal NEC meeting are in opposition to the beliefs and ideals of party supporters and members across the country.

We are therefore telling Chief Etiebet to leave Sokoto State party structure and administrative machinery at peace. These are structures manned by people who got legitimacy from the Masses, they are people that genuinely won election, they are achievers and people that always deliver their wards during election they are not people that cannot deliver their councillorship seat.

Our stand therefore is that the illegal NEC meeting was detrimental to the unity and sustenance of democracy in the party. We also view it as an attempt by Sponsored Agents to destroy the formidable party being the only genuine opposition machinery in place. We therefore urge elders of the party to resist such anti-democratic forces.

To the ANPP Sokoto State EXCO, we wish to state that what has transpired at the NEC meeting has clearly shown the colour and type of person Aliyu Wamako is they should as a matter of urgency apply all the necessary party constitutional provisions to sanction him for anti-party activities.

The gravity of the anti-party and anti-Sokoto State people activities of the Deputy Governor calls for immediate intervention of the State House of Assembly in the form of disciplinary action.

*A word they say is enough for the wise. – We have spoken. Watch out for our next outing. God bless Sokoto State.*

*Signed.*

Aliyu Ahmed  
Chairman

Mustapha Umar  
Secretary

# Business Trust

## INSIDE

**Firms storm Kaduna for Trade Fair**  
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Ahmed Makarfi

**Virgin Nigeria harps on pilot training**  
...Page 22

## Currencies

### West African Unit of Account

Country	N Equivalent
The Gambia	6.0320
Ghana	0.0143
Guinea	0.0588
Liberia	1.8633
S/Leone	3,563.84
Nigeria	192.48

### Parallel Market

	Average	
Dollar	144	145
Pounds	261	262



Ndi Okereke-Onyiake, DG, NSE

The Federal Government says it will disburse credit facilities worth N50 billion to farmers across the country in a bid to boost agricultural production.

The disbursement which is to be done through the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and other financial houses will attract low interest rates and will be monitored by a presidential committee.

Governor Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi of Kaduna State, who is a member of the presidential committee to monitor the disbursement said the credit which is for agricultural processing and production rather than marketing is aimed at boosting and improving the nation's economy.

Makarfi who disclosed this to newsmen last week when he received a delegation of First City Monument Bank (FCMB) led by its managing director, Ladi Balogun implored the bank to partner with the government in providing micro credit facilities

## Food security: FG to give N50bn credit to farmers

From AbdulRaheem Aodu, Correspondent, Kaduna

to small scale farmers who are unable to provide the required collateral loans.

"I am pleased to hear that you are interested in disbursing credit facilities in agriculture. This follows closely an important meeting held yesterday (Tuesday) in Abuja on agricultural development, Mr. President has mandated both CBN and other financial houses to disburse more than N50 billion to farmers at interest rates less than 8 percent. After beating about the bush for a long time we are now on the right track."

"A recent report showed that if we continue to develop agriculture the way we are currently doing, Nigerian economy would be one of the best 20 economies in the world come 2020. We would want to

partner with FCMB in granting micro credit loans to small holding farmers.

"Also we have just signed an MOU with federal minister of water resources on irrigation to complete and manage dams

within the state. We hope you will grant us the facility to complete the dams while we pay back before the end of the year," he said.

We intend to offer credit facilities at single digit interest rates to farmers. We are also

ready to provide the state government with finances on major tractor procurement.

"Since agriculture contributes 40% to Nigeria's gross domestic product (GDP), we are ready to support and boost it," he said.



OPEC president and secretary general, Dr. Edmund Daukoru, speaking with journalists at the OPEC meeting in Vienna, Austria. Watching from the far left is the head of OPEC's Energy Studies Department, Mohammed Hamel.

## Recapitalisation: Insurance firms begin merger talks

Preliminary discussions that may result in mergers and acquisitions between strong and weak insurance firms have begun as ongoing consolidation in the insurance sector moves into due diligence stage.

Investigations by *Business Trust* over the weekend revealed that some medium sized insurance firms have approached some notable insurance underwriters for merger and acquisitions as the February 2007 deadline for recapitalisation of insurance firms approaches steadily. A handful of insurance operators approached by *Business Trust* confirmed the development, but said the talks were still on formative stage.

Niger Insurance spokesman, Mr. Tony Ojeme said his

From Abdulwahab Isa, Business Correspondent, Lagos

company had been approached by some undisclosed insurance firms in the direction of merger and acquisition. He said Niger Insurance has commenced a due diligence exercise on those firms with a view to x-raying their potentials. Due diligence is conducted by one firm on the other seeking merger, to determine viability and potentials of such firms. The exercise reveals liabilities, assets and the worth of the companies concerned.

Besides Niger Insurance, sources confided in *Business Trust* that Corner Stone Insurance, IGI, and NICON Insurance Corporation may have been wooed by some firms for a pact.

## NICON Insurance revives UK office, moves to Sao Tome Principe

NICON Insurance Plc says it has revived its office in the United Kingdom while necessary steps are being taken to start a new company in the UK.

This development is taking place even as the company has already paid \$650,000 to acquire an insurance license in Sao Tome and Principe to start business in that country.

NICON's chief executive officer, Barrister Jimoh Ibrahim who disclosed this while receiving the group managing director of Wema Bank Plc, Mr. Adebisi Omoyemi and his management

team in Abuja last week, said NICON would soon begin serious business in the two countries.

Barrister Ibrahim also said NICON would soon collaborate with Global Fleet to brand some filling stations in Abuja and Lagos as NICON Energy.

Mr. Omoyemi in his response expressed the belief in Barrister Ibrahim's ability to move NICON to greater heights, saying Wema Bank would be happy doing business with NICON which he hoped, would become a dominant player in the country's economy in three years.

## Ekiti workers to enjoy life insurance

Civil servants in Ekiti State will soon enjoy a group life assurance scheme being packaged by NICON Insurance Plc.

Already, the state governor, Chief Ayo Fayose has given his assurance of an immediate approval of the scheme.

Fayose gave the promise in Abuja last week during a visit to NICON chief executive, Barrister Jimoh Ibrahim.

This followed Barrister Jimoh's announcement that

NICON had already started paying outstanding claims, including the \$500,000 claim by the NNPC which he said would soon be paid. Based on that fact, the NICON boss proposed the group life assurance scheme which the governor assented to.

The governor expressed delight on the proposal and promised to work with NICON and thanked the company for the job opportunities it is creating for the youth in the country.

## AMAC ULTRA MODERN SHOPPING COMPLEX AREA 1 GARKI - ABUJA



## NOTICE OF REVOCATION

This is to notify all those that bought Application Forms for the purchase of shops at the AMAC Ultra Modern Shopping Complex, and failed to pay the first installment in accordance with the payment schedule stipulated in the Forms and subsequent extension periods given, that their Forms are hereby cancelled with effect from 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2006, and monies paid for the Forms are hereby forfeited in accordance with the conditions of the application.

As a replacement for the cancelled forms, limited number of Application Forms are now obtainable at Diamond Bank, Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja Branch (08055807293).

Cost of each Application Form is N100,000 non refundable fee (deductable from final cost of shop @ N2. 85Million for 1<sup>st</sup> Floor and N2. 75Million for 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor shops respectively).

Please note that each Application Form must be accompanied with payment of first installment of 25% of the cost of shop and payment for second installment shall close on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006. Forms will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

Serious interested purchasers may contact: 09-5235451, 08035965598 for further enquiries.

SIGNED:

AMAC D & B LIMITED DIAMOND BANK

# BUSINESS TRUST

## AP storms Kaduna fair with products

**A**frican Petroleum Plc, one of the major marketers of petroleum products in the country has announced plans to participate actively at this year's Kaduna International Trade fair billed to hold between February 17 and 26<sup>th</sup> 2006.

Amongst the company's lubricants that would showcase at the fair are Super V, Visco 2000 and AP Henry Duty Motor Oil, AP Motor cycle oil and AP Generator oil.

Mrs Ellen Idigbe, the company's corporate affairs

**From Mohammed Shosanya**

manager who disclosed this to *Business Trust* said the lubricants would be sold to visitors at the AP pavilion at discount prices while other gifts of the company would be taken away by customers for their purchases during the fair.

She also said her company's sales personnel and Engineers would be there to offer professional advice to customers on AP's lubricants application and other related

information on the company's products and services.

While explaining that the recent upgrade of her company's lubricants blending facility at its Apapa installation and appointment of the lubricants distributors nationwide have occasioned availability of the lubricants to customers, Mrs Idigbe further added that distribution channels have been improved following the purchase of additional lubricants trucks.

These trucks, she stated will enable African Petroleum take advantage of the bulk lubricants business opportunities in the country as well as facilitate promote delivery of products to customers



Students visit a stand at a recent international trade fair. Kaduna will host another fair beginning this week.

## NNPC seeks land in Kebbi for ethanol project

**T**he Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has requested for 10,000 hectares of land in Kebbi State for the cultivation of sugarcane and maize for its automotive biomass ethanol pilot programme.

Already, the state government has started surveying the identified Fadama areas of the state with very rich soil for the pilot sugarcane fuel ethanol pilot programme.

A statement signed by the senior special assistant on media and publicity to the governor, Abdullahi Idris Zuru said the choice of the state for the pilot programme was disclosed by the state governor, Alhaji Muhammad Adamu Aliero when he received members of the state chamber of commerce and industries on a courtesy visit at the weekend.

The Governor said the choice of Kebbi state was based on clinical examination of different locations across the country by the officials of the Nigerian National Petro-

leum Corporation (NNPC) which found the state one of the most suitable for the programme.

He said when the proposed programme is actualised and subsequently fruitful results achieved Kebbi State which had just witnessed completion of three factories about to be commissioned, will also make an entry into the nation's oil industrial complex.

He therefore urged members of the business community in the state to liaise with farmers in the state on one hand and the officials of the NNPC on the other with a view to spear heading the project in the state.

Similarly, Governor Aliero has invited the leadership of the chamber to take over the state government's shares in the transformer production factory and household materials manufacturing factory (MLAMIN) jointly established by the state government and two foreign investors.

## Union Bank creates value with electronic banking

**U**nion Bank of Nigeria Plc is participating at this year's Kaduna International Trade Fair commencing on Friday, February 17, to further create value for its customers and prospective ones with its seamless electronics banking services.

These include Telephone Banking, the Automated Teller Machine (ATM) card named Easycash that will enable customers and visitors to the bank's stand withdraw cash, obtain their account balances and statements as well as Union Value Card, which enable customers to download and replenish their money to the tune of N16.5 million.

According to the bank's senior manager corporate affairs, Mr. Francis Barde investors can enjoy immense benefits from the bank's support in expanding existing and riving ailing businesses, establish new ventures and export high quality products for foreign exchange earnings through its SME and export financing

schemes. Also, farmers can increase their productivity through the bank's agricultural financing scheme, which is one of the bank's core products meant to improve farmers' lot and assist

in achieving the goal of food security and poverty alleviation in the country.

Information on the bank's electronic products, savings and current accounts, imports/exports financing, SME/agricultural

financing, trade and commerce, foreign exchange transactions, leasing, oil and gas and solid minerals, international money transfer products, as well as products/service of subsidiaries will available at the fair.

## Afribank offers services at Kaduna fair

**E**xhibitors and participants at this year's Kaduna International Trade Fair are in for a better treat as Afribank Nigeria Plc has concluded arrangements to offer value-added services at the ten-day event which begins on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2006. already, the bank has mobilised its customer facing and relationship management groups to offer full banking services at the fair.


According to the management, the bank has put up a complete banking hall equipped with on-line banking services at the fair

ground to enable customer and participants enjoy full banking services throughout the fair. With the on-line real time services, customers of Afribank and other participants will able to access their accounts, make withdrawals, deposit and transfer funds at the bank's stand.

A release signed by Lanre Alabi said various financial services of the bank will be available to all customers. Special desks have been created for corporate, consumer and retail, and commercial banking customers. There will also be desk

to answer enquiries from shareholders and investors on the bank's successful consolidation programme, its' N30 billion shareholders' funds and its plans for the future.

Customers and exhibitors to the fair will enjoy the bank's traditional services like cash management and opening of new accounts at concessionary rates. The Bank will also offer such services as funds, transfer, sale of examination forms, Value card services, bills collection, and revenue and customs duties collection



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#### PROGRAMME OF THE YEAR 2006

All qualified members of The Certified Pension Institute of Nigeria, students members and the general public are implored to take note of the following programme of the year 2006

PROGRAMME	DATE	DURATION	VENUE
◆ Compulsory Continuous Professional Education	March	One day	Lagos
◆ National Workshop on Marketing of Financial Services with Emphasis on Pension Fund Management Product	April	Two days	Abuja
◆ Qualifying Professional Exam	May	Three days	All centres
◆ Compulsory Continuous Professional Education	June	One day	Abuja
◆ Annual Public Lecture	July	One day	Lagos
◆ Induction of new members	July	One day	Abuja
◆ National Workshop on: Pension Practice, Risk & Investment Management	August	Two days	Abuja
◆ Compulsory Continuous Professional Education	Sept	One day	Lagos
◆ Annual Pension Conference	Nov	Two days	Abuja
◆ Annual General Meeting	Nov	One day	Abuja
◆ Qualifying Professional Exam	Nov	Three days	All centres
◆ Induction of New Members	Dec	Two days	Abuja & Lagos

**For further enquiries, contact: [www.pensioninstitute.com](http://www.pensioninstitute.com) or the addresses below:**

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# Business Trust

## Aviation

### Non-professionals impede aviation growth - Task force

The presidential task force on aviation has identified the imposition of non-professionals at management positions in parastatals in the industry as one of the greatest impediments to its growth.

Chairman of the task force, Air vice Marshal Paul Dike made this known at the end of a visit to all aviation formations in Lagos.

According to him, outsiders that moved into the industry had resulted in stagnation of insiders, adding that parastatals in the industry had more administrative staff than technical staff.

Paul Dike lamented further

**From Shakirat Abdulmajeed, Correspondent (Lagos)**

that the aviation industry which is a technical one, did not have enough manpower in the critical sector of the industry.

Other problems confronting the industry as enumerated by the task force include poor infrastructure, ineffective regulatory oversight, and premature retirement of experienced professionals, massive corruption and weak capital base of the local airlines.

He noted that the task

force is currently scrutinizing all the submissions and representations in line with the facts uncovered during the tour of the airports.

The task force that has rounded up its hearing in Lagos said it has started deliberating on its findings and would make recommendations in relating to their terms of reference to the government.

"The task force is working speedily but conscientiously to submit an interim report within the next 10 days, while the final report will be ready before the end of next month," Dike added.

Virgin Nigeria, the nation's new carrier is to train 60 Nigerian pilots and engineers at the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT), Zaria using foreign instructors.

Virgin Chief Executive, Mr. Conrad Clifford who led a team from the company's management at NCAT yesterday announced that the company will soon take delivery of six additional Boeing 737 aircraft said, "we need pilots to handle them and engineers to maintain them."

Mr Clifford expressed satisfaction with the facilities at the college adding that, "it seems that all the facilities for training are here, it only needs a bit of funding from the government."

He said Virgin Nigeria has 20 foreign pilots out of a total of 40 in its employment adding that the company has dec-

### Virgin Nigeria harps on pilot training

**From Sani Babadoko, Bureau Chief (Kaduna)**

ided to ensure that all the 60 Nigerian pilots it is bringing on board are trained at NCAT.

"We need between 50 and 60 pilots and I will take 24 months to train them in different batches starting with 20 this year," he added.

Clifford said the instructors will be engaged from abroad to train the pilots while NCA will support with ground instruction experts.

"We will bring our instructors and students but will want them to have their training here so that we can monitor their training closely."

"That way we can be sure of the standard of instructions and have the training within Nigeria rather than overseas."

He said the nation's aviation industry is becoming dynamic inspite of the recent unfortunate incidents. "There is quite a lot of choice in Nigeria in terms of airliners and we are just making sure of higher standards," he added.

He said Virgin Nigeria will soon expand its scope of operations adding that in May this year it will start flying to Dubai, Dakar and later Abidjan and Bamako. "We are trying to create a regional route from Lagos," he declared.

NCAT's deputy rector, Mr. Kole Osaretin Uhuegho who commended Virgin Nigeria for the initiative promised full cooperation but said the college will verify the qualifications of the instructors hoping that instructors at the college will benefit from their experience.

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# Business Trust

1ST-TIER SECURITIES

THE NIGERIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

REPORT AS AT FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2006

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares
ADSWITCH PLC.	4	1.35	27,000	35,550.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>27,000</b>	<b>35,550.00</b>
<b>AGRICULTURE/AGRO-ALLIED</b>				
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC.	2	1.49	16,000	23,910.00
THE OKOMU OIL PALM COMPANY PLC	1	17.00	2,354	40,018.00
PRESCO PLC.	20	10.50	229,999	2,425,649.50
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>248,353</b>	<b>2,489,577.50</b>
<b>AUTOMOBILE &amp; TYRE</b>				
DUNLOP NIGERIA PLC.	28	2.69	228,010	575,360.70
R. T. BRISCOAE PLC.	19	5.50	49,097	264,530.20
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>47</b>		<b>277,107</b>	<b>839,890.90</b>
<b>BANKING</b>				
ACCESS BANK PLC	140	2.67	4,071,945	10,872,014.56
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC.	7	9.10	22,423	204,049.30
DIAMOND BANK PLC	1	7.75	1,750	13,562.50
EIB INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC.	1	2.26	500,000	1,130,000.00
FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	2	5.11	88,005,000	449,705,550.00
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC.	520	34.30	5,217,785	177,354,931.61
GTBANK PLC.	368	13.75	10,375,146	142,407,292.02
INVESTMENT BANKING	10	4.57	1,631,813	7,457,385.41
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC.	168	9.71	7,881,348	77,164,493.13
NAL BANK PLC.	78	2.80	11,164,554	31,260,751.20
OCEANIC BANK PLC	49	5.90	683,690	4,022,695.00
PLATINUM BANK PLC	1	2.60	69,200	179,920.00
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC.	119	12.20	1,586,634	19,113,388.02
UNION BANK NIGERIA PLC.	115	25.48	260,452	6,636,316.96
UNITY BANK PLC	1	2.50	10,000	25,000.00
UNIVERSAL TRUST BANK PLC	1	0.56	20,000	11,200.00
WEMA BANK PLC.	10	3.74	86,182	322,320.68
ZENITH BANK PLC.	23	19.64	84,780	1,665,079.20
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>1,614</b>		<b>631,672,702</b>	<b>929,545,949.99</b>
<b>BREWERIES</b>				
CHAMPION BREWERIES PLC.	2	2.11	30,000	63,050.00
GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC.	67	100.00	148,260	14,792,847.42
NIGERIAN BREWERIES PLC.	286	36.51	1,639,361	59,696,571.06
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>355</b>		<b>1,817,621</b>	<b>74,552,468.48</b>
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC.	63	35.12	518,692	18,166,383.56
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC.	4	6.50	8,225	53,462.50
CEMENT COMPANY OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	6	7.00	18,730	132,198.70
NIGERIAN ROPES PLC.	3	1.62	20,000	32,400.00
WEST AFRICAN PORTLAND CEMENT CO. PLC.	142	17.93	3,456,602	62,144,552.25
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>218</b>		<b>4,022,239</b>	<b>80,528,997.01</b>
<b>CHEMICAL &amp; PAINTS</b>				
BERGER PAINTS PLC.	10	4.00	161,000	642,937.87
CAP PLC.	5	9.00	13,229	116,892.30
D. N. MEYER PLC.	24	3.00	182,721	518,029.87
NIGERIA-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC.	9	4.09	209,521	859,615.60
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>48</b>		<b>566,471</b>	<b>2,137,475.64</b>
<b>COMPUTER &amp; OFFICE EQUIPMENT</b>				
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC.	7	1.45	18,551	26,663.95
TRIPPLE GEE AND COMPANY PLC.	3	0.40	2,760	1,072.02
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>21,311</b>	<b>27,735.97</b>
<b>CONGLOMERATES</b>				
A. G. LEVENTIS NIGERIA PLC.	7	1.14	70,042	82,147.88
C F A O NIGERIA PLC.	5	3.60	8,560	30,252.00
CHELLARAMS PLC.	2	0.83	2,551	2,117.33
JOHN HOLT PLC.	4	1.47	4,500	6,615.00
P. Z. INDUSTRIES PLC.	35	16.20	273,652	4,433,162.40
S C O A NIGERIA PLC.	1	0.97	2,297	2,228.09
U.A.C. NIGERIA PLC.	103	16.40	558,397	9,163,627.00
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	97	19.90	1,017,777	20,038,398.66
U.T.C. NIGERIA PLC.	9	0.71	25,375	18,177.50
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>263</b>		<b>1,963,151</b>	<b>33,776,725.86</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
CAPALBETO	1	13.30	321	4,269.30
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>321</b>	<b>4,269.30</b>
<b>FOOD/BEVERAGES &amp; TOBACCO</b>				
7-UP BOTTLING COMPANY PLC	31	28.00	198,969	5,546,369.90
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC.	137	67.04	520,612	34,861,739.32
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC.	81	26.10	227,132	5,909,986.90
NIGERIA BOTTLING COMPANY PLC.	75	67.00	190,588	12,514,059.03
NESTLE FOODS NIGERIA PLC.	46	195.00	40,014	7,648,850.93
NORTHERN NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC.	2	15.21	1,982	30,146.22
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>372</b>		<b>1,179,297</b>	<b>66,511,152.30</b>
<b>FOOTWEAR</b>				
LENNARDS (NIGERIA) PLC.	3	0.63	3,000	1,890.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>3,000</b>	<b>1,890.00</b>
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	14	2.50	57,893	149,366.94
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIGERIA PLC	43	10.00	1,039,589	10,565,926.05
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	3	5.36	15,300	82,008.00
NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARM. PLC.	1	3.23	2,500	8,075.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>61</b>		<b>1,115,282</b>	<b>10,805,375.99</b>
<b>INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS</b>				
ALUMACO PLC.	1	1.03	228	234.84
B.O.C. GASES PLC	1	2.81	16,532	46,454.92
NIGERIA ENAMELWARE COMPANY PLC.	1	3.63	600	2,178.00
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIGERIA PLC.	3	0.70	37,800.00	37,800.00
NIGERIAN YEAST & ALCOHOLIC MANU. PLC.	1	2.28	585	1,333.80
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC.	126	5.01	2,982,656	14,919,346.90
VONO PRODUCTS PLC.	9	1.04	235,106	252,316.60
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>142</b>		<b>3,289,707</b>	<b>15,259,665.06</b>
<b>INSURANCE</b>				
ACEN INSURANCE COMPANY PLC	1	0.72	15,000	10,800.00
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	5	2.39	347,350	830,166.50
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC.	17	1.44	301,067	430,590.70
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	9	0.61	49,274	30,057.14
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	21	2.80	306,026	843,470.34
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	10	2.40	327,600	793,700.00
ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE PLC.	9	2.92	112,302	326,878.42
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE	1	1.17	3,200	3,744.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	19	1.26	843,177	1,056,489.74
WEST AFRICAN PROV. INS. COY. PLC.	6	3.25	121,494	393,180.80
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>98</b>		<b>2,426,490</b>	<b>4,719,077.64</b>
<b>MANAGED FUNDS</b>				
C & I LEASING PLC	4	1.21	34,362	41,600.52
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>34,362</b>	<b>41,600.52</b>
<b>MARITIME</b>				
JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERVICES PLC	4	1.81	61,500	111,300.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>61,500</b>	<b>111,300.00</b>
<b>PACKAGING</b>				
NAMPAK NIGERIA PLC	1	1.38	500	690.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>500</b>	<b>690.00</b>
<b>PETROLEUM(MARKETING)</b>				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	68	41.15	587,038	23,979,149.52
CONOIL PLC	95	90.03	65,502	5,897,870.10
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	8	2.69	91,255	240,333.80
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	18	160.50	7,018	1,126,032.70
OANDO PLC	137	92.03	172,437	15,628,090.23
TEXACO (NIGERIA) PLC.	25	110.10	12,050	1,327,623.00
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	26	190.95	14,747	2,802,799.45
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>377</b>		<b>950,047</b>	<b>51,001,898.80</b>
<b>PRINTING &amp; PUBLISHING</b>				
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC.	2	3.18	5,250	16,695.00
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC.	1	1.57	2,400	3,768.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>7,650</b>	<b>20,463.00</b>
<b>REAL ESTATE</b>				
UACN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PLC.	34	9.65	1,568,970	14,854,873.50
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>34</b>		<b>1,568,970</b>	<b>14,854,873.50</b>
<b>TEXTILES</b>				
UNITED NIGERIA TEXTILES PLC.	11	2.00	18,406	36,679.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>18,406</b>	<b>36,679.00</b>
<b>Overall Totals</b>	<b>3,693</b>		<b>151,271,487</b>	<b>1,287,303,306.06</b>

## TOP 10 TRADES AS AT FRIDAY

SYMBOL	VOLUME	VALUE	TRADES
IBTC	1,631,813.00	7,457,385.41	10
NB	1,639,361.00	59,696,571.06	286
VITAFOAM	2,982,656.00	14,919,346.90	126
WAPCO	3,456,602.00	62,144,552.25	142
ACCESS	4,071,945.00	10,872,014.56	140
FIRSTBANK	5,217,785.00	177,354,931.61	520
INTERCONT	7,881,348.00	77,164,493.13	168
GUARANTY	10,375,146.00	142,407,292.023	68
NAL	11,164,554.00	31,260,751.20	78
FCMB	88,005,000.00	449,705,550.00	2

## TOP 10 GAINERS

SYMBOL	LASTCLOSE	FRIDAY'S CLOSE	CHANGE
NESTLE	190.50	195.00	+4.50
7UP	26.90	28.00	+1.10
NBC	65.94	67.00	+1.06
OANDO	91.00	92.03	+1.03
TOTAL	190.00	190.95	+0.95
ASHAKACEM	34.26	35.12	+0.86
FIRSTBANK	33.69	34.30	+0.61
UNILEVER	19.52	19.90	+0.38
UAC-PROP	9.30	9.65	+0.35
UDA	12.00	12.20	+0.20

## TOP 10 LOSERS

SYMBOL	LASTCLOSE	FRIDAY'S CLOSE	CHANGE
AP	42.40	41.15	-1.25
GUINNESS	100.93	100.00	-0.93
TEXACO	110.50	110.10	-0.40
GLAXOSMITH	10.26	10.00	-0.26
CCNN	7.19	7.00	-0.19
NIG-GERMAN	4.25	4.09	-0.16
BOCGAS	2.95	2.81	-0.14
PRESTIGE	2.52	2.40	-0.12
EVANSMED	2.60	2.50	-0.10
LIVESTOCK	1.56	1.49	-0.07

## NSE turnover rises to N8.7bn

The Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) last week recorded a turnover of 527.8 million shares worth N8.7 billion in 19,208 deals was recorded this week, in contrast to a total of 573.9 million shares valued at N5.71 billion exchange last week in 18,701 deals. This included a total of 1 million units of 2<sup>nd</sup> FGN Bond 2008 series 3 worth N1 billion.

