



**Indeed: Progress is the Activity of Today and the Promise of Tomorrow**  
 Courtesy: GOMBE PROGRESSIVES PAVILION  
 Alh. Muhammad Danjuma Goje



**STAR FEATURE**  
 Gusau's century-old tradition of roasting *Layya*  
 ram  
 Pages 24 & 25



**COUNT DOWN TO CENSUS 2006 (21 - 25 March)**  
 51 DAYS TO GO  
 MAKE SURE YOU ARE COUNTED ONCE ONLY



# 2007: North-East deserves presidency - Atiku

Vice President Atiku Abubakar has called on the youths from the North-East zone of the country to unite, speak with one voice and strongly resist any political arrangement that will deter the zone from getting the presidential slot in 2007.

**From Hamza Idris, Correspondent (Yola)**  
 from Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe States under the aegis of "North-East Youth Coalition for Atiku," maintained that the youths, being the embodiment of true democracy, wield enormous powers to decide who will be the next president of Nigeria.

of the youths, the opportunity for the North-East zone to produce the next president is on a sound footing, particularly now that he has offered

himself for the uphill task, adding that the chance should never be allowed to slip as "that will be the most expensive mistake the region

can make". He told the youths, "I have to remind you that since the gruesome murder of Prime Minister Sir Abubakar Tarfawa Balewa, some forty years ago, the North-East zone has never produced another president, a situation which makes the zone the most backward, most deprived and most marginalized in terms of socio economic development".

Vice President Abubakar was however quick to assert that the efforts of the youths can only materialise when they imbibe and protect the tenets of democracy: "In whatever political party you belong, make sure that you are registered as a member of that party and make sure you have your voters card because that is the license for us to vote (our own) and vote

## CBN to redesign Naira

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) is planning to redesign the nation's currency, the Naira, this year, in an exercise that may lead to the introduction of more coins and polymer notes among the denominations of the naira.

**By Ahmed I. Shekarau, Deputy Editor**  
 the naira change significantly, with most of the smaller denominations being converted to coins while polymer currency will be introduced among the higher denominations".

Although the CBN is yet to make an official pronouncement on the nature and date-line for the exercise, *Daily Trust* learnt that the entire structure of the naira may take a new shape early in the third quarter of this year.

The source said that "the CBN may also be planning to emboss certain notable landmarks across the country on some of the naira denominations to either replace or juxtapose the human features on them".

*Daily Trust* learnt that this is part of the 13-point reform agenda for the apex bank unveiled by the CBN Governor, Professor Charles Soludo, in July 2004 and the comprehensive review of the nation's currency structure, which started with the design and issuance of the 1000 note in October last year.

The source said the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting (NSPM) Plc might have been notified of this plan, thereby leading to a seeming deliberate delay by the bank to forward its currency (request) index for the year 2005 to the minting company.

A dependable source told *Daily Trust* that "the planned exercise will see the face of

*Daily Trust* gathered that the CBN's currency indent for an upcoming year is usually forwarded to the NSPM Plc, otherwise referred to as 'The Mint' in the last quarter of the outgoing year. But up to last week, our source said, the apex bank was yet to send the 2006 naira indent.

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Meanwhile, a cross section of Nigerians have started expressing anxiety over the planned currency restructuring, particularly on the likely implications of the exercise on the value of the naira and the Nigerian payment system.  
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Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Governor, Professor Charles Soludo (left) poses for a photograph with retiring chairman of the United States Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan (right), during their meeting last week in Washington.

## CONSTITUTION REVIEW C'ttee members to get N50,000 per sitting

**By Habeeb I. Pindiga, Assistant Political Editor**  
 In what is seen as an attempt to check persistent absenteeism, chairman of the National Assembly Joint Constitution Review Committee, Senator Ibrahim Mantu, has offered to pay N50,000 per sitting allowance to each member.

Mantu, according to reliable *Daily Trust* sources, made the offer when poor attendance stalled last Wednesday's meeting of the committee where less than 30 of the panellists were said to have turned up for the session.

was to prepare a timetable for the proposed public hearings, the Deputy Senate President was said to have expressed dismay that members displayed a lukewarm attitude to the exercise. *Daily Trust* learnt that the chairman suggested that each member who attends a meeting henceforth will be paid N50,000 as sitting allowance to encourage attendance.

But a member of the committee, who spoke on condition of anonymity, described the offer as "unnecessary because members need not be enticed to perform their duty".  
 Cont. on Pg. 2

During the meeting which

**Muslims mark new year**  
 ● As Kano declares public holiday  
 Kano state government has declared today a public holiday. This is to commemorate the first day of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar.

**From Musa Umar Kazaure, Regional Editor (Kano)**  
 The Director of Press to the governor told *Daily Trust* that Ibrahim Shekarau has

approved today as a work-free day. As Muslims worldwide prepare to mark the new year, the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammadu Maccido, yesterday requested  
 Cont. on Pg. 2

# NEWS

## 2007 *Cont. from pg. 1*

ers elsewhere to vote for us”.

He called on the coalition to be resolute, steadfast and determined to actualise their mission, which is his success at the polls by resisting attempts to blackmail during campaigns or rigging during elections.

Earlier in his welcome address, the chairman of the occasion who was also the former deputy governor of Adamawa state during Salleh Michika's administration, Eng. Lin Nathan, reiterated the importance of continuity in democracy and governance, stating that going by his antecedents in terms of patience, respect and obedience to superiors, Vice President Atiku Abubakar is the right heir apparent to President Olusegun Obasanjo.

According to him, the socio economic development of South Africa as well as its advancements in politics have a strong correlation with

its resolve to maintain continuity in governance.

“For the sustenance of democracy in South Africa, former President Nelson Mandela happily paved way for his amiable deputy, the incumbent president, Thabo Mbeki, to continue from where he (Mandela) stopped. This is the kind of arrangement we are hoping to see in Nigeria”.

In his remarks, the coordinator of the coalition, Alhaji Baba Gana Jime, stated that the fusion of more than 20 organizations from the states in the zone under one umbrella is meant to strengthen and give them the opportunity to speak with one voice, adding that the group is prepared to mobilize support for Vice President Atiku Abubakar of not fewer than six million youths from the six states of the North-East ahead of the 2007 presidential elections.

## C'ttee *Cont. from pg. 1*

stitutional responsibilities.”

Asked whether he would consider the offer as enticement in furtherance of the third term agenda, the member said, “I believe yes, because like I said, do you need to pay something before members can do their jobs? It may well be an attempt to bribe us.”

Poor attendance has been a recurrent feature in Mantu's committee sittings, according to documents available to *Daily Trust*.

The N50, 000 offer has been flayed by a former Minister of Mines and Power, Alhaji Mohammed Ibrahim Hassan, who described it as “corruption par excellence.”

“If it is true that Mantu is offering N50,000, then he is using financial inducement to entice the lawmakers. This is bribery. It is immoral. It is corruption par excellence. In fact, this is the more reason why the Constitution Review Committee should be disbanded because its leader wants to use bribery to achieve an unpopular agenda.”

