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HOT

THE INTERNATIONAL NEWSMAGAZINE

COURIER

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ARCH-BISHOP

Religion

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FROM THE EDITORIAL DESK

Some years there was an astonishing revelation of what was called 'Mail Dumping' by the then Department of Post and Telegraph, P&T. Thousands of letters and parcels which never got to their destinations were found to have been dumped away by Postmen. In the second republic, through the efforts of an "Action Minister" the Department was heralded by the media as registering impressive successes in its functions.

P & T obviously happy with itself took some air space on Television to blow its own trumpet with an advertisements which said, "we are winning" — meaning an improvement in its services. But the military administration was unimpressed by the claim hence its decision to create out of P & T, NITEL for telecommunications and NIPOST for Postal Services. In the mean time, Courier Services were cashing in on NIPOST's apparently unsubstantiated claim. Despite the efficient manner in which the Courier Services perform, there looms an impending clash in the roles of the two services.

It is this, coupled with NIPOST's deteriorating performance and contemplated increase in charges that prompted an examination of the two services, their interplay and government supervisory role.

An examination of thinking and motives of an Archbishop's utterances. Archbishop Olubunmi Okogie who obviously never visited Abuja and if he did, consciously decided to be oblivious of the City's population was reported to have introduced the vexed issue of North-South dichotomy to the otherwise peaceful and brotherly pioneer settlers of the new Federal Capital. Is his a case of another twist to Federal Character or antagonism to Abuja? Or is it a case of selfish consideration that he may not be the Archbishop of Abuja or is it sheer lust for evoking ethnic, sectional and possibly religious controversy?

We revisit Abuja and the nation's polity in relation to Archbishop Okogie's verbal assault.



Adamu B. Augie,
Editor-in-Chief.



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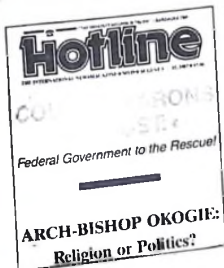
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IT PAYS TO TRAVEL BY KABO

TOPS

Millionaire Parcel-Carriers

Gold mines here and there! The parcel-conveying servants are reaping bumper financial harvests. What is more, the courier barons even encroach on areas exclusively reserved for Nigeria's postal authorities. Is this perhaps one of the reasons why our postal services are so inefficient?



ARCH-BISHOP OKOGIE:
Religion or Politics?

What a Call.

Catholic Archbishop Okogie of Lagos recently called for the removal of Air Commodore Hamza Abdullahi, the Federal Capital Territory Minister. *Hotline* examined the possible motives and implications of the call from such a highly placed cleric. Are the allegations levelled against the Minister true? Events unfolding after the unfortunate call are really interesting.



Hotline Newsmagazine August 15th, 1987

Reflections

"As if to counter the establishment of 'The Analyst', some northern capitalists took over the pro-northern 'Hotline' magazine"

ThisWeek

Ha-ha-ha-ha! Ye-eh! Does that mean that compared to Chairman Hassan Sani Kontagora, G.O. Onosode, Chairman of the Board of "ThisWeek" is a wild-eyed, fire-breathing socialist?



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The Collapse Of Primary Education

Dear editor,

Your write up entitled "THE COLLAPSE OF PRIMARY EDUCATION" came at the right time. There is no doubt that our primary school system needs total overhauling.

Most especially, when we consider the fact that basic primary education is necessary for any other further schooling. Gone are the days when we had people who only attended primary schools, and were able to rise to higher status with only a little training. Time have now changed!

The only way out is this: There should be no longer any privately owned primary schools, so that all efforts should be geared towards receiving the present ones.

Finally, I say cheers to Hotline. We hope you will continue to be blunt as you are known to be. We are behind you.

Ahmed Usman Audu.
Kaduna.

Good Investigative Reporting

Dear Editor,

One improvement which one cannot help noticing in your magazine is your delving into investigative journalism. Your stories on Dornier and Primary Education are examples of what I mean.

By this achievement, you have joined the rank and file of other magazines in the country on an equal footing. No doubt the sky is your limit. Keep on improving.

Tyohemba Iyordya,
Gboko.

SARDAUNA & AWO (A Tale Of Two Titans)

Your cover story on Awo and Zik the Devils and Sardauna the Saint was a manifestation of the Northern hatred for whatever is southern. One did not expect otherwise. The problem is that as long as the educated illiterates of this country fail to read and understand simple

literature, nobody will venture to write the complete and accurate history of this nation else he or she be castigated as in the case of Obasanjo in his "Nzeogwu." Therefore, people like you will continue to write to please yourselves.

Mary Enang,
Kaduna.

EDITOR'S NOTE

You obviously didn't read all of the articles under the cover story. If you had you would have realized that divergent views were expressed regarding all leaders of Nigeria's political past. You will do well to follow your own advise and try to read and understand simple literature.

It's all calculated selfishness

Dear Editor,

Please allow me space in your popular magazine to state, having gone through your cover story titled: "The Collapse of Primary School Education", that we are seeing all these things due to selfishness on the part of our leaders. One finds that none of them sends his child to any of the public schools; hence the poor conditions of the schools. But the poor man, if he is to listen to the "noise" being made on sending children to school, couldn't afford to pay the fees of the private schools. He has no choice other than the public school.

Come to think of it! If the governor's child is given the same quality of education with the poor man's, who will be there tomorrow to oppress?

Abdulrahim Sulaiman,
Bosso Village,
Minna

Jakande is a Nupe?

You nearly shocked the daylight out of me by that investigation. All the same, it is one of the best things that has ever happened to Nigeria's history.

I am sure the Yorubas will not accept him as their leader, knowing fully well that he is not a proper 'shon-of-the-shoil'. Will the Nupes accept him? I doubt it. He has not identified with them all that. Where does he really belong then? A lesson

for all there.

Ade John,
Kaduna.

SHAME TO NAF

Oh, its a pity that hopeless people who hold the key to the survival of this country and sworn to defend it are making money out of us by conniving with foreigners who spy on our defence intelligence and report same to their home Government are allowed excesses and even dominate our Air defence system is infact a shame to N.A.F.

Allah ya isa.

Your reporter on DORNIER/AIEP nearly made tears drop from my eyes when I went through your publication of 16-30/6/87. I feel ashamed of been a Nigerian. Could you imagine, Israelis security personnel shutdown its plane when it mistakenly flew over its nuclear station but N.A.F. will even offer landing facilities to foreign planes as well as asked for their assistance in maintaining such installations — shit!

Keep on informing and educating us through your investigative write-ups: I hope you would check the activities of foreigners with their spying gadgets both in their offices and houses.

Such offices as their so-called information centres spread in many parts of the federation.

Ibrahim Muhammed Gumai
P.M.B. 2066,
Gombe

Hotline Opened My Eyes

Its a grievous and sorrowful pain, that my idea of an independent and self thinking Nigeria, is in fact a DORNIER AIEP dependent, and German thinking colony.

My brother in the Army and or in the civilian is there selling our freedom and National existence I found solace in the Hotline, for letting me see our enemy. We poor Nigerians including the Hotline dont know when the enemy will finally finish us.

Bello Adamu Sakkwato.

Question We Dare Not Ask

An acquaintance, burdened me with a story a few weeks ago. I have not quite been the same since hearing it. He swears the tale is true. I will share it with you, hoping that the story itself is apocryphal.

The fellow, let us call him human, is an age mate of mine. We entered primary school together over thirty-odd years ago at a time when young Nigeria had risen from an extended colonial crawl to stand, if not steadily, on two feet: to take definite, if faltering, steps toward independent nationhood. It was a time when shillings and pence in hand made most Nigerians feel 'rich as Croesus'; when a penny could buy a young boy anything his heart desired. It was a time when Nigeria was a land full of bright promises.

I knew Usman, then, as well as any man knows his mate. We would share our dreams he and I, about what we hoped to be, when we left school, and came of age. I can remember, as if it were yesterday the gleam that came into his large dark eyes, like deep black lakes reflecting the sun, when he spoke of the many wives he hoped to have, and sons to help him farm, and beautiful daughters to make him comfortable in his old age. I knew even then that his family was one of less than comfortable means, but I hoped fervently for him, and for myself. I was not as yet jaded by the realities of class, the cycle of poverty, and dreams that don't come true. As far as I was concerned, his hopes and wishes were as likely to be realized as my own — more likely, in fact, since two wished for them instead of one.

Usman left primary school after class five. Suddenly fatherless, he had to sacrifice his education to help support his rather large family. Being the only son of his father to be allowed to go to school, and being uncommonly bright, he took his withdrawal with a detachment that is rare among the young. "It is the will of God", he said. I lost track of Usman over the years, but heard bits and pieces about him at odd occasions. I heard that he had married and fathered daughters, the eldest now about sixteen. That he had left the farm and moved his family to the city where he had supported them for years doing odd jobs. His qualifications would only secure for him a government job at level 01 or perhaps 02 and these he had spurned. For knowing him, such work and such pay were beneath his dignity. I had also heard that during the "oil boom", he was making out fairly well "being useful". I heard, too, that during the second republic he did fairly well in the employ of a few local politicians who needed his "eyes and ears" and sometimes a "small favour or two".

You can imagine my surprise when I learned of his presence at my office a few weeks ago. My secretary sent him away several times (saying that I was in an important meeting or that I had gone out), but persistently he came again and again. Finally he persuaded her that he just had to see me and got her to take his name and put it on an appointment form. There was no message. When I read the name, I recognized it immediately, and told her to by all means send him in. I was speechless when I saw him. His condition so wretched, his clothes so threadbare, even though I could see that he had made an attempt to "dress up" before seeing me, and gone was the gleam in his dark eyes. They seemed vacant orbs, devoid of hope. I tried, rather clumsily, to make small talk, to find out how he was, where he was living, how was his family. He answered ritually and then, abruptly came to the point of his visit. He needed money. Well, even the blind could see this. But what he told me chilled me to the core. He said: 'I came to beg you because we were mates, so long ago. I didn't come before because my pride would not allow it. I couldn't let you see me in this condition. But yesterday, I awoke in my room early in the morning knowing that I had no immediate prospects for work or money, since I had borrowed frequently from friends and there was nothing more to be gotten from that quarter. I had been doing day labour on several farms with several work crews to make enough to keep the family in food. But work is scarce now, the pay even smaller, and yesterday I awoke knowing that there was nothing to eat. I left the house without waking anyone, hoping to come back with something for food. For a week there has been no meat. I couldn't get anything, not even a promise. When I returned to the compound late in the evening, I smelled food — good tuwo meat. I went without greeting my family to my room to think about how this could happen. Soon my wife came in with a large bowl of tuwo with fresh okro soup which had in several large pieces of meat. She said that she and the children had already eaten, so I could finish it: I asked where the food had come from since I had left no money. She only said that Binta, my eldest daughter, 16, who had dropped out of secondary school because I couldn't pay for her schooling, had brought home enough food for a week'. He began to weep. Finally, when he had recovered from that spate of tears, he looked up, his face streaked, and spoke the words I don't think I can soon forget. He said, "Alhaji Hassan, I could not bring myself to ask my daughter from where or how she had gotten the money!"

I, of course, gave him enough to last for some time. He thanked me, and said he probably wouldn't be back — that he would try to manage on what I had given him.

How many other Nigerians nameless, bereft, and forgotten are managing in this fashion, day after day, their heads and hearts full of questions they dare not ask? Who are without hope on this dawning of a new socio-political order?



Alhaji Hassan Sani Kontagora

Magajin Rafi.

We read with interest in several of our national dailies the accounts and comments on the recent and unfortunate disturbances at Queen Amina College, Kakuri, Kaduna. Students at this all girl secondary school fought each other, damaged school property, even assaulted the principal, Mrs. J. Jarma, in a purportedly religious clash between christians and muslim students over the type of school uniforms all students would be required to wear. Some members of the muslim community at the school objected to the regular school uniform claiming that the dress violated their religious injunctions against immodesty. The ministry of Education intervened, and after putting the matter to the school's parent-teacher association, approved "two sets of uniforms, one consisting of a long sleeved blouse and trousers (baggy pantaloons) to satisfy the need for modesty, and the other, the one piece, over the knee length dress with short sleeves that traditionally has been the school's uniform for quite a few years. Some members of the school's christian community objected saying that "the college had used the old uniform for too long and that changing it would be unreasonable". The result was student disturbances of such serious proportions (several students injured, property damaged etc) that the school had to be closed. At the time of going to press the school was still closed.

The dailies in their commentaries, most notably the "Nigerian Tribune" seem to have concluded that the thorny issue of school uniforms is a surface indicator of a deeper strain of religious intolerance and divisiveness. We are inclined to agree. We do not agree, however, that "the school must have only one set of uniforms." Nor do we agree with the assertion that "...allowing two sets of uniforms is another way of saying that the school is two". Such is typical of the kind of superficial short-sighted analysis that informs far too many judgements made and decisions taken on behalf of the Nigerian people.

Let us address for a moment the issue of school uniforms generally. From what can be gathered, school uniforms are yet another vestigial remnant of our colonial past, unchallenged in the light of modern educational thought, and in the changing climate of thought of present day Nigerians. The school uniform has been used as a device to some instances define the social class of the wearer distinguishing those who go to school and those who do not — and in other instances to "level" the class differences among the wearers eg. to make them appear the same. It has also been used as a means of identification, to identify the school in which the student attends. Concomitantly, the student identifies himself or herself through wearing the uniform with the school, its traditions, and standards. There is nothing on the surface wrong with these purposes. Indeed with our inefficient system of school attendance accounting in most schools it is often necessary to identify truant students as students

and the schools to which they belong. The issue of "leveling" social class differences among students by wearing uniforms is a moot one since students themselves are made immediately aware of their class distinctions in their comparative behaviour and friendship groupings, as well as practices in the school itself such as grading, and class rank which entrench rather than eliminate class distinctions. What is wrong is that the practice and tradition of wearing uniforms in Nigeria from places whose cultural values were markedly more homogeneous (especially with regard to religion) than Nigeria, who in some instances had a specific religious agenda to promote and who in all cases wanted to alienate the African from other Africans. Like many imposed educational practices, this one is yet to be evaluated, adapted or changed as befits the changing demands of the modern Nigerian public.

Modern (and enlightened) educational practice in an attempt to develop the "whole" student, seeks to identify and understand individual differences and cultural differences as a take off point to enhance the individualization of the student and speed his integration into culturally diverse though holistic society. Exposure to and understanding our differences allows us to be more tolerant toward each other.

Unlike the "Tribune", we do not find much fault in the decision taken by the Ministry of Education to provide options in the matter of school uniforms, except that they should have researched the matter much more thoroughly and based their decision on sound educational reasons rather than appearing to react in a precipitous, crisis-management fashion.

We do, however, agree that their implementation of the decision was poorly handled. Queen Amina College is a public secondary school and as such must oblige the social and educational needs of Kaduna's disparate "publics". Policies and practices cannot be allowed to affect or appear to favour one or more groups over others. This can be avoided by increased consultation and dialogue, open two way channels of communication with parents, students, teachers and administrators on site and at the ministry on this and any other potential problems which undoubtedly are yet to surface at this troubled school. Finally, we cannot ignore or excuse the actions of some students, parents, and school officials who on their own or acting as agents of external elements of divisiveness, christian, muslim, or otherwise exacerbated a relatively minor problem to one of serious dimensions. We hope that the investigation currently going on will root out the instigators and the guilty justly punished. Further, we hope that the school year will be extended to enable the innocent students who have lost valuable student teacher contact time as a result of the school closure, to receive the instruction denied to them when the school re-opens.

BLAMING THE VICTIMS

(Or Smashing the Mirror)

Everytime a Governor, a Minister or even the President visits a place, the media never fails to report that he was "impressed by what he saw," "commended the officials for a job well done" and other such positive acknowledgements.

Nigeria, apparently, is a great success story. Everything is going on fine. No problem.

The only exception is when a coup is staged — then we are subjected to a litany of complaints, justifications for the take-over, and promises for reforms.

In between we are all supposed to keep quiet while our leaders "take care of business." Meanwhile, the educational system collapses, the health service is crumbling, no jobs, no money, no future.

We are all to blame, they say. The government is not Father Christmas" and Nigerians should not expect everything to be done for them. Everyone must sacrifice in these hard times.

If school children go on a rampage, they are to blame, or better still, set up a probe to find the "ring leaders" Forget the fact that they have no books, no equipment, no food poor facilities, few competent and dedicated teachers. These are unimportant.

Nigerians drive like lunatics on the highways? Set up highway patrol units and mobile courts to fine them on the spot. Ignore the fact that the public transport system has broken down, postal and telephone services have been sabotaged (thus forcing people to be on the road just to transact business that could have been handled by a letter or a phone

call).

The youth are addicted to drugs, sex and break-dancing. They get blamed, and the lack of jobs, the meaninglessness of their lives, the bad examples from their elders - the very conditions that made them what they are—all of these are conveniently ignored. The victims are blamed.

And even the language of the system is surrealistic. It preaches morality, hardwork and probity, yet rewards fraud, theft, parasitism sycophancy and crass immorality. In a depression, the government deflates. While people have no money, it "mops up excess liquidity". It talks of development but mostly fattens up some people's bank accounts, "Father Christmas" style.