There were no transactions in the state government bonds and industries loans/preference stocks sectors.

The Banking subsector was the most active during the week (measured by turnover volume), with 441.5 million shares worth N5.8 billion exchanged by investors in 8,163 deals. Volume in the Banking sub-sector was largely driven by actively in the shares of Union Bank of Nigeria Plc and First City Monument Bank Plc. Trading on the shares of the two banks accounted for 215.1 million shares, representing 48.7% of the sub-sector's turnover. The Building materials subsector followed on the week's activity chart with a turnover of 19.15 million shares valued at N366.15 million in 1,244 deals. Last week, the Banking subsector led and was followed by the insurance sub-sector.

The All-Share Index rose by 1.3% to close on Friday at 23,953.57, while the market capitalisation of listed equities closed higher at N2.59 trillion.

Forthy-two (42) stocks appreciated in price during the week, higher than the twenty-nine (29) in the preceding week. Total Nigeria Plc led on the week's gainers; table with a gain of N8.45 to close at N190.95 per share while Nig. Bottling Co. Plc following with N6.35 to close at N67.00 per share, other prices gainers in the top 10 category include: Nestle Nigeria Plc (N4.98), Cadbury Nigeria Plc (N2.04), Oando Plc (N2.03), 7-Up Bottling Co. Plc (N1.85), Ashaka Cem Plc (N1.56), Conoil Plc (N1.53), Flour Mills Nig. Plc (N1.09) and Guinness Nig Plc (N1.00)

Thirty-one (31) stocks suffered price depreciation, lower than the forty-one (41) that suffered the same fate in the preceding week. African Petroleum Plc led on the decliners' table, dropping by N2.75 to close at N41.15. Northern Nig. Flour Mills followed with a loss of N1.04 to close at N15.21 per share. Other price losers in the top 10 category include: Presco Plc (N0.57), DN Meyer Plc (N0.39), Unilever Nigeria Plc (N0.32), Nigeria-German Chemicals Plc (N0.21), RT Briscoe Plc (N0.20), Standard Alliance Insurance Plc (N0.18), and Longman Nig Plc (N0.16) and Pharma-Deko Plc (N0.15)

# Making a liv

## Sudanese shepherds tells their stories

Come and sit by the fire." Fatima Yussif, my hostess, pushes a few small pots aside and points invitingly at a stool. Milk simmers in a pot above the flames. It will be breakfast for the several children who are still asleep in the large family bed in her tent.

The wind blows relentlessly across the savannah. It is bitterly cold as the winter sun shimmers through gray clouds of dust. The men, shepherds of the Shanabla tribe, return shivering from their nocturnal rambles. They wear thick overcoats with extra blankets tacked around their shoulders. They guide the flocks long to their farig, or family camp, where I've become a temporary live-in relative. Fatima's small tent is pitched next to that of her favorite son.

A nomad's tent is almost always a woman's property and responsibility. Usually it is richly adorned with colored cloth and plaited leather bags, but Fatima has furnished hers sparingly. There is a roll-up bed made of dried palm fronds, and next to it an utfa, a woman's camel saddle, which is stuffed with leather bags and gourds. The wall behind the bed is covered with dark brown cowhides. There is a wooden trough, several stools and a few cooking utensils. That's all.

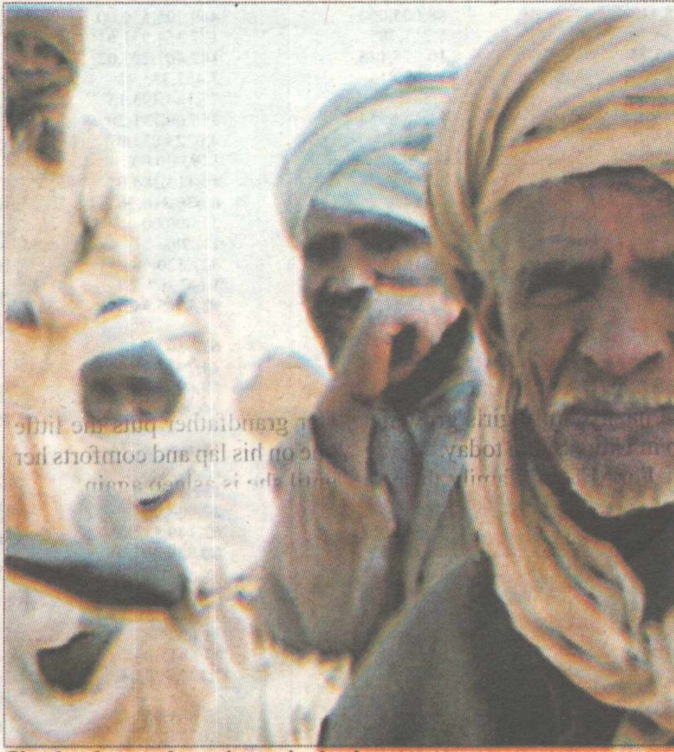
Fatima runs the household mostly on her own. Her husband, Mohamed Nur, works in the camel market of El Obeid, the capital of Sudan's Northern Kordofan province, about 40 kilometers (25 mi) northwest during the great drought of 1984 and 1985, which affected some 4.5 million people from the Red Sea, the family lost much of its livestock, and Mohamed was forced to go to town to look for work. He ended by building a house there, marrying a second wife and starting a second family. Now, he sits the farig once a week.

Among the nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes in northern Sudan, wives enjoy a great deal of freedom because the male head of the family spends much time away from home traveling with camels or, as Mohamed does, working in town to supplement the income the family gets from livestock. When the husband is absent, women run their lives independently, al-

though they will often consult male relatives on important decisions. In terms of a woman's workload, a husband's presence does not make much difference: Fetching water and firewood, cleaning, looking after children and small animals, cooking, washing, mending clothes, weaving mats, selling milk and setting up and breaking down the tent are all women's jobs. Although family life without a husband's consistent presence has disadvantages, it lightens a wife's load in one respect: It means a greatly reduced stream of visitors for whom tea, coffee and meals must be prepared.

The bleak sun hovers above the treetops as Fatima's daughter, Aisha, carries two jerry cans to the paved road. The plastic containers are filled with goat's milk, and she will sell them to the wholesale buyer who passes by at eight every morning. He will sell the milk in the market in El Obeid. Other tribes frown on this practice because the custom of the region demands that milk be distributed free, not for profit.

Aisha and Fatima, however, have more basic issues to worry about. The Shanabla tribe (pronounced sha-NA-bla) is unique among the major tribes of North Kordofan, because the Shanabla have no dar, or government-recognized homeland. As a result, the tribe leads an entirely nomadic existence. Until recently, this was easy because there were enough communal grazing grounds to accommodate the Shanabla's camels, cattle, sheep and goats. Farmers, who are mainly from the Bederia and Gawaama tribes, were usually pleased when Shanabla arrived on their lands: After all, animal dung is excellent fertilizer, and it came free of charge.



Shepherds pose for a picture in the desert

But times have been changing. Since the 1970's, government-supported, investment-driven agriculture has put vast areas of formerly pastoral land to the plow throughout the White Nile region. In the last decade, Sudan's agricultural area has grown by about 30 percent, much of it on land that the Shanabla used during the dry season, from October to May. But without a dar, Shanabla have been powerless to check this encroachment on their resources. Now, many of their wells lie inaccessible on farmland that also often blocks traditional migration routes. As a result, the tribe has been forced to spend less time in more fertile regions and more in the drier lands, where grazing can be scarce and where long-term desert climate cycles have made droughts worse.

All of this means that Shanabla livestock have less to eat, and many Shanabla are struggling to maintain their subsistence livelihoods. Industrial-farm landowners are not generally among the farmers that host the Shanabla, and the small-time tribal farmers who remain, are increasingly likely to object to the arrival of itinerant Shanabla.

This is exactly the situation at Fatima's farig. After hearing about a neighbouring farmer's complaint that Shanabla sheep and camels had once again eaten into his harvest, Fatima's brother Ibrahim, who has joined her by the fire, comments flatly, "Our animals have to eat." To prevent trouble, Ibrahim says, he and his brothers have taken to letting their flock browse at night.

As we sit chatting around the fire, a farmer's wife rides by on a donkey. As one of the fami-

ly's guard dogs begins to bark, she shouts, "This is our land! It would be better if that dog looked after your herd!"

Ibrahim sighs. "A farmer can stick his spade into the ground anywhere he wants," he complains, "but nobody seems to care about the needs of nomads. It's all one big headache. If he loses sight of his animals, even for the shortest time, he will be in trouble with a farmer."

Ibrahim has a point: As untilled pastureland shrinks, crop damage by livestock is on the rise. If a farmer is not pleased with the compensation settlement he is then offered by a Shanabla shaykh, the farmer can take his case to court, where nomads have no say in the assessment of damages nor any right of appeal. As one Shanabla shaykh put it dryly, "Conflicts between herders and farmers are as old as Cain and Abel."

Pastoralism in the Sudan is a centuries-old form of natural resource use and management. It entails varied types of movement, ranging from pure nomadism, typically characterized by camel breeding and long-distance, year-round movement, to periodic, seasonal ("transhumant") movement over shorter distances. Some pastoralists are "agropastoralists," which means that they combine seasonal farming with livestock-raising, and varying degrees of nomadism.

After the herdsman have breakfast and a few hours' sleep, it is time for the camels to graze. Ibrahim has grown-up sons who help him with these tasks. His younger boys take care of the sheep and goats. Girls do some of the domestic chores. "It's a hard life," both

Ibrahim and Fatima agree, "but don't forget that in the rainy season, our lives are a lot happier. During the wet summers there is grass everywhere. No trouble with angry farmers then!" they say cheerfully.

Omar Egemi is an assistant professor of geography at the University of Khartoum, and he is also employed by the United Nations Development Program (undp) to study ways to reduce resource-based conflicts between farmers and nomads. When he was young, his father was a Nile Valley trader who bartered with the Beja, a camel-herding tribe that lives in eastern Sudan and southeastern Egypt. As a child, Omar was fascinated by the Beja's stories and lifestyle. Later, he traveled with them and wrote a master's thesis about subsistence economics in the Red Sea hills. He confirms what Fatima and Ibrahim say. "Half of Sudan consists of land that is not suitable for agriculture. Only nomads know what to do with these areas. The fattest sheep and camels for the market are reared in marginal areas where no human being wants to live. The livestock sector annually contributes \$140 million to the national economy. That is 23 percent of total [national] exports," Egemi exclaims, adding that this income from the nomadic sector is second only to that of the oil sector.

But in spite of this statistic, Egemi asserts that scientists, development workers, policy makers and politicians have all tended to "favor agricultural development at the expense of pastoralism." This, he says, leads to fewer people taking part in livestock raising, food insecurity among nomads, increased farmer-nomad conflicts and the concentration of livestock in fewer hands. Egemi can only shake his head at all this.

"Pastoral movement is an efficient adaptation to non-equilibrium ecologies," he explains. "Mobility is the only way to rear animals in marginal areas on a sustainable basis." In addition, it is essential to maintain—as the Shanabla and others do—a diversity of livestock, to split large units into smaller ones in times of drought and to use regional, non-hierarchical decision-making systems that respond efficiently to changing conditions.

Judiya is the Arabic word for the traditional means of reconciling tribal conflicts. It is based on mediation, give-ness and agreement, fines, rewards and restitution. When there is resolution, then

formalized with a recitation of the Qur'an.

Better than reconciliation of course, is conflict prevention. Shanabla will often don small goats and firewood farmers, and they will also buy sesame oil, soap and grain from them. Most significantly, they will intermarry with farmers. And for any Shanabla festivity, farmers in the area are always invited. Many farmers, among the guests at a marriage celebration taking place in the Shanabla camp of Shay Abdel Bagi, a prominent livestock trader. For him, good relations with the people whose land he and his clan are staying is a matter of good business.

In North Kordofan, 70 percent of the soil is sandy and supports only annual grass and acacia trees. The other 30 percent, found in the central and southern districts of the province, is clay and heavy clay, which supports a rich cover of vegetation. Most of the nomads' wet-season grazing areas are located in the regions.

North Kordofan is a dry zone. Rainfall varies from none at all in the far north to little in the southern savannah. Droughts occur every four to five years, and severe, multi-year droughts take place about once a decade. This complex ecosystem is well suited to pastoralists, who follow their rains with their herds. Scout select sites with good grazing and the poorer sites are left to regenerate.

"Is the meat ready yet?" Abdel Bagi rushes into the rakuba, a hut used as kitchen that belongs to the groom's mother, Bakheita Hamid. The rakuba is jammed with women stooped over the fires on which large pans of camel meat and onions in gravy are simmering. Abdel Bagi tastes it. "Very good," he declares. He has a reputation at stake: His guest must be completely satisfied.

Among the nomadic women enjoy a great deal of freedom because the male head of the family spends much time away from home traveling with camels or, as Mohamed does, working in town to supplement the income the family gets from livestock. When the husband is absent, women run their lives independently, although they will often consult male relatives on important decisions. In terms of a woman's workload, a husband's presence does not make much difference: Fetching water and firewood, cleaning, looking after children and small animals, cooking, washing, mending clothes, weaving mats, selling milk and setting up and breaking down the tent are all women's jobs. Although family life without a husband's consistent presence has disadvantages, it lightens a wife's load in one respect: It means a greatly reduced stream of visitors for whom tea, coffee and meals must be prepared.



The Sudanese desert shepherds have flourishing herds

# Living in the desert

The groom's friends arrive, sweeping through the farig on racing camels. Clouds of dust rise everywhere, whips crack, and women turn to shout encouragement. "It will be our turn later," a girl says with a smile. She is busy adorning her braids with shining beads. In the afternoon, her golden jewelry and headdress will shine during the dance party for the young.

Later, when the celebration is in full swing, a colorful caravan of camels passes the camp—Shanabla enroute from one place to another. "This is how we arrived here, one week ago," says Bakheita, pointing her wooden spoon at the tall utfas hung with pieces of flapping cloth that protect mothers and children against sun and wind. Beds, stools, sticks and canvas all sway to the rhythm of the baggage camels. Bright-eyed, the women in the rakuba watch the grand procession disappear. The horizon beckons.

Unlike the Shanabla, the Kababish (pronounced ka-ba-beesh) are the tribe with the largest dar in all of Sudan. At the beginning of the 20th century, their paramount chief and modern founder, nazir Ali Al Tum, with British assistance, allied several tribes into a confederation that took on the name Kababish, and under his leadership the Kababish lay claim to most of the vast territory between the Nile and Darfur—much of modern North Kordofan province, an area approximately the size of North Dakota or Syria.

"That was a phone call from Saudi Arabia." Nazir Al Tum Hassan puts his satellite phone back on the dashboard of his Toyota Land Cruiser. It's very late at night, and he is driving to his headquarters in Umm Sunta, 360 kilometers (220 mi) northwest of El Obeid.

"I would not be able to do this work without a car," he says, explaining that he is con-

stantly driving to meetings and conflict-resolution sessions to administer the affairs of the tribe's estimated 70,000 members. He says he sees too little of his immediate family, but such are the burdens of a nazir, a near-royal title he has held for 15 years.

"We're home." The nazir is tired. He steers his car onto the hosh, the courtyard, where growling dogs jump on the vehicle. "As long as you stay close to me, they will not hurt you," he grins.

I first met the leader of the Kababish several years ago in El Obeid, at the home of his cousin Nahid Fadlallah. Everybody rose when Al Tum Hassan entered. They remained silent when he spoke. A few weeks later, we met again in the Kababish capital of Hamrat Al Shaikh, a four-hour drive east of Umm Sunta. Again, everyone bowed deeply before him.

Now at home, he wants only peace and quiet. His shoes are off, the turban leaves his head, and he lets out a sigh of relief as he drops heavily onto one of the beds, along the walls of the richly decorated tent.

"Make yourself at home," he chokes as his two little daughters smother him playfully. His teenage son Hassan has more interest in the machine gun the guards bring inside than in his father's return. Fatma, his 40-year-old wife, looks at the family scene and smiles. Self-confident, she addresses her husband with a tone of friendship and partnership. Both were raised in the ruling family of the Kababish, and both studied at Omdurman University.

"You met my eldest daughters in El Obeid?" Fatma asks me the next day, incredulous. She looks up from a large pot where mutton is simmering. I reply that I met the two students when I visited Fatma's sister, who lives with her family near the university. In fact, the house was full of nephews and

nieces—and all were at the university. There were boys who would have much preferred to go traveling with the camels, but in the nazir families, university study is now an obligatory part of growing up.

Al Tum Hassan's mother clacks her tongue. "When I was young, studying was unthinkable for girls. Not that my childhood was boring." Then, she says, the ruling family traveled throughout the land, living in tents, and she believes she saw far more of the country than do the nazir family girls growing up in Umm Sunta today.

For Al Tum's family, the nomadic life ended when the need for education increased with the burden of administration. The lives of the other Kababish families have changed as well: In the thorny acacia forest of Umm Sunta stand several thousand permanent dwellings built of wood and sturdy white tenting cloth. All belong to sedentarized families who have moved from camel and sheep herding, to vegetable farming, truck driving and wage labor on mechanized farms.

"Almost all Kababish lost their cattle in the catastrophic drought of 1984 and 1985," explains Hassan's cousin, Salim Musa Ali Al Tum. Then, he says, he watched destitute nomads leaving for the cities in search of food and work. Many invested whatever money they were able to save in new livestock, and a large number of families returned to the rural areas. But not all women, he says, were prepared to carry on where they had left off. Many preferred to stay with the children in the summer camps near the cities, where there were wells, a school and a small hospital. It's the elder boys and the men, who look after the sheep and the camels, who enjoy roaming the land and who pushed for return to nomadic life after the drought.

Salim Musa says thoughtfully, "It is a good development that children are going to school. But as a result, a lot of nomad knowledge is lost. The teachers do not teach anything about plants, trees, animals, wells and grazing areas." He says he would love to accompany me on the next leg of my travels among the tribes, but he is a government official now, he says, and he also has family obligations.

In Shaykh Hamid's farig, it turned out he had been informed days ago about our impending arrival. He greets us with a warm embrace and quickly takes us to where a large white tent shelters us from the biting wind. Our stiff hands and faces warm up in the bright winter sun, and hot tea takes

care of the rest.

In the evening, Hamid and his wife announce that I will sleep inside their house, for "it is too cold outside." The tent is surprisingly warm and bright. Large discarded shawls cover the ceiling. Bags of grain and salt have been stowed behind pieces of canvas. Tooled and decorated leather storage bags adorn the walls. There is a fire burning in an iron basin, and the youngest grandchild gently sways in a hammock-like cot above the bed. She is crying. Her grandfather puts the little one on his lap and comforts her until she is asleep again.

In the days that follow, days are spent with the neighbors and relatives constantly drifting in and out for chats, and evenings are for the entertainment of gossip and stories around the fire. This easygoing family life is in stark contrast to the tension in which the Shanabla live. These Kababish do not depend on a farmers' charity, for their dar is immense, and, in addition, this part of it

is too remote and insufficiently arable to attract the eyes of even the irrigated-agriculture developers. Here, the nomads can still go where they please.

From Shaykh Hamid's farig I spend several more weeks traveling through the desert in the company of Juma, and we encounter enormous diversity. We meet nomads who have become farmers. We meet families who make long journeys with hundreds of camels. Sometimes we find a woman at home alone, out in the middle of nowhere, because her husband is working in Libya. There are days we travel entirely alone. Sometimes we share a meal with a lone herdsman who looks after his sheep, or we drink tea with camel drivers who transport cut slabs of salt. And every now and then we come across nomads who have started a little shop and have placed the camels in the care of relatives. All of this makes it almost impossible to describe what Salim Musa calls "real nomad life."

"Don't bother!" smiles an-

thropologist Salah el Shazali of the University of Khartoum. "A nomad fits no label. He has too many roles. The key word is flexibility. It all depends on circumstances whether a herdsman will look for work in town or abroad, or become a farmer and subcontract his herd. Nomads minimize their risks by spreading them out, and the possibilities of doing this are endless.

"Nomad life is under pressure," he adds, "but it will not disappear from Sudan." Like Egemi, he points out the contribution of livestock-raising to the economy. "This is one solid support pillar for the future. The other is the age-old ability of the nomads to adapt."

As far as the nomads themselves are concerned, there is not even a hint of hesitation when I ask elderly Juma what he would do with a million dollars.

"Buy camels and start again," he says.

*Culled from Saudi Aramco World*

*semi-nomadic tribes in northern Sudan, wives dominate because the male head of the family spends more time traveling with camels or, as Mohamed does, earning the income the family gets from livestock. In some areas, women run their lives independently, although men make important decisions. In terms of a woman's presence does not make much difference: food, cleaning, looking after children and small animals, mending clothes, weaving mats, selling milk and tending down the tent are all women's jobs. Although a woman's consistent presence has disadvantages, it does not mean respect. It means a greatly reduced stream of income and meals must be prepared.*

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**Communiqué of the Meeting of Concerned Nigerians to Discuss the State of the Nation at Mambayya House, Kano on Saturday, January 28, 2006.**

Concerned with the clear evidence of the final stages of Obasanjo's plot to give himself an unconstitutional third, and probably permanent, term of office.

Concerned at the nonchalant attitude of some prominent Nigerians and the helplessness of the masses that merely watch while national institutions are assaulted and are being systematically decimated;

Alarmed by the consequent danger that stares Nigeria squarely in the face as it steadily slides into potential anarchy;

Aware of the great peril the third term bid holds for the present and future generations of our country, and

Mindful of our responsibilities as conscientious Nigerians, we, the under-signed, met and, after taking stock of the impending danger posed by the steady deterioration in the political, economic and security situation in the country, observed as follows:

1. That, with the deliberate weakening of all national institutions – the belittling of the Vice-Presidency, the debasing of the nation's political parties, the blackmailing of governors into a state of ineffectiveness and the slow but sure attempt to destroy the civil service – Nigeria is now set on the way to a one-man dictatorship;
2. That the National Assembly, the State Assemblies, the Judiciary, and the leading political parties are, by blackmail and subterfuge, being debased and subordinated to the Executive arm of the government in a way that is inimical to democracy;
3. That, while the executive leadership is thus busy destroying every facet of our democracy, the fact remains that Nigeria, as a country, is doomed without democracy;
4. That, despite all denials, the political and constitutional crises in Anambra, Bayelsa and Oyo states are sponsored, and the sponsorship is evident in the brazen use of state institutions to settle personal scores.
5. That the attempt to actualize the third term agenda is an insult to the intelligence of Nigerians and a cynical vulgarization of the altruistic contributions made by all sections of Nigeria to bring Obasanjo to the Presidency of the country;
6. That there is clear lack of concern for the security of life and property of law abiding citizens to such an extent that the country has now become unsafe on the highways, on the streets and even in bedrooms, with armed robbery, assassinations and general lawlessness becoming a permanent feature of life in Nigeria.
7. That the institutions that can decisively thwart the third term agenda are known to Nigerians. They are the National Assembly, the State Houses of Assemblies, the political parties and the Judiciary. Therefore, great irresistible popular pressure must be brought to bear on them and other traditional- opinion- and political leaders

[especially members of National and States Assemblies] of Nigeria to ensure that the country is not thrown into chaos, and that evil and frivolous intentions are not allowed to scale through.

And the meeting resolved as follows: that

1. It is the responsibility of all Nigerians to take active part in the quest for good governance and take their destiny in their own hands, and it is the responsibility of members of the Nigerian elite to rise to the occasion and mobilize the people to stop the third term bid;
2. No constitutional amendments must be allowed while Obasanjo is in office;
3. A coalition of all principled groups and associations throughout the nation must be formed to confront and checkmate the third term agenda.
4. An honest fight against corruption must be embarked upon in order to arrest the appalling economic decay and backwardness across the country which has engendered serious hardships to the people.

[SIGNED]

Alhaji [Dr.] Aminu Saleh, GCON, Chairman

Dr. Mahmud Tukur, CFR

Dr. Suleimanu Kumo

Alhaji Muhammadu Goni

Alhaji Asheik Jarma

Colonel Hameed I. Ali

Alhaji M. A. Wabili

Professor A. U. Jalingo

Alhaji Musa T. Waziri

Hon. Adamu M. Bulkachuwa

Alhaji Bashir Dalhatu

Alhaji Adamu G. Abubakar

Alhaji Babayo Umar

Alhaji Ahmed A. Hassan

Alhaji Ali Sa'ad Birnin Kudu

Alhaji Mohd Sabo Nanono

Alhaji Ibrahim Umar Maru

Alhaji Mustapha B. Wali

Alhaji Ali Harazumi Mohd

Alhaji Nasiru Sani Hanga

Alhaji Hashimu Sani

Alhaji Muhammad Magaji

Dr. Sadiq Isah Radda

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AVM Aliyu A. Rufa'i

Alhaji Mohammed Rimi

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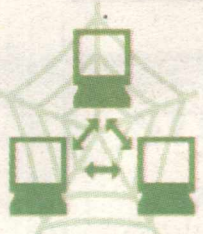
Alhaji Muhammad Bello

Alhaji Abba Mohammad

Dr. M. I. Janou [Ph.D.]