The poor attendance, Hassan said, “is an indication of the loss of interest by members in the constitution review process because of the attempt to use them to perpetrate the third term agenda. They know that all responsible Nigerians are opposed to the third term agenda. That is why they have developed cold feet.”

“They are not happy that they are being taken for granted by Mantu and Senator Omar Hambagda (chairman of the subcommittee that proposed the third term).”

“My advice is that the National Assembly Constitution Review Committee should immediately expunge the third term clause that has been smuggled into its subcommittee, then the Mantu committee should be disbanded and in its place, let the House and the Senate set up their separate committees with somebody else as chairman but not Mantu.”

media aide. Uba Mana, did not call back as promised up to press time.

When *Daily Trust* called back at 7.15 pm, Mana's phone was switched off.

Meanwhile, the federal government has voted N108.6 million in the 2006 budget for the proposed constitution review process.

The allocation is contained in the details of the 2006 Appropriation Bill circulated to lawmakers.

Under the N2.6 billion “miscellaneous” provisions of the National Assembly's “general services” allocation in the 2006 budget, N108, 559, 200 has been set aside for “constitution review”.

This may be a far cry from the funds needed by the committee to finish its activities as the proposed public hearings alone is expected to gulp N456 million.

During last Wednesday's meeting, Mantu complained that financial hurdles were threatening the committee's work as the presidency is refusing to release adequate funds for the exercise.

Though it needed N456 million to conduct public hearings alone, the panel, according to Mantu, has only N100 million in its purse out of N200 million provided in last year's budget.

A civil servant, Mr. Austine Deshi, wondered “if this exercise being planned will not cost our illiterate parents in the villages heavily as the government changes the face of the naira”.

Mr. Deshi is of the view that “the central bank should devote more time to public enlightenment before the proposed changes take shape”.

On his part, Alhaji Abdulkadir Garba of *Millennium Network Consult.* said, “I'm more worried about the confusion this kind of action will bring to the petty traders and other less educated persons, especially in the rural areas”.

He further expressed



From left, chairman, National Population Commission (NPC), Chief Samu'ila Danko Makama, Minister of Justice, Chief Bayo Ojo (SAN) and Chairman, House Committee on Population, Hon. Farouk Adamu Aliyu, during the public presentation of the National Population and Housing Census Regulations, in Abuja ... recently. *Pix: Felix Onigbende*

## N/Delta militia declare ceasefire

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), who are responsible for the kidnap of four oil workers being held hostages in an undisclosed location, has warned the federal government against attempts to use force to secure the release of the men even as it has declared what it called, a unilateral ceasefire to allow for meaningful negotiations between the federal government and the organisation.

In a statement signed by one General Brutus who claims to be the leader of the group, they warned that any

From Ikenna Emeka Okpani, Bureau Chief, Port Harcourt

attempt to use force to secure the release of the hostages will lead to a full scale attack that the government would find difficult to contain, it said.

That its decision to allow for negotiations before continuing its agenda was in response to an Ijaw man in the presidency who has been in contact with them and who is used to helping the Ijaw cause.

The statement, however, warned that the declaration of a ceasefire should not be

seen as a sign of weakness, as the organisation only did so to give time for genuine negotiations between it and the federal government.

The group also made fresh demands which includes, the immediate withdrawal of all troops in the Ijaw nation and the recruitment of Niger

Delta youths to provide security for all oil installations in the region as away of providing employment for the youths. The group also asked for the release of Asari Dokubo and other detained Ijaw leaders.

Another demand being

made by the group is that Niger Delta indigenes should be given contracts to lift oil as over 95 percent of those presently lifting oil are not from the region. The group also wants the federal government to use the excess crude oil money for projects in the region even as it asked the federal government to commence the immediate building of infrastructure in the region.

Meanwhile, security has been beefed up in parts of Port Harcourt following a second attack by armed robbers who carted away a total of 40 million naira from Daewoo, a Korean oil servicing company.

The armed robbers were said to have attacked disguised as internal security of the organisation only to overpower the real security men. The money was said to be meant for the January salaries of the workers. The assistant has been arrested for alleged complicity in the matter. He was said to have withdrawn such a huge amount without police cover more so when it was to be kept over the weekend.

## Taylor not Liberia's priority

President Johnson-Sirleaf says her priorities are to create jobs and fight corruption, adding that prosecuting her predecessor, Charles Taylor, is “secondary” in her agenda.

Her comments came after more than 300 Liberian and International Rights bodies wrote to her, calling for Mr.

By Abdu Labaran Malumfashi, Foreign Desk Editor with agency reports

Taylor to be tried in Sierra Leone.

Mr. Taylor is accused of backing the notorious RUF rebels in Sierra Leone's 1990s civil war.

Mr. Taylor is in exile in Nigeria after leaving power in

- Sirleaf

2003. Addressing her first news conference since taking office on 16 January, President Johnson-Sirleaf said her post-war government does not want the Taylor issue to be the issue that constrains us or the issue that causes us not to be able to do what we have to do here for the Liberian people.

“So we want to see it as a secondary issue, even though it may be of utmost concern to the international community,” she said.

On Thursday, the Campaign Against Impunity - a coalition of about 300 African and International Civil Society groups - said in an open letter to Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf that the new president should take prompt action to ensure that Mr. Taylor faces trial in Sierra Leone.

President Johnson-Sirleaf said her presidency will stand for accountability and the rule of law,” said Ezekial Pajibo, executive director of Liberia's Centre for Democracy and Governance.

## Muslims *Cont. from pg. 1*

Muslims to look out for the new Moon of al-Muharram of the year 1427AH.

A statement signed by the Secretary, Sokoto State Council of Sokoto Muslims said, “This is to inform the Muslims of Ummah that Sunday 29 January, 2006 is the 29<sup>th</sup> Day of Dhul-Hajj 1426 AH, thus the first Day to look for the new Moon of al-Muharram.”

It said any sighting should be reported to the district or Village Head for onward communication to the Eminence, the Sultan of Sokoto.

The Islamic New Year commemoration will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2006.

# NEWS



NNPC Group Managing Director, Engr. Funsho Kupolokun (right) and NNPC Executive Director Exploration and Production, Engr. Edmund Ayoola, during the NNPC press conference on its performance, last year held in Abuja...recently. Pix: Felix Oniginde.

## N/Delta crisis:

### NUPENG threatens to withdraw members

From Samson Ojo, Correspondent (Lagos)

Workers in the oil and gas industry under the aegis of the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG) and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN), have threatened to withdraw their members in the various oil and gas companies in the Niger-Delta if the government fails to resolve the crisis in the region within two weeks.

In a joint statement signed by the scribe of the two unions (NUPENG), Elijah Okongbo and Dr. Mojibola M. Fadakinje (PENGASSAN) tagged: "Violence in the Niger-Delta Region," warned that "if the restiveness and consequent harassment and violence on workers in the oil and gas industry persist, we shall not hesitate to withdraw our members in the various oil and gas companies operating in the region."