It forces people off the farm, gives the land to those big shots and then tells those rendered unemployed to employ themselves by "going back to the land".

Sure, the Ronald Reagans, the Conables, the Kalu Kalu's applaud our "great strides," but we feel only despair and face a bleak future.

We have watched patiently as each new project or programme deteriorates into a scandal. Agricultural Development turns to Rural Development and then to Obasanjo's Operation Feed the Nation! Then comes Integrated Rural Development and Shagari's "Green Revolution" and now to "Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructures." We have watched and waited, patiently, stoically, for concrete results. We patiently lived through coups and counter-coups, a loused-up currency exchange exercise, one "launching" after another, and the new dawn is yet



By Sanusi Abubakar

to come. We are still waiting. Meanwhile, and frankly speaking, each new project is now viewed with some suspicion and trepidation.

To those who insist on painting a more accurate picture of what is going on, the state has two standard responses. It either ignores them and hope the problems they portray will go away or it clamps down on them. Smash the mirror — if you do not like what it reflects. Unfortunately, the mirror, just like the victims, is not to blame. If it is not some "ABU Radicals" it is "these damn journalists" that are blamed. Yet if the pimples are on your face, smashing the mirror will not remove them.

No, Mr. President we are not impatient, we undoubtedly are the most patient people on earth! We complain, yes. But we have also allowed every government to show what it is capable of doing, with only one exception, — our betrayal of Murtala and his subsequent assassination. Right now, we are simply fed up.

Those in power should appreciate this, listen to the people (not to the sycophants), involve everyone in the task ahead and not continue to blame us, the victims of twenty-seven years of pseudo-independence, misgovernment, failures and betrayals. Let us face our problems squarely rather than blaming the victims or smashing the mirror!

Courier Barons vs. Nipost

SACRIFICING A POSTAL SYSTEM

By Sanusi Abubakar.



Post Office or dead letter office?

We have all heard jokes about letters that took month, even years, to arrive at their destinations, including some whose senders live just a couple of miles from the letter's destination. NIPOST — like NEPA, Nigeria Airways and NITEL — is often seen as just another inefficient public corporation, costing the tax payers millions and yet not providing the much needed services.

It is for this reason that Nigerians heartily welcome recent efforts to re-organise and revitalize the services of the corporation. Letters, after all, are our cheapest means of communicating. The phones do not work (thanks to I.T.T and Abiola) or are "out of order" most of the time, if one can get a set installed at all. Public transport is virtually non-existent and the few vehicles still on the road are fast breaking down. If a twenty kobo stamp can do the job, why waste time to go by yourself?

Certain Nigerians, however, mostly directors and shareholders of courier firms, seem bent on ensuring that the services of NIPOST remain as

inefficient as before.

At stake is the vast fortune these courier firms are making. There are nine of them operating in the country — DHL, IMNL, AIRBORNE EXPRESS, WORLD COURIER, FERNWAY, IAS, T.H.T. SKYPACK, SPRING COURIER and CROWN COURIER. Together they made a combined profit of N107 million last year.

They promise quick delivery of documents and parcels — overnight within the country — and charge from N10 to N18 per half a kilogram. On a single bag of mail they make as much as N2,000.00. Yet they pay Nigeria Airways (since none of them has any aircraft) only N10 per bag!!

Why the huge margin? Heavy overheads? Quite the contrary. A survey of the offices of such firms in Kaduna, Zaria, Kano and Lagos reveals that besides the rent they pay and a few delivery vehicles, furniture and stationery, they have very little overhead costs.

Their wage bills are among the lowest in the country. A major branch

would have a Sales Executive (on N4,800.00 per annum), a Station Supervisor (on N3,000.00 per annum), a Receptionist/Clerk (on N2,400.00 per annum) and one or two Despatch Riders and/or one Forwarder (on N2,400.00 per annum). That's all.

The Managing Director of G.A.S. Air for example, decided that his company was going to charge these courier firms N100.00 per bag, and promptly got his airline black-listed by the courier barons. They continued to utilise the heavily subsidized services of Nigeria Airways-paying only N10.00 a bag, pocketing about N1,999.00 on each bag.

NIPOST started its' own project in conjunction with Nigeria Airways and Express Airways. And despite significant successes some highly placed government functionaries, not unconnected probably with these courier interests, seem to be trying to frustrate it, particularly by making sure that money is not released to NIPOST to enable it pay to its carriers.

But who exactly are the courier barons? DHL boasts a secretary to



Col. Ayuba, Communications Minister.

Government and a former Inspector General of Police among its directors. Others have several retired (and serving) top government functionaries and military personnel—including, it is rumoured, two aide de camps (ADCs) to certain big shots, and a leading, Lagos-based constitutional lawyer.

The courier services have virtually become mail carriers, contrary to the laws of this country. Only NIPOST is allowed by law to carry letters but those responsible have failed to enforce these regulations.

Until now, that is.

DECREE No. 18 TO THE RESCUE

The recently promulgated Decree No. 18 of 1987 has reaffirmed NIPOST's virtual absolute monopoly over the carriage of mail within the country and for overseas delivery.

It also makes provisions for the control of these courier services, making them simply supplementary to NIPOST.

Britain had, in 1983 passed a similar law controlling the operations of courier services, ending the threat they had earlier posed to the GOP (equivalent to NIPOST): Even the United States refused to allow courier services a free hand.

The new Decree (which was delayed for a very long time in the Justice Ministry) prohibits them from

carrying ordinary letters, limiting them to documents, parcels and spare parts.

NIPOST itself has been reconstituted into a corporation with its own Board of Management which includes representatives of the Armed

Forces, the ministries of Finance, Aviation, Internal Affairs, Justice, as well as two nominees of the President, who are to look after the interest of the general public.

As the nation's major mail carrier, NIPOST now has to prove itself despite serious weaknesses. These include: incompetent management, mundane practices, outmoded infrastructure, corruption and of course, the vested interests of the courier barons.

A herculean task? Maybe not. Courier services are not that efficient. Sometime last month, it took a week to get a letter to me from Kano — because it had to go to Lagos! Also valuable documents are not very safe — I have lost quite a lot that way. It is not enough for the courier service to plead that one should not have these by courier in the first place; they should check and refuse to accept what they are likely to be responsible for.

NIPOST can do it, if properly managed, reorganised and cleaned



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NIPOST, NITEL

Charges To Go Up?

From all indications, telephones and letters charges are to go up, especially for external services.

Indeed, that they have not done so already is an indication that even the suppliers of these services, NIPOST, and NITEL, are aware that their inadequacies are intolerable enough. Letters arrive very late, if ever and the phones are mostly of the time "out of order".

But SFEM must take its toll.

Before the drastic, defacto devaluation via SFEM, Nigerian Postal charges were at par with the UK and the USA. An ordinary inland letter cost 18 pence in the UK and 22 cents in the USA. Our rate was 20 kobo. With the floating devaluation these rates are now equivalent to 88 kobo (US) and N1.26 (UK).

It may be argued that these letters are mailed and received within Nigeria - which is true for most of

them. However, a significant amount of mail is for external delivery. And at the end of the day, when the Universal Postal Union gets to calculate how much Nigeria is to pay, it deducts the value of the external mail sent to Nigeria compared to Nigeria mail that gets abroad from here. The balance is paid to us (or paid by us) in foreign exchange. For example, if Nigeria sent mail worth 5 million dollars to other countries and received 3 million dollars worth of mail from others abroad, we pay the balance of 2 million US dollars in foreign exchange.

Raising our charges and/or improving our services (and getting more people to write or send messages and parcels to Nigeria) would actually, so the argument goes, raise our foreign exchange earning. It will also discourage residents of Nigeria from sending unnecessary letters, parcels and messages abroad.

The same is said to apply to telephone charges. Foreign business contacts and investors are fond of asking their Nigerian partners to phone them from here as our charges are cheaper, which leads to Nigeria using the satellite more often than the other countries and paying higher satellite charges.

Both NIPOST and NITEL must however, people have argued, make a distinction between internal and external charges.

While external rates justifiably go up, internal rates should, these people feel, remain the same. What is required, argued the experts, is an improvement in the internal services, which will not only raise revenue by getting more people to patronise these corporations but also lead to additional employment and improve the business climate and the quality of our lives, by enhancing communications.

EX-POLITICIANS WARNED TO RESPECT THE BAN ON POLITICS — NEWS.



"Take it easy O.C.! We just dey discuss friendly matters!"

I'M GOING TO SIT RIGHT DOWN AND WRITE MYSELF A LETTER

By: Shehu Abubakar

When it comes personal and more reassuring in the various types of written communications one might receive than the personal letter! The personal letter travels over distances, long and short, infrequently of every kind. News of friends and loved ones, their hopes, aspirations and personal tragedies, sentiments, joy and mundane gossip and outrageous bits of scandal. And for the recipient, the letter may bring messages of love, warmth or poignancy, heartbreak, sorrow and despairing or cruelly word. It can bring comfort and comfort to the lonely, reminding her with those who are far away or whose lingering presence have grown dim with time. News, good or bad, with a personal touch is as necessary to humans being as air. Without it we suffer a social atrophy, poisoned by anxious non-subjectivity, unable to breathe in and deeply that which nourishes our primal interest, the self and its attachments.

The basic need in human societies for written exchange has been met systematically in various ways in different societies. The systems which have evolved, however, are remarkably unanimous in their primary objective - to make it possible and practicable for a person to send or receive a letter, packet, or parcel to or from any address, in his own country or abroad, with the expectation that such will be conveyed according to clear and established criteria for speed, regular frequency, and security.

I had interesting experience with the Nigerian Postal Service a few years back - I received three letters on the same day. (Now this may not seem so unusual unless you were aware of how infrequently I write personal correspondence. Then, you might be surprised if I received any letters at all!). Of course, I was overjoyed. (Yes, I like to get letters even if I don't often write them). One letter was from a

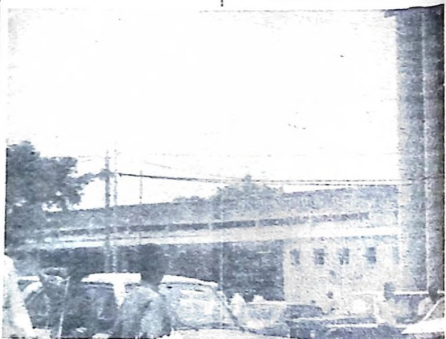
friend in California, U.S.A., another from an acquaintance in Sussex, and the third from a lady friend in Lagos. The letter from Sussex was re-routed from Kumatra (or somewhere in Indonesia. Apparently the sender didn't have a clue as to the correct spelling of Kaduna).

Perhaps it was because it was sent to the wrong place that my attention was piqued. At any rate I checked the postmark, curious to know how much time such a circuitous journey might have consumed. To my surprise it took only thirty-four days - twelve days longer than the customary twenty-two days it takes to get a letter one way from anywhere in the U.S. Realizing this, I then examined the postmark on my letter from Lagos. To my chagrin, I saw that it had taken forty-two days to get from Lagos to my mail box.

This started me thinking. I began to wonder about just what was involved in moving a piece of written communication from one point to another. What were the obstructions and causes for delay? People,

generally, take the sending and receiving of mail for granted, especially if the postal system is efficient. What I realized as a result of my cursory investigations is that in postal systems that are largely non-automated, every point in the progress of a letter, packet, or parcel, is so bedeviled by human error, cupidity, or negligence that it is a small wonder that we receive any mail at all.

By its very nature, a letter, packet, or parcel, is a single object which demands individual attention. This single object is something that is sent from one person or entity to another person or entity who may be located anywhere in the world. These objects come in all manner of shapes and sizes (governed, of course, by regulations or restrictions on weight or dimension as prescribed by postal laws). The principal problem faced by the postal service is how to convert these individual objects into bulk items which can be handled more economically and efficiently-making sure that such objects become



Kaduna Post Office

"individual" again by the time it reaches its destination. This is done usually by collecting pieces of mail, conveying it to a central "sorting facility" where all items that are going to the same place or in the same direction are put together. Here is where initial problems begin.

Letters, parcels or packets incompletely or illegibly addressed (or read wrongly by semi-literate mail handlers) may be left unprocessed, returned to sender or placed with the wrong mail. If less than the correct amount of postage has been put on a piece of mail, the forwarding process again breaks down resulting in the mail being returned to the sender or put aside and forgotten. Packages improperly sealed and/or which arouse the curiosity of less than scrupulous mail handlers may be opened, pilfered, or thrown away to cover up illegal tampering. Supervisory procedures are often not very effective, especially in non-automated operations, in checking these misdoings. And far too often, the supervisors themselves collude with malpractitioners for mutual ill-gotten gain.

The next stage in the forwarding process is to transport the sorted mail to different destinations, where it will be more precisely sorted and combined again with other mail

going to more specific addresses. In developing countries, the ever increasing volume of mail is often more than the over-stretched supply of transportation can handle. In Nigeria, mail in bulk delivered at the airports is often left unattended for days until the means can be found to transport it to local post offices. Vehicle break-downs, lack of spares, and sparse transportation budgets contribute to the inavailability of vehicles to move the mail.

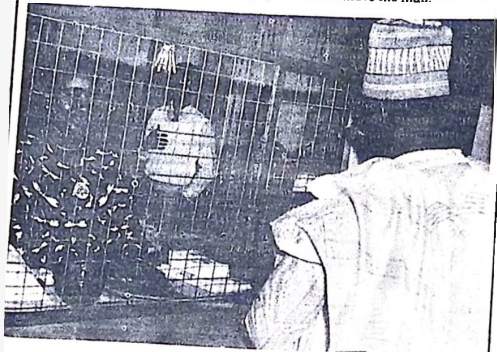
Intermediate sorting facilities plagued with same lapses of negligence or indifference hampered the sorting process initial stages.

The third stage is the arrival mail to the sorting office of the destination. Here, ideally, is bulk mail recovers its individuality, is sorted and despatched to post office boxes, private mail delivered on a house-to-house office-to-office etc., basis. In Nigeria again, the lack of adequate transportation, manpower, a chaotic state of house and numbering render house-to-house delivery impractical. Most Nigerians receive their private mail through office boxes, at their place of employment, or in care of friends or relatives who have P.O. boxes, or at institutions or work places for regular mail delivery service.

The adage "The mail runs through" is not an iron-clad rule in developing countries, inclusive. Though efforts to improve the postal services are constant, they have fallen far short of customer satisfaction. Perhaps that is because when people like me get a letter, however trivial or inconsequential, they are precious indeed, and cherish it, read and re-read it, memorized line for line.....



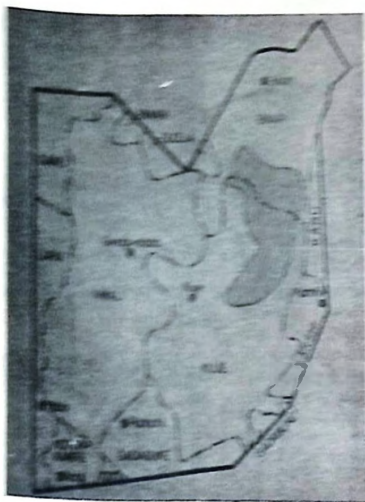
Assorted Letters



A post office worker

CELOGIE RAPS ABUJA: Facts or faith?

By *Alvin E. Williams*



Nigeria's state territory

It is the sacred line of the Holy Bible, King James Version, as read in Hebrew 1:16 that "Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen."

Faith is an important and fundamental component in most major religions. Believers are taught to have faith in the other "mysterious" ways of the Almighty. Christians believe that faith brings divine approval, and that they must understand that "the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear." This belief may be apply, if not rigorously applied to material approval, but in the material world of man, the component is to substantiate charges, allegations, suggestions, and conclusions on the "evidence of things unseen" but with their facts.

The Catholic Archbishop of

Lagos, His Grace Anthony Okunribido Ojo, an ex-spiritual director of police on retirement in the nation's capital on matters temporal, he called for "the removal of Air Commissioner Hassan Abdullah as the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory for allegedly turning Abuja into a southern state than a federal capital." His Grace reportedly said that "Commissioner Abdullah, like his predecessor the late Major General Nathaniel Vata, was compromising the interests of the northern in Abuja" in further allegations, the Archbishop "noted numerous" where "allegedly northerners were allocated up to seven plots of land in Abuja whereas it is a matter as difficult as getting a man to get the eye of a needle for a southerner to count a plot there."

He also decried "the practice whereby northerners were made to give most of the key positions while their southern colleagues were

delegated to supportive roles. Finally, he said that the "man should be replaced with someone other than a northerner, adding in the future, the leadership of capital should be rotated toward northerners and southerners."