Mr. Adagbo Onoja

Mr. Adamu Adamu, Secretary



# IT WORLD



## Danish websites under attack over Prophet cartoons

Hundreds of Danish websites have been attacked in recent days to protest the publication in Denmark of derogatory cartoons of Prophet Mohammed (Pbuh), Internet security officials said.

By Hamisu Muhammad, Asst. IT Editor with Agency Report

The hackers have defaced home pages and websites by replacing them with messages hailing Islam and condemning the cartoons, security and virus

analyst, Peter Kruse, of Danish internet security firm; CSIS told AFP.

"About 500 Danish websites have been targeted that we know of because of the Mohammed cartoons ... (and) the number continues to rise dramatically," Kruse said.

He said the hackers were primarily based in the Middle East and were generally coordinating their attacks to make them more effective.

Small websites with poor security were the primary targets.

"These are not skilled hackers. They are what we call scriptkiddies who attack websites with weak security," he said.

Instead of seeing the real home page, visitors to the sites would see a message criticizing Denmark and condemning the publication of the cartoons. Some showed images of Danish

flags being burned.

One website that was attacked had a message that read: "Respect Our Prophet Mohammed (Peace Be Upon Him) Or U Will See True Muslims Anger."

The problem was relatively easy for the owners of the websites to rectify, though many were being hacked again as soon as they had removed the defacement, Kruse said. Major sites, such as the

government's website and the site of the Jyllands-Posten newspaper which first printed the cartoons in September, had been under attack but their security was strong enough to ward off any severe problems.

"This clearly shows that security on small websites could be better," Kruse said.

He said he expected the attacks to continue for two or three weeks. "Sooner or later the dispute dies down."

## Firm launches Wazobia operating system

Efforts to increase the use of open source operating systems (OS) in the country and allow Nigerians have and use legitimate software received a boost with the formal launch of Wazobia Linux in Lagos last week.

Chief executive officer (CEO) Leapsoft Technologies, developers of the OS, Bolaji Onibudo told Journalists that Wazobia Linux is an alternative OS developed by Nigerians for Nigerians based on Linux codes, which is open source.

According to Onibudo, "With Wazobia Linux, Nigerians can now have affordable legitimate OS accessible in native Nigerian languages. It also offers complete web applications including IM and email; out of box spam filter, firewall and anti-virus protection, has great look and feel."

Other benefits, he highlighted are the inclusion of office suite, graphics and digital photo organisers, printed user manual and installation support and the fact that the Wazobia Linux cannot be harmed by

From Zakariya Adaramola, Correspondent, Lagos

windows based viruses.

On why people should migrate to Wazobia Linux, Onibudo said that when switching from Windows to Linux, there could be produced up to 75 per cent reductions in hardware and hardware maintenance costs.

He revealed that at less than one eighth the cost of Microsoft Windows, Linux is the only affordable alternative packaged with office software suite.

In addition, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), working with Microsoft, is now cracking down on organisations using illegal copies of Microsoft Windows and Office software.

Linux code is open and preferred by most foreign governments for fear of CIA spyware that is possible with Microsoft.

Wazobia Linux includes all the most important content plug-ins to extend the usability of the desktop: Adobe Reader, Java runtime and Flash.

## NDE to train master trainers on IT

The National Directorate of Employment (NDE), has introduced a train-the-trainer workshop for its master trainers under the National Open Apprenticeship Scheme (NOAS), to acquaint them with the challenges in information and communications technology (ICT).

The Director General of the directorate, Dr. S.O. Adelodun, who opened the capacity building workshop in Katsina, said the disparity in academic experiences of the trainers, majority of whom are informal sector operators, has directly impacted on the NDE's objective of near uniformity in skills delivery to youth and created a gap between the technical expertise of some of the trainers and their capacity to deliver the training.

The director who was represented by the Katsina State coordinator, Mallam Garba Jibrin Kirfi, outlined areas such as pedagogical

From Lawal Ibrahim, Correspondent, Katsina

principles and psychological dimensions of teaching and learning, social interaction and counselling as well as the importance of motivational issues that will lead to the provisions and reinforcement mechanism to behavioural changes and interaction between the master trainer and the trainee.

He said the directorate has got the federal government mandate to design programmes capable of generating mass employment for youths in which presently about 37,000 youths are undergoing vocational training in various skills, among the graduated one's of which 13,043 have been assisted to set up their own workshops and other ventures through the directorate's resettlement scheme.

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**Location:** Kano

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## ADVERTORIAL

# CONCERNED A.N.P.P. MEMBERS

NO 87B SABON LA YI, GANGARE, JOS.

## ETIEBET, A.N.P.P. GOVERNORS AND THE ABUJA CIRCUS OF SHAME

*"... Third Term remains a thought, a rumour and speculation, no matter how strong or loud. We should not split our hair on it, but rather thank God that if such a thought ever becomes a reality, A.N.P.P. would stand to benefit as we are not going to file a Third Term candidate..."*

### Fellow Party Members,

In case you are wondering who uttered the above quoted, grandly illogical and manifestly treasonable statement, just hold your breath and prepare yourself well for the mind-blowing shocker: the author was no other than Chief Don Etiebet who parades himself as the National Chairman of the A.N.P.P.

Indeed, the bombshell was actually contained in a speech read by Etiebet at a "NEC Meeting" of the party on Friday, February 10, 2006 in Abuja. The said meeting, or circus show, has all features of a sordid theatre of the absurd. First it came only a day after a splinter group in the party had announced the sacking on Etiebet for sundry reasons, including one that we have always suspected; that he has been playing the Trojan horse for the P.D.P. Second, the meeting clearly did not satisfy the constitutional requirements of a 14-day notice and being necessarily convened by the National Working Committee (it was allegedly rather whimsically summoned by the National Secretary at the behest of Etiebet). Third, when the "NEC Meeting" got underway, most of the party's top shots, elders, Board of Trustees members, National legislators, and such respected leaders as the revered General Muhammadu Bubari were conspicuously absent. Those who passed for delegates were mainly commissioners, special advisers and aides of the five governors present. In fact, one unmistakable fact at the event was the over-bearing influence of the governors who appeared to be calling all the shots.

Which is why the most surprising thing of all was the story making the rounds that the governors had earlier had a meeting, chaired by Governor Saminu Turaki of Jigawa State at his residence, the previous night where the text of Etiebet's speech (with all its treasonable paragraphs) was vetted and okayed. For some bizarre reasons, though not unconnected with his well-known eccentricities, Turaki shied away from the main event.

What rankles us most however (and has made our heart to bleed ever since), is that a meeting of some A.N.P.P. bigwigs would hold and nobody - not even a whisper would take Etiebet to task on his ruinous and destructive leadership, his rudderless style, his drift, and why ours is the most docile opposition party in the history of this country. Nobody so much as ask Etiebet how he has been running the party in a manner of a circus showman - particularly the finances of the party, and why he has failed to publish same as is required and has been the tradition everywhere.

Rather than address these fundamental issues, sponsors of the Abuja meeting, were more pre-occupied with how they "would stand to benefit" from the third term agenda ≤Obasanjo's vile, venomous, anti-people agenda despised and shunned by all Nigerians, including most members of his own party. But we, the opposition party "should not split any hair on it" because some of our selfish and self-seeking have all but sold us down the river! *What a bleeding shamel !!!*

We also learnt on good authority that some of our governors have assured Obasanjo that the A.N.P.P. as a party would officially endorse the tenure extension and the subsequent constitutional change. The Abuja meeting was to be that first move, to be followed by setting up of a caretaker committee under the Borno State governor or his lackey who will always do only what gladdens the heart of Obasanjo. Can any thing possibly be more preposterous? The good thing, however, is that the third term thing is a hard-sell, as revealed by the protests that greeted Etiebet's bombshell, forcing the Annang high chief to half-heartedly attempt to explain the point away as a personal opinion. Unfortunately for him, the press were there, and reported him accordingly.

But whoever thought someone like Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau would be part of this perfidy? But he was there live! Ali -Sherrif, yes, Bukar Abba, yes. The duo are unrepentant apostles of third term. Adamu Aliero is unpredictable, just as Turaki is too fickle, hence capable of anything. Yerima Bakura mainly thrives in posturing and inelegant grandstanding. But Shekarau? For God sake! *Allah wadan naka ya lalace*, especially if *shin nakan happens to be a holier than thou Mallam!*

But then, the whole thing didn't really come to us as a surprise. It took a PDP governor, Abdulkadir Kure of Niger State, to tell us the plain truth about our own governors: that on the issue of third term, we cannot trust them.

Now is the time for us to act. But before then, our authentic leaders must speak up. General Buhari must speak up. Governor Bafarawa must speak up. Our Senators and National Assembly members must quickly react and re-assure us that they are not part of this criminal perfidy. And from now on we should begin to see and relate with our governors as we would with devourers.

For with leaders like them, we can only begin to prepare, hence guard against the coming apocalypse.

SIGNED:

FILIBUS MAIMAKO

MUSA BABAJI

For: CONCERNED A.N.P.P. MEMBERS



# IT WORLD



## Intercellular approves N18.6bn Telecel investment

The management of Intercellular Nigeria Limited has approved an

**From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos**  
additional investment to the

tune of about \$137.5million (about N18.6 billion) in the company by Telecel Telecom.

According to a release made available to *IT world* in Lagos signed by Fidel Otuya,

the company's communications director, Intercellular management is optimistic that the intercellular-Telecel deal will provide the company with the necessary financial muscle to effectively compete in the market.

oning once again," the statement quoted the Intercellular President, Mr. Bashir Ahmad el-Rufai as said.

It would be recalled that Telecel, a brain child of Miko Rwayitare, is a privately owned telecommunications company which designs, installs, operates and manages cellular and satellite communications networks in sub-Saharan Africa.

Rwayitare developed and operates 14 Telecel networks in Africa before the company's operations were eventually sold in 2000 to Orascom for almost half a billion US dollars.

## 26 ministries in e-government project

Not less than 26 ministries, departments and other government agencies at all tiers of government have indicated interest to participate in the eGovernment projects, the vice chairman and chief executive officer of the National eGovernment Strategies Limited (NeGST), Dr. Olu Agunloye, has said.

**By Hamisu Muhammad, Assistant IT Editor**

allegations of Ogunba Obada are not true in every sense and particular"

the viability of this laudable project" said Agunloye.

He said Ogunba Obada has been circulating the allegations since October 2005, stressing that even the board of the NeGST has met and referred the issues to a special board committee.

He said, "I have thus studiously refrained from circulating my response so as not to further jeopardize the investments of shareholders and integrity of the company". According to him, the chairman of the board has since sent notices for board meeting next week to discuss the committee's report.

Dr. Agunloye who was reacting to a 13 point allegations made against him by one

In a statement made available to *IT World*, Dr. Agunloye said "I aver that the entire 13

## Starcomms hits .25m subscriber base

Starcomms Limited, Private Telecom Operator (PTO), has crossed the quarter of a million (250,000) subscriber line, making it the first PTO in Nigeria to attain the feat. The 250,000th line is 01 854 0650, one of the over 100 lines bought by the *Silverbird Group*, a foremost broadcast and entertainment company in Nigeria.

that is committed to improving the lives of Nigerians in very tangible ways.

Only in September, 2005 Starcomms announced that it has crossed the 200,000 subscriber mark, the first by any PTO in the country at that time. The company which prides itself as being the foremost Total Communications Solutions provider company in Nigeria today, offering voice, fax and high-speed internet solutions to both individuals and corporate customers, is currently implementing an aggressive roll-out programme that is expected to result in massive network and coverage expansion in the next few months.

Mr. Prakash Pantham, Commercial Director, Starcomms, expressed pride and joy at the development. He also used the opportunity to thank Starcomms' customers, describing their patronage as an endorsement and show of confidence in the quality of Starcomms' products and services.

Starcomms has consistently dominated the Nigerian PTO sector in terms of coverage, subscriber base network quality and customer service delivery.

He pledged that Starcomms would continue to introduce more value added services to the nation's telecoms market describing Starcomms as a lifestyle brand

## .....unveils valentine promo

Starcomms Limited has kicked off its Valentine Love Talk promo to mark this year's edition of Valentine Day which comes up tomorrow (February 14, 2006). The promo is open to all Starcomms subscribers in Lagos and Port Harcourt.

He stated that 40 lucky winners with the most romantic love messages will be treated to an all-expenses paid dinner for two (either with their spouses or partners), in a high-profile hotel under a very romantic setting. Out of the 40 winners, one lucky couple will emerge the Starcomms valentine couple of the year.

To qualify for the promo, according to Mr. Prakash Pantham, Starcomms' Commercial Director, subscribers are expected to send romantic love messages via SMS from any Starcomms phone, to 8888. He disclosed that subscribers will be charged N15 per message and that they are free to send as many messages as possible to enhance their chances of win-

The Starcomms Valentine Couple Of The Year, Mr. Pantham explained, will get a once-in-a-lifetime, first class red-carpet treatment which includes: Limousine pickup; helicopter ride; movies and candle-lit dinners, among many other gifts.

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## SPACE FOR SALE

# KANO TRUST

## Blasphemy: Traders urge KNSG to buy, distribute Danish goods to rehab centres

Traders in Kano have urged the state government to purchase all the Norwegian and Danish products currently in stock and distribute them to the rehabilitation centres as part of its resolution to ban the importation of such goods into the state.

It would be recalled that following the blasphemous cartoon publication by a Danish and Norwegian newspapers on Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H), the state's House of Assembly has adopted a resolution that cancelled all contract agreements with the two countries as well as place a ban on the importation of their goods into the state.

In separate interviews with *Kano Trust*, traders of the popular Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi Market argued that the directive given by the government and Islamic scholars that Muslims should boycott the purchase of products imported from Denmark and Norway has negatively affected their business.

Alhaji Ali Ahmed, who sells electronic equipment observed that the sales, he was making has drastically diminished since the scholars directive that Danish and Norwegian products should not be patronised.

He said if the directive continues, traders would suffer serious loss, saying government should purchase all the affected goods in stock, in an alternative the traders would henceforth desist from importing goods from those countries.

An Igbo trader, Mr. Ikechukwu Obinna, who sells cosmetics, described the blasphemous cartoon against Muslims as unfortunate and barbaric but observed that government should give them more time to sell the products

## Nassarawa residents accuse LG of neglect over roads

Residents in Nassarawa local government council have accused the administration of the council for their unseriousness to reconstruct dilapidated roads in the area. The residents while speaking to daily trust said that the council while coming to power pledged to rehabilitate dilapidated ones and to construct new ones, saying they are yet to see the light of the day over such pledges made.

One of the residents, Malam Ismail Ibrahim said "I could remember those days when they were campaigning and making lots of promises and pledges which includes reconstruction of roads among others, but which were yet to be fulfilled by them."

He added that there is a serious and urgent need for

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru,  
Correspondent, (Kano)

imported from Denmark and Norway before placing an order restraining customers from buying them.

According to him, if government give such opportunity or even purchased all the goods in circulation and distributed them to the needy, it should then enact a law that would make a provision for confiscation any trader found selling the products.

However traders at the singer market, explained that they are not the ones importing the goods and that federal government should ban the importation of Danish and Norwegian products into the country to signify its solidarity to the Muslims protest against the publication of blasphemous cartoon.

Section of the Muslims interviewed, said although the boycott of goods imported from the two evil countries should be given unanimous acceptance, but it is becoming difficult for most of them to easily identify the goods.

Malam Sagir Adu, en-joined governor Ibrahim Shekarau to embark on extensive enlightenment campaign

through print and electronic media, to inform the public on the categories of products imported from Denmark and Norway so that Muslims could easily identify and abandon them.

## Seat belt: Non-compliance worries FRSC

The Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Kano State command has expressed dismay over the non-compliance of motorists in the state in the use of seat belt.

The commission's acting commander, Mr. Balal B.T. stated this while addressing members of the press that about 450 motorists have been arrested in various places in connection to non use of seat belts while driving in the state.

Mr. Balal also expressed dissatisfaction over motorist's incessant use of mobile-phones while driving. He lamented that using GSM on the road is tantamount to risking both the driver's life and the lives of other innocent road users.

He urged road users in the state to adhere to traffic regulations for their safety and others as the FRSC will not hesitate to arrest and pro-

## Shekarau blames parents for juvenile delinquency

Governor Ibrahim Shekarau has blamed the incessant social vices in the society on parents due to the poor upbringing of their children.

Malam Ibrahim Shekarau said this while fielding questions from pressmen after he paid an inspection tour of Nassarawa children's home, Tudun mafiki Tony home and children remand home

Gwauron Dutse in the state.

Shekarau assured that his administration will do all it could to transform the three children's homes as they serve as the last alternative for disabled children to have a place they could call a home rather than roam the streets.

He said the state will ensure adequate provision of medical personnel to the homes with a view to enhance the children's welfare and address health related problems they are facing.

He also pledged that government would provide adequate teaching materials to boost their morals and also uplift their education and other handcraft. The governor used the opportunity to appeal to parent in the state to always ensure that their children receive adequate attention through sound education which will remove them from juvenile delinquencies that has been a problem in the state.

Earlier the Commissioner of Women Affairs, Hajiya Gaji Fatima Dantata had explained to the governor that the Nassarawa motherless children's home was established in order to cater for abandoned children.

She however thanked the administration for placing more emphasis on the homes which she said has never happened before.

The Jigawa State government has been blamed for the death of Alhaji Ibrahim Usman Dabaja who lost his life at the recently concluded meeting of the polling unit delegates in Dutse, the state capital.

Accusation was made by two members, House of Representative, Alhaji Adamu Farouk Aliyu (Birnin-Kudu/Buji) and his counterpart, Alhaji Yusuf Sai'du Miga of Miga/Jahun Federal Constituency.

## Reps blame Jigawa govt over death of Dabaja

Speaking to a crowd shortly after condoling the deceased family at Dabaja in Gwaram, Alhaji Yusuf Sai'du Miga said the late Ibrahim Dabaja was murdered in cold blood.

Yusuf Sa'idu Miga said despite the public pronouncement by Governor Ibrahim Saminu Turaki to pay compensation according to Islamic injunction over the death of Alhaji Dabaja, Miga accused the governor of not sending delegates to condole the bereaved family.

The action according to Miga is a clear indication that Governor Turaki's nonchalant attitude towards Dabaja's demise portrays his indifference to the state indigenes as exhibited towards continuation of the meeting despite the loss.

Also speaking at the rally in Birnin Kudu, Alhaji Adamu Farouk Aliyu said Dabaja's death was unfortunate while also condemning the meeting which results in his death as another way to siphoned public funds.

Adamu Farouk who also warned those sponsored to throw stones at them to desist in their own interest as according to him, "whoever

attempts such act will be dealt with."

He said "politics is a game of words and logical conviction while the people will remain the judges but some whom lack these resort to physical violence and harassment" which he assured will not be tolerated anymore by the party.

He called on the people of the state to be law abiding and fear God to live in peace and harmony with one another with a view to sustain the existing democracy in the country.

Also speaking at the occasion the acting ANPP chairman in the state, Alhaji Shehu Mustapha Babura assured that "truth will always prevail over falsehood even as attempts were made to shield the truth from the world on the actual cause of death in order for government to exonerate itself."

Mustapha Babura said late Dabaja like Turaki were "camouflaged ANPP members, yet the condolence became necessary to sympathise with the bereaved family on the period the government has technically abandoned the family."

## THE FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC

P.M.B. 1012  
KAURA NAMODA  
ZAMFARA STATE

### INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION

The Polytechnic is desirous of entering into agreement with interested, reputable and competent contractors/Property Developers to undertake the construction of a number of **STUDENTS HOSTEL BLOCKS** at the Main Campus of the Polytechnic on a **BUILD, OPERATE and TRANSFER (BOT)** basis.

In realization of this objective, the Polytechnic wishes to invite competent and reputable Estate Management Consultants/Property Developers to submit relevant proposals that will guide the Polytechnic in this regard. The proposals should include amongst other modalities for:

- Carrying out feasibility/viability studies.
- The preparation of Architectural/Engineering designs for the project.
- Raising funds to finance the construction of the project.
- Carrying out the construction of the project.
- Operating the completed hostels within a specific period in order to revamp their capital and return on their investment.

Further details on the proposed development can be obtained from the Office of the Director (Planning), Federal Polytechnic, Kaura Namoda.

The detailed proposals are to be enclosed in an envelope and titled on the top "**PROPOSALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANGEMENT OF HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION ON BOT BASIS**" and submitted to the Office of the Registrar, Federal Polytechnic, Main Campus, Kaura Namoda on or before 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2006.

Signed:  
A. DANBOYI  
REGISTRAR

## **MAXIMIZING AGRICULTURAL REVENUE AND KEY ENTERPRISES IN TARGETED SITES (MARKETS)**

### **REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

*Business Development Services (BDS) Providers*

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**BDS Areas of Interest:**

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- Group dynamics involving farmers mobilization, group formation, and group management
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- Fertilizer suppliers.
- Agro-chemical Suppliers
- Farm mechanization services & equipment development
- Irrigation services & equipment development
- Packaging design and sourcing

**Agricultural Production**

- Good Agricultural Practices and extension services
- Harvesting services
- Farm demonstration services

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- Packaging services
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- Market price survey of agricultural commodities (both raw and processed)
- Cropped area and yield survey
- Technology adoption survey
- Mid-term reviews, impact studies
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Interested service providers are advised to send an e-mail to [BDSProviderEOI@nigeriamarkets.org](mailto:BDSProviderEOI@nigeriamarkets.org) in order to receive an electronic version of the registration form. Interested service providers are also expected to prepare a capability profile stating the following and which will be limited to 5 pages: legal standing, areas of expertise/specialty, years of experience, list of selected clients/references within the last three years and profiles of key professional staff/associates. Interested service providers that meet the eligibility and capacity requirements of the MARKETS Special Activities Fund may be invited to submit proposals for specific activities throughout 2006. Capacity profiles without registration forms will not be reviewed. This expression of interest (registration form and capacity profile- soft copy and two hard copies) should be delivered not later than the 27<sup>th</sup> of February, 2006 to the: Special Activities Fund Manager, Nigeria MARKETS, No. 39, Plot 742 Lake Chad Crescent, Maitama, Abuja.

## **FEDERAL INLAND REVENUE SERVICE**

15 Sokode Crescent, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja

### **Changes in FCT Tax Administration**

In furtherance of the Reform Programme of the Federal Inland Revenue Service, the Management of the Service has decided to make the Integrated Tax Offices in the Federal Capital Territory truly a one-stop for all Taxes collected by FIRS in the FCT.

In line with this decision, PAYE/PIT files presently in the Personal Income Tax Office, Wuse Zone 6 Abuja

**LARGE TAX OFFICE, NACBRD Building, Central Area, Abuja**

- Staff files for all Ministries and Parastatals,
- Staff files for companies with turnover in excess of N1 Billion Naira
- Orthe types of organizations (self-employed, partnerships), with turnover in excess of N1'bn

Other staff files for companies and other types of organizations whose turnover is below N1 Billion and files for other taxpayers resident in the FCT are distributed using their addresses to determine the ITO that will handle their files as follows:

**GARKI ITO** City Plaza. Ahmadu Bello Way, By Old CBN Office, Garki Abuja  
Files for Taxpayers whose addresses are in Asokoro, Nyanya, Karu and Mararaba

**CENTRAL BUSINESS AREA ITO**, Owena House, Central Business District, Abuja  
Files for taxpayers whose addresses are in Central Area, Areas 1 11, Garki II, Airport Road & Bwari Area Councils

**GWAGWALADA ITO**, FCT Secretariat, Gwagwalada  
Files for taxpayers whose addresses are in Gwagwalada, Abaji, Kwali, and ...  
Area Councils

**WUSE ITO**, Plot 48 Sudan Street, Zone 6, Wuse,  
Files for taxpayers whose addresses are in Wuse Zones 1 7, Wuse ...  
Life Camp, and Kubwa

Taxpayers are advised to be guided by the above to enable FIRS serve you better

# EKO TRUST

## 3rd term: AD rep threatens to sue colleagues

A member of the House of Representatives, representing Isolo/Ejigbo Federal Constituency under the Alliance for Democracy (AD), Hon. Jaiyeola Ajatta, has threatened to sue his colleagues for including his name among the lawmakers who are in support of the third term agenda and published same in the media.

A group in the National Assembly under the aegis of National Unity Forum, proponents of alleged third term bid for President Olusegun Obasanjo, had last Thursday published some names of the supporters of the alleged third term in some of the national dailies.

Hon Ajatta was among the names published in one of the national newspapers as among the fifty House of Representative members who had pledged their support for the third term for President

Obasanjo.

When contacted on phone, he apparently irked the development and denied any affiliation with the group or having anything to do with third term agenda.

"I did not sign any paper in support of any agenda, neither did I attend any meeting with any group(s). It still remains strange to me how they got my name involved in the list, somebody somewhere must be behind this. I view this as a deliberate attempt to rubbish and discredit my person before the public.

"It is well known that I am one of the staunch members against the alleged third term bid because I have always seen it as unconstitutional and undemocratic. We cannot support the constitutional review because of one or two persons' interest. I vehemently oppose it."

When asked what he in-

Stories by Olumide Bajulaiye, Correspondent (Lagos)

tends to do over the alleged support for third term, he said: "I feel highly embarrassed and upset. I have already instructed my lawyer to take a legal action against the forum led by its chairman, Hon

David Idoko."

Ajatta also denied ever meeting Hon Idoko before. "I do not know Idoko from Adams. I have not visited him before and I do not belong to any group in the House"

He demanded an apology from the group, which he said should be published on the

front page of any of the national dailies.