The workers observed that the violence in the region perpetrated by militia groups has claimed the lives of about twenty-two (22) oil workers, many taken hostage while flow stations are being shut down in Benisede in Bayelsa

state. It therefore called on governments at all levels to urgently address the problems of the Niger Delta region.

The text of the two page statement reads in part: "this call has become necessary because the workers are always the first target of youth aggression in the region. More so, majority of the oil and gas workers are from the Niger-Delta region.

"It is particularly disturbing that this recent attack is coming less than seven days after the abduction of four expatriate staff working for Shell Petroleum Development Company Limited (SPDC), and whose whereabouts are still unknown."

While imploring the different government agencies and the oil companies to employ peaceful means to secure the release of the abducted workers, the unions condemned in very strong terms, the acts of violence against oil and gas workers, was according to them, "have continued to present our country as unsafe for business to investors."

## ANPP in fresh leadership crisis in Bauchi

The political crisis rocking the leadership of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), took a new turn week-end in a faction of the party has suspended the Acting State Chairman and five others for alleged anti party activities.

The suspended executive of the party had earlier expelled Alhaji Mohammad Dan Umma Bello, and four others for taking the party to court in October last year.

However, Alhaji Dan Umma Bello, leading a splinter group of the party in the state, announced the suspension of Abdulmuyi Muktar, deputy chairman of the Elders Forum, Alhaji Lamara Nhanu, acting state chairman, Sani Shehu, Bukata Ziyadi, Mijinyawa Ardo and Aliyu Umaru Shehu, claiming it is in line with Article 24, sub-section 8 a & b of the party's constitution.

Bello stated that they will not recognise the leadership of Alhaji Lamara Nhanu.

According to him, "their refusal to recognise the leadership of Nhanu is because of his coming to power was not in accordance with the party's constitution."

He explained further that before his endorsement as the acting state chairman, he had resigned from the party executive to contest the council chairmanship.

Bello accused Lamara Nhanu of running a one man leadership which has no support from the party officials and members from all the council areas of the state. He stated that the dismissal of party officers without taking into consideration the party constitution was wrong.

Those he dismissed, he explained, were founding members of the party in the state.

He lamented that the de-

From Tashikalmah Hallah, Correspondent, Bauchi

camping of party officers including the immediate state chairman was due to the inability of the national headquarters to intervene in the crisis despite several notifica-

tions of the crisis.

According to him, "it is on record that we visited and wrote to you on several occasions with regards to the sorry state of party affairs in the state but silence was the only reaction from the national chairman of the party."

With his silence, Bello wondered whether by his action or inaction, the national chairman of the party has the interest of the great party at heart. He called for the intervention of the national headquarters of the party in order to save the party from further crisis.

## Court stops el-Rufa'i from demolishing late minister's property

By Ruby Rabiu, Senior Reporter

An Abuja high court has issued an order restraining the minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Malam Nasir el-Rufa'i, from pulling down the property of the first minister of state in the FCT in 1982, late Engr. Mark Chukwuemeka Okoye.

Justice Ishaq Bello of the Abuja high court in his ruling also ordered that the defendants in the suit, the minister of the FCT, the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) and Sanbel Investment Limited be

served through substituted service.

The judge also granted an order of interim injunction restraining all the defendants from "entry, demolition or clearing of site or commencement of any of excavation of land for purposes of any building/construction work on the land which is situated at plot 103 Cadastral Zone AO, Central Business District, Abuja."

The plaintiffs, Emilo Holdings Ltd., Chief (Mrs.)

Christy N. Okoye, widow of the deceased with First Bank of Nigeria Plc and Mr. Mark Chukwuemeka Okoye (Jnr.) want a declaration that the revocation and reallocation of plot 103, Cadastral Zone AO Central Business District by the defendants is arbitrary unlawful, unconstitutional and should be declared null and void.

They are also seeking an order to set aside or cancel the purported revocation and reallocation of the said plot and restore possession to the plaintiffs.

## Probe NNPC, Afenifere urges NASS

From Samson Ojo, Correspondent (Lagos)

Afenifere, the Yoruba social cultural organization, has called on the National Assembly, to probe the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and the Minister of Petroleum Resources, Dr. Edmund Daukoru over the alleged withholding of N290 billion from crude oil sales by the minister.

Afenifere in a statement signed by its national publicity secretary, Mr. Yinka Odumakin, stated that the probe has become imperative because it has been observed that the major reason why there has been perennial energy crisis in Nigeria was because of the level of corruption in the NNPC.

According to the organization, "in the first four years of this regime, over \$800 million was spent on Turn Around Maintenance (TAM) refineries without any success and nobody has been prosecuted."

The statement further added that "equally, many tongues have been wagging as to why the president has not appointed a petroleum minister since his assumption of office. The probe may unravel why this has been so," the organization said.

Afenifere also said the probe has become necessary in the spirit of the posturing of the Obasanjo administra-

tion that it is fighting corruption, noting that only recently, the administration got away with many constitutional breeches in Bayelsa state "because its apologists were fighting against corruption with unconventional tactics."

"But the scandal is now showing that we may be having a case of someone with a "NEPA pole in his eyes, pointing at the speck in another man's eyes," Afenifere said.

It added that if at the end of the probe, the NNPC and the petroleum minister cannot satisfactorily answer the questions that have been raised on the issue, the National Assembly would be advised to take a good look at the impeachment clause.

## Defend constitution, MRDD writes NASS leadership

By Habeeb I. Pindiga, Assistant Political Editor

The Movement for the Restoration and Defence of Democracy (MRDD) has written to the president of the Senate, Chief Ken Nnamani and Speaker of the House of Representatives, Alhaji Aminu Masari, urging the legislature to check the nation's descent into unconstitutionality and insecurity.

In separate letters dated January 26, signed by the group's protem chairman, Alhaji Muhammadu Gambo Jimeta, MRDD said the emerging abuse of power in the Oyo political crisis and the mysterious murder of Alhaji Abubakar Rimi's wife among others portend grave dangers to the nation.

Jimeta in the letter to Nnamani, raised alarm that "law and order has broken down completely, there are several unresolved high profile murders and executive lawlessness and yet those who are supposed to speak are aloof.

"As custodians of the Nigerian constitution and the conscience of the nation, my prayer is that you will continue to act in accordance with the dictates of your solemn responsibility to save our nation from the path of wanton destruction and

waste. The time to speak is now. Nigerians and indeed the world, is watching you. You must collectively defend and protect the constitution, standing together firmly on the side of justice, equity, fairness and the rule of law." He drew the attention of the legislators to the "callous murder of Alhaji Abubakar Rimi's wife and the reckless assault on our constitution, disregard for the rule of law, crude abuse of power and resort to coercive instruments of federal power e.g. the purported impeachment of Governor Rashid Ladoja of Oyo state."

Jimeta urged the lawmakers to rise to the challenge.