The first question that comes to mind when examining the substance of a northerner's Nigerian "where is the evidence to substantiate these allegations?" Because of the public nature of the man to use that an Archbishop's charge such as these may be serious representations not only among Nigeria's Christian community but among all fair-minded Nigerian regardless of their great diversity of geographical distribution. "The West?" or a more "Islamic" whose capital" attempted to give credence to the Archbishop's allegations but failed to uncover any concrete data other than the "impressions" of the reporters covering the story. What is more ironic is that Archbishop did not call for an investigation of the matter as one would expect a responsible member of the public to do. Nor did he offer any evidence to all to press his allegation nor is it public expected to accept the charges on the basis of his word alone. His Grace would well be reminded that the audience he is addressing is not a congregation of believers hanging on to his every word but a larger public audience of skeptics, critics and free thinkers among others, who respond to fact not faith, on issues of public concern. This is not a matter of interfering the competence of public charges against a public officer. There are legal processes entrenched in our constitution as well as courts of law which are the appropriate means to conduct such secular affairs. Or is the Archbishop unwilling to "render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's?"

A second question might be "why is His Grace speaking from behind a private curtain? The Catholic Church? The Christian community

southerners? There seems to be quite a bit of role confusion here. If he is speaking for himself, he is, of course, entitled to his opinion, subject to the laws of the land which protect against libel and slander (need we remind that "thou shalt not bear false witness".....?)

If he is speaking for the Church or the Christian community, he would be advised that the nation is looking to our religious leaders to be examples of tolerance, moderation, and circumspection. The wounds inflicted by religious intolerance on this nation are yet to heal. It is hardly befitting or proper for religious leaders to exacerbate an already less than stable situation. His Grace should be reminded that his eminent position in the Church may appear to give religious sanctions to his utterances and actions. This in the case of Abuja would be an unfortunate misuse of his clerical office and might instigate equally misguided reactions from the nation's other religious communities.

If he is speaking as a southerner, and feels he has a legitimate grievance, why not take the matter to court or through appropriate legal channels. The legal principal of federal character is still in force. Nor is there reason to believe ("This Week" notwithstanding) and that Abuja is not for all Nigerians. If the grievances are legitimate, and if he is the new champion of the south, then by all means he should, on their behalf, seek redress.

It does seem, however, because of the secularity of the charges that the Archbishop is perhaps performing a political role. People have been known to make political capital out of all sorts of issues and there is no reason why Abuja should be any different. Lurking behind "pointies" in this country is always the spectre of cupidity—the inordinate desire for wealth. Could it be that Air Commodore Abdullahi's action resulting in the re-contracting of abandoned projects to more responsible and established organizations might be behind this



Archbishop Okogie: how sincere?

furor? Or that so many corrupt contractors have now been rather effectively deterred from the

wholesale plunder of evidence in the sec...
Whose interests is he speaking for?

Editor's Note:

Prior to going to press, we learned that several "princes" of the Catholic hierarchy received their occupancy for plots of the church. May Archbishop Okogie can matters of his calling and "sounding brass" and cymbals!

We have also learned that interim Christian services held in the proposed Vice-Presidential mansion — very accommodative an anti christian administration.

POETRY

By Joseph McNair

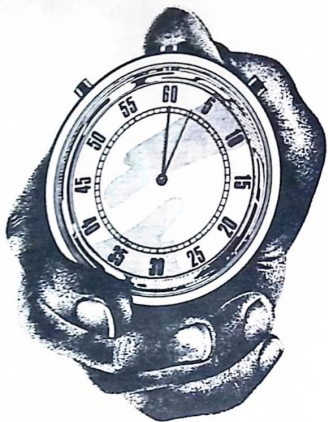
Kaduna: A Sonnet

Like deja vu the sense of being here
before pervades the air—the smells, the ways
of human intercourse, the sounds so clear
evoke an almost knowing as the day's
pervasive rhythm slows the body down.
The heat becalms, the mind submits, resigned
to languid pace, to Allah's will. This town
familiar in a way obscure, inclined
to bloody acts of faith, to power bought
When not bestowed by birth, to ways corrupt
and lusts immune to censure—much besought
a timeless orgy few dare interrupt.
Kaduna's bowels thus reveal my past;
those lives of spirit failure hold me fast.

Unfinished Building

Wet rot, gleaming &
now black, then green. spre
like skin disease over abor
concrete structures: monur
to cost—overruns or prior
paid building contractors
criminal indifference.
Semi—permanent shelters for
the wretched who squat there
their humanity, like their
clothes, rent and tattered;
their lives, like their food,
scavenged from day to day.
Their hopes, unfinished and
condemned, like the buildings
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By Mohammed Etsugaie

THE DEFORESTATION THREAT

At this year's tree planting campaign launched at Gemiga in Sokoto Local Government, the President, Major General Ibrahim Babangida called on every Nigerian to plant at least 10 trees during the current planting season, in order to check the incessant ecological disaster, pointing out that the most important contribution to food production was its role in ensuring environmental stability and productivity by mitigating the effects of climatic fluctuation and conserving soil and water resources.



Col. Onoja

And in Plateau State, the State governor, Colonel Lawrence Onoja at this year's tree planting campaign week at Hoss Village in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area directed that henceforth, all form one students in the state should plant and maintain a tree for the duration of their stay in their various institutions.

In Kano State, the afforestation committee set up by the State government to advise it on how to ward off desert encroachment on farmlands has recommended that farmers should be encouraged to plant trees that have economic value e.g. Foods etc. so that they will not have the urge to cut them down for fuel. It also recommended that Federal and States Ministry of Works should henceforth plant trees along newly constructed roads to serve as

windbreaks.

Indiscriminate exploitation of (both economic and non-economic) trees without caring for the environmental consequences is now posing a grave threat to the country. As 60 percent of Nigeria's fuel needs are presently met by burning wood, alternative sources such as gas, kerosine and electricity should be substituted.

WHERE ADULTERY IS NOT AN OFFENCE

The Federal Appeal Court in Jos has upheld the ruling of a lower court that adultery could not be said to be an offence under the Tiv native law and customs.

Delivering judgement in an appeal filed by a Gboko businessman, Mr. Denen Tofi against the Permanent Secretary of the Benue State Ministry of Land and Survey, Mr. Ushe Uba in a case of alleged adultery, the court held that the offence of which the accused was facing trial at the Katsina-Allah Chief Magistrate's Court was no offence to the Tiv Native Law and Customs.

Although public morality might frown at the issue of adultery, funny enough in Tiv land this lacks 'locus standi'.

SHAGARI LOSES FOUR KIDS IN CRASH

Former President Shelu Shagari has lost four of his children in a motor accident along Sokoto — Shagari road. Those who lost their lives were Saratu (18), Zainab (20), both students of Sokoto College of Arts and Science, Muktar, (20) of the Federal School of Arts and Science Sokoto and Saidu (3).

May their souls rest in perfect peace.

THE EXIT OF MILITARY GOVERNORS

Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff and Minister of Defence, Major General Domkat Bali has said that all military governors would be posted back to the barracks next year adding

that those who wish to take part in politics would, however, be retired.

In an interview with airport correspondence before he embarked on a 12 day tour of Bulgaria and Romania, the Defence Minister said, that he, was misquoted by a National daily which reported him to have said that all the military officers holding political offices would be retired next January to pave way for a smooth transition to civil rule.

When the Military Governors take their exit next year, what difference will it make if a new crop of military administrators take over from them in the transition programme?



General Bali.

TRADITIONAL RULERS IN GOVERNMENT!

The Oni of Ife, Oba Okunade Sijuwade, Olubuse II, has expressed the opinion that it will be very difficult for any government in future to rule Nigeria without the participation of traditional rulers.

He was responding to the Political Bureau's recommendation which restricted traditional rulers to their domain while speaking to airport correspondents at Ikeja on his return from a one-month tour of Cuba.

Definitely government should not be paying traditional rulers for doing nothing. They should be assigned to specific duties.

BARKA DA SALLAH



The Executive Chairman,
directors, management and staff of
Hotline Publishing Co. Ltd wish all
readers and friends of **Hotline** a
happy Sallah and Allah's guidance
during this season of Id-El-Kabir.

CREATION OF MORE STATES — The die is cast

By A.M. Mainasara.

Editor's Note:

"Hotline" in the last issue No. 18, criticised the creation of more states. In keeping with our policy of an open forum for well-articulated ideas, we present this article which expresses a counter view.

The cover story of the *Hotline* issue of July 31st 1987 cast doubt on the 'creation of more States in Nigeria. The write up on the issue at page 11 of the Magazine put it thus — "The Federal Military Government" will, at a later stage, announce a comprehensive and firm decision on the creation of additional states, within the transition period," says President I.B. Babangida. He emphasised however "that will be done in the national interest."

"The issues has now been shelved but apparently not solved." That is the crux of the matter. Proponents as well as opponents of state creation have been left guessing on government's intention on this issue. Hence praise singers, ideologues, mischief makers, hirelings etc have seized on the President's pronouncement to "rationalise" or "justify" their stand on state creation. However, examination of the Cooley Report's recommendations and white paper thereon give a different story. These authoritative documents have this to say on creation of additional states:-

The report stated, inter alia, that a preponderant number of citizens, however, preferred the creation of a few more states, noting that though this would mean additional administrative costs in the form of new bureaucracies and structures, state creation is essentially a political exercise. They argued that more states would enhance greater stability, strengthen the Federal structure and remove a major source of tension in

the country. In addition, it would right the wrongs against groups whose interests have tended to be sacrificed within the present 19 - state structure.

The bureau notes that the demand for a Katsina State and a new Kaduna State "has been one of the most vociferous and consistent since 1976". Proponents of the two states argued that relations between the Katsina and other Kaduna groups have broken down irretrievably and that this had frustrated the orderly development of the state.

Like in Kaduna State, the most consistent demand from Cross River is the break up of the state into two: Akwa Ibom State and a new Cross River State. The split of Cross River State is the oldest and the most consistent demand in the country and the people felt unjustly treated in 1975 when Irikefe panel's recommendation was rejected by the military. They argued that there can be no adequate peace, stability or development of the present state without this issue being resolved once and for all. The bureau notes that unlike the situation in 1975, when the agitation to split the state generated great hostilities among the component communities, there is unanimity today among the people that splitting the state along the lines recommended by the Irikefe panel in 1975 is the only guarantee for even development and political peace in the area.

Additionally other areas of communities also fielded demands, even if not as passionately as the two aforementioned but the opinion in the bureau was divided between support for retaining the existing 19 — state structure and creating a few more states structure ranging from two to six. Those who support the creation of states were unanimous in recommending the creation of two

states:- Katsina state from Kaduna state and Akwa Ibom from the present Cross River State. Other members who support the creation of a few additional states argued that "in the interest of comprehensiveness, six new states including Katsina and Akwa Ibom should be created. The four additional states are Delta, Wawa or Enugu, Kogi and Saruani

In view of the overwhelming and unequivocal support given by the majority of members of the Politics Bureau — whose views correctly mirror the opinion of the general of Nigerians — the government white paper on the Cooley Report accepts the recommendation to create additional states in these words: Paragraph 267 of the white paper — "Government accepts in principle the creation of more states. The existing reports and recommendations on this issue are adequate for any decision government might wish to take.

Paragraph 268 — Experience has shown that states are better created under military regimes to avoid the type of ridiculous politicking we had during the Second Republic. There is also the fact that new states require time and organisation processes leading to the withdrawal of the military from government in 1990. It is estimated that the above process should require a minimum of three years. Accordingly, it recommends that the proposed new states be created by the middle of 1987.

Paragraph 269 — Government notes this recommendation.

From the foregoing it is abundantly clear that the Politburo recommended creation of additional states. The only issue in dispute is the number — from two to six and government ACCEPTS in principle the creation of more states but it cannot make its mind on the number of states and the timing of their creation. The proponents of new

CREATION OF MORE STATES — The die is cast

States (the author of this piece included) are eternally grateful to President Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida and members of the A.F.R.C for acceding to the desires of millions of Nigerians to be affected by the forthcoming state creation exercise. The government should ignore the rantings of few vocal Nigerians — ideologues disgruntled intelligentsia, the never do wells and tribal chauvinists who see nothing good in government decision which does not give their interest group an undue advantage. The 1975/76 state creation exercise favoured a certain ethnic group but discriminated against others, including minorities by giving one major ethnic group 5 states against its competitors 2. No wonder

the Lagos/Ibadan yellow press is kicking against President Babangida's magnanimity to redress the injustice. The die is cast as the government has definitely decided to create additional states during the transition period — the sooner the better and certainly before the inauguration of the constitution drafting committee slated for the third quarter of 1987. That committee should have as one of its terms of reference to review the constitutions of the Federation of 21 or 23 or 25 States. Unless this is done this committee or the constituent assembly after it, will countermand A.F.R.C's firm decision on the creation of states as was the case during the 1978/79 constituent

Assembly deliberations under Mr. Justice Udoma — He is in league with a member of Presidential Advisory Committee, Professor Aboyade, who against all protocol, publicly opposed creation of more states even before A.F.R.C made its decision known on the matter! No wonder, the President's pronouncement on the matter gives room for doubts and speculation. The credibility of the present administration is at stake if it allows individuals in the corridor of power to frustrate its noble and patriotic intentions. The people are watching. Long live the Federal of Nigeria of 21 or 23 or 25 states. We are waiting to hear from Mr. President the exact number of states the country will have.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Executive Chairman, Directors, Management and entire staff of *Hotline Publishing Co. Ltd.* heartily congratulate one of our directors.



Alhaji Walid Jibrin

Assistant General Manager, United Nigerian Textiles, Chairman, Textile Institute, 10 Northern States Zone. Chairman, Textile Employers Association of Nigeria. Director, Nigerian Cotton Company Limited.

On his installation as

CIROMAN FULANI NASSARAWA

10th July, 1987

*Alhaji Hassan Sani Kontagora
Magajin Rafi*

Executive Chairman, Hotline Publishing Co. Ltd.

AFRICA — ISRAELI RELATIONS

BY MUSA LADAN

“African countries are an insult to mankind, I have long come to the conclusion that we deceive people by concealing from them for diplomatic reasons how ugly African nations are”

These words, quoted by a report late last year, came not from Pretoria but Tel Aviv, attributed to Abba Eban, the ever influential former Israeli Foreign Minister. There is nothing contrary in the statement to the Israeli official Zionist thinking or the attitude towards Africans and people of African descent or, for that matter, the Arabs in Israel and the occupied areas of Palestine who have become the direct victims of Israeli Government racist programmes. Racism in Israel is officially established albeit unproclaimed and shrouded in a maze of cover up, thus made all the more insidious and outrageous.

Details of Israeli racist policies, human rights violation and long-standing ties with South Africa are not unknown to African countries, so furiously opposed to such practices in the racist enclave. Yet one by one these countries are re-establishing diplomatic relations with Israel, a country that probably more than any other undercut all efforts directed towards demolishing apartheid and itself practises a brand of its own.

It was in 1973 that all but two African nations — Lesotho and Swaziland — broke diplomatic relations with Israel following an OAU resolution enjoining member nations to do so, to send signals to Israel which occupied Arab territories including one in Africa (Egypt), at the aftermath of that year's

Arab-Israeli war. That measure it was, some observers believe, which spurred Israel to openly develop various links and cooperation with South Africa: defence, strategic, nuclear, economic, trade. This Zionist apartheid collaboration is very much in force today; Israel has not returned but in fact has taken more and consolidated its hold on Arab lands: “Zionism is worse than apartheid”, to borrow words of a leader of the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights. Yet Israel is scoring a diplomatic breakthrough in Africa.

African nations have in fact had not one but several scores to settle first with Israel before normalizing relations with her, but normalization of relations is coming first and fast. It started in 1982 when Zaire staged the first *volte-face* and restored diplomatic ties with Israel, followed recently by five more countries in West Africa which have done the same. One of these, Liberia, has even moved its embassy from Tel-Aviv to Jerusalem, which Israel illegally declared its “eternal” capital city in 1980, being the third to do so of all the world nations. At the end of his recent (mid-June) tour of four of these countries (Togo, Ivory-Coast, Liberia and Cameroon) Yitzhak Shamir, Israeli Prime Minister, announced again that some other African nations had made “approaches” desiring, to restore diplomatic relations with Israel. In this connection, Central African Republic, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea were notably mentioned in a report. Shamir was also reported to have held talks with Kenyan authorities on normalizing diplomatic relations but Kenya quickly denied this.

Pressures, lures, economic and

other interests—what ever it is in favour of which these countries have chosen to adopt the measure, theirs must be seen as a betrayal of the OAU cause in the first instance. While they, as well as others, have never entertained equivocation in abhorring and condemning the racist and repressive practices in South Africa, by patching relations with Israel, they are in effect compromising and weakening a common stand, seeing evil in these practices in South Africa, but nothing wrong with the same practices in Israel and nothing wrong with the duo's alliance. They are also saying, “the OAU was wrong then and we are right now”. If frontline Africa, would not budge in opposing South Africa and its policies even in the face of the latter's economic sabotage, reprisals and real security threats, other nations should be able, by forgoing mere offers, to stand their ground against the diplomatic inroads of racist Israel. Failure to do so represents, a crooked, selective moral courage or total lack of courage on their part.

So far the benefit derivable by African nations from normalizing relations with Israel as announced after the Shamir tour of West Africa was that such countries would gain economically in particularly the field of agriculture. This and probably some other decoys may explain the actions and positions of these nations which stand in sharp contrast to those of the frontline African states that go on opposing racism not half-heartedly, through microphone rhetorics, but through real sacrifices.