"I will not be a part of any group that does not want the progress of this country and without clear focus and vision. I wonder in whose interest they claim to pursue the alleged third term, while Obasanjo has not openly de-

clared his interest on the third term agenda. In fact, he has said he would leave at the expiration of his eight year tenure come 2007."

He posited that the supporters of the agenda were doing so for their own clandestine interests which is totally bound to fail.

## PHCN officials escape 'area boys' lynch in Isale-gangan

Some officials of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) attached to Idumagbo office in Lagos Island, Wednesday narrowly escaped death when some 'Area-Boys' attacked them with machetes and other dangerous weapons, while attempting to disconnect their electricity.

The victims identified as Afolabi Kareem and Shakiru Olaoye were said to have gone out along with their colleagues to disconnect PHCN

customers who are owing somewhere around Isale-gangan area when the Area-boys warned the officials not to tamper with their wire.

The officials who ignored the earlier warning and went ahead said that he was surprised when the miscreants descended on them with machetes and inflicted various injuries on them.

The area boys also seized the ladder brought by the officials saying there had been persistent power outage in the area since last Christmas, adding that such did not stop PHCN from serving them with exorbitant bill every month.

The management of

PHCN office at Idumagbo, however reported the matter to the Adeniji Adele Police Station, where the victims were taken to Lagos General Hospital for medical attention.

Officials of the Idumagbo undertaking office who felt bad and insecure about the incident, embarked on strike on Thursday by switching off about five transformers that are on the same line as the Isale-gangan transformer, thereby throwing the whole areas into darkness.

An unconfirmed report stated that the PHCN officials who were attacked by the miscreants were not officially sent to Isale-gangan for any

disconnection, but went there as usual to extort from their customers.

It was also gathered that a senior officer from the PHCN Lagos zone headquarters, sympathized with the victims, but blamed them for the illegal disconnection, saying government will not be responsible for their family if they had lost their live in the process.

Meanwhile, aggrieved customers from Alli, Palmchurch, Idumagbo and Isale-Agbede areas who were affected by the blackout gathered themselves to storm the Idumagbo office to protest the injustice PHCN had meted on them

## Firms threaten to sue LAMATA over NITEL cables

Corporate organisations located along Acme road, Ogba, Ikeja in Lagos, have threatened to sue the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA) for damaging the NITEL cables that supply service to their offices.

Investigations by our correspondent at the weekend revealed that, LAMATA, in an attempt to repair some of the bad portions of the road, destroyed some of the NITEL cables without an attempt to repair them.

Our correspondent gathered that several corporate offices along the route now find it difficult to make contact with their business associates on phone as a result of the damaged cables.

Mr. Chong Shin, who works for one of the companies, informed our correspondent that their company in the last two weeks had been in the dark as regard making business calls to some of its associates who want to do business with them. "We cannot make calls nor can we receive phone calls from outside."

When our correspondent visited the area on Friday, some of the damaged cables were yet to be repaired, even as the officials of the NITEL make efforts to rectify the problem.

Speaking with our correspondent, the leader of the team from NITEL told him that the cables were actually damaged by officials of the Works

Ministry through LAMATA, and that it affects over 300 lines along the area.

Speaking to our correspondent on phone, the external relations specialist, Mr. Kolawole Ojelabi, denied ever working in the area for the last one year, adding that there

was no way the agency could damage NITEL cables while the repairs were done.

According to Ojelabi, the last work done on the road was early 2005, and it has not received any petition concerning the NITEL cable damage.

## National ID Card: DNCR officials charge money before collection

The National Identity Card that supposed to be issue free has turned into money-making venture by the officials of the Department of National Civil Registration in (DNCR) Lagos who N300 before issuing the cards.

Investigations by our correspondent at some collection centres revealed that it is very difficult to obtain the identity card without the officials demanding money under the pretext that they "don't want to delay anybody".

In order to make people less aversive to their demand, the DNCR officials always created the impression that it could take the whole day to collect an identity card but it is possible within minutes once you pay some money.

Eko Trust gathered that sometimes the amount is as high as N500, but it is still negotiable. It, however, cannot be less than N300.

For instance, registration officials operating inside a building at the Ajeromi coun-

cil secretariat doesn't collect anything less than N300 before issuing you identity cards to people.

A woman at the centre who was saddled with the responsibility of collecting the money on Thursday did not hide the fact that it is only with money that the people could be saved the trauma of being abandoned for the whole day.

"If you don't want to complete your money, then wait so that you can collect it free," she yelled sarcastically at a man who gave her N200, pleading that it was all he had.

"One of those who came for the cards said that the exercise had been commercialized as only those with money could get the cards."

It was learnt that the same thing happens at Apapa, Amuwo-Odofin, Ojo and several other centres across the state.

"It is everywhere my brother," a young man who said to have registered at FESTAC Town said, adding that he also paid N300 to collect his.

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# Inside Politics

## Gen. Murtala on our minds

**L**ike October 1 1960, the year of Nigeria's independence, February 13, 1976 has become indelibly etched in the nation's political annals like a red mark on a canvass. Red because, like with all violent events in our cheque red history, blood of the innocent always become the judgement of those who execute diabolic projects.

In life, as in death, former Head of State, General Murtala Ramat Muhammed remains an enigma, a hard nut to crack by social analysts, as well as historians. While some are criticising him as the man who dealt awkwardly with the civil service with his sack "with immediate effect" policy, others said that he was the only leader who had a vision for his country and even the continent.

His reign was perhaps too short to allow for such assessment and like all known heroes, the man himself left the stage "like a candle in the wind" a path most icons have taken in the past. In remembering General Murtala, memories of his discipline, stoic resilience and commitment to advancement easily comes to mind and boggles it.

Has the present leadership copied him well enough or is he imitable. It is a question the Kano lecture holding today in his honour will seek to answer. Incidentally, the closest person (apart from his family, that is) to the late Head of State is the incumbent president. President Obasanjo should be held accountable for not being the perfect acolyte, if we are in an agreement that he has not followed in his master's footsteps.

But then, the late Nigerian leader is a tough act to follow like Nelson Mandela, Thabo Mbeki and other legendary leaders.

Below is an abridged rendition of Gen. Ramat's engaging Odyssey from birth to his final day on earth.

**His life and times**

General Murtala Ramat Muhammed was born on 8 November 1938, one of eleven children of Risqué Muhammed and Uwani Rahamat, in the Kurama Quarter of the ancient trade centre of Kano. He was educated at Cikin Gida and Gidan Makama primary schools in Kano. After gaining his school certificate at the Government (now Barewa) College in Zaria in 1957, Muhammed enlisted in the Nigerian Army and was

**By Emmanuel Bello,**  
Political Editor

sent to Britain for training at Sandhurst. Royal academy as an officer cadet. His training completed in 1961, he returned to Nigeria as a commissioned 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and was posted to the Army Signals.

After spending one year at the Catterick School of signals in England, he went to the Congo (now Zaire) where he served with the United Nations' Peace-Keeping Force. On his return from Zaire, the second military coup of July 1966 found him among the young officers who formed the next military administration under General (then Colonel) Gowon.

When war broke out between the Federal forces and the army of the break-away Biafra, Muhammed led Nigeria's newly-created Second Infantry Division, for which he was appointed the first General Officer Commanding, in August 1967 his troops pushed the Biafrans out of the Mid-West (now Delta and Edo states) State but were less successful in their efforts to storm Onitsha, across the River Niger, in the then East Central State. After three unsuccessful attempts, Muhammed led his troops northwards, crossed the Niger at Lokoja and marched down to take Onitsha. He returned to Lagos in March 1968 to be again appointed Inspector of Signals and became a full Colonel in April. He was promoted Brigadier in October 1971, after a year at the Joint Services Staff College in England, and took his first political appointment as Federal Commissioner for Communications on 7 August 1974, which he combined with his military duties at the Army Signals Headquarters in Apapa. He was holding both offices when he was named Nigeria's new Head of State

and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces on 29 July 1975, following the coup against Gowon who was attending the 12<sup>th</sup> Summit meet-

public at large became disillusioned and disappointed by these developments. The trend was clearly incompatible with the philosophy and

state and national elections as prelude for a return to civilian rule on 1 October 1979. He acted quickly on the issue of Lagos as the Federal capi-

made public, would be cancelled and that the 1963 figures would be used for planning purposes. These measures were enthusiastically welcomed by Nigerians who not only felt motivated but also became committed to a new order with a clear-cut policy and a goal to achieve. Even the large-scale purge of public employees, whose scope was broad enough to allow for victimization and a subjective rather than objective approach, was taken in good stride, enhancing General Muhammed's "no-nonsense", business-like attitude.

While giving Nigerians the confidence and lead in a tackling their problems, Muhammed also impressed on Africa and the world that it was time Africans took decisions and worked together for their own interests. Taking the initiative in November 1975, the government of General Muhammed recognized the MPLA Government of President Neto as the legitimate authority in Angola. In a diplomatic offensive matched only by its dynamism in local affairs, the Lagos government mobilized African opinion on behalf of the MPLA and against the FNLA-UNITA coalition supported by South Africa and western powers. Africa has come of age", general Muhammed said. "It is no longer under the orbit of any extra-continental power. It should no longer take orders from any country, however powerful. The fortunes of Africa are in our hands to make or mar". General Muhammed thus brought Africa's most populous and one of its richest nations out of its erstwhile vacillating approach to African and foreign issues to play a more active role. Guided by pragmatism, this energetic feature of Nigeria's diplomacy has continued even after the death of Muhammed.

A simple, unostentatious and devout Moslem who discarded the pomp and trappings of office, General Muhammed regarded himself as working for the overall interest of Africa, much in the same context as he saw himself in Nigeria. He shunned the protective cavalcade of escort troops while going about his business. This very simplicity which won him the trust of Nigerians was ironically to make him an easy prey for the dissidents in the army who ambushed and shot him on his way to work in Lagos on 13 February 1976. He left a widow, Ajoke, who is a close relative of General Olusegun Obasanjo, General Muhammed's right-hand man and successor.



General Murtala Ramat Muhammed

ing of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in Kampala.

The new Head of State said that, "the nation had been groping in the dark and the situation would inevitably result in chaos and bloodshed unless arrested... After the civil war the affairs of state, hitherto a collective responsibility, became characterized by lack of consultations, indecision, indiscipline and even neglect. Indeed, the

image of our collective regime". He instituted mass retirement and dismissals of about 10,000 officials from the armed forces and civil service for incompetence and corruption, immediately introduced measures to decongest the ports, to remedy and petrol shortage and reduce inflation. He outlined a political programme that included the creation of seven more states, the drafting of a new constitution and the organization of

tal in view of its congestion and dual role as headquarters of the Lagos State administration and of the national census. He disposed of the emotive issue of properties abandoned during the civil war. He announced that the Federal Capital would be moved from Lagos to Abuja in a more central part of the country. On the national census, General Muhammed stated that the 1973 census, whose results had never been

*In life, as in death, former Head of State, General Murtala Ramat Muhammed remains an enigma, a hard nut to crack by social analysts, as well as historians. While some are criticising him as the man who dealt awkwardly with the civil service with his sack "with immediate effect" policy, others said that he was the only leader who had a vision for his country and even the continent.*

*Culled from 'Makers of Modern Africa.'*



## VETERINARY COUNCIL OF NIGERIA (VCN)

# OBITUARY



**Dr. Bukar Shaib, M.R.C.V.S., FCVSN, CFR**  
**(1927 2006)**

The Entire members of the Veterinary Profession in Nigeria mourn the loss of a very prominent member and Foundation Fellow of the College of Veterinary Surgeons Nigeria (FCVSN), Dr. Bukar Shaib, who died on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2006.

Dr. Bukar Shaib was the first Nigerian to obtain a Degree in Veterinary Medicine after graduating from the University of Liverpool in 1954. He was also the first Nigerian member of the Veterinary Council of Nigeria and was instrumental to the establishment of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1969 (formerly Decree 37 of 1969)

Until his death, he served in various capacities as Permanent Secretary, an Ambassador, Special Adviser on National Security and a Federal Minister of Agriculture and was awarded the Commander of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFR).

As we mourn his demise, the legacies he left behind will surely endure the test of time

He has since been buried according to Islamic rites.

May His Soul rest in perfect peace,  
Amen.

**Announcer**  
**Dr. D.G. Maddo, FCVSN, INTMIM**  
**Registrar/CEO, VCN**

# News

## Obasanjo decries relegation of tradition in schools

President Olusegun Obasanjo has expressed regrets that education, as it is presently offered in the country, has led to the rejection of the nation's cultural and traditional values.

The president, who was represented by his special assistant on good governance, Chief Kanu Agabi, at the opening ceremony of three days education summit organised by the Catholic Church, rejected any approach which compels the country to learn everything from the western world.

"It should no longer be the case that while our youths are experts in the geography and customs of other nations, they know little or nothing about ours," he said.

The president urged parents to take greater interest in the education of their children, stating that nothing will be achieved by teachers if parents do not cite good examples to their children.

On the fight against corruption, the president said "we must give up corruption. A corrupt nation can only produce corrupt children."

He added that urgent steps must be taken to eliminate the scourges of irregular and wrongful admission of unqualified students, examination malpractices, conferment of honorary degrees under circumstances which

By Benjamin Auta, Reporter

compromise the integrity of universities, the practice of cultism by students and illicit relationship between staff and students.

In his remarks, the chairman, Education Committee of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria, the Most Reverend Anthony Obinna, said that the Catholic Church policy on education in Nigeria would be reflected in the various papers to be presented and discussed at the summit.

He said the church welcomes its present partnership with government as it will go a long way in strengthening their relationships.

Also speaking at the occasion, the Catholic Arch. Bishop of Abuja, the Most Reverend John Onayekan, stated that the church is challenged to respond adequately to the needs of the country's desire for development.

He said, "by this, we do not mean education for Catholic alone, but rather human education, based on certain principles of genuine intellectual formation."

The Arch Bishop said that the church is equipped to adjust to the changing times as there would be no room left for complacency on its part.

The summit, which is the

first organised by the Catholic Church in Nigeria, has the theme: "Catholic education in Nigeria within the 21<sup>st</sup> Century."



President Olusegun Obasanjo

A coalition of non-governmental organisations in Lagos has warned the National Assembly not to pass the National Institute of Reproductive Health (NIRH) bill before it into law, declaring the bill as a surreptitious attempt to legalise abortion in the country.

The warning came ahead of the public hearing on the bill slated for next Monday by the Senate.

The director of the Lagos Resource Centre, Dr. Bridget Itsueli who spoke on behalf of the NGOs in Lagos on Wednesday, stated that the bill was worded innocuously by its sponsors to hide its main objective of seeking the legalization of abortion in the country.

Dr. Itsueli noted that the issues of sex education, contraceptives, family planning and abortion were the main components of reproductive health.

## "Reject pro-abortion bill"

By AbdulFatah Olajide, Senior Reporter (Lagos)

She reasoned that in the event of failure of any of the first three options, the proponents of reproductive health would then consider legalising abortion as the only option.

"We signal and express our total opposition to the legalization of abortion as a strategy to enhancing adolescent reproductive health," she said.

According to her, reproductive health sex education curriculum and teaching materials are offensive to parents and guardians, adding that they advocate the teaching of various methods of contraception to young students of junior secondary

schools or children from ten years of age.

"Sex education of this kind, which simply gives information devoid of a moral framework, will increase rather than decrease the incidence of promiscuity and teenage pregnancies," Dr. Itsueli explained further.

She noted that promiscuity has been on the rise in Western countries where sex education and abortion have been liberalized.

Dr. Itsueli declared that the notion of 'safe sex' was a ruse, adding that abstinence from sex until marriage was the correct sex education that adolescents must be given.

She observed that the scourge of HIV/AIDS "has provided an excuse for abnormal concentration on the sex health of young persons to the detriment of their total health".

## Okene FCE holds 14<sup>th</sup> convocation

The 14<sup>th</sup> convocation of the Federal College of Education, Okene, for the award of certificates, presentation of prizes and conferment of honours on distinguished Nigerians has been scheduled to begin on Tuesday, February 21, 2006 and end on Saturday, February 25, 2006.

The week-long programmes of the convocation ceremony will commence with a pre-convocation press briefing by the provost, Dr. O.E. Abdullahi.

There will be exhibitions by various schools and departments on Wednesday, February 22, 2006. On Thursday, February 23, 2006, there will be alumni/SUG/management social interaction and novelty football match.

A renowned university administrator, Professor Nuhu Yaqub, Vice Chancellor, University of Abuja, will deliver a convocation lecture on Friday, February 25, in the college auditorium. The

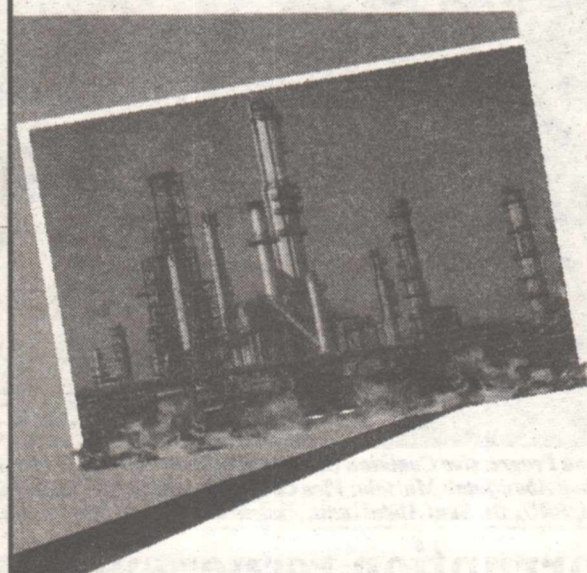
By Abdullahi M. Gulloma, Reporter

lecture topic is: 'The Place of NCE Programme in Educational Growth and National Development'.

Saturday, February 26 will be the main convocation day, featuring the award of the Nigerian Certificate on Education (NCE) to eight sets of graduands of the college from 1998 to 2006.

The convocation is expected to be graced by the Minister of Education and visitor to the college, Mrs. Chipwe Obaji. The Governor of Kogi State, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris, is expected to be the guest of honour, while Dr. Isyaku Kabir, executive secretary, National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE), will serve as the chairman of the occasion. The chief host of the occasion is Engineer (Dr.) James O. Abu, chairman, Governing Council, Federal College of Education, Okene.

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  - LAGOS
  - YENOGGA



# News

## IG urged to probe \$337,000 bribe scandal

The Inspector General of Police, Sunday Ehindero, and the minister of Police Affairs have been tasked by the former Governor of Anambra State, Dr. Chinwoke Mbadinuju, to urgently intervene and investigate the bribery scandals currently rocking some top police officers who were alleged to have collected the sum of \$337,000 bribe from the former governor at gunpoint as ransom.

This was contained in a letter of petition forwarded to both Inspector General of Police and Police Affairs Minister on Tuesday, 7th February, 2006 by Barrister Luke Aghanenu, the counsel and solicitor to Dr. Chinwoke Mbadinuju.

In the petition, Luke Aghanenu averred that earlier investigations into the murder

From Olumide Bajulaiye,  
Correspondent (Lagos)

case of Barnabas and Abigail Igwe as contained in the police report dated 16th May, 2003 exonerated Dr. Mbadinuju, only for the police to later come up with two trumped up charges and series of blackmail, extortions and deliberate obfuscation scheme in October 2005.

The petition affirms that the police officers who later accosted Dr. Mbadinuju on 5th October, 2005 at his law office in Abuja on the ground that Mbadinuju was suspected to be connected to the abduction and murder of one Mr. Ken Emekayi, menacingly demanded the sum N100,000,000.00 from Mbadinuju so that he would not be taken to detention dead or alive, on the orders of a purported comm-

issioner of police.

The petition read in part: "While tactically playing along and also fearing for his dear life due to ammunition brandished by these police officers, he was blackmailed to raise a total of \$337,000 for them on that day and promised to pay the balance of N50,000,000.00 subsequently.

"That Dr. Mbadinuju's subsequent complaint to the police in this regard led to the setting up of a sting operation and the resultant arrest of one Mr. Daniel Enyiego by the Lagos State CID, Panti, as he came to collect the remaining money promised the police officers."

It further stated that the police later turned around against the petitioner, Dr. Mbadinuju, invited and detained him on the spurious allegations of 'inducement of public officers', 'concealment of in-

formation' 'aiding and abetting' and 'conspiracy to murder of the Igwes, which was later changed to 'the actual murder of the Igwes'.

"And later ingeniously charged Dr. Mbadinuju together with the same Daniel Enyiego (one of the alleged extortionists who was arrested by the police in Lagos whilst trying to collect the balance of N50m) as co-accused in the matter," the petition claimed.

While accusing the police of deliberate obfuscation in the investigation of the murder of the Igwes, Mbadinuju said the police had now curiously set up three different murder charges on this matter with three different sets of accused persons in three different courts in Abuja, Onitsha and Nnewi.

According to him, one of the police officers involved in

this robbery and extortion incident had been charged with an offence and the evidences of Mbadinuju on this matter has not been properly investigated, despite their very probative value.

Further, the petition averred that "from information available to our client, the police have refused to follow useful leads that might help solve the puzzle of the murder of the Igwes ostensibly in their bid to protect their colleagues implicated in the extortion saga."

It stressed that "the police have refused to investigate the useful leads into the finances of the accused police officers and Mr. Ken Emekayi, the property purchased with the extorted money and the bank accounts where such money was paid into".

Mbadinuju via his solicitors demanded from the IGP

and the minister for Police Affairs to urgently intervene in this matter and bring their well-celebrated motto 'To Serve and Protect with Integrity' to bear, in order to properly focus the investigation on the truth and dispense justice to all in accordance with the law.

"We insist that our client is entitled to a fair hearing of its cause and is completely innocent of this allegation of the murder of the Igwes until the contrary is proven by due process of the law. Most importantly, our country, Nigeria, deserves a just closure of this gruesome murder and all the ancillary matters that have arisen from this investigation."

Mbadinuju further demanded protection for the members of his family who are now being constantly harassed by policemen and Mr. Ken Emekayi.

## AD vows to resist e-voting

From Olumide Bajulaiye,  
Correspondent (Lagos)

The Alliance for Democracy, AD, has vowed to resist the use of electronic voting machines at polling stations during the 2007 general elections, describing the system as a ploy to rob the electorate of their votes.

Disclosing this during the presentation of certificates to 285 members and the commissioning of a clinic by the Bola Ahmed Tinubu Campaign Organization, BATCO, at the weekend, the Lagos State Commissioner for Works and Infrastructure, Engineer Rauf Aregbesola, said the proposed electronic voting system could not be trusted and as such, the party would resist any attempt to impose the system on Nigerians.

"We will mobilize the

### Ehindero gives N8m to families of deceased officers

The Inspector-General of Police, Mr Sunday Ehindero, has given out sixty-six cheques worth N8m to families of deceased policemen who died in active service.

Presenting the cheques to the beneficiaries in Abuja weekend, Ehindero said that the programme was introduced to serve as a form of insurance to policemen.

Ehindero said that the scheme was designed to assist the immediate families of deceased officers and men as a way of improving their welfare even after death.

"The gesture is aimed at remembering those who lost their lives through gallantry and to serve as first aid to their families," he said.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that cheques ranging from N300,000 to N500,000 were given out to the families, depending on the ranks of the deceased officers.

people to resist the machines because we have no faith in the machines. The machines are instruments for electoral manipulations," Aregbesola stated.

While stating that the system may create a setback to the electoral process, Aregbesola said when the democratic rights of the people were not protected, any election carried out would not be a true representation of the electorate's wish.

According to him, "We are determined to protecting the rights of our people because democracy without the right to choose is no democracy. So, what we are doing is to ensure that the democratic expression of the people is protected and defended.

"We will not in any way obstruct democratic advancement but we would only be improving and enhancing the democratic culture and spirit of the people."

He alleged that every where the machines were used, there were various frauds in the electoral results.

"In every country where these machines had been used, they were found to be anti-people, dubious and unreliable. They have not generated the competence we have been made to believe.

## Makarfi condemns blasphemous Danish cartoon

Governor Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi of Kaduna State has condemned the Danish newspaper cartoon which blasphemed Prophet Muhammed (SAW), saying people should respect other people's religion.

Makarfi, who made the condemnation yesterday when he received the spiritual leader of Jewish community in the United States, Rabbi Howard Garin in his office, said it did no good for people to prod the sensitivity of others as it could lead to crisis



Kaduna Progressive Coalition (KPC) elected new officers to run the affairs of the group on Saturday in Kaduna. Picture shows from (r-l), Alhaji Abulfatah Murtala; Vice Chairman, Alhaji (Dr) Mohammed Kabir Umar, chairman; Suleiman Ahmad, Secretary; Abdulkarim Abdul, PRO; Dr. Sani Abdulkadir, Assistant secretary; Alex Baidi, treasurer, after the swearing ceremony.

## Corruption responsible for fake drugs -Prof. Akunyili

By Abubakar Haruna,  
Reporter

The Director-General of the National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Prof. Dora Akunyili, has identified corruption as one of the major factors responsible for fake drugs in the country.

This was contained in a

statement signed by the head, Public Relations unit of the agency, Abubakar Jimoh, and made available to *Daily Trust*.

It stated: "The director-general identified corruption

and conflict of interests, insecure and unfriendly environment, chaotic drug distribution, weak legislation, false declaration by importers and sophistication in clandestine drug manufacture as some of the factors responsible for proliferation of fake and counterfeit drugs in the country."

It also enumerated staff re-orientation and motivation, administrative restructuring and modernisation of regulatory processes, beefing up of surveillance at all ports of entry and intensive public enlightenment as some of the pragmatic steps taking by her leadership to combat the hydra-headed problem of fake and counterfeit drugs.

According to the statement, the DG has been invited by Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, USA to share Nigeria's experience in the battle against fake drugs with students and researchers of the institution.