In the message to Masari, Jimeta commended the House for its "very patriotic, profound, incisive and exhaustive debates and resolutions on the very grave and critical issues of the moment to wit: national security and arbitrariness in governance, such as the freezing of the accounts of the government of Plateau state."

He also commended Nnamani for his recent declaration of the Senate's support to regime change as a hallmark of democracy.

# CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

## Why we strip victims naked - Robbers

One of the most dehumanizing acts being perpetrated by armed robbers in the FCT in recent times is the increasing trend to strip their victims. These robbers do not normally care about the sexes, affinity and religious of the its helpless victims.

Victims of such cruel treatment include those attacked along the airport road. A young couple and the husband's mother-in-law believed to be travelling from Mararaba to Gwagwalada to visit a relation were among passengers stripped.

To worsen matters, the robbers were said to have taken away all the clothes of the victims.

The last of such attacks was the one of January 13, when robbers pretending to be passengers, boarded a 18 seater bus with registration number XB 272 AKK from Berger roundabout to Kubwa along with other unsuspecting passengers.

One of the victims who spoke on condition of anonymity, told this reporter that shortly after the vehicle joined the expressway to Zuba by the Tipper Garage near Aso Radio, one of the robbers started hitting the roof of the vehicle shouting 'Mopol... Mopol...'

He explained that suddenly, one of the robbers sitting at the front seat brought out a pistol and warned that he will shoot anybody who tried to challenge his orders or refused to cooperate.

The robbers were said to

From Shehu Abubakar, Reporter

have diverted the vehicle into a bush path off the express road from where they stripped all the passengers in the vehicle and robbed them of their money, handsets, laptop.

The source said all the victims proceeded to Maitama police division where they made a formal complaint to the police. Adding however, that the robbers did not go away with their dresses.

Addressing newsmen in his office recently, the FCT Commissioner of Police, Mr. Lawrence Alobi, said detectives acting on a tip off, arrested one of the robbery suspects.

Mr. Alobi said Christopher Mban was arrested at Sky Chef Club, Wuse, where he was "cooling down with beer and pepper-soup" allegedly with the share of the loot he got from the robbery.

Christopher Mban, who admitted taking part in the robbery, led detectives to arrest other members of the gang which include Solomon Boji alias School-boy, David Samuel, Anthony Garba and Solomon Ahmadu.

The police who paraded the suspects to newsmen, said three locally made pistols, five live ammunition and three cartridges were recovered from the gang.

Though victims of the robbery attack told the police that when the robbers were driving away from the bush path with the bus they advised them to go to Zuba and pick the vehicle but Mr. Alobi said

the bus was recovered the next day at Abacha estate, Wuse.

Speaking exclusively with Daily Trust, Christopher Mban said himself and his colleagues were lured into robbery by poverty and lack of any job to do. He could not however, explain why he could not learn any meaningful trade rather than taking to crime.

On the characteristics of the gang to strip their victims, Mban who said they have never killed any of their victims, said, "we strip them naked to make sure they do not hide money on them and to be sure they do not have the courage to attack us.

"You know anybody that is naked will not have the courage to fight back. But you know we left their dresses for them and did not shoot any of them. It was hunger and poverty that forced us into crime. If we are freed, we promise not to go back to crime," he promised.

He however, refused to comment on previous robberies the gang has carried out and also refused to explain what he has been doing with his share of the loot from all the robbers he took part.

Mr. Alobi who warned that the command will not relent in its efforts to curb robbery in the territory, said the suspects will soon be charged to court.

Victims of the attack have since been going to the FCT police command to identify the members of the gang.



Three locally made pistols, five ammunition and three cartridges allegedly recovered from the gang... recently.



Five members of an armed robbery gang specialising in stripping its victims being paraded by the police... recently.



# CRIME & PUNISHMENT

## Robbery threatens banking in Nigeria — Rep

By Shehu Abubakar, Reporter

Incessant bank robbery in the country has been identified as a major factor threatening the banking industry and is capable of scaring foreign investors and major customers.

Making this observation in an exclusive interview with the *Daily Trust* at the weekend, the House of Representatives Committee Chairman on Banking and Currency, Hon. Clever M. Ikisikpo, said something urgent needs to be done to address the situation.

"If bank robberies continue at the rate and magnitude they are happening today, even the stronger banks will soon be weak because they cannot bear the huge losses they record from each robbery incident.

Stronger measures should be taken by the police to ensure maximum security in banks or else, we will wake up one day and see most of

the banks folding up because of the unbearable losses they record.

"Unlike the highway robbery where a gang of criminals can set out anytime to mount roadblocks and rob people, bank robberies are different. For every successful bank robbery, there must be somebody close to the bank. No gang can go to a bank and rob without knowing the location of the strong room, who holds which keys and when there is money in the bank or not," he said.

Hon. Ikisikpo warned the banks to be very careful with the type of people they employ so as not to employ people with questionable character.

He called on the police to ensure that cops posted to guard banks, "are people of proven integrity, highly intelligent to monitor and under-

stand all the happenings around them, sharp and well armed and equipped to subdue any form of attack."

Hon. Ikisikpo, while commending the efforts of the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Sunday Ehindero, in reforming the police, faulted government's idea of massive recruitment, saying, "we need a total reform of the police in quality and not quantity. When the quality of the force is improved, security of lives, properties and the banks will improve."

He said his committee, in liaison with the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Alhaji Aminu Bello Masari, may organize a seminar for stakeholders in the banking industry, the police and other security agencies to deliberate on and draw measures to provide improved security for the banks.

"We have to do everything possible to protect these banks. A situation where armed robbers will carry arms at will, enter banks even in the federal capital,

open fire and take as much money as they like and go away is highly un-acceptable. Something must be done fast to stop the menace. The banks are money making industries. Any attempt by hoodlums to make them operate at a loss should be resisted," he said.

Hon. Ikisikpo warned that any neglect, inaction or insincerity exhibited by any policeman guarding a bank leading to a successful robbery will not be tolerated by the banking industry because "though some of them are trying their best by challenging the robbers, others throw away their arms when they discover that robbers are attacking the banks they are guarding."

The FCT police commissioner, Mr. Lawrence Alobi had at an earlier press briefing, assured all banks in the FCT of maximum security. Promising that the command has beefed up security in the banks and has deployed several armed plaincloth securitymen around the banking area to ensure security.

Two persons were shot and wounded in Lagos at the weekend when police and a suspected gang of drug addicts exchanged fire in Ajah area. The suspected hoodlums numbering about fifteen, *Daily Trust* learnt, had gone to an uncompleted building close to Alesa bus stop in the area allegedly to take drugs when a police team from Ajah police station stormed the place.

The hoodlums, *Daily Trust* gathered, put up a stiff resistance as the police moved in to arrest them resulting in a fight, two of the hoodlums were shot in the legs while three others were arrested.

The Lagos state police spokesman, Mr. Olubode Ojajumi, who confirmed the story, said the remaining members of the gang fled the moment they realised the police had gained the upper hand.