A reminder of the Israeli *modus operandi* in pursuit of its racist policies, human rights violations and diabolical alliance with Pretoria through extensive cooperation and

collaboration may serve here as a pointer to the futility of those nations' climbing the mountain of Israeli sins to behold and decry those of South Africa. This is also part of the effort to be made to ensure that Nigeria, one of the OAU influentials, never contemplates restoring diplomatic ties with Israel, what ever happens.

This is because Israel and South Africa are a duo that cannot be seen but in the same light, unless racism could be condemned somewhere and condoned elsewhere. Further, Zionist apartheid alliance in confrontation with Africa is a real and spontaneous as it is a direct reflection of the duo's ideological affinity.

Israel was given birth to by political Zionism and baptized in blood. That country has thus never known peace since its birth in 1948. This was inevitable because basic to the doctrine of Zionism (the Jewish nationalist movement which sought and succeeded in setting up a Jewish state in Palestine) are certain assumptions which are inherently belligerent, racist and separatist. Among other things, Zionism asserts that Jews and non-Jews are incapable of living together and that non-Jews must either be displaced in the Jewish territory or separated physically, legally and/or psychologically. Israeli Zionist leaders have pursued this and similar premises in both Israel proper and the occupied areas, vigorously through both words and deeds.

The campaigns of terror organized by Israeli Government to empty Palestine of the indigenous Arabs, which began since 1948 were part of the Zionist programme.

The intensity of the Zionist mood and belief in the racist, separatist programme can be seen in the words of a select few of the rejectionist, Zionist Israeli leaders: Soon after Israel came into being, David Ben Gurion, the first Prime Minister, declared, "Israel is the country of the Jews and only of Jews". Joseph Weitz as head of Jewish Agency, Colonization Department, had insisted, "Between ourselves it must be clear that there is no room in this

country for both peoples. The only solution is to transfer the Arabs transfer all of them..... not one village not one tribe should be left." Golda Meir, as Prime Minister, said in an interview, "There was no such thing as Palestinians (Arabs)..... they did not exist." Moshe Dayan, as Defence Minister, boasted, ".....it is true that the Arabs of East Jerusalem do not want it annexed, but we are not there because they want it." David Hacohen, as Chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs Committee



Shamir

told a British M.P., ".....they (Palestinians) are not human beings, they are not people, they are all Arabs!" All these, and many others, were directed to the Arabs who had lived in Palestine for very many centuries before the "return" of the Jews.

Just as there was such a profusion of Zionist, rejectionist rhetorics against the Arabs, so also was there no shortage of actions to match them. Instances of Zionist brutalities against these people are in fact legion. Designed to obliterate the demographic component and ethnic entity of the Arabs in Palestine, these have been both drastic and systematic taking the forms of mass killings, physical tortures, jailings, property confiscation and destruction, ejections, psychological torments and the like, all attended by government-sanctioned racial discrimination.

Zionists started campaigns of terror since 1948 to expel the Arabs from the area for the exclusive ownership of the Jews. Such

organized campaigns include the massacre by the Zionist forces of the Arab civilian population of the village of Deir Yasin, the attack led by Moshe Dayan on the Arab town of Lydda, now the location of Tel Aviv Airport, on the civilians of the village of Ramallah, on the village of Sam where many of the villagers were slaughtered, 125 houses, a school and a clinic were destroyed, on Kfar Qasim where villagers returning from their farms, unaware of a "curfew" imposed on their area, were gunned down one evening, and a score of others.

None of these and similar measures, according to even Jewish writers, was justified. They were atrocities perpetrated simply to inject a 'lear psychosis in the Arabs for them to flee the country. Jon Kimche, Zionist writer, calls the Deir Yasin incident (among the first exemplar measures to eject the Arabs) "the darkest stain on the Jewish record" adding, "the terrorists justified the massacre of Deir Yasin because it led to the panic flight of the remaining Arabs in the Jewish state Area". Another, Alfred Lilienthal, maintains that the Deir Yasin villagers not only cooperated with the Israeli authorities but even drove away some Arab militants among them. An account of one woman survivor of the Deir Yasin bloodbath, Safiyah Atiyah, would however suggest the cruelty and profanity attending the pogroms generally, and the manner the Deir Yasin cooperation with the authorities were rewarded. Said she "I saw one man open his pants and leap on me. I screamed, but all around the other women were being raped too. Some of the men were so anxious to get our earrings they ripped our ears to pull them faster."

Both Irgun and Stern Gang Zionist terrorist groups to which Menachem Begin (a Prime Minister) and Ariel Sharon (a Cabinet Minister) belong, were parties to the Deir Yasin operation. The Arabs die and do commit acts of terrorism on their own but "it is vital" Lilienthal argues, "to understand the manner in which the land was emptied of Palestinians who had lived for centuries in their homeland."

Embassy Rejects Allegations Against German School

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany has taken notice with great concern of the allegations published by several Nigerian newspapers against the German School and its principal.

The Embassy was particularly alarmed by the accusation of racist tendencies.

Investigations have shown that this accusation is unfounded. Most of the allegations to which the papers refer are either untrue or based on distorted or wrongly interpreted facts.

In particular, there is no and there has never been any discrimination of children of Nigerian or Nigerian-German parents. These children represent about one quarter of the total number of students. Since 23 years German-speaking children from at present 17 nations are educated together, irrespective of race, colour or creed, in order to enable them to continue their studies when going back to Germany or to any other German school all over the world. This education is guided by the principle of equality and tolerance, and the Embassy has not found any evidence that this principle has been violated. This refers also to the headmaster.

The Embassy is determined to make sure that the German School in Lagos will continue its work in this spirit of mutual understanding between German speaking students, parents and teachers as has been the case for so many years.

Press Release
Embassy of the
Federal Republic of Germany,
Lagos

These are all very pretty words, official too. However, there have been far too many complaints regarding racism at the school to be dissuaded by an embassy press release. We renew our call for an official full scale investigation by the federal government to put our minds at rest. As we said before, where there is smoke, there is fire.

SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT MATURES

The South Korean Embassy in a rejoinder to an article carried in one of the national dailies described their government's capitulation (under duress) to worker and student unrest in the country as indicative of South Korea's political maturity. Wasn't it Zik who said "only a fool argues with a man with a gun?" Perhaps South Korea has learned something else from Nigeria's own octogenarian pundit — like "dining with the devil with a long handled spoon"



No Blanket Ban — Aikhomu

Well, our CGS is at it again. Responding no doubt to the hue and cry over the proposed blanket ban on politicians (most probably from the politicians themselves) he has raised the hopes of many who thought all was lost. We hope that this means that the innocent and the guilty alike will get their day in court, and justice will be done. God knows how long we've been waiting for a fair accounting of the behaviour of all past politicians.

While he's at it, we hope the CGS will set the records straight on State Creation, Revenue Allocation and the Political Education of the army. It is on these issues that we need some straight talking.

The Anticipated Khaki-wearing Boss

And the CGS said "Civilian governors will report to me". Yes, so shall it be since it has been decreed by the second calabash himself. It will be very interesting to watch the political arena then.

Dillaliya has a favourite rendezvous along Jos Road, Kaduna, where one well-to-do man frequents to wine and womanise. Like they say, he declares a surplus each time he visits; and that is often. These beneficiaries hail him "governor" "up leader" and all the trash you can imagine. He acknowledges their hailings with the sign of one of the proscribed parties of the second republic in all cheer-

fulness.

Recently, he got to know through a friend (he doesn't read newspaper) that if he becomes governor (and he is sure he will) he would be placed under a military boss. Since then, the 'surplus' has not been forthcoming. On enquiries, he disclosed that things might not be all that rosy under a stern-looking no-nonsense, naval officer as a superior.

Covert politicking is rife, but the governors-to-be are not all that enamoured of the idea of being bossed and tossed around by a man in khaki (white khaki now). Flowing sabbatrigas and London-tailored suits cost more than the khaki and all its adornments.

As far as Dillaliya is concerned, the political arena come next year is going to be interesting to watch.

The Billionaire

Where royalties kiss the dust, it is like hearing that the earth on which one walks is dead. Obas, obis and emirs are held in such esteem that it is considered a taboo to go near their women. Their women enjoy almost the same reverence as their royal husbands.

But that was only until a few weeks ago and there is nothing more dillaliyaic about it. The wife of a prominent oba in Oyo state has been snatched by a prominent yoruba billionaire. Prominence pass prominence - o. Not only that, the woman has been put in the family way. You also should know that the woman in question is now in a posh-London flat of the millionaire, oh!, billionaire.

Dillaliya has learned that the oba has threatened and issued an ultimatum to the money-miss-road man that he will invoke the powers of the gods to undo the friend-turned-foe. The billionaire has also called the oba's bluff. It is going to be a battle royal, money versus traditional-power. A powerful mallam and a prophet are said to be canonically and biblically immunising the billionaire against the arrows of the Kabiyesi's gods.

Aha, oba or no oba, when you send your wife to a man who is richer than you, she may never come again - o! Dillaliya has bought a judu — proof blouse to ward off the deadly arrows that will soon start to fly.

PRIVATIZATION: THE NEED FOR CAUTION

By Bashir O. Tofa

Although mentioned by various regimes, notably Murtala's strong attack on the lack of efficiency of Nigeria's civil and public services, privatisation of public enterprises did not become a Government policy until the 1986 Budget. The Budget condemned public enterprises as a heavy burden on Government probably due to waste and unprofitability. It therefore saw the need to relieve Government of the burden by a divestment process (ie offloading the investment into the "private" sector), which will give preference to such groups as Pension Funds, Universities, Local Governments, State Investment Companies, etc., even though some of these can hardly be classified as members of the private sector.

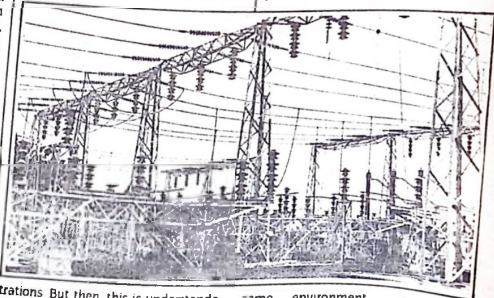
In discussing privatisation, it is necessary first of all to consider the main reasons behind this policy and whether or not they present a dilemma or even confusion. Secondly, we have to seriously examine the consequences of this policy in the ideological context, as well as its being a means of national wealth distribution.

It has been suggested by many, including Government, that public enterprises are not and cannot be profitably run, and because of this they have to be sold to the private sector which is seen as more efficient and therefore capable of erasing the thick red line of unprofitability. This problem of unprofitability has always been assumed and, surprisingly, no serious attempt was even made to get to its roots by in-depth study to find out why Government-run corporations and departments are inefficient. The leading question is whether these enterprises

were viable in the first place. If they were not viable why did Government invest in them and who were responsible for the decisions and so on? If, however, there were comprehensive feasibility studies which recommended them as viable ventures, why do they not make profit, and who and what are responsible for the losses? Rather than face the issues of failure of these enterprises as a managerial problem, we are being told a different story by successive adminis-

and departments they manage (or mismanage) on behalf of the public.

This careless attitude which regards public property as "shit" is reinforced by successive political leaders and heads who never bothered to enquire why profits were not made, why accounts were not audited in the last 5 or 10 years, or why there was no comprehensive and aggressive marketing strategy. That a similar private enterprise operating in the



trations. But then, this is understandable because civil servants are not known to be courageous enough to indict themselves. For what difference is there between a mismanaged public corporation and, say, any other Government ministry or department? They are all run by a bureaucrat who would never take responsibility for decisions, not to mention accepting liability for the losses in the enterprises

same environment can achieve substantial return on investment to the tune of 15% or more, clearly proves that the problem is more of a managerial type than anything else. Or shall we have to insinuate that bureaucrats managers secure additional rewards over and above their salaries and benefits, just as the private entrepreneur does as profits? The argument that private enterprises are successful because they are managed by their owners cannot hold any water if one considers the enormous successes recorded by Multi-nationals, super markets and a number of others in manufacturing, shipping and trading. There are cases where we have seen

Government should be very cautious of the advice given to it...

supermarkets and a number of others in manufacturing, shipping and trading. There are cases where we have seen retired bureaucrats and political leaders who once headed unsuccessful public corporations or ministries, but who now boast of success in their new assignments as managers of private enterprises. Why? Can the answer be said to be a deliberate neglect because there was no-one to query them, or could it be because, in the case of others, they were incompetent to run those public enterprises. The latter will raise another question: Why would incompetent people be employed to manage such substantial public investments? (The fact that these bureaucrats are either fraudulent (saboteurs) or incompetent makes the whole privatisation exercise fraught with dangers.

The first danger is in the real reasons for privatisation; the second is in the

movement across ideological lines is precipitated. This is what we see happening presently in the United Kingdom where the Tory government of Margaret Thatcher is privatising public corporations, such as British Telecom, Leyland, Airways, Gas and now even Thames Water etc. As mentioned, privatisation is a means by which substantial economic resources hitherto held in common can be transferred to private hands, thereby depriving society from the common ownership. The new owners are now blessed with a formidable weapon of control. It is said that Government investment in the various sectors of the economy is in excess of N20 billion, a substantial part of which is to be privatised. The decision to privatise instead of overhauling the management and restructuring of corporations so as to make them more

responsible, efficient and profitable is to be seen only in a political rather than economic vein. If it is a political decision taken on the basis of advice given by "expert" bureaucrats, then we cannot comfortably take for granted the competence of these advisers; neither can we take for granted their sincerity of purpose. It is conceivable that there is a plan to shift resources, once more, to private hands in a particular part of the country or even to unscrupulous foreigners as we saw happening during the hurried conception and implementing of the 1972 Enterprises Promotion Decree, popularly known as the "Indigenisation" Decree. So the issue really is that privatisation may have provided the opportunity to pillage government resources in favour of certain individuals. All these Committees, symposia, publicity stunts, etc., are nothing but gimmicks. They are not aimed to penetrate well enough to enlighten all Nigerians adequately and positively; and, there is every reason to believe that certain groups have more information about specific companies than anybody else and, again it is likely that negotiations have already secretly commenced, even if unofficially, between those who think they will be charged with the responsibility of disposal, and those they prefer to sell to having, of course, grossly undervalued those enterprises. We have information that Madara Daines in Vom was under-valued and then sold to Indians!

It is pertinent for Government to be very cautious of the advice given to it by bureaucrat who have in the past



NPC to be privatised?

selection of enterprises to be privatised, and the third is, obviously, in the implementation process. Before dealing with these issues, let us first of all consider what privatisation really involves. It is a creation and upholding of a right of "private property" in an object formally owned socially or publicly, or perhaps not formally owned at all. The term therefore is intended to denote the converse of Socialization: the privatization of nationalised industries, or those in which Government has substantial (normally majority) shareholding in them. Put bluntly, privatisation is an ideological fettering — a process whereby a



Kalu, Akinrinade: privatization a costly mistake?

shown themselves susceptible to suspect influences from sundry quarters. The recent scandals in which top officials in the Nigerian Stock Exchange were alleged to have swindled more than N20 million in illegal dealings can only reinforce our fears that privatisation is likely going to be a muddle. As a matter of fact, it may turn out to be the swindle of the century, exerting more pain than even that of the so-called Indigenisation of 1972.

ORDERLY PRIVATISATION:

The only convincing reason for privatisation of some government companies is simple. No patriotic citizen would enjoy seeing his money being wasted. But his fear of whether privatisation as being conceived will solve the problems is presenting a serious dilemma. In order to allay our genuine fears and to ensure a successful privatisation exercise there is need, first of all, for the Federal Government,

- (a) To categorise *all the Corporations* in which it has investments, including the cost value of those investments, industry by industry, indicating the location of each and whether on going or not.

This information will have to be widely published and publicised in all the media and in such a way that everyone will understand what is happening. Then,

- (b) Advise all State Governments to form Committees composed of enlightened private individuals, a representative of the State Chamber of Commerce (must be an indigene) and officials from the State Ministries of Trade and Industry to thoroughly discuss this privatisation Exercise. Their views and recommendations should then be forwarded to an appropriate Federal Government Committee.

It is also recommended that the following should be given priority in the purchase of shares, whether quoted or not, *in companies to be privatised:*

- (a) State Governments buying in trust for future re-sale to its indigenes (Transitional privatisation), State Investment Companies and the indigenes of the State in respect of enterprises located in the State.
- (b) The balance of unsold shares, or a reserved portion of the total shares, not more than 30% to be sold to

any other Nigerians.

CONCLUSION

That privatisation is a potentially explosive issue needs no emphasis. That is why its concept, implementation and even timing have to be handled with extreme caution. Government must not allow herself to be duped into rushing into this venture. It is equally necessary, even when the decision to proceed is taken, to encourage Banks and other finance institutions to come to the easy aid of those persons who may wish to purchase these shares especially where the shares are transitionally and allocatively privatised. There is an urgent need for the enterprises to be scrutinised, so that the public, who are the true owners of them can have a say as to which should be privatised and how.

Bashir Tofa is a Kano based businessman and a prominent politician in the Second Republic.