In her guest lecture entit-

led, *Tackling the scourge of Counterfeit Drugs in Nigeria*, the statement indicated that Akunyili will give graphic details of how NAFDAC under her leadership achieved the rare feat of reducing the prevalence of fake drugs by eighty per cent within a period of four and a half years.

It stated that the director-general, who said that the United States of America which hitherto had no problem of fake drugs, now has a lot to learn from the Nigerian experience, and therefore gave an insight on how the management of NAFDAC was able to turn around a once moribund agency into a model of public sector efficiency and probity.

The statement further indicated that the guest lecture was co-sponsored by the Kenny School of Government, African Caucus, the Women and Public Policy Programme as well as the Centre for Business and Government in the USA.

From AbdulRaheem Aodu,  
Correspondent (Kaduna)

and disunity.

He stated that "drawing the cartoon caricature of an ordinary human being is bad, not to talk of the cartoon of a Prophet of God. This issue of freedom of expression which people are using could, if care is not taken, bring more harm than good."

He called on religious leaders to ensure that people are not allowed to play on the others' sensitivity, even as he noted that the peace enjoyed

in Kaduna State is due to the efforts of all stakeholders.

Governor Makarfi noted that previous crises experienced in the state were due to economic and social vices, rather than religious.

Speaking earlier, the Rabbi, who is on tour of Nigeria to promote peace and unity, described the uproar which followed the cartoon attributed to the Jewish community as exaggeration, as he said the Jewish people are peace-loving and non-violent as was being reported.

# CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR TURBANING

Your appointed Turbaning on Saturday February 18th, 2006 as Shettiman Katagum by His Royal Highness, the Emir of Katagum, Alhaji (Dr.) Muhammad Kabiru Umar (CON) did not

come to us as a surprise. We believe honesty, Generosity, hardwork and Discipline are some of your attributes; It is therefore a case of a round peg in a round hole



← **ALH. ABBA HALIRU  
SHETTAMAN KATAGUM**

We are on this special occasion, sending our sincere congratulatory message to you, you are a role model worthy of emulation. May Allah shower his blessings of sound health, protection and guidance on you. Allah ya ja zamani Amin.

**Signed by: Alhaji Umar Hassan and family**

# News

## EFCC, ICPC not enough —World Bank official

The efforts of EFCC and ICPC in Nigeria are not enough to wipe out corruption in the country, a World Bank official has said.

Mr Sahr Kpundeh, a senior official at the World Bank Institute, New York, who stated this in a workshop recently, said however that Nigerian can eradicate corruption by evolving institutional framework in that regard.

According to him, it is vital for African nations to

**From Bright Ewulu**  
Deputy Business Editor, Lagos  
straighten their justice system, the police and other institutions which will enable them to combat corruption.

He regretted that the anti-corruption agencies usually focused on big fishes, while more corrupt individuals are being created by the system.

He said Botswana is the best case-study where the anti-corruption strategies had a success.

According to him, in

places where the strategies have worked, they are usually independent, well funded and accountable.

Therefore, he stated that there is need to find ways of handling the petty corruption, because 'it is petty corruption that grows into major corruption'.

He also pointed out that the media are needed to support the anti-corruption war in order to ensure that the society is adequately mobilized for the battle.

## We stand by our story on Zamfara —Desert Herald

The chief executive, Fuza Communications Services, publishers of *Desert Herald*, Malam Tukur Mamu, has challenged the Yerima Network to take it to court if it felt aggrieved by its publication on how N2.1bn was looted in Zamfara State in six months.

Tukur told *Daily Trust* in Kaduna at the weekend that, "we stand by our story which was in the public interest and we view the threats by the Yerima Network as the ranting of political apologists."

He said the publication in its last edition was not personal and was backed with relevant documents, adding that several frantic efforts were made by *Desert Herald* reporters to get the views of the Zamfara State Secretary to the Government (SSG) and the commissioner for information who refused to comment on the issue before publication.

"We did not publish the story against Governor Ahmed Sani or anybody's political ambition; and we do not belong to any political group; so no politician motivated the story and we cannot be intimidated by anybody's threat of legal action.

"I am not from Zamfara and we never intended to discredit his religious beliefs, and anybody who feels libeled can go to court,"



Governor Ahmed Sani

**From Sani Babadoko,**  
Regional Editor, Kaduna

Tukur declared.

Solicitors to the Zamfara State governor, Ilal'Am Chambers, Kaduna, had on 3/2/06 written to the publishers of *Desert Herald*, asking for a retraction and an apology to Governor Ahmed Sani before 6/2/06 or it would institute a suit for the alleged libelous publication.

On the 6th January 2006 publication, captioned, *Zamfara: How N2.1bn was looted in six months*, the paper alleged that over N50m was spent on a night party

in Gusau, sixty-three cars shared to local artistes, governor and commissioners' wives danced with the governor in public, while the governor allegedly said music was not haram.

The paper also published some documents, which allegedly awarded fraudulent contracts worth over N2.1bn, and other activities the paper felt went against the Sharia professed by the governor.

Tukur said on several occasions, he called the SSG, Alhaji Abubakar Hussaini Moriki, for comments but he (SSG) refused to speak.

## Stakeholders task NEMA on the use of helicopter

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has been enjoined to add more helicopters to its fleet to be able to tackle unforeseen emergencies.

Stakeholders in disaster management in the country made the call at the end of the five day training simulation exercise held at the Armed Forces Command and Staff College (AFCSC) Jaji, Kaduna at the weekend.

According to a statement made available to *Daily Trust*, the stakeholders agreed that NEMA cannot acquire all necessary equipment for the management of disasters, but however stated that the only helicopter in the fleet of the agency was grossly inadequate.

They also appealed to the agency to collaborate with state emergency management agencies to regularly and continually take stock of available resources, like equipment and personnel to enhance operations of concerned bodies.

This, according to Air

**By Abdullahi M. Gulloma,**  
Reporter

Vice Marshal Femi Gbadebo, Director of Operations, Defence Headquarters, who is also chairman of NEMA's Technical and Logistic Committee, is necessary due to the reduction on efficiency of many institutions and equipment in recent times. He said that regular stock-taking would prepare the owners to put their equipment on serviceable condition at all times. AVM Gbadebo decried the over emphasis on NEMA during emergency situations. According to him, every stakeholder, including individuals, has inherent capabilities in managing disaster if properly put to use.

Meanwhile, NEMA's Assistant Director of Planning and Forecasting, Dr. Zanna Muhammed, in his remarks, stated that one of the major obstacles confronting NEMA in emergency management is the refusal of private sector, especially construction companies, to cooperate with stakeholders in emergency preparedness process.

## FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, OKENE P. M. B. 1026, OKENE, KOGI STATE



The Provost  
Dr. O. E. Abdullahi

On behalf of the Governing Council and the Academic Board  
has the pleasure to announce that the

# 14th Convocation Ceremony

Of the College for the Award of Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE), and Prizes to Graduands of the College from 1998 to 2005 (Regular and Sandwich) will take place on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2006 at the Convocation Arena.

## Programme of Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
Tuesday, 21st February, 2006	Pre-Convocation Press Conference	10.00 a.m.	College Auditorium
Wednesday, 22nd Feb., 2006	Exhibitions	12.00 noon-5p.m.	Various Schools
Thursday, 23rd Feb., 2006	Alumni/SUG/Management (i) Social Interaction (ii) Novelty Football Match	10.00 a.m. 4.00 p.m.	College Auditorium College Football Pitch
Friday, 24th February, 2006	(i) Graduands/Management Interaction (ii) Pre-Convocation Lecture	10.00-11.00p.m. 4.00-5.00p.m.	College Auditorium College Auditorium
<b>Topic: The Place of NCE Programme in Educational Growth and National Development</b>			
<b>Guest Lecturer: Professor Nuhu Yaqub</b> Vice-Chancellor, University of Abuja, Abuja			
	(iii) Cocktail Party to be hosted by Chairman, Governing Council	6.30 p.m.	College Auditorium
	(iv) Alumni Re-Union Nite Dinner	7.30 p.m.	College Auditorium
Saturday, 25th February, 2006	(i) Convocation Ceremony for the Award of Certificates, Conferment of Honorary Fellowship Awards and Presentation of Prizes. (ii) Commissioning of Projects.	9.00 a.m.	Convocation Arena

Graduands of the College from 1998 - 2005 and members of the public are cordially invited to all the functions.

### NOTICE TO THE GRADUANDS

#### Hiring of Academic Gowns:

Academic gowns will be available for collection at the Student Affairs Unit as from Thursday, 23rd February, 2006 between 7.30 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. each day after payment of N500.00. All hired gowns must be returned at the close of the ceremony or latest by Monday, 27th February, 2006. After this deadline, a daily surcharge of N200 will be collected from defaulters. Guests are expected to be seated by 9.30 a.m. The procession to the Convocation Arena commences at 9.00 a.m.

**ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS:** The Order of Proceeding which contains names of all the graduands will be available at the cost of Five Hundred Naira (N500.00) only.

**ALUMNI REGISTRATION:** Graduands are expected to register with the Alumni Association with the sum of Two Hundred Naira (N200.00) only.

For further information on the Convocation Ceremony, please call these numbers:  
08033600012, 08065661699, 08034501506, 08035955543.

SIGNED:

G. B. Oba (Mrs.)  
Registrar

**"The Best Things In Life Are Often The Simplest"**

*Reach for...*

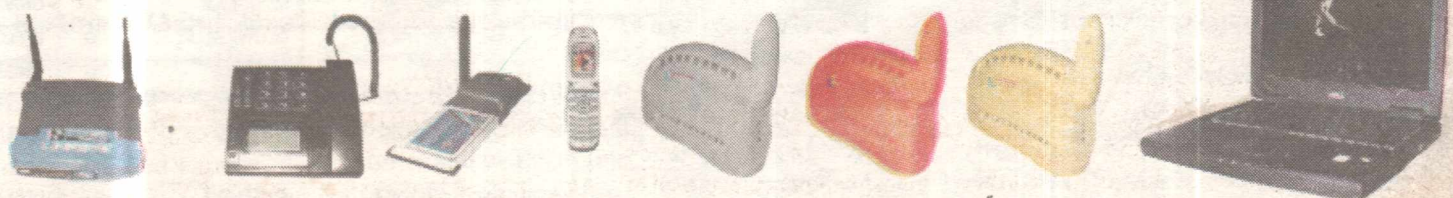
# Horizon Wireless<sup>®</sup>

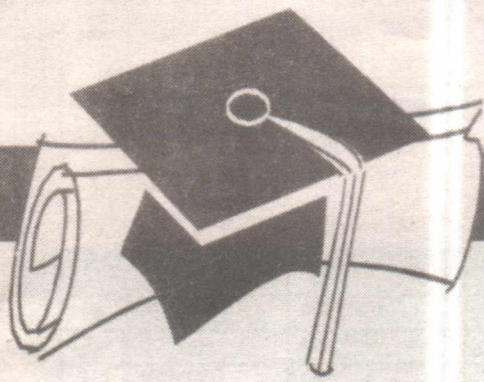
A 3G platform Converged technology telecommunications network that offers wireless broadband internet access, video on demand, data and voice via **Wavelink** with the distinct advantage of high-speed, reliability, mobility and portability.

Now operational in Kano



- \* Video
- \* Internet
- \* Data
- \* Voice





# Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited

An ExxonMobil Subsidiary

Operator of NNPC/MPN Joint Venture

## 2005/2006 University Scholarship Awards

Mobil Producing Nigeria, operator of NNPC/MPN Joint Venture, announces its 2005/2006 Scholarship Awards to the following Nigerian undergraduates who were successful in the Aptitude Tests conducted recently. All awardees should pick up their Award Letters from the respective departments in their institutions. Please note that the awards are provisional and subject to the terms and conditions specified in the offer letter.

### NATIONAL MERIT

NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	M	INSITUTION	DISCIPLINE	STATE OF ORIGIN
1	ADEBAYO	OLUGBENGA	G	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	OYO
2	ADEDUJI	ADEKUNLE	C	OAU	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	OYO
3	ADEDIRAN	OLUSEGUN	A	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	OSUN
4	ADELODUN	ANUOLUWAPO	I	UNILAG	MEDICINE	LAGOS
5	ADENLJI	TEMITOPE	O	UNIFE	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	OGUN
6	ADEYANJU	OLUWATIMILEHIN		UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	EKITI
7	ADEYEMI	TOPE	E	UNILAG	MEDICINE	ONDO
8	AGBOOLA	OLUWAKEMI	A	UNIBADAN	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	OSUN
9	AJAYI	OLUSEYE	A	OOU	MEDICINE	OGUN
10	AJETUNMOBI	OLATUNBOSUN	M	UNIFE	COMPUTER SC/ENGRG.	OYO
11	AKINOLA	OLUWAGBEMINFI		UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	ONDO
12	AKINOLA	TAOREED	A	UNIFE	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	OYO
13	AKINTUNDE	OLUWASEUN	J	UNILAG	MEDICINE	OSUN
14	ALAYO	QUAZIM	A	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	OGUN
15	ALUKO	OMOLARA	R	UNIFE	COMPUTER SC/ENGRG.	EKITI
16	AMAECHINA	CHINAZOM	V	BOWEN	COMPUTER SC/IT	ANAMBRA
17	AMUSA	ABDULRASHEED	T	UNILORIN	MEDICINE	OYO
18	ANADUAKA	CHISOM	E	UNN	MEDICINE	ANAMBRA
19	ANEKE	IKENNA	A	UNN	MEDICINE	ENUGU
20	ANETOR	CLEMENT	I	UNIBEN	MECHANICAL ENGRG.	EDO
21	APAMPA	OMOKOREDE		OOU	MEDICINE	OGUN
22	AREMU	OLUWASEYE	A	UNILAG	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	OSUN
23	ARINDE	BUKOLA		UNILORIN	MEDICINE	KWARA
24	ASALA	HOPE	I	UNILAG	CHEMICAL ENGRG.	IMO
25	ASIODU	ISIOMA	O	OOU	ELECTRICAL ENGRG.	DELTA
26	ATAMENWAN	OFURE	E	UNIBEN	MEDICINE	EDO
27	ATUCHUKWU	ONYEKA	N	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	ANAMBRA
28	AWOYEMI	OPEYEMI	O	UNIFE	COMPUTER SC/ENGRG.	OSUN
29	AYO	BABATOPE	S	ABU	ELECTRICAL ENGRG.	KOGI
30	AYOMAYA	BADRUDEEN	A	OAU	COMPUTER SC/ECONS	OSUN
31	BAMIGBETAN	OPEYEMI	O	UNAD	MECHANICAL ENGRG.	OSUN
32	BANJOKO	OLAMIDE	O	OOU	MEDICINE	OGUN
33	BASSEY	NATHAN	U	RSUST	CHEM/PETROCHEMICAL ENGRG.	AKWAIBOM
34	BELLO	BUHARI	M	ABU	AGRICULTURAL SC.	KOGI
35	BOLOFINDE	TOLU	D	UNIFE	MEDICINE	EKITI
36	DADA	TOLULOPE	V	UNIJOS	MEDICINE	KOGI
37	DIBIA	VICTOR	C	BABCOCK	COMPUTER SC.	IMO
38	EDI	SUOYO	O	UNIORT	PETROLEUM ENGRG.	BAYELSA
39	EGBEKUN	IJOUKHUMO	E	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	ONDO
40	EKEA	IROHA	A	UNIORT	MEDICINE	ABIA
41	EZEAGU	RAPHAEL	N	NAU	MEDICINE	ANAMBRA
42	EZEH	OBINNA	U	UNIJOS	MEDICINE	ABIA
43	EZEH	DUBEM	A	ABU	ELECTRICAL ENGRG.	ANAMBRA
44	EZEZOZUE	CHIDUBE	D	UNN	ELECTRICAL ENGRG.	ANAMBRA
45	FAMUYIWA	BABAJIDE	A	UNIFE	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	OGUN
46	GEMADE	MBAYER		FUAM	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	BENUE
47	IGWE	CHUKWUJEKWU	T	UNILAG	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	IMO
48	IEZIE	CHUKWUDALU	N	UNN	MEDICINE	ANAMBRA
49	IKAPE	GODWIN	O	UNICAL	MEDICINE	BENUE
50	IKWUEZE	CHUKWUEKEZIE	E	UNN	MEDICINE	ENUGU
51	ILONZE	KENE	A	UNN	MEDICINE	ANAMBRA
52	ISAMA	INNOCENT	S	ABU	MEDICINE	BENUE
53	LADEJOBI	OLUGBENGA	O	UNILAG	MEDICINE	OGUN

NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	M	INSITUTION	DISCIPLINE	STATE OF ORIGIN
54	MADIEBO	UEOMA	K	UNILAG	CHEMICAL ENGRG.	ANAMBRA
55	MAYEGUN	RILWAN	O	UNILORIN	MEDICINE	LAGOS
56	MARSHAL	DANIEL	A	FUTA	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	DELTA
57	MOMODU	MOMOHSANI	S	UNIBADAN	PETROLEUM ENGRG.	EDO
58	MOODY	VICTOR	O	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	KOGI
59	MUSTAPHA	ABDULWAHEED	O	UNIBADAN	PETROLEUM ENGRG.	OGUN
60	NIYANG	ANSI	S	ABU	CHEMICAL ENGRG.	PLATEAU
61	NJEPUME	TOCHUKWU	E	UNN	MEDICINE	IMO
62	NNADOZIE	PHILIP	G	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	IMO
63	NSIONU	JOAN	O	NAU	MEDICINE	ANAMBRA
64	NWOKE	CHETANNA	K	UNN	MEDICINE	ABIA
65	NWULU	EVARISTA	A	UNIJOS	COMPUTER SC.	DELTA
66	OBONO	BASSEY	K	UNILAG	MEDICINE	CROSS RIVER
67	ODAFE-OFARN	OWIGHODUA	P	UNIBADAN	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	DELTA
68	ODAFIN	CHRISTIAN	E	UNIBEN	CHEMICAL ENGRG.	DELTA
69	ODEJOBI	KAYODE	O	OAU	MEDICINE	OGUN
70	ODUNSI	OLUWAFEMI	O	OAU	MEDICINE	OGUN
71	OGUNTADE	ADEDAPO	O	OAU	ECONOMICS	OGUN
72	OJO	OLUWAFEMI	W	OAU	MEDICINE	OSUN
73	OJUROYE	OLUGBENGA	O	BABCOCK	ECONOMICS	OGUN
74	OKOLI	CHIKEZIE	I	ATBU	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	ANAMBRA
75	OKONKWO	IKECHUKWU	K	UNILAG	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	IMO
76	OLADUNNI	EMMANUEL	K	OAU	MEDICINE	OSUN
77	OLAGUNJU	OLUWATOYIN	M	COVENANT	ACCOUNTING	OSUN
78	OLALOTTI-LAWAL	FEYISAYO	O	OAU	CHEMICAL ENGRG.	OGUN
79	OLATUNJI	OLORUNTOBILOBA	T	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	OGUN
80	OLAYINKA	OLUWASEUN	J	UNIBADAN	ECONOMICS	OYO
81	OLOMO	OLUSAANU	A	COVENANT	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	OSUN
82	OLUKOYA	ADEDOTUN	T	UNILAG	ECONOMICS	OGUN
83	ONIBLE	OLADIPUPO	O	UNILAG	COMPUTER SCIENCE	EKITI
84	ONIGBINDE	STEPHEN	O	OAU	MEDICINE	OYO
85	ONUJOHA	CHUKWUEMEKA	C	ABUJA	ACCOUNTING	IMO
86	ONWUKA	CHIKA	C	UNN	MEDICINE	ABIA
87	ONWUKA	CHIDIOGO	C	UNN	MEDICINE	ANAMBRA
88	ONWUZU	ONYEKACHI	P	UNN	ELECTRONIC ENGRG.	ENUGU
89	ORESEGUN	OMOLOLU	B	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	OGUN
90	ORIADETU	AKEEM	A	UNILAG	MEDICINE	LAGOS
91	ORIAREWU	PHEBE	O	UNIBEN	MEDICINE	EDO
92	ORI-JESU	EFOGHENE		UNIBEN	PETROLEUM ENGRG.	DELTA
93	ORI-JESU	MUDIACHEGHENE		UNIBEN	CHEMICAL ENGRG.	DELTA
94	OSARA	BONAPARTE	E	UNIBEN	CHEMICAL ENGRG.	EDO
95	OSI-MOMODU	ABUBAKAR	C	UNIBEN	MEDICINE	EDO
96	OYENUGA	ABAYOMI	O	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	LAGOS
97	PETERS	RAPHAEL	A	UNIBEN	CHEMICAL ENGRG.	DELTA
98	SALAMI	TAYO	J	UNIBEN	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	EDO
99	SALAWU	MOBOLAJI	I	UNIBADAN	PHARMACY	OYO
100	SHORUN	OLUWASEUN	G	UNILORIN	MEDICINE	KWARA
101	SITU	OLADELE	O	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	OGUN
102	SOJIMI	ABIMBOLA	O	OAU	MEDICINE	OGUN
103	TOKUN	AYODEJI	O	UNILAG	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	OYO
104	UBRUFIH	RUKEVWE		UNIBEN	MEDICINE	DELTA
105	ULASI	IFEATU	I	FUTO	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	ANAMBRA
106	WELI	HOMAYEMEM	K	UNILORIN	MEDICINE	RIVERS

NNPC/MPN 2005/2006 Scholarship Awards (Contd.)

STATE MERIT

NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	M	INSITUATION	DISCIPLINE	STATE OF ORIGIN
107	IEKELEME	CHARLES	U	UNIPOINT	MECHANICAL ENGRG	ABIA
108	NWOKOCHA	ISAAC	I	UNN	MECHANICAL ENGRG	ABIA
109	OGONNA	ALEX	G	NAU	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG	ABIA
110	ZIMA	ALOZIE	C	UNN	MEDICINE	ABIA
111	DABANA	RUKAYAT		MAIDUGURI	CHEMICAL ENGRG	ABUJA FCT
112	ALIYU	MUKHTAR	B	MAIDUGURI	MEDICINE	ADAMAWA
113	ALIYU	RIDHWAN	T	MAIDUGURI	MEDICINE	ADAMAWA
114	HARUNA	SA'A	J	MAIDUGURI	PHARMACY	ADAMAWA
115	MASHI	JEMIMAH	N	MAIDUGURI	PHARMACY	ADAMAWA
116	AFIA	UBONG	D	UNN	MECHANICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
117	AKAI	OKON	F	RSUST	ACCOUNTING	AKWAIBOM
118	AKAN	ESTHER	E	UNICAL	ACCOUNTING	AKWAIBOM
119	AKPABIO	UBONGABASI	G	UNIUYO	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
120	AKPABIO	BASSEY	E	RSUST	ACCOUNTING	AKWAIBOM
121	AKPAKPAN	DAVID	H	UNIUYO	LAW	AKWAIBOM
122	AKPAN	ETEBOM	A	UNIUYO	LAW	AKWAIBOM
123	AKPAN	VICTOR	F	UNN	MECHANICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
124	AKPAN	JAMES	F	UNN	MECHANICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
125	AKPAN	MICHAEL	E	UNIUYO	CHEMICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
126	AKPAN	ETEMANA	I	UNIUYO	PHARMACY	AKWAIBOM
127	AKPAN	UBONG	V	FUTO	PETROLEUM ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
128	AKPAN	SUNDAY	B	FUTO	INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY	AKWAIBOM
129	AKPAN	EMMANUEL	S	CAU	APPLIED GEOPHYSICS	AKWAIBOM
130	AKPAN	MBATA	C	UNIUYO	PETROLEUM ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
131	AKPANNAH	INIBEHE	E	UNIUYO	PETROLEUM ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
132	AKWAOWO	INIOBONG	M	UNIUYO	COMPUTER SCIENCE	AKWAIBOM
133	ANANA	IDONGESIT	M	UNICAL	LAW	AKWAIBOM
134	ANTAI	JOHN	A	UNIUYO	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
135	ANWAN	ERIETUOUBE	U	COVENANT	MECHANICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
136	ARCHBONG	MARY	Y	UNIUYO	PHARMACY	AKWAIBOM
137	ATTAH	EFFIONG	E	FUTO	PETROLEUM ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
138	AYARA	AYARA	A	FUTO	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
139	BASSEY	KUFRE	P	UNIPOINT	MECHANICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
140	BASSEY	KUFRE	O	UNICAL	MECHANICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
141	BASSEY	INIOBONG	N	UNIPOINT	PETROLEUM/GAS ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
142	BASSEY	EDIDIIONG	A	UNIUYO	LAW	AKWAIBOM
143	DAVID	IDARA	D	UNIUYO	CIVIL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
144	EBITU	SAMUEL	J	UNICAL	ECONOMICS	AKWAIBOM
145	EBITU	INNOCENT	F	UNIUYO	CHEMICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
146	EBOLUM	DANIEL	E	UNIUYO	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
147	EDEM	IMAOBONG	F	UNIBADAN	LAW	AKWAIBOM
148	EDEMEKA	IMOH	U	FUTO	MECHANICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
149	EFFIONG	ANIETIE		FUTO	MECHANICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
150	EFFIONG	ANTHONY	N	UNIUYO	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
151	EFRENIE	JAMES	E	FUTO	MECHANICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
152	EKANEM	DAQA		UNIUYO	MECHANICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
153	EKANEM	EDET		UNIPOINT	GEOPHYSICS	AKWAIBOM
154	EKANEM	OWOIDOHO	E	UNIUYO	PETROLEUM ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
155	EKANEM	EKPEDEME	O	UNIUYO	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
156	EKANEM	MICHAEL	S	UNIUYO	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
157	EKANEM	UKEME	O	UNICAL	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
158	EKONG	ANDREW	S	UNIUYO	PETROLEUM ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
159	EKONG	ANIEKAN	O	UNIUYO	LAW	AKWAIBOM
160	EKPE	EKANEM	E	UNIUYO	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
161	EKPENE	ITORO	U	UNIUYO	ELECTRICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
162	EKPO	EKERETTE	M	UNIUYO	CIVIL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
163	EKPO	EMMANUEL	M	KOGI STATE UNIV	LAW	AKWAIBOM
164	EKPO	IMO	R	UNILAG	COMPUTER SCIENCE	AKWAIBOM
165	EKWERE	IMAOBONG	A	UNIUYO	COMPUTER SCIENCE	AKWAIBOM
166	EKWERE	EDIKAN	N	UNIUYO	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
167	EMEKA	CHRISTIANA	C	NAU	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
168	ENIEKOP	GODWIN	P	MADONNA	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
169	ENYONG	INYENE	M	RSUST	ELECTRICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
170	ESSANG	ARIT	U	UNIUYO	PHARMACY	AKWAIBOM
171	ESSIEN	EKONG		RSUST	COMPUTER SCIENCE	AKWAIBOM
172	ESSIEN	ANEBIET	U	FUTA	MECHANICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM

NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	M	INSITUATION	DISCIPLINE	STATE OF ORIGIN
173	ESSIEN	ENO	E	UNIUYO	PHARMACY	AKWAIBOM
174	ESSIEN	AKANINYENE	D	UNIUYO	CIVIL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
175	ESSIEN	ESSIEN	D	UNIUYO	PHARMACY	AKWAIBOM
176	ESSIEN	AKEBONG	S	UNIUYO	LAW	AKWAIBOM
177	ESSIEN	JOSEPH	U	FUTO	ENVIRONMENTAL TECH	AKWAIBOM
178	ETETE	NDUESE		FUTO	PETROLEUM ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
179	ETIM	IDORENYIN	I	UNIPOINT	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
180	ETIM	IFIOKABASI	E	UNIPOINT	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
181	ETIM	EMMANUEL	N	FUTO	MECHANICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
182	ETIM	VICTOR	I	RSUST	CHEM/PETROCHEMICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
183	ETOABASI	EMMANUEL	F	UNILAG	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
184	ETTENTUK	COMFORT	E	UNIUYO	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
185	ETUK	EKEMINI	J	IGBINEDION	COMPUTER ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
186	ETUK	UBON	J	UNIPOINT	COMPUTER SCIENCE	AKWAIBOM
187	ETUK	INIMFON	S	UNICAL	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
188	ETUK	AKPAN	J	RSUST	COMPUTER SCIENCE	AKWAIBOM
189	ETUK	DAN	J	IGBINEDION	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
190	ETUKENO	UBONG	A	UNIUYO	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
191	ETUKUDO	IDONGESIT	D	FUTO	MECHANICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
192	ETUKUMANA	IBORO	A	UNIUS	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
193	GEORGE	LAWRENCE	U	UNIUYO	CIVIL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
194	GEORGE	GEORGE	U	UNIUYO	ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE	AKWAIBOM
195	IBANGA	UTTOFON	E	UNIUYO	PHARMACY	AKWAIBOM
196	IKPEME	UDEME	E	UNIUYO	PETROLEUM ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
197	INIOBONG	SOLOMON	U	UNIUYO	CHEMICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
198	INYANG	KAETTE	U	FUTO	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
199	INYANG	PRECIOUS	O	COVENANT	ACCOUNTING	AKWAIBOM
200	INYANG	EKPENO	S	ABU	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
201	INYANG	IBANGA	E	UNICAL	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
202	INYANG	JUDE	D	UNIUYO	CHEMICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
203	ISANGEDIGHI	AWO	A	FUTO	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
204	ISONG	UDJAK	R	UNIPOINT	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
205	ITA	KUFRE	A	UNIUYO	COMPUTER SCIENCE	AKWAIBOM
206	ITINA	ITORO	I	UNIUYO	PHARMACY	AKWAIBOM
207	JACKSON	SUNDAY	B	RSUST	CHEMICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
208	JACKSON	ANIEFIK	E	UNIUYO	AGRICULTURAL ECON	AKWAIBOM
209	JAMES	IME	E	FUTO	CIVIL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
210	JAMES	SAMUEL	P	UNIUYO	CIVIL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
211	JOHN	UKEME	A	UNICAL	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
212	JOHNNY	OKON		RSUST	CIVIL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
213	JOHNSON	HANSON	E	FUTO	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
214	KING	RICHE	R	UNIUYO	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
215	NDAESSIEN	ETTETE	E	FUTO	ENVIRONMENTAL TECH	AKWAIBOM
216	NDAH	OTOBOT	E	FUTO	MATHS/COMP SCIENCE	AKWAIBOM
217	NDIFREKE	AKANINYENE		RSUST	ACCOUNTING	AKWAIBOM
218	NDIOKHO	EMEM	P	UNICAL	ACCOUNTING	AKWAIBOM
219	NKANANG	IDONGESIT	J	UNIUYO	CIVIL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
220	NKANGA	UMOINYANG	G	UNIUYO	COMPUTER SCIENCE	AKWAIBOM
221	NKANGA	MFOBOBONG	G	UNIUYO	COMPUTER SCIENCE	AKWAIBOM
222	NKPUBRE	DAVID	O	UNIBADAN	MECHANICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
223	NSEKPO	UBONG	S	FUTO	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
224	NTUEN	AKANIMO	A	UNIUYO	CHEMICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
225	NTUK	GRACE	N	UNICAL	ECONOMICS	AKWAIBOM
226	OBONUKUT	MINISTER	E	UNIUYO	CHEMICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
227	OFFIONG	MICHAEL	U	RSUST	MECHANICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
228	OFFIONG	INEMESIT	D	UNIUYO	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
229	OKON	SOLOMON	C	UNICAL	MARINE SCIENCE	AKWAIBOM
230	OKPU	WILSON		UNIPOINT	CHEMICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
231	OKU	EKOMOBONG	O	UNIUYO	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
232	OKWONG	OKWONG	U	UNIPOINT	PETROLEUM ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
233	OROK	JOEL	A	UNICAL	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
234	SIMON	SUNDAY	S	UNICAL	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
235	SYDNEY	STEVE	E	UNICAL	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
236	UBAK	EKPO	I	NDU	CHEMICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
237	UBOM	AKANINYENE		UNIUYO	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
238	UBONG	MONDAY	I	NDU	PETROLEUM ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
239	UDEME	UDEME-OBONG	B	UNIUYO	BIOCHEMISTRY	AKWAIBOM
240	UDO	ANIEFIK	B	UNICAL	ECONOMICS	AKWAIBOM
241	UDO-AKA	KOOFREH	O	FUTO	MECHANICAL ENGRG	AKWAIBOM
242	UDOBONG	EDIDIIONG	G	UNIUYO	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM

## NNPC/MPN 2005/2006 Scholarship Awards (Contd.)

NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	M	INSITUTION	DISCIPLINE	STATE OF ORIGIN
243	UDOBONG	MFOR	E	MADONNA	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
244	UDOFA	BLESSING	I	BIU	LAW	AKWAIBOM
245	UDOFIA	OWOIDHO-ABASI	O	UNICAL	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
246	UDOH	ANIEIE	J	FUTO	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	AKWAIBOM
247	UDOH	SAVIOUR	M	UNICAL	ACCOUNTING	AKWAIBOM
248	UDOH	NSIKAN	J	UNIPOINT	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	AKWAIBOM
249	UDOH	OFONMBUK	E	UNIUYO	CHEMICAL ENGRG.	AKWAIBOM
250	UDOH	ANIEKAN	S	UNN	LAW	AKWAIBOM
251	UDOH	VICTOR	O	UNIUYO	CHEMICAL ENGRG.	AKWAIBOM
252	UDOH	JUDE	S	UNIUYO	CIVIL ENGRG.	AKWAIBOM
253	UDOKA	UWEM	E	FUTO	CIVIL ENGRG.	AKWAIBOM
254	UDOKOR	HOPE	I	UNIUYO	ACCOUNTING	AKWAIBOM
255	UDOKPOH	ANIEKAN	U	UNIUYO	PETROLEUM ENGRG.	AKWAIBOM
256	UDONDIAN	NDIANABASI	S	UNIUYO	AGRIC ECONS	AKWAIBOM
257	UDOSHEN	AQUAOWO	U	UNICAL	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
258	UKO	AMANAM	F	UNIUYO	COMPUTER SCIENCE	AKWAIBOM
259	UKPAKHA	ABASI-AKAN	C	UNIUYO	AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE	AKWAIBOM
260	UKPE	ENO-OBONG	A	UNN	MECHANICAL ENGRG.	AKWAIBOM
261	UKPE	IDARESIT	O	RSUST	MECHANICAL ENGRG.	AKWAIBOM
262	UKPONG	SIFON	N	UNIUYO	MECHANICAL ENGRG.	AKWAIBOM
263	ULAETO	NSEABASI	E	UNIUYO	CHEMICAL ENGRG.	AKWAIBOM
264	UMOETTE	IDARA	S	UNICAL	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
265	UMOH	EDIDIONG	F	FUTO	CIVIL ENGRG.	AKWAIBOM
266	UMOH	ISAAC	C	UNIUYO	PETROLEUM ENGRG.	AKWAIBOM
267	UMOH	IMOH	B	UNIUYO	CIVIL ENGRG.	AKWAIBOM
268	UMOREN	ANIEKAN	G	UNICAL	COMPUTER SCIENCE	AKWAIBOM
269	USEN	OFONIME	P	RSUST	CHEM/PETROCHEMICAL ENGRG.	AKWAIBOM
270	EMMANUEL-USEN	IDONGESIT	E	UNIPOINT	MEDICINE	AKWAIBOM
271	USIERE	MARK	N	UNIUYO	COMPUTER SCIENCE	AKWAIBOM
272	USORO	UNYIME	U	UNICAL	ACCOUNTING	AKWAIBOM
273	UYIRE	ANIEKANABASI	D	UNN	PHARMACY	AKWAIBOM
274	WILLIE	AKANIMO	U	UNIUYO	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	AKWAIBOM
275	AWACHE	DUBEM	S	NAU	MEDICINE	ANAMBRA
276	CHIEGBOKA	LAUSDEUS	O	UNN	MEDICINE	ANAMBRA
277	OKOLI	EZEAGOZIE	L	UNN	MEDICINE	ANAMBRA
278	UCHENDU	AUGUSTINE	T	UNIJS	MEDICINE	ANAMBRA
279	MAIGARI	IBRAHIM	M	MAIDUGURI	MEDICINE	BAUCHI
280	MUSA	MARYAM	A	ATBU	COMPUTER SCIENCE	BAUCHI
281	RABO	YASANGRA		MAIDUGURI	MEDICINE	BAUCHI
282	AKANGBOU	PAUL	C	UNIPOINT	MEDICINE	BAYELSA
283	ENAMU	TIMI	E	UNIPOINT	CHEMICAL ENGRG.	BAYELSA
284	IDHIARHI	SYLVESTER	P	OOU	MEDICINE	BAYELSA
285	MACAULAY	DANIEL	A	UNIJS	ACCOUNTING	BAYELSA
286	AKO	GABRIEL	E	FUTO	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	BENUE
287	ANYEBE	VICTOR	A	UNIJS	MEDICINE	BENUE
288	IYALLA	ADAMS	E	ABU	ECONOMICS	BENUE
289	OGO	LAWRENCE	I	UNILORIN	MEDICINE	BENUE
290	BWALA	AKILAHYEL	H	ABU	MECHANICAL ENGRG.	BORNO
291	KASSHIM	MIGAWA	A	MAIDUGURI	MEDICINE	BORNO
292	MAMMAN	ABDULHAKEM	N	MAIDUGURI	MEDICINE	BORNO
293	MOHAMMED	IBRAHIM	A	MAIDUGURI	MEDICINE	BORNO
294	EKPENYONG	KINGSLEY	P	UNIBEN	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	C/RIVER
295	IKPEME	ESTHER	B	UNICAL	MEDICINE	C/RIVER
296	OBIEM	AUGUSTINE	O	UNICAL	ACCOUNTING	C/RIVER
297	O'NEIL	HAROLD	A	UNICAL	ECONOMICS	C/RIVER
298	TAKIMTIKU	BERACHAH	B	COVENANT	PETROLEUM ENGRG.	C/RIVER
299	AKPOR	OMAMOR	D	UNIBEN	MECHANICAL ENGRG.	DELTA
300	AZIZA	OGHENETEGA	S	OAU	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	DELTA
301	MAYUKU	ORIGHOMISAN		UNIBEN	MECHANICAL ENGRG.	DELTA
302	OFOMOLA	WINIFRED	N	IGBINEDION	MEDICINE	DELTA
303	ONOVIRAN	OGHENETEGA	O	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	DELTA
304	EZEH	CALEB	C	FUTO	CHEMICAL ENGRG.	EBONYI
305	OLE	EBERE	O	EBSU	MEDICINE	EBONYI
306	ORUSA	CHIMA		RSUST	MECHANICAL ENGRG.	EBONYI
307	UKPA	CHRISTOPHER	O	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	EBONYI
308	AGBEDE	ZAKARI	O	ABU	ELECTRICAL ENGRG.	EDO
309	AWENLIMBOR	STEPHEN	E	UNIBEN	CIVIL ENGRG.	EDO
310	EMOKPAE	IYAYI	E	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	EDO
311	IGENDEZA	OLUWATOSIN	P	OAU	MEDICINE	EDO
312	OGUNBAMISE	OLUWASEUN	A	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	EKITI
313	OJUAWO	OLUTOBI	B	UNILORIN	MEDICINE	EKITI
314	OSEGBOUN	FELIX	S	OAU	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	EKITI
315	OYAWALUJA	BAMISAYE	O	UNILAG	PHARMACY	EKITI
316	ASOGWA	ELOBUIKE	A	UNN	ELECTRICAL ENGRG.	ENUGU
317	MADUABUCHI	OBINNA	E	UNILAG	ACCOUNTING	ENUGU
318	OGBODO	OGOCHUKWU	T	UNIPOINT	MECHANICAL ENGRG.	ENUGU
319	UMEBUANI	EDMUND	C	MADONNA	MEDICINE	ENUGU
320	AUDU	KABIRU	D	ABU	MEDICINE	GOMBE
321	DAWAKI	IBRAHIM		MAIDUGURI	MEDICINE	GOMBE
322	HASHIDU	ABUBAKAR	H	UNICAL	MEDICINE	GOMBE
323	SULAIMAN	UMAR	S	BUK	MEDICINE	GOMBE
324	AGUCHUKWU	HENRY	E	UNIPOINT	CHEMICAL ENGRG.	IMO
325	AMAFILI	CHUDI	M	UNN	MEDICINE	IMO
326	NWACHUKU	CHIEDOZIE	N	FUTO	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	IMO
327	OKEREKE	CHIOMA	N	NAU	MEDICINE	IMO
328	LAMIN	IBRAHIM	D	ABU	CHEMICAL ENGRG.	JIGAWA
329	RUFATI	NABILA	A	BUK	ELECTRICAL ENGRG.	JIGAWA
330	ABUBAKAR	MARYAM	I	ABU	MEDICINE	KADUNA
331	GEORGE	NATHANIEL		ABU	MEDICINE	KADUNA
332	IDRIS	ABUBAKAR	S	BUK	MEDICINE	KADUNA
333	SHEKARI	JOSHUA	I	ABU	CIVIL ENGRG.	KADUNA
334	ADAMU	ABDU	A	BUK	MEDICINE	KANO
335	ALIYU	AHMED		BUK	MEDICINE	KANO
336	MOHAMMED	FAIZA	L	BUK	MEDICINE	KANO
337	MUHAMMAD	IBRAHIM	D	BUK	MEDICINE	KANO
338	ABUBAKAR	NASIR	B	BUK	MEDICINE	KATSINA
339	AMINU	NURADDEEN	B	ABU	PHARMACY	KATSINA
340	BALA	FATIMA	S	ABU	ECONOMICS	KATSINA
341	KABIR	UMAR	F	MAIDUGURI	MEDICINE	KATSINA
342	HABUH-RAJAN	KAREEM	K	UNILORIN	MEDICINE	KOGI
343	ISA	FADL	M	ABU	MECHANICAL ENGRG.	KOGI
344	OLORUNFEMI	TOLUTOPE		UDU	ECONOMICS	KOGI
345	OLOWONONI	FELIX	O	ABU	ELECTRICAL ENGRG.	KOGI
346	ADESOYE	OLUWASEYI		UNILORIN	MEDICINE	KWARA
347	AJIBOYE	ADEWALE	A	UNILAG	COMPUTER SCIENCE	KWARA
348	BALOGUN	STEPHEN	T	UNILORIN	MEDICINE	KWARA
349	KEJI	SALAMAT	M	UNILORIN	MEDICINE	KWARA
350	ORINIOWO	OLUSOLA	O	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	KWARA
351	ANIMASHAUN	IBRAHIM	A	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	LAGOS
352	GBADAMOSI	HAFEEZ	O	UNILORIN	COMPUTER SCIENCE	LAGOS
353	ODUJLOWU	OLAIDE	I	OAU	LAW	LAGOS
354	OLAFUSI	MICHAEL	O	FLUTA	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	LAGOS
355	ISHUWU	GABRIEL	O	UNN	ELECTRONIC ENGRG.	NASARAWA
356	MAKPU	JIREH	D	UNIJS	MEDICINE	NASARAWA
357	OHYOMA	ISA		ABU	MEDICINE	NASARAWA
358	USMAN	IBRAHIM		ABU	MECHANICAL ENGRG.	NASARAWA
359	ADO	THEOPHILUS	A	ABU	MEDICINE	NIGER
360	BAGUDU	USMAN		ATBU	PETROLEUM ENGRG.	NIGER
361	IBRAHIM	NAIMAT	K	UNIJS	MEDICINE	NIGER
362	OMAR	MOHAMMED	K	ABU	ELECTRICAL ENGRG.	NIGER
363	ABIONA	ABAYOMI	O	UNILAG	PHARMACY	OGUN
364	FAGBEMI	OLUWATARA	O	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	OGUN
365	FAMODU	OLADAPO	O	UNILAG	PHARMACY	OGUN
366	OGUNDE	ADENIKE	O	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	OGUN
367	AKINBIYI	TEMITOPE	J	UNILAG	CHEMICAL ENGRG.	ONDO
368	AKINTOYE	EMMANUEL	S	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	ONDO
369	ALAJO	OLUWASEUN	S	OAU	MECHANICAL ENGRG.	ONDO
370	ELEMILE	PETER	O	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	ONDO
371	OTUNYE	ANUOLUWAPO	R	UNILAG	CHEMICAL ENGRG.	ONDO
372	ADENIGBAGBE	IFEOLUWAPO	A	OAU	ACCOUNTING	OSUN
373	ADENIYI	KOLAWOLE	O	OAU	PHARMACY	OSUN
374	ADIAT	AYODELE	U	OAU	MEDICINE	OSUN
375	ADIGUN	AKIN	M	UNILAG	ACCOUNTING	OSUN
376	FASOGBON	OLUWABUKUNMI	T	LAUTECH	MEDICINE	OSUN
377	IDOWU	ADEOLA	O	UNILORIN	MEDICINE	OSUN
378	SALAMI	ADEYANJU	R	UNILAG	PHARMACY	OSUN
379	AKANMU	ABIOLA	S	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	OYO
380	MOBI	AYOBAMI	O	OAU	MEDICINE	OYO
381	OGUNTADE	OLUWASEUN	M	OAU	CHEMICAL ENGRG.	OYO
382	OLALERE	OLATUNJI	A	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	OYO
383	TOGUN	ADENIYI	T	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	OYO
384	CHUN-GYANG	SHADRACK	D	UNIJS	MEDICINE	PLATEAU
385	DAFIEL	JACOB	N	ABU	MECHANICAL ENGRG.	PLATEAU
386	DAMAP	MAXWELL	M	ABU	MECHANICAL ENGRG.	PLATEAU
387	DATOK	TONGRET		UNIJS	PHARMACY	PLATEAU
388	POYI	DIRKAT	B	UNIJS	MEDICINE	PLATEAU

NNPC/MPN 2005/2006 Scholarship Awards (Contd.)

NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	M	INSITUTION	DISCIPLINE	STATE OF ORIGIN
389	AFONYAA	HECTOR	D	UNIPOINT	PETROLEUM ENGRG.	RIVERS
390	ALALIBO	BELEMA	P	UNIPOINT	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	RIVERS
391	ALIKOR	HOMA		UNIPOINT	MEDICINE	RIVERS
392	ALOKPA	OVI	P	RSUST	ACCOUNTING	RIVERS
393	AMAKIRI	IBIROUBO	A	RSUST	ACCOUNTING	RIVERS
394	ASEMINACHIN	EMMAN	M	UNIPOINT	MEDICINE	RIVERS
395	BESTMAN	ABIOTQA	M	UNIPOINT	MEDICINE	RIVERS
396	BIRAGBARA	BARIDIUM	P	RSUST	ELECTRICAL ENGRG.	RIVERS
397	BOB-MANUEL	SARAH	S	UNIPOINT	MEDICINE	RIVERS
398	BRIGGS	BIEYE	R	UNIPOINT	MEDICINE	RIVERS
399	BRIGGS	DAMIETE	E	UNIJOS	MEDICINE	RIVERS
400	BROWN	LAWSON	J	NDU	GEOLOGY	RIVERS
401	CHARLES-DAVIES	TAMUNOIBI	D	UNIBADAN	MEDICINE	RIVERS
402	DAN-GOGO	CANDY	K	RSUST	LAW	RIVERS
403	EGBUNAH	TOCHUKWU	S	NAU	MEDICINE	RIVERS
404	EYIMOGA	FRIDAY		UNIJOS	MEDICINE	RIVERS
405	GEORGEWILL	ONENGIYE-OFORI		UNIPOINT	MEDICINE	RIVERS
406	GRANVILLE	MININI	W	RSUST	PETROLEUM ENGRG.	RIVERS
407	GREEN	ANDY	B	RSUST	GEOPHYSICS	RIVERS
408	HART	IBIFIRI	I	IGBINEDION	MEDICINE	RIVERS
409	HART	AL Aidanengia	D	RSUST	ELECTRICAL ENGRG.	RIVERS
410	HART	TONYE	P	UNIPOINT	MEDICINE	RIVERS
411	IBEAKUZIE	FELIX	O	FUTO	CHEMICAL ENGRG.	RIVERS
412	IBEKWE	OWABINUCHI	G	UNIPOINT	MEDICINE	RIVERS
413	IGAH	ALLISON	F	RSUST	CHEMPETROCH EMICAL ENGRG.	RIVERS
414	IGILAR	AZUBUIKE		FUTO	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	RIVERS
415	IGWE	NKE	O	UNIPOINT	PETROLEUM ENGRG.	RIVERS
416	INKO-DOKUBO	DAGOGO		RSUST	LAW	RIVERS
417	JACK	DABOMATE		RSUST	ELECTRICAL ENGRG.	RIVERS
418	JACK	INIA	N	RSUST	PETROLEUM ENGRG.	RIVERS
419	JOSIAH	IBIYEFEE	K	RSUST	ACCOUNTING	RIVERS
420	JUMBO	GABRIEL	O	RSUST	MECHANICAL ENGRG.	RIVERS
421	JUMBO	AKONTE	J	RSUST	PETROLEUM ENGRG.	RIVERS
422	JUMBO	QUEENETT		UNIPOINT	MEDICINE	RIVERS
423	JUMBO	IYINGIALA	A	UNIPOINT	MEDICINE	RIVERS
424	JUMBO	JACK	R	UNIPOINT	PHARMACY	RIVERS

NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	M	INSITUTION	DISCIPLINE	STATE OF ORIGIN
425	KARIBO	ALMA	I	RSUST	LAW	RIVERS
426	KIRI	AMINA	A	UNIBEN	GEOLOGY	RIVERS
427	LAWSON	AWOERE	D	RSUST	LAW	RIVERS
428	MAXWELL	SAMUEL	E	UNIPOINT	MEDICINE	RIVERS
429	MBEE	OLEMAKPADU	N	UNN	MECHANICAL ENGRG.	RIVERS
430	NNI	DARLINGTON	L	RSUST	ACCOUNTING	RIVERS
431	NONJU	MARGARET		RSUST	LAW	RIVERS
432	NWAKAJI	DAVID	T	UNIPOINT	CHEMICAL ENGRG.	RIVERS
433	NWOSU	OBINNA		UNIPOINT	MEDICINE	RIVERS
434	OBA	SOSEIPIRIALA	R	UNIPOINT	MEDICINE	RIVERS
435	OBELLE	SANDRA		RSUST	LAW	RIVERS
436	OKOROMA	JUSTICE	U	RSUST	CHEM/PETROCH EMICAL ENGRG.	RIVERS
437	ORUWORI	ALICE	E	UNIPOINT	PETROLEUM ENGRG.	RIVERS
438	OSLER	KELVIN		FUTO	CIVIL ENGRG.	RIVERS
439	POLLYN	HARCOURT		RSUST	COMPUTER SCIENCE	RIVERS
440	SYDNEY	WILCOX	T	RSUST	MECHANICAL ENGRG.	RIVERS
441	TALBOT	AMAKIE	E	UNIPOINT	MECHANICAL ENGRG.	RIVERS
442	TAMUNO	JOSHUA		UNIPOINT	PETROLEUM ENGRG.	RIVERS
443	UCHENDU	NWENKA	E	UNIPOINT	MECHANICAL ENGRG.	RIVERS
444	WEBILOR	OROWHUO	R	UNIPOINT	ELECT/ELECT ENGRG.	RIVERS
445	WEME	CHIMNOGWUNUM	C	UNIPOINT	MECHANICAL ENGRG.	RIVERS
446	WHYTE	LYLIAN	I	RSUST	LAW	RIVERS
447	WILSON	ALABERE		RSUST	PETROLEUM ENGRG.	RIVERS
448	WOSU	TINA	P	MADONNA	ACCOUNTING	RIVERS
449	ZABBEH	TOMBARI	P	UNIPOINT	MEDICINE	RIVERS
450	SULEIMAN	MARIAM		ABU	EGONOMICS	SOKOTO
451	ADAMU	ADAMU	A	MAIDUGURI	MEDICINE	TARABA
452	MUSA	JIBRILLA		MAIDUGURI	MEDICINE	TARABA
453	UGWUANYI	ALEXANDER	O	UNN	ELECTRONIC ENGRG.	TARABA
454	ADAMU	GAMBO	M	UNICAL	MEDICINE	YOBE
455	ALIYU	ABDULLAHI		ABU	ECONOMICS	YOBE
456	ABUBAKAR	HABIB	S	MAIDUGURI	ACCOUNTING	YOBE
457	UMAR	AISHA	A	MAIDUGURI	GEOLOGY	YOBE
458	MAIZA	BASHIRU	Y	OAU	MEDICINE	ZAMFARA

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# SPORTS

## C'wealth Games: Nigeria doesn't deserve medals

Former African triple long champion, Brown Ebewele, has said that Nigeria do not deserve to win any medal at the forthcoming Commonwealth Games in Melbourne because preparations for the event have been shoddy.