He said one of the suspects, Ismaila Azeez, was shot in the leg and was found in possession of some quantity of weeds suspected to be Indian hemp. He said that Azeez was responding to treatment in hospital.

In a related development, a middle-aged woman who allegedly kidnapped two primary school children in Ojodu area at the weekend has been arrested by the police.

The woman, who works in a private company in the area, was said to have tricked the two children identified as Ayomide (8) and Bello (11), while they were going to school on Thursday. The children were rescued by

## Two killed as police, drug addicts clash

From Bola Ojuola, Correspondent Lagos

residents who became suspicious and later raised an alarm.

## Man, 27 in court for raping under aged girls

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, Correspondent, Lagos

A 27-year-old man was on Friday arraigned before an Ikeja chief magistrate court for allegedly raping two girls aged six and nine-years.

Linus Omeh 27, according to the police, committed the offence on January 8 and 12 at January, at No. 28 Sadiku street, Oshodi, Lagos.

The prosecution alleged that Linus first raped little Goodness Chukwu at about 3pm on January 8. According to the prosecution, the accused on January 12, allegedly raped another nine year old Chioma Ogueji for.

According to Section 21 of the criminal code, "any person who has unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under the age of thirteen years is guilty of a felony and is liable to imprisonment for life.



Cross section of suspected armed robbers paraded by FCT police command...recently.

Pix: Shehu Abubakar

## 10,000 robbers operate in the country

- Ali Kwara

From Tashikalmah Hallah, Correspondent, Bauchi

and properties belonging to armed robbers and bailed them out of detention and finally set them free without returning the property to them.

According to the hunter, "charge and bail lawyers" exist in all parts of the country but most especially in the North East sub region. He pointed out that these people serve as godfathers to armed robbers bailing them using their position.

Ali Kwara also stated that he has evidence to prove how some corrupt judges use their positions to assist armed rob-

bers escape prosecution. He said that he is prepared to tender evidence if called upon to do so.

Turning to the Nigeria Police, he alleged that the force is riddled with some bad eggs who, as prosecutors, work in conjunction with criminals to allow them chances to break the law. He noted that nothing was being done to check them. He stated that so long as these bad eggs continue unabated, hardened criminals would continue to thrive in the country.

Ali said, of the estimated 10,000 active armed robbers in the country with the North East harbouring half of that numbers pointing out that the crime rate in the region is pathetic adding that the security

in the region calls for more decisive approach by the state and federal governments.

In the North East, Ali added, "retired" armed robbers support those on active duties noting that was how they earn their living over the years. He particularly mentioned Yobe state as the melting pot of armed robbery where certain groups of people are supporting armed robbers.

In Yobe State, Ali alleged, there are people living with armed robbers but who are entrusted with the task of security upkeep. He noted that until they are exposed and made to change their ways, armed robbers would continue to thrive in the North East sub region.

### POLICE EMERGENCY PHONE LINES

Route/coverage area	Telephone numbers
Apo (Gudu) Legislative	0806 580 3210
Mechanic Village	0804 231 5582
Asokoro/Maitama District	0806 580 3206 0804 490 7942
Central Business District (Construction and Independence Avenues)/City Gate Giri Junction	0806 580 3203 0804 490 7939
Garki I & II	0806 580 3205 0804 490 7941
Jabi/Utako/Gwarimpa I & II/Karmo/Gwagwa	0806 580 3207 0804 490 7943
Karu/Nyanya	0806 580 3208 0804 491 1520
Kubwa/Bwari/Zuba/Dei-Dei Route	0806 580 3209 0804 491 1496
Roving Unit	0806 580 3211 0804 491 1526
Wuse I & II	0806 580 3204 0804 490 7940
Zuba/Giri/Kwali/Abaji Highway (1)	0806 580 3201 0804 491 1523
Zuba/Giri/Kwali/Abaji Highway (2)	0806 580 3202 0804 491 1524
<b>Other Hot Lines</b>	
<b>Compol/DC OPS Numbers</b>	
FCT Police Commissioner's Director Line	09-2341470
Office of FCT Police Commissioner	09-2341800
FCT Deputy Police Commissioner (operation)	09-2341811
Co-ordinator MOPOL Visiting Units	0802 301 9123 0805 591 7706
<b>Others</b>	
	0803 200 3913, 09-2341199, 09-2341198, 09-5238711
<b>Daily Trust Hotlines</b>	
	08039686854 and 08056418945

# News Focus



Adamu Aliero, Kebbi State



Idris Ibrahim, Kogi State



Ahmed Makarfi, Kaduna State



Ahmed Yerima, Zamfara State



Joshua Dariye, Plateau State



George Akume, Benue State



Saminu Turaki, Jigawa State



Boni Haruna, Adamawa State

## 2007: Are Northern govts scared of the South?

Watching the Kogi state governor and chairman of the Northern Governors Forum, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris, read out the communiqué at the just concluded meeting of 19 Northern governors held in Kaduna last Friday, one gets the sad feeling that their excellencies are beginning to feel the heat from the South and thus playing matters down, even as their Southern counterparts continue their saber rattling maneuvers towards 2007 and the presidency. With only four (4) governors physically present and the others sending their deputies, the whole event smacked of half-hearted commitment, evasiveness and escapism, especially as 2006 is already promising fire and brimstone for the opposition. Was their strategic silence or are they cowed by the oppressive machinery of federal might?

There was no thunder to match the threat from the South and at the end of the meeting, Governor Idris reeled out a number of important condolences, but leaving reporters present to wonder if the whole occasion was a funeral. Even more painful was the sickening silence

By Emmanuel Bello,  
Political Editor

it was not a "clear and present" danger. While the Southern governors are resolutely issuing threats and vowing to retain the presidency, it was an anticlimax for most of the people present when Northern governors met and chose to play "gentlemen".

### Great expectations

Explaining the near weak posturing of the meeting, Governor Idris who probably understood the disappointment caused by his pronouncements, hurriedly offered some platitudes. According to him, there was no need to be combative on these issue of powershift and the presidency, observing that matters would be sorted out in the best tradition of negotiation and bridge-building.

His optimism and somewhat debonair did not help matters. A colleague of this reporter quipped that he had come to "the Hassan Katsina venue of this meeting to see some action and not a treatise on diplomacy." According to him, he thought the governors will converge enmasse to respond to the series of attacks on the North by South-

owing the inauguration of the Southern Forum in Abuja early this year.

Other participants at the Kaduna event felt that the Northern governors had the best approach by not spewing hot air and "dogon turanchi". They said that it was wiser to tackle the whole issue with acts, diplomacy and mature politics. "It is the hallmark of Northern politicians to march fire with water and work on all the opponents until they have achieved their aim. So I'm not surprised at their reticence because, sometimes, there is power in saying less" said Mr. Chris (surname withheld), a journalist at the event. He however wondered why some of the governors did not turn-up at such an important event. In fact, a deputy governor was overheard telling his colleague from another state that governors are already "handing over the baton" even before the race ends. It was perhaps meant to be humorous but one cannot help wondering why most of their excellencies, though in the country, chose to stay away.