LEST WE FORGET

"I don't believe that I'm indispensable to the North and its people or that my death would throw the North into chaos. There are many in the North who, at a pinch, could step into my shoes. In the Northern House of Assembly recently, I made mention of Alhaji Makaman Bida of the Finance Ministry and referred to him as my successor. No, North has an abundance of men who could take over its political leadership from me. In any case, there is nothing mysterious in leading a people. The only qualities that a would-be leader of a people need are hard work, credible integrity, selflessness, honesty, firmness of purpose, wisdom, accessibility and fear of God. As I have already said, the North has the abundance of men with such qualities".

SARDAUNA

Let's Begin Again (II)

In my last article, I emphasized that "before we can teach the student the requisite skills and competencies of a good teacher, we must ensure that he or she has mastered the fundamental skills, attitudes, aptitudes, and knowledge content in one or more subject areas." This emphasis serves a dual purpose. The first is to stress the importance of the potential teacher knowing something before attempting to teach it. The second purpose, in a more indirect way, is to make a distinction between teacher education and teacher training. Both are equally important in the development of good teachers, yet, the two are not the same. They are as distinct from each other as the general concept of education is distinct from training.

Education is the transmission of values and the accumulated knowledge of a given society to its learners. It involves teaching the learner the society's culture (or cultures) and traditions, moulding his or her behaviour to conform to societal norms, and preparing him or her to "fit" into one or more of the many roles society deems useful and acceptable. One of education's important functions is to train society's learners to acquire the necessary intellectual, social, and physical skills essential to survival and viable participation in the social order. It is safe to say, therefore, that training is an aspect of education. It cannot be equated with education. Education in its larger function shapes attitudes which ensure society's continuance. It uncovers aptitudes and talents which enable society to thrive and flourish. More importantly, it informs those attitudes, aptitudes, talents, and acquired skills with the cumulative knowledge and understanding born of tradition and belief, cross-cultural commerce and social intercourse, scientific inquiry and invention and the ever-evolving aesthete and ethos of a diverse but united people, which gives society distinction.

The education of a teacher entails not only how this is done, but why it should be done. It provides the

By



Joseph McNair

knowledge, the rationale, and the skills to facilitate learning. It provides the philosophical, psychological and factual basis for effective teaching. And it contains the methodology that enables the discipline to add to its body of knowledge, re-evaluate its rationale and improve upon or increase its inventory of skills.

Teacher education is best built upon the solid foundation of a good general education — a good general knowledge base, essential intellectual, social and physical skills and specialized knowledge, aptitudes, and skills in one or more specific subject areas. Once this foundation is laid, the potential teacher is ready to learn society's educational values, its educational philosophy and history, the specialized knowledge of education, and the various skills and techniques which comprise the art and science of teaching.

Training is instruction in "what to do" in a given endeavor to achieve a desired objective. Consequently, a good training programme consists of the sequential instruction of related and interdependent skills and techniques. For example, in driving an automobile, the student driver is taught first (after being able to identify the various mechanisms essential to the act of driving e.g. ignition, steering wheel, clutch, accelerator, brakes, traffickator, horn, rear and side view mirrors), how to switch on the ignition, checking first to see if the car is out of gear (in neutral). Next, he learns to

depress the clutch, and shift into the appropriate gear, either first gear if moving forward or reverse if moving backward. Once the car is in gear he should look to see if his way is clear before moving. After seeing that it is safe to proceed, he learns to smoothly disengage the clutch, press gently on the accelerator and move forward or backward, steering due. Once the car is in motion, he learns the complete skills of steering, shifting, braking, turning, parking etc. As the reader can see, the foregoing are perceptual-motor skills (no pun intended), the sense and the muscles trained to perform the coordinated tasks and behaviours necessary to driving. These general skills are best taught after being "broken down" into component (or fundamental) subskills, presented to and mastered by the student in proper sequence. The student then "puts them together again" executing each in a relatively "unbroken" or continuous action or routine.

In a similar manner, the teaching act" e.g., what the teacher does "in front of" the students, can be broken down into the following subskills:

1. Stimulus Variation — The use of various motivation techniques by the teacher to get the students' attention, to interest them in the day's lesson, and to put them in a state of readiness to learn.
2. Set Induction — The technique or techniques used by the teacher to "set up" in the student a state of psychological preparedness to act or respond to anticipated stimuli e.g., leading questions, anecdotal stories or examples, real or apocryphal situations, and in the process enable the student to "induce" or figure out the lesson objective — what he or she is supposed to learn or perform.
3. Reinforcement of Student Participation — the use of various motivation techniques (inducement, persuasion, encouragement, praise,

constructive criticisms, punishment, etc.) to prompt student participation in the learning processes planned for the day's lesson.

4. Fluency in Asking Questions — the skill of putting questions to students that are easily understood and which have a significant and demonstrable bearing on the concepts and skills which comprise the day's lesson.
- 5: Questioning Skills — the ability to ask different kinds of questions such as
 - (a) Leading Questions — questions whose answers produce direction or guidance toward solving a problem or understanding a concept etc.
 - (b) Probing Questions — questions which form part of a systematic investigation or examination of a subject area; whose answers provide evidential information
 - (c) Divergent Questions — questions whose answers take learners in different directions from a common point or concept, emphasizing the complexity of that point or concept.
 - (d) High Order Questions — questions whose answers are speculative, theoretical, abstract, or doctrinaire; which require of the student thinking skills which are analytical, synthetic, conceptual, or contemplative, etc.
6. Recognizing Attending Behaviour — The ability of the teacher to know when students are paying attention, to judge their attention span, and know when no more information can be assimilated.
7. Lecturing: The ability to present concepts, definitions, arguments and related information in a formal, orderly, well-reasoned, and extended expression of thought on a given subject. A well-conceived, and executed lecture should provoke thought,

providing enough information to guide the student down conventional, unconventional, and innovative paths of inquiry where a more complete understanding of the subject may be obtained. The lecture is not the "be all and end all" of knowledge to be acquired by the student. Neither is lecturing the most effective teaching skill. At best, good lecturing is an important stimulus to independent thinking and study.

8. Illustrating and Using Examples — the ability to clarify, or explain skills or any aspect of the subject being taught by using a fact, incident, or point representative of those concepts, skills or aspects; by using aural, visual or physical models or devices; by using modelling behaviour.
9. Presenting Appropriate In-class/Homework Assignments and Activities — the ability to (devise and) provide students with drill, problem solving, critical thinking, learning transfer and creative activities at an appropriate level of 'difficulty' which when completed by the student indicates mastery, partial mastery or non-mastery of the skill(s), subskill(s), concept(s) or knowledge content taught in a given lesson or a series of lessons. In addition, these activities should, when possible, be multi-sensory and be drawn from each learning domain — cognitive, affective, and psychomotor.
10. Completeness of Communication — the ability to give information, instructions, directions, commands, explanations, reinforcement, pose questions, and make evaluative comments, verbally and in writing in clear and simple language, using vocabulary suitable to the audience and/or topic. The teacher should be able to write in a logical, easily

understood style with appropriate grammar and sentence structure. The teacher should, in addition, be able to understand and interpret student communications after listening or reading, correcting errors or poor language usage.

11. Monitoring — the ability to watch, observe, check, correct, and reinforce all types of learning/social behaviour, appropriate or inappropriate. This skill is specifically applied in the classroom or in situations of formal and informal teacher-student contact.
12. Planned Repetition and Review — the ability to repeat instruction at strategic points in a lesson or series of lessons to reinforce a concept, skill or piece of vital information, having anticipated beforehand at what point or points such repetition will be effective. In addition, at the end of each lesson and/or series of lessons (a unit or module) and at the beginning of next lesson or series, the teacher should be able to go over in summary fashion all of the concepts, skills and knowledge content presented, stressing the important points.
13. Closure — The ability to bring a lesson to a close; to a definite stopping point. This creates in the student a psychological state of completion as well as an anticipatory state readiness for what is to come next. Reviews and exploratory (probing) questions are often features of effective closure. (Adapted from Allen, Ryan 1969 by J. McNair. The writer would emphasize here that the foregoing subskills fall under only one of the generic teaching competencies to be addressed later in this and subsequent articles).
These subskills have been listed in some detail to illustrate some of the behaviours required of a good teacher in the "teaching act." These behaviours can be "taught" i.e., the

potential teacher can be shown how to do them and with practice can replicate them correctly in systematic and efficient fashion. Merely being able to replicate these behaviours however does not mean that the potential teacher understands why these subskills are necessary to good teaching, how and why they developed, or what purposes, goals, or objectives they serve in making learning happen. Training can teach skills and/or techniques, it can ensure proper execution of same, but it does not necessarily teach why those skills and techniques are to be preferred over others. Nor does it necessarily expose the student to the conceptual framework, the body of knowledge, the research findings, the philosophy and traditions out of which those skills and techniques evolved. This is a major shortcoming of training programmes generally, especially when the student lacks the general knowledge base and the necessary educational preparation to make the acquisition of more specialized skills taught in training programmes meaningful. This is why modern educators refer to the process which produces teachers as *teacher education and training*. With this in mind let us proceed with the discussion of twenty-three generic teaching competencies which taken by themselves are components of a teacher training programme.

What Are Generic Teaching Competencies?

Generic teaching competencies are comprised of the knowledge and skills common to teachers at all levels of education, whether primary, secondary, or post secondary. These are the characteristic tasks, behaviours, techniques, abilities, and the body of knowledge that any teacher must know and perform regardless of the subject or subjects taught, or their relative levels of difficulty.

The notion of generic or common competencies arose from the need to identify what general knowledge base and teaching skills were most effective in facilitating or, more simply, making learning easier. Once identified, the process of teacher education and training could be made

more systematic and thorough, while the task of teacher - education could be performed more precisely.

Recent movements in the western world, in response to a growing concern over the poor academic performances of students, have taken shape in the repeated demands for regular checks to determine whether teachers are effective in the discharge of their duties and responsibilities. Traditionally, this was done through the process of teacher evaluation or

generic competencies developed by the Florida State (U.S.A.) Council on Teacher Education. There are, of course, many more competencies than twenty-three, but these twenty-three were agreed upon by teachers and administrators in the field as well as educational researchers in the state's institutions of higher learning. (Florida is also one of those states that began competency testing of teachers as early as 1976). While the competencies presented here and in



How well trained and competent is he?

performance ratings. This proved unsatisfactory since performance criteria were poorly defined and differed from school to school. In addition, many school administrators were indifferent or ignorant to what constituted good teaching, hence the move to identify teaching competencies. Today, particularly in the United States of America, many school systems have responded to public demands for teacher accountability by making regular teaching staff sit for competency examinations in two or four year intervals, in addition to regular and comprehensive evaluations. Failure to pass these examinations have led to the termination of teaching positions, tenure notwithstanding. Test items on these examinations are based on identified generic teaching competencies and sub-competencies.

For the purposes of these articles I have adapted twenty-three (23)

subsequent articles are not exactly the same as Florida's, the model itself suffices for the purposes of illustration.

There are at least five major categories of teaching competencies. Within these categories are twenty three (23) generic teaching competencies. Each generic teaching competency may be broken down into several subcompetencies. The five major categories of teaching competencies may be listed as follows:

1. Communications skills
2. Basic knowledge
3. Technical skills
4. Administrative skills
5. Interpersonal skills;

In my next article, I will discuss the first of these major categories of competencies, Communication skills, its generic competencies and sub competencies.

CHEMICAL WASTES AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

By: Dr. M. T. Ityokumbul

Chambers defines pollution as "a term applied to any environmental state or manifestation which is harmful or unpleasant to life resulting from man's failure to achieve or maintain control over the Chemical, Physical or Biological consequences or side effects of his scientific, industrial and social habits."

While many environmental experts would readily agree that this definition is rather narrow in scope (it does not consider natural sources of pollution, e.g. earthquakes, biodegradation of naturally occurring wastes resulting in the release of hydrogen sulphide, etc.), the limitation is more of academic rather than of practical importance for several reasons. First, the nature of the problem. Through their genius modern alchemists brew more than 1000 new concoctions every year. Their sophistication has enabled modern petrochemists to assemble molecules contained in coal, oil and gas in new ways, thereby producing compounds that do not exist in nature. As a result, more of these compounds do not degrade rapidly under the assault of such natural forces as bacteria, sun, wind and water. Second, the rapidity and scale of the problem. Between 1941 and 1977 (a period of a little over one generation), the products from the American Petrochemical Industry rose by over 30,000%! In evolutionary terms, the rapidity and scale of this chemical creativity is frightening. This is so because through the ages, most of the earth's varied organisms, from single cells to plants, animals and early humans, usually had ample time to adapt to the pace of natural change. They evolved protective mutations to meet the gradual shifts in the earth's vital balance between acids and alkalines, in the salinity of water and in levels of oxygen in the atmosphere. The situation we have on our hands is a

restless man, who cannot wait patiently through the centuries for his body to develop a genetic defence against these chemicals, if indeed such a defence is possible.

The environment has three key elements: the air we breathe, the water we drink and the land from which we derive our nourishment. All of these elements are vital to our survival. Water pollution from industrial sources has been the major concern of the Kaduna River-Pollution Study Group (KRPS) of the Chemical Engineering Department, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and will be treated in subsequent articles. In this article we limit ourselves to air and land pollution from industrial sources and offer prospects for a solution.

AIR POLLUTION

The major pollutants commonly found in the air are fine particulate

matter, sulphur and nitrogen oxide hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide. The list of industries emitting these pollutants in Nigeria is shown in Table 1.

These emissions of SO_x and NO_x objectionable for several reasons. First, both are acid gases and upon contact with human skin or clothes can cause skin burns and rapid wear of the clothes. Secondly, these gases readily combine with water vapor in the atmosphere to form the acid. Condensation and/or precipitation will result in "acid rain". The uncontrolled emission of these gases has been recognized as the major factor in the destruction of forests and lakes in Northern Canada. In Nigeria, this means that our current efforts at afforestation of Northern Nigeria to help control desert encroachment will be futile if these gases are allowed to be emitted uncontrollably into the atmosphere.

	Pollutant*			
	Particulate matter	SO _x	NO _x	CH
Asbestos Production	X	—	—	—
Asphalt production	X	—	—	—
Cement manufacture	X	—	—	—
Coal industry	X	—	—	—
Crude oil production	—	—	—	X
Gasoline and diesel Marketing	—	—	—	X
Iron and steel production	X	X	—	—
Mining and rock quarrying	X	—	—	—
Natural gas processing	—	X	—	X
Petroleum refining	X	X	X	X
Phosphate Fertilizer manufacture	X	—	—	—
Power plants (coal and oil fired)	X	X	X	X
Soap manufacture (including detergents)	X	X	—	—
Sulphuric acid manufacture	—	X	—	—
Textiles	X	X	—	—
Transportation (trains, airplanes, motor vehicles)	X	X	X	X

* SO_x, NO_x, HC and CO represent Sulphur oxides, Nitrogen oxides, Hydrocarbon and Carbon monoxide respectively.

The emissions from motor vehicles using leaded fuel should be of additional concern to government as well. For example, studies carried out on children living in large metropolises in the United States have shown that high levels of lead in the air (from vehicle emissions) can result in serious learning disabilities in young children. As a result of this, most developed nations have drawn up definite time-tables for the eventual elimination of lead in gasoline. As is the case in these countries, we cannot afford to mortgage our future which rests solely with the coming generation. For this reason, the plans by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation to phase out the use of tetra ethyl lead (TEL) in gasoline must be praised by one and all and should be given prompt approval and support by government.

LAND POLLUTION

The issue of land pollution in Nigeria is limited almost entirely to the petroleum (crude oil) producing areas of the country where occasional oil spills do occur. In addition when trailers and train tanks carrying petroleum products are involved in accidents, large quantities of hydrocarbons are released into the atmosphere. These releases seriously affect the local environment. For example two such accidents at Branch Aiser, Vandeikya LGA, Benue State, in 1985 and 1986 destroyed rice farms several kilometers away and have also rendered well waters unusable even to this day. The effect of such accidents may be felt even long after the incidence as seen from the number of citrus plants still dying

at Branch Aiser. Similar occurrences also abound near NNPC Refinery locations.

Another source for land pollution is the unsafe disposal of hazardous industrial wastes (liquids and sludges) on land. This may also be a source for ground water pollution. The current practice in the industry is to contract out the disposal of such wastes. Since there is no regulatory agency licensing such waste handlers, these hazardous wastes may be ending up in our municipal dump sites.

In our major towns and cities, the blow-up of some of our older electrical transformers may be a source of polychlorinated biphenols (PCB). Because PCBs are highly toxic and carcinogenic even at the parts per million (PPM) concentration range the possibility of their release into the environment should be a source of concern to us all.