The former champion asserted that preparations for the all-important tournament have not reflected any form of seriousness and commitment to success noting that even the Mobil Track and Field Championship used to select athletes for the games has fallen below standard.

"We do not deserve to win any medal at the Commonwealth Games because of shoddy preparations which do not show any sign of seriousness.

What I have observe is a systemic failure in administration, planning and organization such that even athletes have resigned to their fate and therefore have not complained as always the case because it would be to no effect", he said adding that the authority seem

By Patrick Andrew,  
Asst. Head Sports Desk

pleased with the situation even though it is to the detriment of sports.

The Delta State director of Sports said he was compelled to draw the conclusion based on the general lukewarm attitude towards systematic preparations

that would ginger athletes to respond with zest and vigour.

"Once the level of preparation challenges athletes to peak performance then one could be hopeful of possible medal hauls but what we have on ground is neither encouraging nor inspiring. Athletes have rather kept quiet

on the situation because complaining would lead them to nowhere and of course they stand to get some largesse if they play the dumb and get selected for the jamboree in Melbourne," he said.

Ebewele lambasted the sponsors and organisers of the tournament for the shoddy show,

## -Ebewele

stressing that there was nothing to indicate a tournament of that magnitude was being held in Abuja because of poor publicity.

He said until administrators learn to plan for and implement

programmes which are developmental in nature, such shoddy approach to serious engagements would continue to rock preparations for major tournaments.

## ... We'll not perform well - Coach

Inadequate preparations could mar Nigeria's chances in athletic events of next month's Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, Australia, says a former national coach.

According to Tobias Igwe, "Nigerian athletes will not make much impact in athletics at the

Commonwealth Games due to poor arrangements, as well as preparations."

Igwe told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) at the weekend in Abuja that "lack of proper planning and inconsistent training programmes will affect our performance at the games."

He accused officials of the sports ministry of inconsistency in arrangements, planning and organisation of training programmes to boost athletes' performance and morale.

According to him, "unlike other countries, Nigeria has been using a trial-and-error approach,

rather than long-term planning for the games."

He said the Athletic Federation of Nigeria (AFN) had been changing national coaches at will, "without due regard to capability and continuity.

"This type of situation does not give room for continuity and

tends to retard the progress and growth of our athletes and officials," Igwe noted.

The coach asked the AFN to introduce grassroots-oriented programmes, "in order to discover hidden talents and long-term training programmes for the future development of Nigerian athletes."

## Fasuba becomes Nigeria's fastest man

Italy-based Olusoji Fasuba has won 100 metres race at the 17th Nigeria/NNPC/

Mobil Track and Field Championships in Abuja, to emerge the fastest man in the

country. Fasuba finished the race in 10.13 seconds, thus fulfilling his ambition of winning the event. Uche Emedolu placed second in 10.14 seconds, while Chinedu Oriala was third in 10.33 seconds. Current African Champion, Deji Aliu came a distant fourth in 10.34 seconds.

Fasuba, attributed his victory to hard training and determination, saying that it was an indication that he was going to make Nigeria proud at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, Australia.

Aliu, however blamed his defeat to poor officiating, saying that the officials deliberately ignored a fault start by one of the contestants.

Foreign based Gloria Kemasodia won the women 100 metre event in 11.33 seconds, while Mercy Nku took the second position in 11.40 seconds.

Endurance Ojokolo came third in 11.59 seconds. Kemasodia told NAN shortly after the race that she deserved to win, because she

had committed much to the event.

Kenekwue Ezeofor of the Prisons Athletic Club won the discuss men event with a mark of 51.14 metres, while James Chidozia of Enugu State came second with 52.14 metres. Godwin Imoisi of the Red Lion Club of Edo placed third with 41.78 metres.

In other events, Glory Okpakp of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) won the men's 400 metre hurdle in 51.51 seconds, while Moratu Lawal of the Gateway Club, Abeokuta placed second in 51.71 seconds. Osita Okagu of the Paacino club came third in 52.49 seconds.

Endurance Abinuwa of Delta won the 400 metres women hurdle in 58.84 seconds. About 700 local and foreign based athletes competed in 42 track and field events at the three-day championship meant to select Nigeria's flag bearers at next month's Commonwealth Games in Australia.

## Mobil Athletics Notebook

Organisers of the 17th Nigeria/NNPC/Mobil Track and Field Championship were forced to mobilise secondary school students to attend the event closing ceremony due to poor spectator turnout.

Seats at the 60,000 capacity National Stadium, Abuja, was almost empty for the three-day duration of the championships expect for a handful of athletes and officials.

The usual glamour associated with the annual event was missing because there were no spectators to cheer the participants and make the stadium lively.

Sportswriters who covered the championship had a rough time following events, as the information centre at the stadium was not always forthcoming with necessary information.

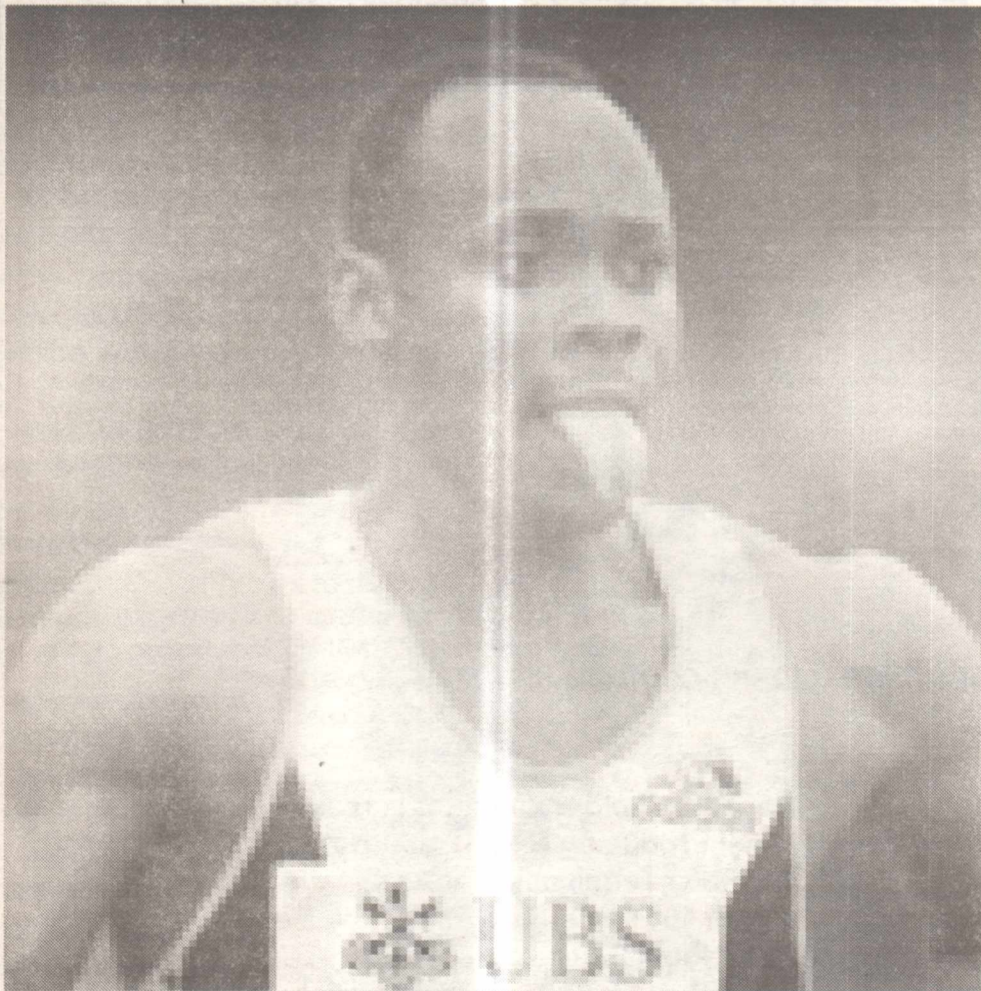
Most of the time, starting lists of athletes competing in different events were not available, forcing journalists to keep guessing.

Also, results which were always made available in previous editions were lacking, forcing sportswriters to queue at the information centre in vain.

Poor publicity and ill-preparations rubbed off this year's Nigeria/NNPC/Mobil Track and Field Championships of its glamour, and the thrill that had characterised the past editions.

Most residents of the capital city who were supposed to watch the games free-of-charge were not even aware that it was holding as they claimed ignorance.

Officials, however, attributed the low turn-out to the backward shift of the championships to enable the Athletic Federation of Nigeria (AFN) to select athletes for the next month's Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, Australia. The Championship



Olusoji Fasuba...Nigeria's fastest man

## Former AFN boss gives pass mark

Former President of the Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN) Smart Akraka has expressed satisfaction with the performance of athletes at the just-concluded 17th Nigeria/NNPC/Mobil Track and Field Championships in Abuja.

Akraka, who was the chief referee at the championships, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) at the weekend in

Abuja that the skills displayed by the athletes was quite high, compared to the previous editions.

He said the emergence of up coming athletes as winners in various events was an indication that athletics was witnessing rapid growth in Nigeria.

He pointed out that it was a beginning of a new era in which unknown athletes would represent the country and were expected to spring

surprises and upsets in international meets.

"We have a great future in athletics going by what I have seen in the last three days," he said, adding what was needed to be done was to give the necessary support and encouragement to the new discoveries to attain their potentials.

Akraka said that once this was done there was nothing stopping them from excelling at next month's

Commonwealth Games in Australia.

"Since athletics is an individual event, necessary support and facilities must be provided to the athletes by the AFN because that is the only way we can make it," he said.

He said that discipline must also be maintained at the camps where the athletes remained in the right shape and complied with the training regulations.

# Sports

## Superb end to Egypt 2006



From January 20 to February 10, Egypt hosted Africa's biggest sporting feast—the Africa Cup of Nations. The continent's best 16 assembled on this revered African soil to show their mettle, while millions of viewers world-wide watched the action on television.

**By Ismaila Umaru Lere, Assistant Editor, with Agency Reports**

The organization of the 25th MTN Nations Cup will rank as one of the best in the history of the Nations Cup. The LOC and CAF worked hard to ensure that all the aspects related to the smooth organization of the event were implemented.

Egypt are always good hosts of African football. They have done it before and very well indeed. Football followers over the years, remember the good organization of the 1986 event in Egypt where also the hosts lifted the crown by beating Cameroon on spot-kicks.

The analysts contend that like 1986 and even far away in 1974, the Egyptians maintained their class as good organizers and hospitable people.

The chairman of the local organizing committee Hani Abu Rida and his entire team, together with CAF must be congratulated for the many hours they put together in ensuring that all the systems worked smoothly during the championship.

The opening ceremony was truly colourful and well orchestrated. The

entertainment part of it was classic with a mixture of African, European, Arabic and Oriental.

The media and the other visitors to Egypt could not complain. The media centres operated fully and the volunteers on duty did their utmost best to ensure that all the journalists did their job without hiccups.

For transport no one could complain. Teams, officials, referees and the media had their vehicles ready all the time.

The security, the most important aspect in a tournament of this magnitude, could not be doubted. The Egyptians threw the best security ever and the tournament ended without any incident.

The matches were equally captivating. There was no team that did not provide entertainment. After all, football is always good when there is plenty of entertainment before you get the winner and the loser. In the case of 2006, everything was provided. Angola might have been eliminated in the first round, but they had some good football to show. Libya too, left for Tripoli satisfied with their performance after many years

in the cold. Then Pascal Feindonou's Guinea think, they were denied progress by hard luck.

The entertainment of DR Congo with their fluid movement, reminiscent of their celebrated ndombolo music also added colour to the 2006 showcase. After all the preliminaries had been played, the eight remaining teams were involved in bruising battles. Cameroon, Nigeria, Egypt, DR Congo, Tunisia, Senegal, Guinea and Ivory Coast reached the quarter finals and full action exploded.

Defending champions Tunisia could not survive. Their sharpshooter Silva dos Santos with four goals in his pocket was cut out in the quarters as the Super Eagles cruised home 6-5 on penalties.

Senegal, yet to win the Nations Cup had to survive plenty of scares before eliminating Guinea in the quarters. But Egypt had it slightly easy when they shut out Congo 4-1. The biggest quarter final between Ivory Coast and Cameroon had to be settled on penalties, with the Elephants romping home to a historical 12-11, in a match Samuel Eto'o missed a penalty that condemned his

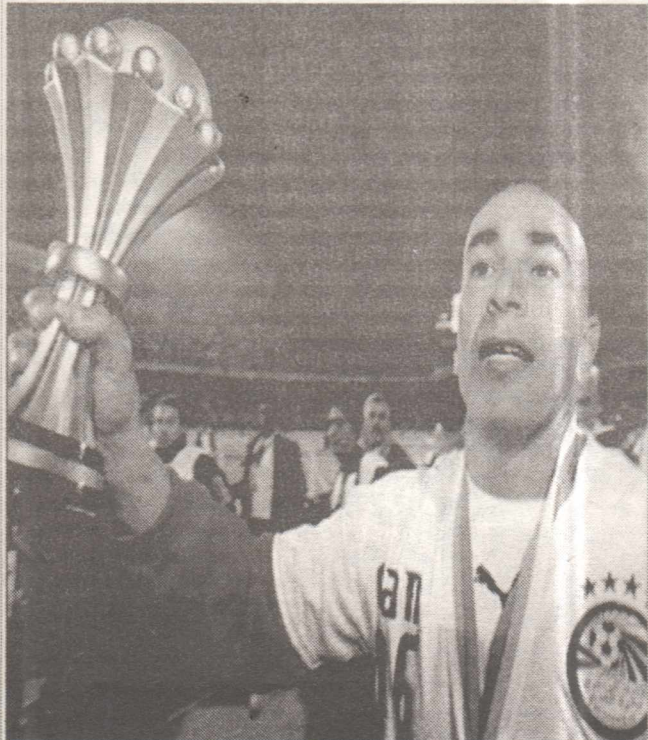
country.

The semi finals were equally tense and energy sapping. The youthful Nigerian side reached their third semis on three occasions respectively. But their luck ran out when they drew Ivory Coast in Alexandria. Drogba netted the decider in the 46th minute to end Nigeria's dream.

Egypt had a match on their hands when they toiled to eliminate Senegal 2-1 in a close and absorbing semi final showdown. The results meant a final confrontation between the hosts Egypt and Ivory Coast on 10.2.2006. It was regarded as the best pairing the tournament could have.

If the opening ceremony was colourful and enticing, the closing feast was electric. Over 100,000 spectators were at the monumental Cairo national stadium to witness the cup final. And the mammoth crowd was not disappointed as good football was played for over two hours with Egypt lifting the crown through spot kicks (4-2) to claim their fifth crown.

What makes football popular is the crowd and Egypt had it.



Egypt's captain Hossam Hassan holding the African Nations Cup

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The general public is hereby informed that the above name Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matter Act, 1990.

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Signed:

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KATSINA STATE.

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Signed:

A.A. MACHIKA & CO  
(Attorneys & Legal Consultants)  
Top Floor, U.B.A. Building, Katsina Road, Funtua,  
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#### JOINT ADMISSION AND MATRICULATION BOARD

Re-Mr. Tajudeen Olanrewaju Hassan. Until his death was the Board's Chief Public Relations Officer.

He was survived by:

- Mrs. Amudat Hassan - Wife
- Musadeeq Hassan - Son
- Fatimah Hassan - Daughter
- Aisha Hassan - Daughter
- Ridwan Hassan - Son

May his soul rest in peace. (Amen)

The omission of Aisha Hassan on the earlier Advert is regretted

#### LOSS OF CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY NO. SS. 792 IN THE NAME OF MR. JOSEPH O. ODUNAIYA

This is to inform the general public of the loss of certificate of Occupancy No. SS 792 in the name of Mr. Joseph O. Odunaiya (late). The said C of O got lost while in the possession of UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC, Ahmadu Bello Way, Sokoto and all attempts made to race it has proved abortive. The general public and Sokoto State Ministry of Lands Housing and Survey should please take note. Signed Barr. Solomon Alimasunya, 4 Fodio Road Sokoto.

#### CHANGE OF NAMES

I, formerly known as KYANTI KI DANASABE, now wish to be known as MADAKI DANASABE EMMANUEL. All documents remain valid.

I, formerly known as MISS FAITH NKIRU ASANYA, now wish to be MRS. FAITH NKIRU UCHEGBULAM. All former documents remain valid. Public to note.

I, formerly MARYAM SAIDU SALEH, now wish to be known as MRS. MARYAM DAUDA USMAN. Former documents remain valid. University of Maiduguri and General public to note.

I, MISS MONISOLA AYEJIMIWO, now wish to be called MRS. MONISOLA ESTHER BOLU OLUKOYL. All former documents remain valid. DNCR note.

I, formerly NONYELUM NZEAKOR, now wish to be known as MRS. NONYELUM NZERIBE. Former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly MISS EGBOJA HELEN, henceforth MRS. HELEN ANIKPE OKONKWO. Former documents remain valid, M.F.A. to note.

I, formerly known as MARYAM BASHIR SULAIMAN, now wish to be known as MARYAM ALIYU AMNNU. Former documents remain valid. The University of Abuja, NYSC and the public to note.

I, formerly known as OLADIPO ISAAC MALIKI, now wish to be known as OLADIPO ISAAC AGBOOLA. Former documents remain valid. The public to note.

I, formerly known as PASTOR CHRISTOPHER DAVID, now wish to be called PASTOR CHRIS D. RAYMOND. Former documents remain valid. General public to please note.

#### LOSS OF LAND DOCUMENTS

The original acknowledgement letter and receipt of payment for land allocation by FCDA belonging to MR. LINUS UKACHUKWU of Plot 30 Idu Industrial layout with file number AN5938 has been reported missing. FCDA and AGIS to note.

Signed:

ANSELM OKOLO

#### LOSS OF LAND DOCUMENTS

The original acknowledgement letter and receipt of payment for land allocation by FCDA belonging to MR. EMEKA UKACHUKWU of Plot 30 Idu Industrial layout with file number AN5939 has been reported missing. FCDA and AGIS to note.

Signed:

ANSELM OKOLO

#### LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the original document of Bwari Area Council Land allocation paper of Plot B12 of about 600m<sup>2</sup> at Kubwa Phase II Annex layout (Gbasango West), belonging to PAUL FINYIN at Dutse Alhaji is missing. All effort to trace it proved abortive. If found please contact the nearest police station or the above owner address.

#### MISSING PASSPORT

I, MR TONI ELIAS ZAKHEN, Lebanese. National declare that I have lost my passport which number is 1980804 issued in Beyrouth on 15<sup>th</sup> Sept., 2001 in the city of Dedde Kaura. I would be very grateful to any one who find this passport to call me on my phone No. 08057987735 or to hand it to my home address c/ o Mr. Chikhani George Zakhem Construction Nig. Ltd. Maje Dikko Road, Suleja. P.O. box 1060 or to the Embassy of Lebanon on the following address Embassy of Lebanon, Plot 762 Luke Chad Crescent, Maitama=Abuja.

# Sports

## Mourinho laments Chelsea week off

Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho has bemoaned the fact his side must wait a whole week before they can bounce back from Saturday's 3-0 defeat at Middlesbrough.

The Blues' next outing is against Colchester in the FA Cup fifth round on Sunday.

"It's a pity we can't play in two or three days as I like to play straight away after a bad game," Mourinho said.

"Now we have to wait until Sunday before we play again. But the players will have to think about this defeat."

The shock reversal was the heaviest defeat in the 20-month reign of Mourinho - and the joint-biggest loss of

his whole managerial career.

It was only the third time he has lost a Premiership game - the two other occasions being a 1-0 defeat at Manchester City on 16 October 2004 and a 1-0 loss at Manchester United on 6 November 2005.

Mourinho has only ever lost 14 league games, including Saturday's match at Boro, in his five-and-a-half years as a manager with Benfica, Uniao Leiria, Porto and Chelsea.

The only other occasions on which he has lost by three goals in a league game in his managerial career were on 8 March 2002, when Belenenses beat his Porto side 3-0, and 5 November 2000 when Benfica went down 3-0 at

Maritimo.

The Blues chief admits he was stunned by the his team's inept performance at the Riverside.

"In my time at Chelsea, this is the third defeat in the Premiership and you can say it was the worst," he said.

"Middlesbrough had a better attitude than us as they need the points to survive.

"But one of the qualities of our team is the way we usually approach games. Every opponent is shown respect and every player starts and ends with maximum concentration.

"That's why we don't lose too many matches and why we keep a good level through the season. So yes, our performance in this game did surprise me."



Mourinho... the Chelsea boss bemoans his side's 3-0 defeat by Middlesbrough on Saturday.

The power

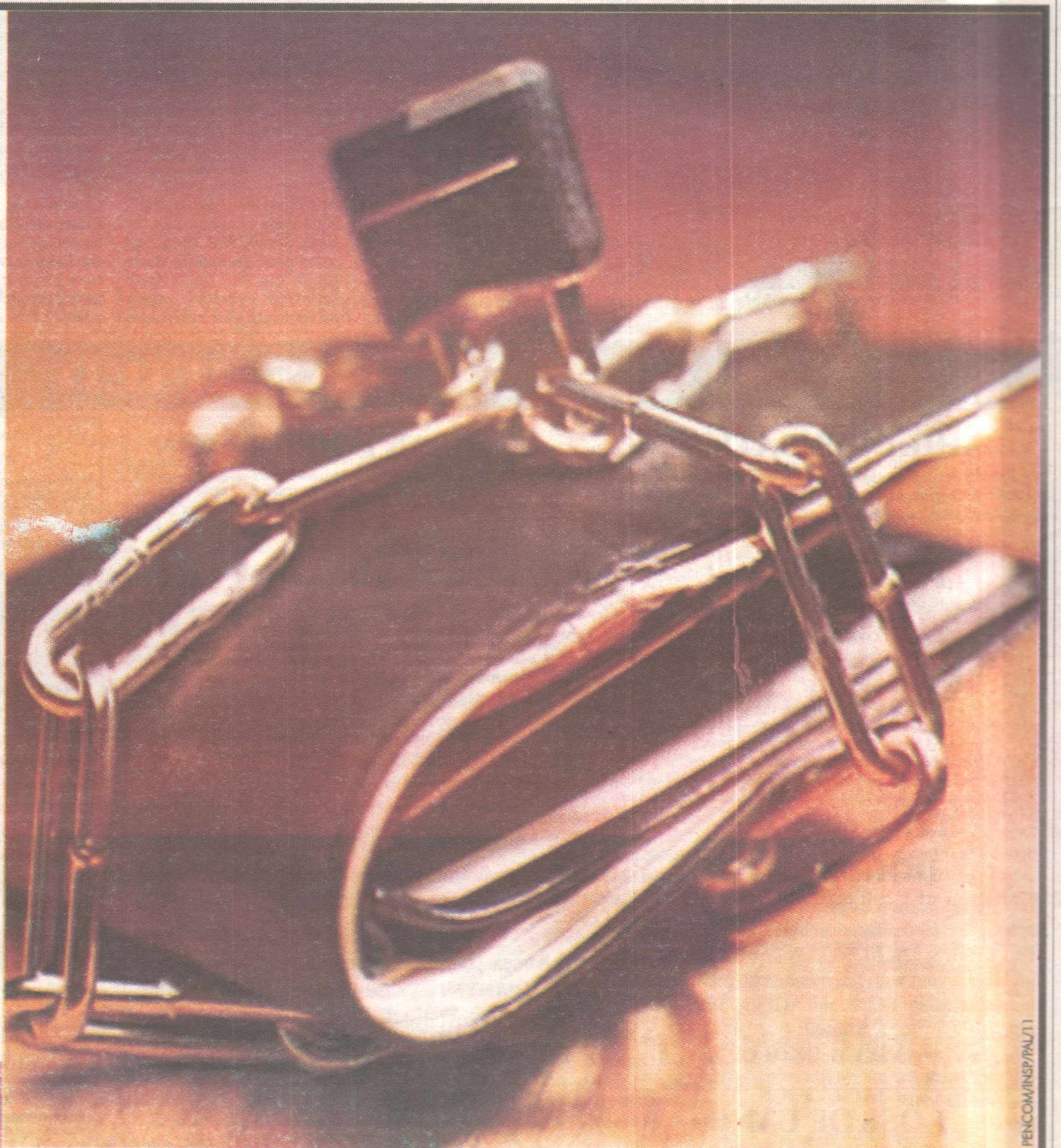
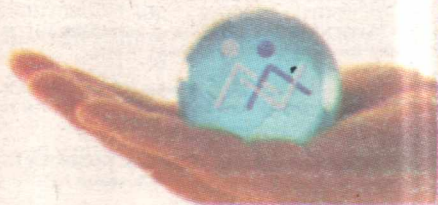
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# Sports

## Burning Issues with Patrick Andrew

### Must Eguavoen go?

Nobody loves sad tales especially in the world dominated by cut throat competition where winning is everything. Failure, indeed, is an orphan when the ultimate prize is missed. And winning bronze for the third consecutive times surely makes Super Eagles chief coach Austin Eguavoen lonesome and beleaguered. Not surprising, there have been flurry of calls for his head in compensation for the misery Nigerians were subjected to during and after the Eagles loss to the Elephants of Ivory Coast at the semi-final of the just concluded 25<sup>th</sup> African Cup of Nations. The anger is not necessarily because they lose the match but that the players were lackadaisical, bereft of tact and apparently aimless such that they could not even take one decent shot at goal for 90minute.