It was probably expecting too much when most of us

governors will show up for the event. But it was equally clear in the minds of most Nigerians that matters have come to the fore and thus, it is time for decisive actions and positions to be taken. On the third term plot, one expected their excellencies to, for once, put the matter behind them by declaring their disenchantment with the extension ploy. They should have called on the president to make a nation-wide broadcast in which he will publicly denounce the agenda and call to order its most ardent proponents.

The governors (and their deputies), were also silent on the constitutional amendment, even as the plans have reached a height for the nation's constitution to be tampered with. It was disheartening to find the governors not at least showing concern and calling for the suspension of the exercise and, indeed, the dissolution of the Ibrahim Mantu-led committee. As Governor Idris read his communiqué, it was greatly hoped that he would touch on this thorny matter. But to the chagrin of many people, he skipped it altogether as they were

### On power shift

Fair enough, the governor expressed a popular view on the burning issue of power rotation. According to Governor Idris: "The forum resolved that the agitation for power shift should be pursued through negotiations, persuasion and consensus." Good words, but analysts believe that unless the governors have a magic formula, persuading or negotiating with the South is out of the question. They opine that the South is resolutely focused (fixated) on denying the North the presidency in 2007 and that it is not going to be easy to smooth-talk them out of their obsession, especially as President Obasanjo is believed to be one with this Southern position.

And while the apex body of Northern power brokers believe that dialogue and persuasion will change the present power configuration of the nation, many hold that for power to shift to the North in 2007, there would be need to do more than "negotiate."

### The measure of their resolve

The South has resolved, no doubt, to keep the presid-

ence, the next 35 years. This is premised on the erroneous assumption that the North held political power for those number of years. In an interview with *Daily Trust*, Alhaji Gambo Magaji (CON), contended that the North has not ruled all alone in those stated years, stressing that right from the first republic, power has been shared in the nation. He said that military rule, an aberration, should not be equated with civilian democracy and that the North cannot be synonymous with military regimes.

But for the horde of southern leaders, this is not plausible enough and the new slogan is "No power shift to the North again." This they have expressed at Owerri, Imo state, during the southern partnership forum held there last year. The resolve was restated at Lagos in December when the Southwest and the South-East/South-South formed a front. The grand finale was at Enugu with the Southern governors holding the nation to ransom and vowing to boycott the 2007 elections if the constitution is not amended. This is the measure of their resolve and it is worrisome to see Northern gov-



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Tiniraya: 009-88216-4088-8033

**ABUJA:**

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P. O. Box 4630 Garki, Abuja-Nigeria  
GSM: 0802-3021311, 0803-314-3124  
Makurdi: 044-532221

Office of the Assistant National Auditor

**Alhaji Nuhu Ribadu**  
Executive Chairman EFCC

Abuja  
Dear Sir,

January 26, 2006

## RE: COMMENDATION AND APPEAL

I want to take this opportunity to write and place on record my profound appreciation for the wonderful and historic efforts you and your team of very dedicated Nigerians working with you have made in the battle against corruption in all its evil ramifications in our potentially great country the last three years.

In the last eighteen months however some Nigerians have openly expressed fears that your Commission has been targeting ONLY selective leaders who have disagreed with the policies or the leadership of the Federal Government.

Having carried out an objective analysis of your several dramatic but few comparatively effective anti-corruption battles you have waged especially the famous case of Alhaji Tafa Balogun, former Inspector General of Police who is currently serving a Jail Sentence for massive corruption during his tenure, I am persuaded to disagree with those who strongly hold this view.

Recently however, I and several other Nigerians who closely know former President Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida have been disturbed at your grave statements directed at his person.

The above development is particularly unfortunate and therefore totally unacceptable when it is related to your earlier historic statement that your commission had combed the entire world for incontrovertible evidence that could make you drag him before the temple of justice but you were unable to find any acceptable evidence against him.

It is significant to point out that former President Babangida left office about thirteen years ago. This was because of his desire and very wise decision not to constitute an obstacle to the desire of Nigerians to move towards the shores of durable democracy.

We the pathological and unshakeable supporters and associates of President Babangida hold the firm view that, for our nascent democracy to be sustained, all Nigerians must join forces with your commission to tackle the notorious and habitually retarding albatross called "corruption".

Following his dramatic but deliberate stepping aside from office, several attempts were made especially by his pathological enemies such as my friend Chief Gani Fawehinmi (SAN) to collect evidence that would enable them nail him but they all failed. Several failed intellectual anarchists especially from the South-West have also tried but failed to collect and adduce any credible evidence that President Babangida was corrupt while the leader of Nigeria.

In a recent press interview, I was delighted to read your statement that you have been unable to find any evidence of corruption against President Olusegun Obasanjo even though you have obtained massive dossiers on other public officers whom you will soon be prosecuting.

To those of us who know Former President Babangida very closely, we are positive that, the same contention as you made about President Obasanjo is also appropriately applicable to him. It has been established that in a developing nation such as Nigeria corruption has always constituted a threat and a retarding factor.

It will however be pointed out that, it was almost thirteen years after President Babangida had left office that those who became leaders after his departure by failing to fight corruption were shamelessly able to propel Nigeria to mount the world stage and be elected the third most corrupt nation in the world. Last year because of your efforts we were not promoted to highest echelon.

My contention is that, the period from 1993 when President Babangida left office to 2006 is adequate period for those who assumed the reins of power after him to have designed and put in place durable and effective machinery to drastically reduce corruption or eliminate it completely.

Unfortunately for those who have become so corrupt and are openly and shamelessly stealing, hiding, exhibiting and openly spending our hard earned resources by using proxies to acquire choice properties and other assets in Nigeria and around the world, recent technological developments have made it very easy for those interested to obtain accurate records of their activities.

I want to inform these group of Nigerians, masquerading as leaders that even though we may be silent because of our desire not to cause local and international distraction, technological advances in data collection and storage have made it

possible for us to collect and keep very accurate records of their various acts of corruption.

I have known President Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida for almost 43 years now and can state without any fear of contradiction that he is not a corrupt person. His unprecedented capacity for sharing the little he has been given by God has often been misunderstood as evidence of profligacy. He has a superb sense of keeping accurate records and I was amazed that, he can accurately and satisfactorily account for how he earned and spent his financial resources from 1966 to date.

From my very close knowledge of him, he is incorruptible and an uncompromising lover of Nigeria and Nigerians. He has made more friends around Nigeria than any leader in Nigeria. His nationally and internationally acknowledged and accepted desire to return to the Presidency in 2007 is predicated on the following factor:

That he will be able with his competent, formidable, trusted team of famous technocrats to implement the policies he has designed based on his experiences while in office which he now knows will propel and eventually land our country on the shores of permanent economic and social prosperity by the end of his first term by 2010.