PROSPECTS FOR A SOLUTION

The approach to any environmental problem has to be viewed along different 'lines' which may range from technoeconomic and biogenic considerations, to the legal and even sociopolitical ones. As a result of the interwoven and contrasting exigencies arising from the many competences involved the resolution of the problem can only be achieved through systems analysis and systems approach. This process involves considering the industrial system as a whole in relation to the environment in order to avoid the risks of improving the local environment at the expense of the

other outside boundary requirements. For system analysis, two variables have to be specified. These are the "external" and "internal variables"; the former describes the interactions between the industrial system and its environment, society included. The latter describes the industrial system itself providing designers with the much needed intrinsic knowledge required not only to face technical and economic tasks, but also to comply with the ecological constraints enforced by the external variables, and to ultimately control the industrial activity. *It is for this reason that we urgently require the enactment of an environmental protection law in Nigeria. This should lead to the creation of an agency charged with the responsibility of protecting our environment. The agency will then draw up a time table for the eventual attainment of the elimination of discharge of pollutants (EDOP) similar to that which was drawn by the U. S. EPA for the Petroleum Refining Industry. This will be necessary because the financial outlay required to achieve the EDOP control will be prohibitive for most industries.*

The National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) must be required by law to document the locations of all old transformers presently in service which may contain PCBs. This will be necessary for proper clean-up operations should such transformers blow up. It may also be necessary to commission a gradual phasing out of the use of such transformers.

Napoleon once said "Water, Air and Cleanliness are the Chief articles in my pharmacopoeia". The same should hold true for us. The rebirth or destruction of our environment is our choice. The society that has created a plethora of new chemicals that have so enhanced human life and comfort must now use its genius to grapple with one of modern technology's least understood and potentially most insidious threat to health, and to make sure that these creations work safely for mankind. The technology is available, the choice must be clear: clean air, land and water must be our goal.



An Industry: a potent source of air and water pollution.

WOMEN, EDUCATIONAL AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

By

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The experiences of Nigeria women in their struggle for economic development are similar to those of other women in Africa moving through social, political and economic changes. The struggle to overcome obstacles that have created barriers to their economic and social emancipation is often in conflict with their traditional culture.

The condition of women in our society today is changing gradually. For example, women are no longer completely denied access to most professions, they are no longer banned from sporting events, they are no longer disqualified from voting, a married woman can now earn a high salary, in fact many of the major battles are now won by women. But the more universal and growing, if not the greater problem, is that many women are no longer sure of which part or parts of themselves to fulfil, now that they have a wider range of possibilities, covering the professional and domestic spheres or any combination of the two. Often in trying to demonstrate the whole range of their talents and personalities, professional, domestic and social, they wonder whether they are using any of them satisfactorily, and even if they are, they may feel too exhausted to really enjoy their very full lives. I would like to a certain extent, take a brief look at the position of women, their education and their place in the national development of this country.

Despite these wide range of possibilities given to women today, if we compare the number of women that benefit from these possibilities to the teeming millions of Nigerian women who are still greatly disadvantaged, we would see that the percentage is very minimal indeed.

When we turn our attention to the education of women in Nigeria, and see the need for the development of a modern society; the accession to educational opportunity of a large number of women who are still illiterate, the need for the real emancipation of women and for their increasingly active and productive participation in the economic, social and political life of the society, of the hundreds of millions of illiterate women still existing today, it becomes essential to have a critical look into the national education policies of this country.

The education system must provide for the educational training needs of both the young generations who have not yet begun working life, and the generation that have already become adult without having had the benefit of the essential minimum of primary education.

There is no contradiction — between the development of the school system, on the one hand, and of literacy work, on the other. Schooling and literacy work, supplement and support each other. National educational plans should include schooling for children boys and girls, and literacy training for adults, men and women as parallel elements, but at this level, at a wider scope for women.

Women education, which is an essential element in overall development, must be closely linked to economic and social priorities and to present and future manpower needs. All efforts should, therefore, tend towards functional education for women. Rather than an end in itself, literacy should be regarded as a way of preparing people for social, civic and economic role that goes far beyond the limits of rudimentary literacy training consisting merely in the teaching of reading and writing. The very process of learning to read and write should be made an opportunity for acquiring information that can immediately be used to improve living standards; reading and writing should lead not only to elementary general knowledge, but to training for work, increase productivity, a greater participation in civil life and a better understanding of the surrounding world, and should ultimately open the way to basic human culture.

When discussion on women is related to national development, it may be worthwhile to look as far back as the 1970s, when there has been much serious discussion on the role of women in national development since then, increasing attention has been directed to different aspects of women and development in various parts of the Third World. The message of these investigations is clear. Development processes have been run for and by men. Women have remained marginal to these processes and in some instances have actually been disadvantaged by them. This is a tragic waste of human resources.

In the International Development strategy for the UN Development Decade, one of the goals and objectives of the decade is "the full integration of women in the total development effort." "Women's integration in development will benefit not only women, but the whole society of men, women and children" (Boserup, 1975:8).

I feel that enough has been written to document the fact that women have been disadvantaged by development. It is now time to move ahead and focus on the ways in which these disadvantages can be rectified.

Integrating women into the total development effort first requires integrating them into all levels of policy making. It means sensitising those in charge of the organisation and management of development projects to the need to employ women staff, to involve women in community participation — exercises as well as to consider the short and long term effects of any technical or economic inputs on women's lives.

The first step in altering development strategy in regards to women in general must

obviously be taken at the level of policy-makers of this country.

There is initially a need for national research data collection at both urban and rural and analysis to establish the present socio-economic position of women, to explore the current myths about their lack of importance to national economies and to examine in detail the factors that may facilitate or constrain the provision of opportunities for women. Also there is an overall dearth of information on Nigerian women and roles they play in society economy.

If one goes in search for literature on Nigerian women, only a tiny percentage sources is available, especially where the women play are privatised within household. The products of their labour, are mostly domestic services and of cow babies generally are not culturally recognized economic goods. For example, in this country many men are convinced that women do little "work", dismissing their contributive household productivity as "mere housework". A comprehensive profile of the lives and of Nigerian women will go along way to rectify these beliefs.

The most pressing problem for Nigerian women today, besides the education of children, is the increase of their subsistence production, including agriculture, which will increase their industrial productivity. When the income of the women population in the rural areas increases, it will limit the number of women who plan to migrate to the urban areas for a better living. As women's welfare is never ended, so also does the role of women in the rural economies remains unfilled.

Women have often desired some technical training, but they are often neglected. The and output of the Nigerian women indicate that they need more and better training in all aspects of life including agricultural — Production and marketing operation. For them to achieve good and profitable marketing, better policies and program should be pursued for the benefit of individual participation has been common among women themselves but a cooperative participation is necessary development activities.

Finally, I call on the planners and policymakers of this country to make a long-term plan that will fit into a new situation to improve the workers' social conditions. A programme should focus on building a satisfying and rewarding way of life for women of Nigeria and their families.

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A HISTORICAL VIEW AT LITERACY IN THE SOKOTO CALIPHATE

Readers and often, educationists, including those who have been inclined to think of education and literacy in Nigeria, and indeed Africa, in terms of Western style curricula should find this article culled from M.E.E.L-Tikaina particularly enlightening.

The Sokoto caliphate of the 19th century was a particularly dynamic empire in terms of its history. The Jihads, in spite of their religious and political learning, carried along with them other teachings whose impacts are still felt today. In fact, part of the legacies of the 19th century religious movement in the Sokoto caliphate is the educational structure and the high degree of literacy that is incumbent in the Muslim north of Nigeria today. It may be argued that the educational system was too narrow and tied to the teachings of Islam. This may be right to a degree. What may be disputed is that education is not as narrow as is presumed. Never-the-less, this structure of literacy and its curriculum forms the basis on which present-day Nigerian Quranic schools are built. It will also continue to form the guidelines by which future schools and universities of such inclination will be built, since Quranic or religious schools are represented in the National Policy on Education.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.

The favourite leaders of the Sokoto Jihad contributed in no small measure to the development of education and in scholarship. Shaykh Uthman bin Fodio (1754-1817) began his educational career as a student of his father who had knowledge of the Qur'an and other Islamic sciences. He moved from his father to his uncle Uthman Binduri where he stayed for two years for further Islamic education, especially in Maliki school of thought. Later, he made contact with another teacher, Jibril bin Umar. Then he met al-hajj Muhammad bin Raji to study under him the Hadith collection of al-Bukhari.

Shaykh Uthman began his life's work as a teacher and preacher at the

By: Saldu Shehu

age of twenty while still himself a student. He taught his wives, his brother Abdullahi and his son Muhammad Bello. In fact, he took personal charge of the education of his relatives, wives, and children. He made no distinction in the quality of education to his male and female children and ward. In 1792, while he was in Degel, he wrote his important work titled *Ihya' al sunna*. Shaykh Uthman, his brother Abdullahi and his son Muhammad Bello, devoted themselves to four aspects of education: learning, preaching, teaching and writing. Through these aspects they made their greatest contributions to scholarship. They wrote so many books in different fields of knowledge such as classical Arabic, literature, history, Islamic religious sciences, law and medicine.

Shaykh Uthman particularly encouraged women education. He considered it a duty binding on him to educate his wives and daughters. He states in his book *Nur-i-al-bab*:

"One of the root causes of the misfortunes of this country is the attitude taken by malams who neglect the welfare of their women folk, leaving them abandoned like animals, not having taught them what Almighty Allah has said they must be taught, for example the prayers they must know in their hearts and how to perform ablation, prayer and fast; more-over they are not taught what they ought to know about trading transactions; this is quite wrong and a forbidden innovation."

Shaykh Uthman, his brother, his son, his daughter Nana Asma'u, and most of the Sokoto jihad leaders were taught to pattern their lives in the life-style of the Prophet (P.B.U.H.) submitting themselves to Allah, reaching out to him through worship, living a life of simplicity and self-sufficiency, and, through

education in Arabic and Islamic sciences, putting themselves in position to educate and lead their fellow men. Perhaps this informs the planted ideas and philosophical aims of the Sokoto Caliphate educational policy.

Nana Asma'u daughter of Shaykh Uthman has forty-nine known works, thirty-four of which are dated spanning the years 1820-1865, the year in which she died. Similarly, her sisters, Khadija and Fatima, and Aisha the daughter of Abdullahi bin Fodio have some of their works identified. In 1883, Aisha wrote a poem, intended for more advanced students, concerning religious duties such as prayer (*salat*), fasting (*sawm*) etc.

Shaykh Abdullahi bin Fodio, in addition to his large number of books written in prose composed many poems for different purposes, a larger book on classical poetry written in Arabic is called *Tarjuma al-waraqat*. He also wrote a poem directed to a group of Fulani people, imploring them to join the Shaykh's movement.

For the role played by scholars making books available through compilation to educate the masses, Shaykh had this to say:

"O, brethren, keep reading the books of your contemporary scholars because they are more knowledgeable about the important matters of your time and their writings are the elaborations on what the previous scholars had summarised and that the writings of each decade is an elaboration on the writings of the previous one. For this reason each scholar compiles for his contemporaries though he has already found what he matters religiously needed of religious matters in the writings of his predecessors."

This was a vigorous literary campaign to eradicate illiteracy. The main philosophical aim and ideology of the state was Islamization through the support of knowledge.

U. Balinga writing about Caliphate educational development of the 19th century mentioned that:
 "Shaykh Uthman bin Danfodio used his preaching and teaching assemblies as a forum not only to educate people but also to effect change in the society."

the Sokoto Caliphate of the 19th century qualified teachers were sent from urban areas for the educational enrichment of the distant provinces. Bello says that:
 "We will attach to him a village-head a tutor who will instruct their children and a learned man who will lead them in their prayers and who will teach their students."

Muhammad al-Torodi was among the ulama scholars who were sent to various towns and villages, both old and new, for staffing schools. When the Caliphate decided to found a University in the newly built town of SALAME (north-eastern part of the caliphate) Amir al-Mu'minin Muhammad Bello invited Al-Torodi there.

Salame was established perhaps to replace as a centre of learning. A school and houses for students and scholars were built. Al-Torodi moved there to head the University, supervising children's education and teaching Islamic sciences to adults, as well as heading the new community.

These advanced students were sent to Salame from all parts of the caliphate to complete their education. This is perhaps like what we term today as a university town. Some of the famous ULAMA who graduated from this school were Abdullah bin Al-Qadi Al-Haji and Abdulsalam bin Al-mustapha. Abdulsalam bin Al-mustapha was considered as "the most learned of the present generation of the inhabitants of Sokoto".

This outstanding performance and contributions of the Sokoto Caliphate scholars made Abdullahi bin to describe the Caliphate Jihad as follows:-

"teen years ago I wrote that Sokoto Jihad was essentially an intellectual movement involving the conception of an ideal society - a theory of revolution by which this ideal could be

approached. All ideals are intellectual, but the ideals of the Sokoto Jihad were also academic, not academic in the sense of 'unreal or impracticable'."

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM OF EDUCATION.

Generally speaking it is difficult for the researcher to make a clear distinction into compartmentalised units of the system of education in the caliphate. This is because the system is so integrated and is generally combined and housed within the same premises or building. For purposes of clarity, the structure will be based on two stages:-

- 1) Elementary education.
- 2) Advanced education.

Elementary Education.

This can be structured in two stages:-

a) Quranic Schools (table school makaranta aho)

Here both Arabic and the Qur'an are taught simultaneously. At this stage none of the Islamic aspects are taught. Pupils of about three to ten years of age (3-10) begin to read the Arabic alphabet and some shorter verses of the Qur'an. In other words, this is meant for beginners. Pupils gather in the teacher's (mallam) house under a shade, outside of mosque premises or in places especially built for the purpose.

In the early days of the pupil's school life the teacher writes the verses to be recited on the pupil's table (Lawbi). This is recited aloud together with Arabic alphabets which are the main features of the syllabus at this stage. Pupils memorise the first chapter of the Qur'an (The opening), then chapter 114 (al-nas) upto chapter thirty-six (Yasin). The pupil may continue writing the various chapters on his table until he memorises the whole Qur'an and can recite it by heart. The pupil should be able to write on his table under the supervision of his teacher. The teacher may wish to delegate some of his responsibilities to an older or more intelligent student.

At this level the pupils are not asked to pay any school fees. They have absolute free education, the school is generally a one-man affair but in some cases an assistant or former pupil is appointed as a teacher.

b) Adult Education.
 In Sokoto caliphate special attention was paid to the education of adults and those in their old age. It is a sort of elementary education similar to the present adult literacy program. There is the possibility that the system gave attention to this form of education because most of the Jama'a (followers) of Shaykh Uthman, who gathered for learning as well as the Jihad, were in their old and elderly ages. Certainly not all of them could read and write. They however, attended the Shaykh's and other scholars' classes, meetings, sermons or preachings (wa'az). Since the Shaykh realised that many did not know how to read and write, he composed many poems geared towards teaching them the basics of Islam which they can easily memorise and understand.

The Shaykh paid particular attention too, to married women's education. He insisted that they should come out to attend public lectures saying that

"O muslim women, do not listen to the word of those misguided men who tell you about the duty of obedience to your husbands but do not tell you anything about obedience to Allah and his messenger."

And M.A. Al-Haji said
 "The Shehu began to teach and preach as a young man at the age of twenty in 1774. During the week days he taught his students various Islamic sciences (Tafsir, Hadith, Fiqh, etc) and on weekends (Friday evenings) he preached to the masses (al-umma)."

From the above statement one assumes that weekend evenings were reserved for adult men and women, although youths attended. The practice was not only restricted to Degel, but extended to Zamfara and Kebbi. Explanations to congregations were conducted in vernacular languages (Fulfulde and Hausa). It should be noted however, that the Shaykh used Arabic in teaching and scholarship; and he made extensive use of AJAMI (non-Arabic e.g. Fulfulde and Hausa).

success attained by NOKLA in the publishing of literature, it was not financially self-sufficient. As a result, between March-April of 1959 NOKLA was dissolved, thus allowing Gaskiya to emerge again as a printing and publishing concern.

The new annual Gaskiya, based with centre of the Institute transferred from NOKLA, continued publishing with emphasis on reprinting popular Hausa titles. However, Gaskiya did produce new titles. They included the poetry of Aliyu Wazana and of Ibrahim Agajanga. There was also the Hausa translation of Walter de La Mare by Ahmadu Bello, *Lower Dambar-Fajji Sabon (Sabon) Sabon* (Kano: Kano Press, 1962).

In the aftermath of the Northern Nigerian government, the Gaskiya Corporation and Wazimillar International, successor in form a publishing company with majority share controlled by Gaskiya, a subsidiary of Gaskiya, the company is known today as the Northern Nigerian Publishing Company (NNPC) Ltd. It was incorporated as a private limited liability company on October 21st 1962.

The Gaskiya Corporation, succeeded the transfer of NNPC administration all its publishing rights to over 200 Hausa literature titles to the new company. The NNPC is committed to engage in the business of publishing, reproduction, magazine distribution, customer advertising agents and the sale of books and journals. In this regard, the various trade agreements entered into first by Gaskiya and Wazimillar Limited, and later by Gaskiya, the NNPC and Wazimillar, guaranteed that the interests of the institutions is preserved in or the national publishing agencies involved with Wazimillar. Therefore, along with other publishers such as the Oxford University Press, University Press Limited, Heinemann, Nelson, Ginn and the Boyer University Press the NNPC still continues to ground the frontiers of Hausa literary studies.

A particular noteworthy trend in publishing is the increased number of Hausa translations of popular English literature titles. For instance,

there is Inuwa Garba's translation of George Orwell's fable, *Animal Farm* as *Gona Dabbobi*; William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* and *The Merchant of Venice*, rendered into Hausa as *Dawo Sha Biyya* by Ibrahim Yaro Yahaya and as *Matsaiyo Atajiri* by D. Idris, respectively.