But many have exonerated the bunch of fleet footed lads who restored Nigeria's soccer pride in the pulsating and highly tactical match against the Carthage Eagles of Tunisia in the quarter-final earlier. Rather poor selection by the technical crew is said to be the bane of the inglorious exit. Their argument is hinged on Eguavoen's obvious gullibility at big tournaments since he lacks the experience and may be the temperament to cope with the stress and rigour of such events which only come with years on the mill.

To appease the spuming anger, there is certain resurgent chant for the recruitment of a foreign technical adviser. Not a few have seen this as the magic panacea that would right the wrong done to Nigeria's pride by indigenous coaches of yore. Others are apt to say this must be treated with dispatch to create a leeway for a fresh beginning for the next edition of the tournament in Ghana only about 730 days away.

While it is true that winning is every thing in a cut throat competition, it should be noted that failure as a orphan comes with hasty decision devoid of careful appraisal of situation and factors crucial for attainment of well conceived programmes. Did the coach manifest nitwit tendency as was the case with his predecessor both in sourcing for players and juxtaposing them for result? Has he potentials for advancement or shown marked disinclination for improvement?

The position being canvassed is for some indigenous coaches, if need be, to understudy the yet-to-be recruited foreign manager for the Eagles for a considerable length of time before they are assigned the responsibility of coaching the senior team. But this is merely putting new wine in old wine skin. This process has been on to no benefit.

Perhaps a recap will buttress the point. In 1989, Paul Hamilton was at the verge of qualifying Nigeria for Italian '90 when Clemens Westerhof was employed. With only a draw needed to book ticket, Westerhof presence distracted the camp and Nigeria lose to Cameroun in Yaounde. The Dutch went on to drop Hamilton for Christian Chukwu and Bitrus Bewarang. When he left his leech Jo Bonfrere brought in Willie Bazuaye and Joe Erico. Of course, Erico resigned because he could not stomach Bonfrere's lapses and according to him learnt nothing. Chukwu, who remained, was largely because of his docility that borders on dumb headedness. Neither he nor Bewarang have through club side successes shown the benefit of understudying these coaches. It would seem that they were selected and indeed lasted long as assistant coaches purportedly understudying them because they could easily be browbeaten. Recall Bonfrere's row with Erico!

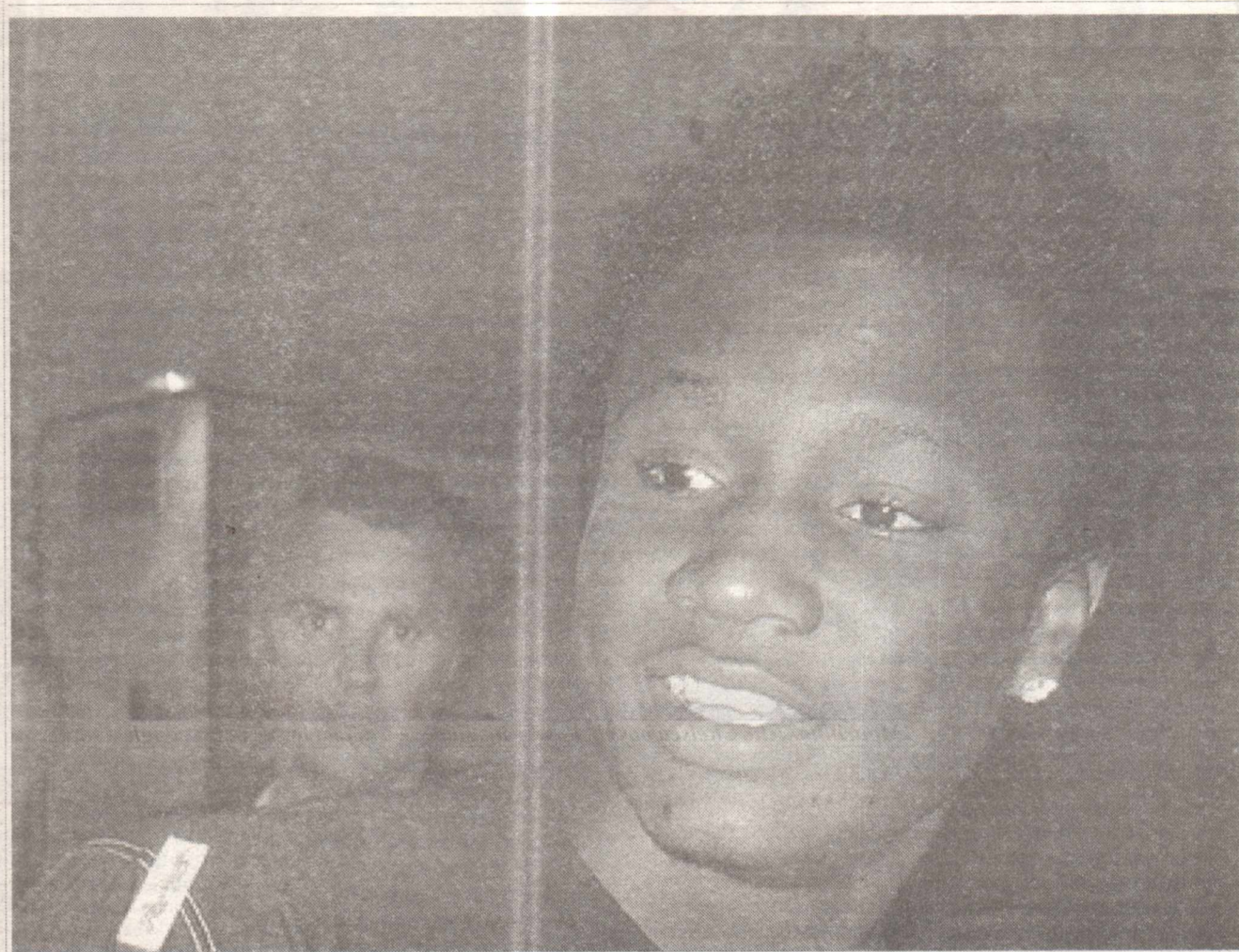
The other argument that one must have gone through the mills as a club coach to acquire the needed experience to handle the senior team lacks solid merit because successes at the club level may not translate to success at the higher level. It would depend on the materials available, strength of opposition, and the contest in question. As it is with some players who show class at club levels but are not national team materials, there are equally coaches with track records at the club levels but are never good senior team coaches and are even unable to manage the most precocious assemblage of talents. Shuaibu Amodu for instance is a successful club coach but would always have problems as national team handler. Yakubu Aiyegbeni is a fantastic club player but hardly replicate his prolific form at the national team level.

Kalusha Bwalya, the chief coach of Chipolopolo of Zambia is not known to have had club side management experience but who would doubt his proficiency as national team coach considering the quality of play exhibited by the team in Egypt? Same applies to Charles Mhluabi of Zimbabwe whose team humiliated star-studded Black Stars of Ghana coached by experienced Ramator Djukovic.

No, while it is true that some club side experiences could be an added advantage, personal character, disposition and capabilities to acquire the requisite coaching skills as well as proficiency in translating same into action are the crucial ingredients for success as senior national team coach.

Besides, there is no gain reiterating Eguavoen's mistake in the selection of the squad that took on the Carthage Eagles, but throwing away the baby with the bath water is hardly the most logical approach to the problem. If indeed the desire to go round the problem is of the essence, then efforts should be directed at equipping the present crew to beef up their technical depth through deliberate sponsorship for foreign refresher courses.

Unlike those who understudied Westerhof and Bonfrere, the trio of Eguavoen, Samson Siasia and Dan Amokachi are still young, ambitious and have the potentials to learn. These obvious advantages should be exploited to the tilt. Federal character need not be the issue here because it was this that was used to sustain a below average person as coach of the Eagles culminating in the painful exit from the



Mikel Obi was voted the best young player of the just concluded African Nations Cup in Egypt. Chelsea said they have been dragged into a row with Manchester United over the signature of the Nigerian talent.

## Chelsea regret Mikel row

English Premiership side, Chelsea, are sad that they have been dragged into a row with fellow Premiership side Manchester United over the signature of Nigerian talent John Mikel Obi.

Mikel, who was voted the best young player of the just concluded Africa Nations Cup in Egypt were the Eagles placed third, is the subject of a contest between the two

English teams.

Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon, who himself joined the London club from Man United a couple of years back, said the club has been "dragged" into a battle with Manchester United over the signature of Nigeria's John Obi Mikel.

United believe the Blues have hijacked the 18-year-old's move to Old Trafford and have subsequently

asked football's governing body, Fifa, to investigate.

"We have been dragged into this on the basis that the player wants to come to us," said Kenyon.

"If that gets sorted and he becomes available, we'd like to sign him," the Chelsea chief executive added.

Mikel, who played at the African Cup of Nations, signed a deal with United from Norwegian side Lyn Oslo but later

said he had been forced to put pen to paper and wanted to join Chelsea.

It later emerged that United and Lyn then wrote to Fifa, claiming that agents acting on behalf of Chelsea attempted to induce the player to breach agreements he had made.

They want Fifa to consider imposing a transfer ban on the Blues as well as barring them from certain tournaments describing them as arrogant.

But Chelsea has since come out to deny their arrogance tag.

The club's chief executive Kenyon said: "I don't think we want to be seen as arrogant, we don't consciously go out there to be controversial."

"We would be disappointed if that was a tag that stuck. There are certain people who would take great pleasure in being hated but we would rather be liked than disliked. But equally we are committed to making Chelsea one."

## Players exit cripple Nationale

Iwuanyanwu Nationale of Owerri are the least pleased with the attitude of some of their players who have defected to Enyimba of Aba after signing the CAF Confederations Cup licence for them.

And the Owerri outfit are equally not happy with the Peoples Elephant, Enyimba, for harbouring the players against the existing understanding between the teams which are going to represent the country in the CAF club competitions.

Iwuanyanwu Nationale's leading scorer in the concluded 2005 season, Mangut Mbwas, midfielder Obinna Nwokolo and former El-Kanemi Warriors striker Oliver Agbo have drifted to Enyimba after signing the CAF licences for Iwuanyanwu.

"Mbwas Mangut and

equally signed the CAF licences for us while Oliver Agbo from El-Kanemi has also discussed with us, signed an agreement with us and equally collected part of his sign on fees," Emeka Iwuagwu, Team Manager of Iwuanyanwu Nationale said.

"So we do not know what they are doing in Enyimba because they are our players," Iwuagwu restated.

He said that Rangers, Enyimba and Iwuanyanwu Nationale have an under-

standing not to poach each other's players.

"We held several meetings in Aba, Owerri and Nnewi where such issues as poaching was discussed and agreed upon, especially given the fact that all of us are going continental.

"Even NFA warned us against poaching players from each other. It was against this backdrop that we refused to take Sam Ledor from Rangers when he came to us," the Nationale boss said.

## Nationwide spread for scrabble soon

President of the Nigeria Scrabble Federation Engineer Toke Akah has not hidden his desire to generate interest in the sport.

Akah who wants more players to embrace the sport said the focus is to consolidate by

He issued a note of warning to states that are yet to comply with directives for affiliations to do so as they would not be allowed to participate in the federation's programmes.

The engineer cum sports administrator speaking to

- Akah

National sports Festival in April in Ogun State said he is hopeful more states will participate in the sport.

Scrabble will for the second time score as a medal-winning

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# DAILY TRUST

## MONDAY COLUMN

Monday, February 13, 2006

## EDITORIAL

# Assessing Nigeria's unity

By Yakubu Bako

## Remembering Murtala Muhammed

Today marks the 30th year of the assassination of Nigeria's former military head of state, General Murtala Muhammed who was ambushed on his way to his office in Lagos and killed by fellow soldiers in an ultimately futile effort to topple the military government which he headed between July 1975 and February 1976.

Thirty years after the assassination, the passage of time has not eroded the strong feelings of admiration, respect and awe that a mention of his name evokes amongst most Nigerians, especially those who were privileged to have witnessed that epochal moment in Nigerian history.

What is it about the life, times and death of Murtala Muhammed that have made him, so far, the only authentic Nigerian hero, the martyr of our revolution? Is it the poignancy of a tragic early death? Is it the epiphany of national possibilities that he unveiled? Is it the speed and the dispatch with which he addressed pressing national issues and the immaculate patriotic fervour that guided his actions? Is it because no one before and after him had packed so much significant national action into so short a time?

On 29<sup>th</sup> of July, 1975 Murtala Muhammed through a bloodless coup replaced as Nigeria's head of state, General Yakubu Gowon, who had ruled Nigeria for nine years and was considering against the wish of Nigerians an extension of time in office beyond a self-imposed exit date.

Murtala Muhammed's six-month tenure has been justifiably described as "momentous," "action-packed," "dynamic." Books have been written in effort to capture the spirit of his times and the profound effect it had on the psyche of a nation and a people that it appears is fated to the recycling of inept leadership.

It took Murtala Muhammed exactly a week (August 6) to form his cabinet; a cabinet of only 25 very talented, very capable Nigerians.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of August, Justice Ayo Irikefe of the Supreme Court was named Chairman of a four-man committee to examine the need for the creation of new states. Measures were introduced to decongest the ports, remedy the shortage of petrol, tackle inflation and effect the immediate release of 50 prisoners who had been held without trial under the Gowon administration.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of August, a seven-man panel headed by Justice Akinola Aguda was constituted to look into the dual role Lagos played as both the federal and state capital. On October 1, 1975, a committee headed by Rotimi Williams was established to draft a new constitution for Nigeria as part of the process of the return in 1979 of power to civilians.

Murtala Muhammed also took some controversial decisions. The civil service was purged. The *Daily Times* and the *New Nigerian* newspapers were seized by the government. The 1973 census was quashed. The seizure of the properties of Igbos in Rivers State was legitimised.

It is pertinent to note that the Aguda Report was not, as is the case these days, kept away; they were acted upon immediately: Seven new states were created. Abuja was announced as the new capital city of Nigeria, a transition programme was also announced.

Internationally, Murtala Muhammed signalled powerfully the emergence of a new Nigeria when he declared: "Africa has come of age. It is no longer under the orbit of nay extra-continental power. It should no longer take orders from any country, however powerful. The fortunes of Africa are in our hands to make or to mar." This position was confirmed with the recognition of the MPLA government of President Neto as the legitimate authority in Angola contrary to the preference of the Western powers. Nigeria led the way and the rest of Africa followed to recognise MPLA as the legitimate voice of the Angolan people.

Thirty years after Murtala Muhammed intervened to oust a leader who was plotting to stay beyond a self-imposed exit date, and a time when it appears that our country is drifting once again towards the iron-gate, we're calling attention to his martyrdom and to one of the reasons he gave for his intervention: "Things got to a stage where the head of the administration became virtually inaccessible even to official advisers; and when advice was tendered, it was often ignored. Responsible opinion, including advice by eminent Nigerians was similarly discarded.

"The leadership, either by design or default, had become too insensitive to the true feelings and yearnings of the people. The nation was thus being plunged inexorably into chaos."

We have so much taken for granted the fact that Nigeria is too elastic. That when pulled to the extreme and every thing points to its break-up, it would contract like an elastic rubber.

How far can this country continue to expand and contract like a rubber band without weakening its foundation? There is always a limit that elastic can reach without contraction and it thereafter breaks up. The history of Nigeria is full of contract and elastic. Although some scholars may describe the history of Nigeria as that of established accomplishment and partial success of over forty-five years, while others see it as a case study of proven disenchantment and colossal failure in amalgamating the Northern and Southern Nigeria into one country. In view of recent happenings in the country, it seems the history of Nigeria is repeating itself.

Precisely after the October 1965 election into the Western Region House of Assembly, there was breakdown of law and order in the region, especially in and around Ibadan. The House of Assembly witnessed series of bloodshed. People were killed, houses burnt and cars destroyed. Although the rioting started in Ibadan, it later spread into other parts of Western Region including Ilesha where eleven people were killed and at least sixteen were injured as reported on page 10 of the *Daily Times* of January 12, 1966. Here we are again; forty years later and Nigeria is witnessing another shoot-out in Oyo State House of Assembly in the same Ibadan. The *Punch* of Friday, December 23, 2005 reported on its front page that the lawmakers engaged themselves in a gun duel that lasted for several hours.

*Thisday* newspaper of the same Friday December 23, 2005 reported on its front page that two people were killed. According to *Thisday* newspaper, in what seems like a replay of the First Republic era of the wild, wild, West of 1965, a repeat performance is happening in 2005 in the same ancient city of Ibadan.

The agitation for confederation or even total separation of the entity called Nigeria is now rife. One may look back to pre-1966 crises. Each of the major ethnic groups controlling the then three major regional government (save Mid-west) had at one time or the other, publicly or otherwise mooted the idea of secession. The problem with Nigeria had been that of stereotyped and somehow generalised issue of North versus South, Muslim versus Christian, oppressed versus oppressor, minority versus majority and most recently, exploiter versus exploited.

Each of these divides has its own sinister undertones of distrust, suspicions, tension, and irreconcilability.

The South sees the North as exploiter of its natural resources. The Middle-Belt Christians see the other part of the North as oppressors. The old Cross River and old Rivers states see the Ibos as oppressors. The Idomas feel dominated by the Tivs; the Annangs are complaining of domination by Ibibios and even all other Yoruba states see Ogun State as oppressive aggressors. This is because all the Yoruba presidents/head of states, head of Interim National Government, vice chairman of Gowon regime's Executive Council, Chief of General Staff, and June 12 President-elect were all from Ogun State.

Today, we are witnessing the same scenario. The Southern leaders after their meeting in Enugu, the *Weekly Trust* newspaper of December 24-30, 2005 on its front page reported that the Southern leaders have threatened to pull out of Nigeria or settle for a confederate Nigeria.

Between 1966 and 1967, Dim Odumegu Ojukwu had opted for a confederate Nigeria based on Aburi Accord.

What a co-incidence! Those who vehemently opposed the Ojukwu confederation idea were present South-South leaders like Chief Anthony Enahoro, the Military Governor of the old Rivers State, then Navy Commander, now His Royal Majesty King Alfred Diette-Spiff. Today, the entire South wants to pull out of Nigeria. The North is not left behind. Chief Sunday Awoniyi even responded that the North would not allow itself to be intimidated by the Southern threat.

When Dim Ojukwu declared the Republic of Biafra, and the civil war had just begun, Chief Obafemi Awolowo on August 12, 1967 called on all Yorubas to rally round the federal cause, according to the *New Nigerian* newspaper of 14th August, 1967.

Now after the release of the Enugu Conference communiqué, a chieftain of the Pan-Yoruba group, *Afenifere*, one Chief Yinka Odumakin, according to the *Weekly Trust* of December 24-30, 2005 on page 3 stated that *Afenifere* was not part of the Enugu (Southern Leaders) meeting because they (*Afenifere*) foresee a hidden hand behind the meeting.

In 2005 as in 1967, history is here again repeating itself. Now let us look at the scenario where the country is divided into North and South thus correcting the Lord Lugard colossal 'mistake' of the amalgamation of Northern and Southern Nigeria. The Southern Nigeria as at now cannot form a solid country of its own.

We must not forget that while the civil war was going on, a group of Yorubas, as reported on page 34 of *West African* magazine of January 11, 1969 demanded for an independent nation of Oduduwaland.

Let us assume that the South is divided into independent nations of Biafra, Oduduwaland and South-South. Are we sure that the agitation for self-determination by the Ogoni kingdom will not rub off on other ethnic groups? Surely Ogoni kingdom will declare its own independent nation-state. Then where lies the self-determination of the Ijaw nation, the Ibibios, the Binis, the Urhobos, the Afemais, the Itsekiris, the Annangs, the Oros, the Iyallas, the Kalabaris, the Ikwerrers, the Andonis, the Ika-Ibos, the Sakwaras, the Ishans, etc? All these and more ethnic groups may want to opt out for self-determination and control of all the natural resources

within their individual domain. On a more serious note, the Ekeds and the Ibenos may opt out of the Ibibio nation. The Isokos will claim that they are not Urhobos while the Quas will maintain that they are not Efiks. What happens to the Sokis, Anyimas, and the Mbubes of present Cross River State? Mention should be made of the Ekpeyi-Egennis (Epie-Engennis), the Abuas, the Egbemas, the Degemas, and the Etches of present-day Rivers State. This is just to list but a few in what is known as South-south geopolitical zone.

Let us take a critical look at the Yorubas. Yes, it is true the Yorubas are one. The oneness of the Yorubas in Nigeria is because of the presence of other major ethnic groups. It is like the oneness of the white Americans in the United States. They tend to be together and as one because of the presence of the Black Americans. Where there were no Black Americans, the whites would start discriminating against themselves.

Where they are boxed into one nation-state of Oduduwaland, then there will be the emergence of self-determination of the Aworis, the Yewas, the Oniris, the Eguns, the Ogbomoshos, the Ebirras, the Ishuas, and the Ilajes. How would these ethnic groups fair against the dominance of the Egbas and the Ijebus, knowing full well that the Egbas/Ijebus had produced all the nine Yoruba presidents and their equivalents in Nigerian politics?

The emergence of Biafra nation-state without the present South-South zone would mean the Igbos going it alone. But would it stop there? Won't the people of Onitsha maintain that they are the superior race to the rest Biafrans? The Onitsha people are not snobbish, but they have snub appeal. They are the proud peacocks of the Ibo race, and the only Ibo race with an ancient and well-established Obi. They will openly maintain that they are the real Ibos, while the rest Biafrans are Igbos. That Ibos are superior to Igbos. What of the people of Owerri who would claim that their Igbo dialect (which is sweet and feminine) is the best of Igbo language? How about the Wawas of Enugu State? Can anyone deny them the quest for self-recognition and self-determination?

The Abriba warriors may claim superiority over all other Igbos because of their courage, agility and fearlessness. Although Christianity may bind them together, however, there is the likelihood that the Seventh Day Adventist followers would claim to be superior because of their adherence to Biblical Sabbath day worship. What happens to the minority Igbo Muslims of Afikpo and Ama-Hausa, Owerrri?

Coming to the North, already the Middle Belt has carved an identity of its own. The Middle Belt or North-Central geopolitical zone is made of so many ethnic groups among them are the Tivs, Angas, Ninzama, Biroms, Jabas, Jukuns, Kajes, Kajurus, Ebirras, Egedes, Gwaris, Bachamas, Baburs (Buras), Margis, Bujis, Cham bas, Kambaris, Igallas, Nupes, Idomas, Jawaras, Goemais, etc.

In the emergence of a Republic of Middle Belt, the people of Katsina-Ala of Benue State will finally claim that they are not Tivs; that they have long been oppressed by the Tivs to the extent that their own dialect is almost extinct.

Will other ethnic groups like the Anagutas, Balis, Barkes, Mumuyes, Yagbas, Manchoks, Bunus, Beles, Madas, Limonos, etc keep mute or will they come out to demand for better recognition or demand self-determination? In a Middle Belt country, the Bwatiyes, Mbulas, and the Batas will demand not to be counted as Bachamas. They will just have to fight for their own equal rights and recognition.

This finally leaves the up-North maybe to be known or become the Republic of Songhai, made up of the three main ethnic groups of Hausa, Fulani and Kanuri. Here the Fulanis will now separate themselves from the Hausas vis-à-vis the Kanuris.

The only binding force will be the Islamic religion. But then what becomes of the minority Christians among them? Even in present one Nigeria, we have been reading of clashes between the Fulani herdsmen and the Hausa farmers. Within this geopolitical set-up, other ethnic groups like the Affades, the Bades, the Balleres, the Ngweshes (Ngoshes), the Teshenawas, the Kanembus, the Arawas, the Wurpos, etc. would emerge to claim equal recognition from the three major ethnic groups that would constitute the new country.

The agitation for recognition and self-determination by each ethnic group in Nigeria will be an unending issue as long as there is perceived (real or imaginary) common enemy. The Hausa-Fulani and to some extent, the Kanuris are one today because the South-South, the South-East, and the South-West, as well as the Middle-Belt see them as their common enemy. If the South-South, South-East, South-West and even the Middle Belt cease to have a common enemy, then each geopolitical zone would look inward for their individual common enemy.

The Urhobos will then have to contend with the Itsekiris, Ijaws, Isokos, Ika-Ibos, etc. The people of present-day Southern Kaduna would feel marginalised by the bigger Tiv ethnic group in a republic of Middle-Belt. The cries of injustice and marginalisation, which have now surfaced in Nigerian politics, have indeed in truth been the mortal defaces under which some Nigerians operate. The truth is that every Nigerian feels marginalised in one way or the other - politically, economically, and socially. To all Nigerians, truth is one, but its apt presentment in words tended to show a different facet in different contexts. The gist of this write-up is that the present generation of Nigerians can never attain the visions of Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, Sir Ahmadu Bello (*Sardauna* of Sokoto) and Chief Obafemi Awolowo if we are besieged with hatred, distrust, and spite. Hatred, distrust, and spite are not constructive contributions to the growth of our country. Let me borrow the Latin motto on the reverse of the Great Seal of the United States of America; *An-nu-it coep-tis* "He (God) has smiled on our undertakings - Amalgamation as the reason for Nigeria to have remained one country, Nigeria, my country, we hail thee. Though tribe, tongue and religion may differ, the brotherhood in which we stand may be very shaky right now, LET US JOIN HANDS TOGETHER TO KEEP THIS COUNTRY ONE.

Colonel Yakubu Bako wrote in from 6, Yakubu Bako Close, Race Course, Nassarawa, Kano.