This is to appeal to you to bring out any incontrovertible evidence of corruption, which you have NOW found against President Babangida so he can defend himself or please keep your peace.

If however you have NOT found any fresh evidence that has now made you tell Nigerians his administration was the most corrupt then we who are his devoted associates hereby passionately appeal to you to immediately stop making baseless, unsustainable and provocative allegations of corruption against former President Babangida.

This is because these wild and unsubstantiated very grave allegations are capable of bringing him to public ridicule and compelling his millions of supporters but specifically, those of his associates in control of the mechanics of control to reply in kind.

I want to assure you that the large segment of the Nigeria nation that are uncompromisingly in support of President Babangida have no intention to do anything that will create tension, heat-up the polity or cause any form of embarrassment to our people oriented leader, President Olusegun Obasanjo. I take this opportunity to stress that we shall not fold our arms and watch him deliberately insulted or unjustly ridiculed by any public officer no matter how highly placed.

I take this opportunity to appeal to you to steer clear of the silent but very fierce ongoing competition for power, which has started. This is because you have done so much for all Nigerians within a very short time that I do not want you hurt in the process. If you allow yourself to take sides with any of the contestants you will at the appropriate time receive very harsh judgment from posterity.

Finally, I want to state that, inspite of some avoidable lapses you and a few other young Nigerians in the present government represent the best in our country. I will therefore be very distressed if you unwittingly propel yourself to become a target of one of the competitors for political leadership when he wins as all the indices indicate he will by the Grace of God be the next democratically elected president of Nigeria from May 29, 2007.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr. Akpenlamen G. Dabo' Adzuana**  
Assistant National Auditor



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# THE PRESIDENCY GOVERNING BOARD NIGERIAN NATIONAL MERIT AWARD

**NOMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF NIGERIAN NATIONAL ORDER OF MERIT (NNOM) FOR SCIENCE, HUMANITIES, MEDICINE AND ENGINEERING/TECHNOLOGY**

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR YEAR 2006

1. Nominations are invited for the Nigerian National Merit Award 2006.
2. The Nigerian National Merit Award, which is an Order of Dignity and distinct from the National Honours, was instituted to accord proper and due recognition for outstanding intellectual and academic attainments and contributions to general development of Nigeria and is conferred on the recipients by the President of the Federal Republic, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.
3. The objective of the award system is to stimulate and reward excellence in Science, Engineering/Technology, Medicine, Humanities, Arts and Culture and any other field of human endeavour.
4. The award is open to all citizens of Nigeria.
5. Any Nigerian citizen of outstanding merit can be nominated by one or more Nigerian citizens. Any person may by himself/herself, where not sponsored by another person, apply to the Board for this purpose. Where two or more Nigerians are collaborating on any deserving undertaking, they can be similarly nominated for a joint award.
6. Nominations are valid only for the year of nomination.
7. In addition to its intrinsic value, the award carries a cash prize of one million naira (N1,000,000.00), which is intended to assist recipient(s) in carrying out further work in his or her chosen field. The Laureate is also entitled to use the acronym NNOM after his/her name.
8. The Governing Board will be guided by the following criteria:
  - (a) Selection will be made from a wide range of contemporary works, which are innovative, creative, essentially Nigerian in content and of national and international distinction.
  - (b) The candidate's achievement should be of benefit to the Nigerian Society in particular and humanity in general
  - (c) The achievements may constitute a specific breakthrough in any field or may be of a cumulative nature.
  - (d) The award emphasizes distinct merit and upright moral character.

**NOMINATION FORM**

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Middle Name</b>
Submit only one Nomination per form	<b>Position or Title</b>		<b>Field of Endeavour</b>
<b>Current Address with Tel No:</b>			
THE NOMINATION IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING: * DISCOVERY * INVENTION * INNOVATION OR OTHER OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO KNOWLEDGE			
GROUNDS FOR THE NOMINATION: (Detailed specification of grounds for nomination, curriculum vitae, bibliography and other relevant documents should be attached in triplicate)			
<b>NOMINATOR</b>	<b>Signature</b>		<b>Position or title</b>
	<b>Name (Please print or type)</b>		
	<b>Mailing Address:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Any other information</b>
<b>CO-NOMINATOR</b>	<b>Signature</b>		<b>Position or title</b>
	<b>Name (Please print or type)</b>		
	<b>Mailing Address:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Any other information</b>
<b>NOMINEE:</b>	<b>Signature</b>		<b>Position or title</b>
	<b>Name (Please print or type)</b>		
	<b>Mailing Address</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Any other information</b>

**NB: \* Nominators must not make public the names of nominees.**

• All nominations and supporting documents must reach the Secretary of the Nigerian National Merit Award on or before 20th March, each year through the contact address below.

**10. The Procedure for Nominations:**

- (a) Nominations shall be made strictly on the prescribed format as provided for above. Sponsors should provide brief information on themselves.
- (b) Nominations and supporting documents shall be addressed to the:

**The Secretary,  
Governing Board,  
Nigerian National Merit Award,  
The Presidency,  
Plot 22, Aguiyi Ironsi Way,  
Merit House, 3rd Floor,  
Maitama, Abuja.**

- (i) All supporting documents, including the nomination form, should be sent in three (3) copies.
- (ii) Candidates with incomplete documents will not be considered.
- (iii) The closing date for the receipt of nominations shall be 20th March, 2006.
- (iv) Neither the Governing Board nor any of its Specialized Committees of Assessors will entertain or enter into any correspondence with candidates or their sponsors as to the processing or fate of any nomination.

(Signed)  
**Secretary,  
Governing Board,  
Nigerian National Merit Award.**



**YOUR LETTERS**

**Sir Ahmadu Bello: Leadership per excellence**

Nigeria as a country is at a crossroads politically, socially and economically as a result of our failure to recognise and honour our past heroes and heroines. The likes of the late Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardar of Sokoto and the Premier of the defunct Northern region saw the need for oneness in Northern Nigeria; saw the need for the progress of his people and beyond his people and he was a man whose focus was for the benefit of the whole humanity. Although 40 years ago, the late Sir Ahmadu Bello paid the price for our national peace, stability and progress with his life, but we have seen that politically, Nigerians have not emulated and exploited the ideas of this promising and potential man who put the North under one umbrella based on fairness, justice, determination of purpose with the policy of fair play to develop the entire Northern region. But what do we see now except that different groups

are coming up with different motives either to promote their egocentric ideas that are not used to promote the North? Northern region and Nigeria can only progress politically with the ideas of the likes of the late Sir Ahmadu Bello. Likewise, he played a great role in unifying the country socially as a result of his straightforward ways and he recognised our differences, which we fail to observe even up to today. We Nigerians are deceiving ourselves that we're one, but in our hearts, our thoughts are completely different. Why? The late Sir Ahmadu Bello demonstrated his love for others irrespective of their religious and ethnic inclinations. He allowed others to see why he was a Muslim from the North and why he freely interacted with Christian faithful from the North, Nigeria and beyond the shores of this country.