While in the 70's more and more materials derived from Hausa culture were authored by Ibrahim Yaro Yahaya, Umar Isa Galadanci and Umaru Dember playlets, written largely by professional actors and dramatists kept appearing almost in a deluge. The plays included *Uwar Gaskiya* (*The mother of mischief-maker Tale-telling*) by Mohammed Sadiq; Adamu Dan Goggo and Dauidu Kano; *Tabarhar Karye* (*War of Shame*); Yusuf Ladan's *Zaman Jamiya Jyawa Ne* (*Living is a Delicate Art*); and *Mallam Muhammad* by Bello Mohammed. Some of the other Hausa playwrights include Umar Danjuma Katsina, Kaamina Bari and Bashir Isul-bah.

In the 80's, the most significant, singular literary event, with immense benefit for Hausa literature was the creative writing competition in the three major Nigerian languages in 1980. This is because several of the best entries, four prose works, two plays and one poetry got published by the federal department of culture. These works, written by young graduates of university or similar institutions, clearly marks the beginnings of new writings in Hausa.

Due to the versatility of Hausa language and the abundance of imaginative creatives, publishers have been kept busy as the literature continues to grow and develop.



Abubakar Iman

Exploring the World of Nigerian Fashion

NATIVE JEWELRY : Inventive, Pretty and

By Ogba Ogbu



White Outfit: Natural, elegance, corals, malachite and silver.

Dictionary definitions of jewelry read something to effect of: "articles made of gold, silver, precious stones or similar materials for personal adornment". Encyclopedias get a bit more fancy reading. "Jewelry consist of objects of personal adornment prized for the craftsmanship that went into their creation and generally for the value of their components as well".

All of these fancy, definitions are good, but when it comes to the Nigerian woman costuming herself to her fullest advantage, choice of jewelry is something which comes from the heart.

Choice in jewelry wearing is a very personal affair. Some ladies lean towards the fine, safe understated pieces made of gold. May be these pieces, a pair of earrings or a necklace will have a diamond or group of precious or semi-precious stones (rubies, sapphires, jade, amethyst) to complete the 'total' effect. If some ladies are like myself they might lean towards the more bold, unconventional pieces made of silver, brass, malachite, coral, ivory, bone, wood, or "tigers eye". The idea for this type of woman is to find a bracelet, earrings or

necklace which make a statement on their own. One look at their jewelry will tell you that there is craftsmanship in the work. Uniqueness of design, and (one important quality for myself) specification of colour. A very fun way of assessorizing myself is to complete my basic costume (and an exciting challenge), be it a one or two piece dress, Bou Bou, wrapper or top and down, is to find the piece of jewelry which will pick up the colour (shading) of the fabric by either matching it perfectly, or contrasting with the colour of the cloth attractively.

What I and many of my like minded sisters find most interesting is that often these colors when found come right out of the earth!! Traders find them, and hand them over in their rough forms to craftsmen, who know how to inspect, assess and then polish them to bring up their natural color characteristics. The results are often astounding.

One can hardly believe that the rich 'marble-like' patterned green of the malachite or the deep shadings of brown which define the "tigers eye" or the various shades of pink to dark purple to the amethyst are born of the centre and bottom of the earth!! And what delightful surprises they make when fashioned into bracelets, necklace or earrings.

Actually my preference is for anything that is of a natural origin. My thinking is, as we speed towards the closing of the 20th century and everything becomes more and more technically oriented, we will soon be deluged with "man-made" jewelry all chemically treated, technically molded absolutely perfectly finished with that 'assembly-line, stamp of approval look'. To look at it is a bit tiring most of the time. I'm at the school, that votes for the end of the product having what some persons would consider 'flaws' but what to me marks the work of a real person, finding a material of the earth, ocean or fossilized animal, and being so inspired by that tusk, bone, stone or metal that it moves him or her to shape

a work of beauty adorning the body about. To wear a piece make one more attractive to others and especially to wear certain pieces our culture (such as pieces worn by chiefs) is to make a statement powerful one is.

I enjoy jewelry that has a story to tell. A story and the land and people it came from so that it becomes attractive and wonderful.

I was delighted to see a woman like Kingsway, and a woman from Abuja and then again a woman being fashioned out in an intricate, woven a very distinct look. I have a pair of earrings, one I bought because they didn't look like they could be duplicated by the lady that fashion from Benin - I give credit to other craftsmen and our natural resources.

I also had the good fortune to introduce some of the most pleasant trader name-brands to me jewelry Federation.

I have collected a wide variety of carved ivory necklace, and bracelet, a string of pearls, made out of old Ni-toned bracelets made of brass, a bracelet made of silver, fashioned like medals connected by chain links! Coral, the "stone" of the "egg-blush-gray cast in the next time you assess your campala or Ase-oke local trader. Feast your eyes on the precious metals and stones and imagination, so different from the conventional and I'm sure that you'll be pleased

APPROPRIATENESS OF THE SHARIAH (in a Secular State) AND WESTERN LAWS IN (an African Society) NIGERIA" (III)

By *Ehanya Muirwood, Chief Magistrate, Kaduna*

Islamic and Western Social Systems

As to the machinery of western civil system, Islam, while recognising individual freedom and liberty, set standards towards achieving defined end goals. Hence, their policies on a family, woman, marriage, polygamy and divorce.

In Islam, the family is the most fundamental unit in the social scheme. Social order, Responsibility are signed and regulated, to ensure with the constraints of human limitations and imperfections, that the dividend is not hampered in seeking a fulfillment and carrying out the repose of the creation.

As only women are capable of raising children, Islam assigns to them a primary responsibility for the care and the family, while men are assigned the primary responsibility of life outside the home. Despite that primary division, Islam did not bar men from sharing the household chores or the woman from roles inside the home. No society is an ideal which has ever progressed about placing woman the primary responsibility of or being in charge of a home. Not even the contemporary sex which is so vociferous in professing equality of sex. Islam recognises equality among the two sexes only in terms of their relationship with each other, and with God. Islam otherwise cognises that the woman is different from the man. To be different is not to be inferior just as to be equal is not to be similar. Our women now insist on going to work along with the man, it urge to work is one product of a society that is consumption oriented, here status depends on earning capacity, and the primary objective is accumulation, financial gain and distinction. Women work today not cause of economic necessity but for or of accusations of wanting their ends, lack of status, boredom and elation. The effect is that they completely ignore or negligently carry out their primary maintenance,

responsibilities which are enormous.

For the family to succeed, Islam recognises the importance of the institution of marriage. Marriage is recognised by Islam as a means of emotional and sexual qualification, a mechanism of sinners reduction and a means of legitimate procreation. The sharia provides for everything from consent, the contract, to the divorce and maintenance and period of waiting. The main evidences of Islamic institutions of marriage and polygamy and divorce. These evidences are out of ignorance. Polygamy is therefore allowed only a here it is necessary, and the husband is sure he will be just and fair to the 2 wives.

The only conditions under which a Muslim is allowed to take a second wife without the consent of the first one are:-

1. Where the wife is suffering from a serious disease is epilepsy or paralysis;
2. When she is a proven barren;
3. When she becomes of unsound mind;
4. When she is of such bad character that she cannot be reformed;
5. When she is of very old age, weak and infirm;
6. When by the husband's nature he cannot do without a second wife.

As to the power of divorce, although it appears simple it is difficult, in practice. The conditions are:

1. Pronouncement by the husband, Hadeeth of all the things which have been permitted, divorce is the most hated by Allah;
2. Khal' or the instance of the wife;
3. He taking an oath that he will not have sexual relationship with her;
4. Lack of mutual impenitence;
5. As a result of sexual defects;
6. Due to denial of Islam by the husband;
7. Apomony of the spouses;
8. Lack of equality of status or compatibility of the husband.

There is nothing wrong with our traditional social systems and set up. All the reforms we have heard so far were done in a confused manner by the people who neither appreciated our values to our circumstances. But I also admit that the reforms become necessary as a result of excesses of traditional institutions as objects of oppression.

Sharia and Western Legal System:

Sharia law has two distinct characteristics. These are:-

1. It is rigid and immutable, embodying norms of an absolute and eternal validity, which are not susceptible to modification by any legislative authority.
2. It represents a standard of uniformity as against varieties as it is only Allah who can establish the intrinsic network of inter relationships and rules, mutual rights and obligations, and can reward or punish on the basis of absolute standard of justice. All other sources of human knowledge or legislative processes suffer from one deficiency or another rooted in unavoidable human imperfections.

What is wrong with our present criminal and civil laws for instance? A lot of things. Notable ones are:

1. expense
2. delay
3. injustice

Justice is the only basis for stable a lot of litigants who forego their rights either because they cannot pay court fees or afford the services of legal practitioner. One cannot expect justice in any system that cannot eradicate this.

On delay let's consider a few examples:

1. Ariori & Ors. Eleno & Ors 1983
1 SC.N.L.R.1
a) plaintiffs sued 15 10 1980
b) hearing began 18 11 1984

c) judgement delivered 3/10/1985
d) supreme court 21/1/1983 (22 years)

2. Ogunbiyi v. Adewoye SC/123/83 which was still pending in December, 1984

- area court 1973
- high court ordered retrial 11/11/75
- appeal to H/C and judgement 7/8/80
- court of appeal 10/2/83

3. Okegbu v. the state 1979 11 S.C.I.

- committed murder 8/11/74
- trial commenced 23/2/76
- concluded March 76
- supreme court ordered retrial 9/11/79 by a split decision of 4-1

On injustice, the case of Adesubokun v. Yunusa is here appropriate and purportedly relevant. Here a testator of the Northern states died in 1965. He made a will under the English Wills Act 1837 under which he gave the plaintiff his first son the sum of £5 and shares equally to the 2 other children three houses and the residue of his estate. In an action to set aside the probate on the grounds that the testator being a muslim was not entitled to dispose of his properties under the will in a manner contrary to Islamic law, the Supreme Court overruled the High Court saying:-

— the Wills Act 1837 is a law for the time being in force and Islamic law is a native law and custom and where the two are incompatible the Wills Act prevails.

The case of Ors v. A.G. 1985

2N.W.L.R.211 is also relevant. The Supreme Court was faced with the problem of state immunity from tortious liability and the common law doctrine of Rex non Potest Peccare (the King can do no wrong). This doctrine had ancient descent being as old as Henry III. We inherited it from English as part of the common law in force as at 1st January, 1900. The English Crown Proceedings Act of 1947 abolished the old myth of state immunity from tortious liability. But Nigeria being more English than the Englishmen themselves still retained the anachronism that the state can do no wrong and therefore cannot be liable to tort.

Sharia and Criminal Justice:

Punishment in Islam has nothing to do with the notions of atonement, expiation or wiping away of sin. A crime is seen as an act of injustice to one's own self and a sin against God. It can be wiped away only by God, and that he does when people turn to Him, truly repentant and seeking forgiveness.

Islam also sees crimes as social ills which can only be reduced through mass education, good government, proper sharing of resources and justice to all. Punishments are thus designed to keep the sense of justice alive in the community by a public repudiation of the acts violating the limits set by Allah.

In Islam, every institution of the society is value oriented and owes a responsibility towards the moral development of every person from the cradle to the grave. *Reform* is therefore a pre-crime responsibility. And once a crime is committed, the best place for reform is in the family and in the society, where a criminal is to live after punishment, and not in prisons where every inmate is a potential criminal.

Sentences in Islam are certainly harsh, but still more strict and severe are the procedure laid down to be observed before a man may be convicted. Hard punishments are:

- murder and manslaughter - death or lesser punishment;
- theft by amputation of hand
- fornication or adultery by stoning the married and 100 lashes for the unmarried;
- slander, 80 lashes;
- robbery with death, cutting off a leg and an arm from opposite direction;
- inebriation with 80 lashes
- apostasy with death.

We can therefore resolve to have a single code of crime and procedure truly Nigerian with principles of christian (English) Islamic and other traditional laws. We can have our civil laws, matrimonial laws, insurance laws, family property and inheritance laws that are purely and truly ours.

They should be such that our people respect, easily apply and are happy with.

Shariah, education and

Contrary to the view that Islam is a hide-t which keeps its following static position, making it to the technological modern age, pursuit about nature is one of faith in Islam. People advised in the Quran ponder into the creation of the Universe and the nature of it, in order to appreciate and unity of God.

Knowledge, itself, is Islam as God's greatest gift to man the noblest creation of knowledge. This is elevated by the Quran verses which led to God's command Angels to bow to Adam, made Adam superior and worthy of their respect. On the earth, knowledge posterity superior to all of Dr. Iqbal, a poet philosopher, the contribution of Muslim scientists as, following words:

... the fruit of modern humanism in the shape science and philosophy ways only a further development of Muslim culture.

Some great Muslim scientists given European names prejudices and complex against Muslims. Examples:

- Al-Farab, a great philosopher called Alfarabius;
- Al-Kindi, a great mathematician named Alchendius;
- Al-Hassan, a famous astronomer who became Alhazen;
- Al-Jaafar, the founder of chemistry, Geber;
- Abu Mashar, a great astronomer, Albulmazar.

Our universities and institutions of learning concentrate more on resolutely guide the governments and leaders to a greater and greater generation and a all. The qualifications are not be the object of education. Discipline, qualities and moral values should be taught side by side with other subjects.

TRY MY RECIPE

"Eating a Sumptuous Souffle"

By Doris Reardon (Wins)

W e began to work in a kitchen soon because two delicious soups were to be put in the pot. To make things worse, we all had our division of about 100 hot eggs, tomatoes, ground beef, ketchup and sausage. Even other men were a nuisance because their kitchen was crowded with a hot soup that very delicious soufflé. I all agreed before she stated that she was in a hurry and would not stay to see anything. She agreed before to sample of the pot and I was little better in the mixture for the soufflé we agreed too that we would come to market with the same whole (she counted) but the amount the sausage, she may try sausage, vegetables. Our cook then instantly will no continuation to start off the side from the coffee room. We all smell the natural aroma that came from frying eggs. I walked into the kitchen, and as I reached the door, I smell something different, and this made grow a little from a distance I had smelled a smell that asked if was ready. Of course curiosity and I commitment: the kitchen's good and I did with all.

Our cook returned my smile with a "I would soon be ready" I did to give her a helping hand to a change on. Thank heavens an early one reached me in the kitchen good enough. The smell of the oil hit me hard, and I felt if she had any problems of the onions with which to do something. She did not deny she everything, but she argued that I was vegetable and seasoning slow.

I did not have listened attentively if my pan did not drop in a state of joy. Quick! I had to retrieve my precious soufflé from drowning

in the ocean of oil. I cannot describe the look of the pigments tomatoes and onions she sliced into the mixture which had at the same in the ocean, broadly separated themselves from the egg. My eyes almost fell off their sockets.

How could our cook have dreamed through she could fry eight eggs made heavy by those soufflés in a pan of "atlantic-oil"? This beat my imagination. I quickly scooped out some of with a deep spoon, and had it at the egg in a pan since the raw mixture could waste if the scooping continued. When our sumptuous soufflé had done considerably, I divided it into two parts and got them out into a plate.

The frying pan was drained completely of the ocean the egg was available again. Having returned it into the pan, I set it by a bit. I tilted the pan and made sure the soufflé layed on the part of the pan being heated. With the frying spoon, I compressed it out of the egg. Having done this to the two sets, now came the problem of eliminating the raw smell and taste from the dish. By now everyone who was so particular in the feast had arrived. Thank goodness they came at the time they did. How would our cook have explained the wonderful swim she sent our soufflé.

Luckily too, there was some fish now left. This was immediately turned into a pan. "Why fry it in now when all new ingredients are already included in the mixture?", a member of the team asked. I assured them we changed recipe and the latter was to add richness to taste. Did they have any alternative but to believe?

Well, I now placed one part before the other in the stew pan. This fried for about two minutes before the other part was treated too. The soufflé naturally took a new look and a new taste. For the sausage, the cook for the day asked for the best way she could handle them. I pleaded she set the table while I helped. Enough was enough for the soufflé, the sausages needn't go on a ferry as well.

I must confess we did have a good meal after all and though the dish initially cried out for help, I sometimes rejoice the emergency arose, for it was my first time of frying eggs in stew, and a loaded one for that matter. You want to try my recipe? You'll like it. The only difference would be that your soufflé needn't go on a voluntary expedition like ours, and for a better result chop your ingredients in thin slices, be sure to make them tiny too. Have a wonderful experience.

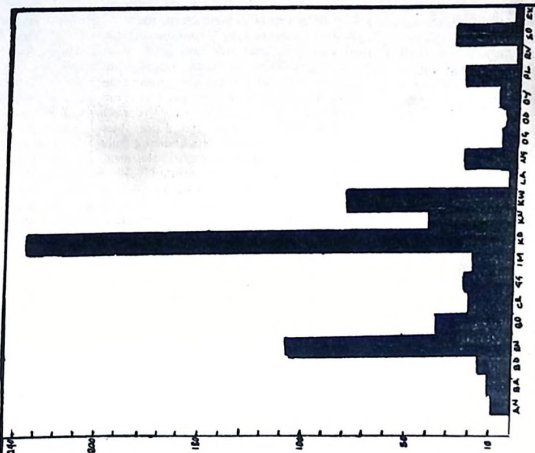


Basic ingredients.

FEDERAL CHARACTER



States	No. Employed
Anambra	8
Bauchi	12
Bendel	15
Benue	108
Borno	32
Cross Rivers	18
Gongola	19
Imo	17
Kaduna	237
Kano	38
Kwara	81
Lagos	3
Niger	23
Ogun	6
Ondo	5
Oyo	7
Plateau	20
Rivers	1
Sokoto	25
Expatriates	2
TOTAL	679



AN BA BB BI BO CA CE CF CH CO CU CV CW CX CY CZ DA DB DC DD DE DF DG DH DI DJ DK DL DM DN DO DP DR DS DT DU DV DW DX DY DZ EA EB EC ED EE EF EG EH EI EJ EK EL EM EN EO EP EQ ER ES ET EU EV EW EX EY EZ FA FB FC FD FE FF FG FH FI FJ FK FL FM FN FO FP FQ FR FS FT FU FV FW FX FY FZ GA GB GC GD GE GF GH GI GJ GK GL GM GN GO GP GQ GR GS GT GV GW GX GY GZ HA HB HC HD HE HF HG HH HI HJ HK HL HM HN HO HP HQ HR HS HT HU HV HW HX HY HZ IA IB IC ID IE IF IG IH II IJ IK IL IM IN IO IP IQ IR IS IT IU IV IW IX IY IZ JA JB JC JD JE JF JG JH JI JJ JK JL JM JN JO JP JQ JR JS JT JU JV JW JX JY JZ KA KB KC KD KE KF KG KH KI KJ KL KM KN KO KP KQ KR KS KT KU KV KW KX KY KZ LA LB LC LD LE LF LG LH LI LJ LK LL LM LN LO LP LQ LR LS LT LU LV LW LX LY LZ MA MB MC MD ME MF MG MH MI MJ MK ML MN MO MP MQ MR MS MT MU MV MW MX MY MZ NA NB NC ND NE NF NG NH NI NJ NK NL NM NO NP NQ NR NS NT NU NV NW NX NY NZ OA OB OC OD OE OF OG OH OI OJ OK OL OM ON OO OP OQ OR OS OT OU OV OW OX OY OZ PA PB PC PD PE PF PG PH PI PJ PK PL PM PN PO PP PQ PR PS PT PU PV PW PX PY PZ QA QB QC QD QE QF QG QH QI QJ QK QL QM QN QO QP QQ QR QS QT QU QV QW QX QY QZ RA RB RC RD RE RF RG RH RI RJ RK RL RM RN RO RP RQ RR RS RT RU RV RW RX RY RZ SA SB SC SD SE SF SG SH SI SJ SK SL SM SN SO SP SQ SR SS ST SU SV SW SX SY SZ TA TB TC TD TE TF TG TH TI TJ TK TL TM TN TO TP TQ TR TS TT TU TV TW TX TY TZ UA UB UC UD UE UF UG UH UI UJ UK UL UM UN UO UP UQ UR US UT UY UZ VA VB VC VD VE VF VG VH VI VJ VK VL VM VN VO VP VQ VR VS VT VY VZ WA WB WC WD WE WF WG WH WI WJ WK WL WM WN WO WP WQ WR WS WT WY WZ XA XB XC XD XE XF XG XH XI XJ XK XL XM XN XO XP XQ XR XS XT XU XV XW XX XY XZ YA YB YC YD YE YF YG YH YI YJ YK YL YM YN YO YP YQ YR YS YT YU YV YW YX YY YZ ZA ZB ZC ZD ZE ZF ZG ZH ZI ZJ ZK ZL ZM ZN ZO ZP ZQ ZR ZS ZT ZU ZV ZW ZX ZY ZZ

THESE KINGS OF THE ROAD

Have you ever been confronted with the personal failures and/or transportation problems involving? If you are, then thank your stars for being one of the lucky few in town.

A taxi driver, for instance, will not take you on the road for the daily "darning" because he will choose to be selective on the routes to ply. For instance, he will never take you if you are asked to live around the Government Reservation Areas like "Kwana Close", "Sultan Close" and other similar areas around, or you happen to be a civil servant or "captive boss" that you would have got yourself called completely to these driven national areas! And my homes advise that you should just go to Zambo and buy yourself a special morning pair of shoes for all your strolling around your home before you will be able to reach the main road especially the most popular "Ahmadi Bello Way" from where you will then pass your actual movement.

It is a very funny experience you know! The fact that Kaduna township taxi drivers ply only the major highways in town! Should you be fortunate enough to get one that will take you to one of the so-called "four of the way" places, he will not mind charging you a whole two Naira extra. "Just to do you the favour", as they popularly term it because they are not paid for the job, you know. And if you are one of the low income earners like some of us, then, God would have blessed your soul for coping so well and wisely! There are times when one would wait for hours for taxi cabs and just decide to forget one's trip until a more opportune time when one can be got easily.

Sometimes, some cabs will turn up actually but will never agree to take you to your goddam destination even at a reasonable price. These groups of taxi drivers are the ones popularly known in town as the "Kings of the road". When you try to flag them down and they are in an agreeable mood, they may decide to brash very briefly and expect you to shout

yourself "come just to announce your destination. Sometimes, they won't even hear you despite your efforts and they will just move on. It does not matter that they may be riding empty the whole day! The most important thing is that they are on the road.

There are usually some among this category that will just ignore your signal for them to stop, yet, they are weaving past on the road! One wonders why they should ever come out at all if they do not want to convey ready people to and from their respective businesses, knowing fully well that there is one of the most essential services around! How would any of these defaulting drivers feel if he falls sick, the doctor or nurse in the hospital refuses to attend to him because of the way he had treated her probably while he or she was the driver's passenger?

What am I on talking about? Do you know about some of these "Kings" that have no manners at all? Imagine yourself flagging down one and telling the driver in all politeness to take you to such and such a place for such and such an amount only to find the driver putting his gear into motion and zooming off without as much as a nod, a backward glance or even an answer in any form! These are the main "Ogas" and it is not as if they are going to earn you free.

You are going to pay for whatever service they render in your own hard earned money. There are some that will be cautious enough to stop and after knowing where you are going to, they will simply hiss ahead and drive off leaving you perplexed in a cloud of dust! Kaduna township taxi drivers, I say and don't pass me a, na we!

The general impression, however, is that there are a few taxi cabs around. But then, why wouldn't these few just try a little competition and flourishing business among themselves just to win a good public image or do we presume that these drivers only hold meetings to discuss how best to snub as well as frustrate the more, the helpless uncomplaining public? One can rightly point out that the fact that this apparent lack of



Rosemary K. Ezekwe

interest and apathy to the hardships and sufferings of Kaduna pedestrians is a betrayal of the state government's effort to encourage and improve the lot of the people. Should these calibre of people have opted to work relentlessly despite all odds, they would have in their own way been helping in the growth of the economy! This is so because the average government worker would not have had much problems getting to his place of work in time from whatever part of the town he resides. Thus, he would have covered many personal and other incidental expenses within the shortest possible time.

It is my humble suggestion that the State Government comes to the immediate rescue of the silent suffering masses from these ugly embarrassments as this does not augur well for the good image of the State. These drivers have so abused the sole privilege given them in the use of both the major and minor roads in the town that something drastic has to be done to curb their unnecessary exigencies. They should be made to go into serious competitions with the "danfo" drivers by allowing these drivers to ply similar routes with the former. This venture will, among other things, improve the awful situation. Of course those that refuse to compete will invariably starve!

COCONUT: A tr

By AGUSTIN PEREZ HE

THE COCONUT palm is the most common tree in the world. It's known everywhere and is found in all the tropical regions of the globe.

Because of its utility, it is known as "the tree from heaven" and "the tree with a hundred uses." It grows in greatest numbers in the Phillipines,

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Coconut - A hundred use

August 15th, 1987

Outline Newsmagazine.

WATCHING THE WORLD WITHOUT

Nyerere Throws In Another Towel

Mwalimu Nyerere, Tanzania's president till November 1985 when he handed over to Mr. Ali Hassan Mwinyi, the incumbent, has signified his intention to resign his chairmanship of Tanzania's ruling Revolutionary Party. Since he voluntarily stepped down in 1985, he had reiterated that the leadership of the party and government should be held by one person. He held both during his tenure.

This is one man in Africa who lives by his words. Dr. Nyerere does not believe that now that he is no more the president, he could cling to the chairmanship. He refuses to defer to the insistence of most of his party members that he is needed to continue functioning as party chairman.

This lesson is directed to sit-tight African rulers especially those who would discard their military uniform only to don the suit as civilian president. The Nyerere factor in Africa politics is a point of positive reference.

MANDELA FOR FREEDOM?

South African Constitutional Affairs Minister, Chris Henius, raised the hope of the entire black race recently when, according to reports, he said to South Africa's black Councillors during his meeting with them that racist authorities might consider releasing Nelson Mandela and other black leaders from prison as a measure to encourage blacks to participate in the National Statutory Council proposed by President Botha.

The Councillors admitted that Mr. Henius showed an amazing change of heart toward the blacks. He was reported to have discarded the arrogant attitude which he exhibited in previous meetings with the councillors. What was more, he actually pleaded with them on a number of issues.

Well, blacks should not start clinking glasses to toast Mandela's freedom yet. If anything, the racists will go to any length to maintain their iron grip. Besides brutality, they

might also employ deceit so that the blacks will lower their guards. Time is against the racists and they are aware of it. Until Mandela breathes the air of freedom so promised, *A luta Continua.*

India Moves Against AIDS

In a latest move to maintain an AIDS-free house, India has issued new guidelines under which foreigners intending to reside in the country for more than one year will undergo a compulsory test for the deadly virus.

Foreign journalists on assignment in India for over one year will have to undergo the test. Also, as soon as a foreign student applies to a university in India, he would have to agree to undergo the test. Those free from the test are diplomats and embassies' staff.

One thing that is obvious in this measure is its indiscriminatory nature unlike Britain which adopted more stringent measures towards blacks, (by the grace of Iron Lady) on the same question of AIDS test.

Reagan Sliding Downwards?

Now, the saga is clear. The president first denied there was no arms deal, then he made a volte-face. Now it is more than clear that the money realised from the deal was actually being used to destabilise the Nicaraguan government. What does America, nay Reagan, stand to gain in destabilising other countries for goodness sake?

A Restriction So Laudable

The government of Prime Minister Mugabe of Zimbabwe has made a move to curb the movement of Zimbabwean women who travel to South Africa to buy goods. The Internal Affairs Minister, Mr. Enos Nkala admits that Zimbabwe's frontier with South Africa is "not quite stable" and what makes the border more porous to South Africa's subversives is the temptation faced by women who buy goods in South Africa when they run short of cash. These women become easy prey and ready tools in the hands of South Africa's security forces who usually dangle cash bait before them. Anyone

BY



Shola Oyedele

who travels more than twice to the racists' den within a specified period will now have to explain his mission. Do you blame the government when you remember that women in quest for wealth would do anything to achieve their aims? They would sell or take anything? One hopes Nigeria would borrow a leaf from Zimbabwe and learn to restrict, to some extent, the movement of our cash madams and emergency contractors. A stitch in time perhaps.

Angolan Legislature Endorsed APPA.

The Angolan People's Assembly has, in its second session ratified the agreement that established the African Petroleum Producers Association (APPA). Angola is the Vice-President of the association while Nigeria holds the presidency.

The first ministerial conference of the association was held in Algiers between July 23 and 24 mainly for the approval of the association's proposed short and medium term programmes.

The establishment of the association is a welcome development as it intends to promote co-operation in petroleum production, refinery, petrochemistry, training, technical aid and trade among member states.

One snag is the composition of the membership. Cameroon, Gabon, Libya, Benin Republic, Algeria and Egypt are the other members.

The presence of the first two gives one some jitters when one notices their relationship with the racists. Their ideological stance is another thing. Perhaps we could still maintain co-operation in spite of the difference.

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U.P.E. WHAT WENT WRONG

By O.A. Bamidele

Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December, 1948 asserts that "Everyone has the right to education. This shall be free at least in the elementary and primary stages." This declaration was made in the belief that young people should be given the opportunities necessary for the acquisition of the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values which will enable them to lead happy, productive lives as individuals. It is in this light that UPE schemes in Nigeria are of interest to this writer. What has happened to our attempts at providing our children with free primary education?

The history of UPE in Nigeria can be traced back to the introduction of the scheme in the Old Western Region in 1954 by the late Chief Obafemi Awolowo's government. His initial effort has been described by Fafunwa (1974) as "the boldest and perhaps the most unprecedented educational scheme in Africa south of the Sahara by an indigenous government." By 1957 the Eastern Regional Government had followed Awolowo's example. And in January 1974, the then Federal Government under Dr. Yakubu Gowon announced to the nation that the UPE scheme would be launched nationwide by September 1976. Thus, in September 1976, the Federal Military Government launched the Universal Free and Compulsory Primary Education programme. For a country with the size and complexity of Nigeria, this was a bold venture. But ten years after the birth of the scheme, its ghost has been finally laid to rest. Can the death of the scheme be due to the fact that it was a child born out of a political dilemma? Or was the scheme a still-birth in the first place? Let us examine these issues.

First, there is no doubt that politics and education are inevitably intertwined. From the onset, the question of educational imbalance has been a constant, politically-charged problem. Therefore, it was felt that a compulsory, free Universal Primary Education programme would go a long way in redressing the imbalance. What the planners knew but apparently refused to acknowledge was the near impossibility of effectively executing the U.P.E. programme with so little time, a dearth of data, lack of basic facilities and equipment, and necessary manpower such as qualified teachers and administrators. Perhaps, planners wanted to score cheap political points. Or maybe because there seemed to be ample money to back it up, the leaders at the time went onto the educational battle field ill-prepared. And the result today? Billions of naira down the drain with primary education getting such a big knock on the head that it has been sent into perpetual coma.

Our concern in this write up therefore is to show through brief a historical analysis why the UPE scheme of 1976 died the way it did. In 1954 when the Western Region Government launched the first UPE scheme, it had taken pains to do some of its home work, yet, it still faced considerable problems. For example, the rise in school enrolment posed an enormous problem, while at the same time the regional government then was largely hamstrung by financial constraints. The scheme in the Eastern region was born out of a political dilemma since the on-going and anticipated development in the West could not be resisted by

the East. So when the scheme took off in the East, it was without a solid plan and the result was an abysmal failure. The scheme ground to a halt barely after the first year.

The lack of adequate planning preparation and finance were the major stumbling blocks in the path of most U.P.E. schemes.

Prior to the start of Federal Military government scheme in September, 1976, it had been estimated that the primary school population would jump from about 4 million to 7.4 million pupils and that by 1980 that enrolment figure would have risen to 15 million. In addition, the nation would need 36,000 additional primary school classrooms with not less than 60,000 additional teachers. The total number of required primary school teachers would rise from a conservative estimate of 116,640 in 1971 to 280,000 in 1982, while about 8,000 tutors in Teacher Training Colleges would be required. In spite of these almost insurmountable problems, the government still went ahead and launched the programme barely two years after the announcement in 1974. Meanwhile, all the figures and expectations that were being churned out had no empirical base. They were no more than conjurations. Little wonder then that the scheme crashed like a house of cards. Going by our past experiences it is now imperative for us to sit back and think in order to guard against the reoccurrence of the 1976 UPE disaster. It is equally worthy of note that the fate that befell the UPE scheme is not peculiar in anyway since it is characteristic of the way sensitive issues are handled in Nigeria. Census, we might point out, is another example of such.

We sincerely feel that for the UPE scheme to succeed, we need to do a lot of homework and get a solid factual information base. There is need for adequate planning which has to start with a realistic national census. Without an accurate census, the planning and execution of any UPE scheme is bound to fail. Teachers must be properly trained and their morale boosted by necessary incentives while adequate facilities have to be provided. We have to take stock of what we have presently so that we do not waste scarce resources in duplicating efforts. In addition, we need to state clearly the objectives that we want the UPE scheme

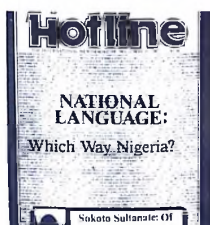
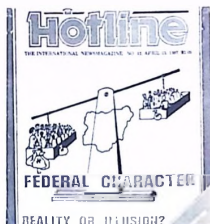
to achieve since it will be ridiculous to train millions of pupils without the necessary secondary schools and universities to absorb them. Experience has shown that vocational training can be of immense help to drop-outs. It will not be out of place if this is integrated into the primary school curriculum. Also, our past approach of wholesale introduction of UPE scheme should be discouraged. A stage by stage approach should be adopted.

Our experience with previous UPE schemes has not been pleasant. The consolation, though, is that we can learn from past mistakes. While man has not been known to be wholly rational in learning from past mistakes, the possibilities are there. Let us hope that whenever we chose to do this again, our leaders will be circumspect, well prepared, armed with up-to-date factual data, and make a success out of the effort that has so often ended in failure.

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