But what do we have today? People now use religion and ethnicity to promote their individualistic ideas rather than state or national ideas for the betterment of the whole nation. We should allow our differences to forge the nation together rather than for division. The Northern region was known to be economically strong before and during the 60s with the promotion of agricultural potentials with other regions in the country. We need to promote our agricultural potentials if we want to be relevant in the nation. It is evident when you see our brothers and sisters coming from the South to purchase one agricultural produce in exchange for what they grow in the South. The friendship and oneness were promoted and it is the unity that we are reaping today without knowing the prices our heroes

and heroines had paid. We need to study why the late premier promoted peace and love for the progress of the North and the country as a whole. Institutions like the New Nigerian newspaper; ABU, Zaria and many others were established to promote one goal for the benefit of humanity thereby promote peace and stability in the country. Also, the New Nigerian newspaper (NNN) is now 40 years old; it could be said that it has really achieved its goals in the country through objective reporting thereby promoting peace and unity in the nation. It is now a national paper of repute and can be reckoned with anywhere in Nigeria and in the whole world. What an excellent achievement! The handing over of NNN to the Northern states should be seen as a blessing; this is because we need to go back to

the drawing board to discover and re-discover ourselves in the nation. The NNN as information-based should be used to promote the new Northern states' idea as stated by our founding fathers like the late Sir Ahmadu Bello. Furthermore, it is a thing of joy to see ABU's in-house unions following the path of dialogue rather than crisis to resolve their demands, especially the 2005 salaries shortfall. In the past, this problem alone could have thrown the university, Samaru community and by extension Zaria, Kaduna and Nigeria into total darkness. Thank God for directing the present leadership by maintaining peace in the university. The peace in ABU, Zaria means progress for the North and the nation thereby promoting academic excellence. All in all, Sir Ahmadu Bello

left the world with legacies that would hardly be erased from the minds of Northerners and Nigerians. But the pertinent question is that, what would be our legacy now as leaders, politicians, students, the employed, unemployed, bankers, civil servants, journalists, doctors, engineers, traditional rulers and many others? It is our calling that Nigeria should be peaceful, progressive and develop in 2006 and beyond so that the efforts of our heroes and heroines past would not be in vain. Continue to rest in perfect peace, Sir Ahmadu Bello; the man who lived his life for the betterment of others. *Alhaji Haruna Muhammad Jumare, Madakin Hayin-Dogo, immediate past National President of Gamji Members Association (GAMA), Samaru, Zaria,*

I would want to commend the efforts of the former president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, General Ibrahim B. Babangida for establishing the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC). Indeed, the establishment of the Federal Road Safety Corps has drastically reduced the rampant incidences of road accidents on our highways, and has equally reduced the rate of deaths of accident victims. It is worthy of note that Professor Oluwole A. Soyinka succeeded in putting into proper shape the present Federal Road Safety Corps. The trouble and problems this genius underwent in the process of putting the commission in place were very enormous. Prof. Soyinka ended up giving the country exactly what the then president had in mind - a significant reduction in road accidents. I am baffled regarding the operatives of the Federal Road Safety Corps in Zaria. The main function of the commission's officers in Zaria is purely arrest-

ing seat belt offenders at the expense of reducing the incessant motor-cycles and motor accidents in Zaria town. Traffic hold-ups are common features around the PZ area and under the fly-over in Kwangila and yet the officials of the commission concentrate ONLY on arresting those without seat belts. Those arrested without their seat belts are made to cough out some amount,

**FRSC and seat belt craze in Zaria**

which is sometimes not less than the N1,000 before they are allowed to go. Commercial vehicles in Zaria even keep aside some token amount of money for the commission's officials whenever they happen to be stopped by those officials for searching or checking. The officials of the commission in Zaria should be aware that the commission is a non-profit organisation; it is purely

more of humanitarian. The officials of the commission should in fact carry out their responsibilities but obviously not at the expense of other functions that are weeping for attention. I, therefore, appeal to the Federal Road Safety Corps officials to place more emphasis on reducing the rate of accidents on Zaria roads rather than molesting motorists because of

non-tying of seat belts. The road from PZ to Samaru is a dangerous highway with accidents occurring there almost on a daily basis yet the so-called Road Safety officials fold their arms and continue to molest seat belt offenders, and they do this in a rude method of approach. The officials of the commission should plant themselves on P.Z. Samaru road and control the traffic and the speeding drivers. I am also appealing to motorists to make sure that their seat belts are properly put into use. The importance of using the seat belt is immeasurable. Laws are made for the people and people must obey the laws for their own good. This write-up is necessitated by the rampant motor accidents on Samaru road where students are mostly the victims. *Abdulkadir Maisa, No*

Senate to stand firm in the interest of the nation and Benue State by rejecting this candidate. We the undersigned are as follows: Peter Shande, Benjamin Jov, Theophilus Agba, Daniel Aor, Tersoo Ikyaab, Jijingi Terdue, Jijingi Udende, Anula T. Peter, Simon Alubesu and Charles Adoluey. Thanks. *For and on behalf of: Benue*

**Ministerial nominee for Benue**

The president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, has reportedly submitted to the Senate the name of a certain Mrs Grace Ogwuche as the ministerial nominee for Benue State in replacement for Dr Iyorchia Ayu, the erstwhile Minister for Environment. With due respect, we do not know this woman and can hardly say what she stands for. We had expected that in these trying times for our na-

tion, the president would see the need to appoint into his cabinet people with high calibre credentials with the track record of patriotism and political experience who would be able to mobilise the people of the state toward the realisation of the goals of this administration. Benue State has for the past six years in the life of this administration failed to effectively integrate into the policy/direction of this administration principally because their represen-

tation in the federal cabinet has sadly been unable to connect with the populace. It is not because we lack persons of good standing to occupy the position. It is rather as a result of queer leadership selection process that the nation has been deprived of our people who have ability and proven integrity. We are sure that Mr President can identify up to 100 persons from Benue State who can fit in rather than Mrs Ogwuche. Governance is

ness and should not be treated any less. To foist an unproven and unknown quantity on a state that has the second largest ethnic group in the Northern part of this country - the Tiv - is to trivialise the professed direction of this administration and it also amounts to the negation of the principles of democracy. Why pick star candidates for other states and pick mediocre from Benue State? We, therefore, with all due

respect, we do not know this woman and can hardly say what she stands for. We had expected that in these trying times for our na-

# REFLECTIONS

By ISSA AREMU

## Lessons from Davos

2006 World Economic Forum in Davos has come and gone, but the critical question remains; of what relevance is the annual gathering of global economic and social stakeholders for Africa? Conversely what value-addition does Africa bring to world economic forum? In the age of globalization, the easiest way to confer a universal legitimacy on a vested interest-driven project is to give it a global stamp. How global is world economic forum in its annual agenda-setting and execution? Yours sincerely saw some television coverage of one of the high points of Davos forum, namely, "The Big-Debate" anchored by BBC's ace-man, Nik Gowing.

With reported 600 persons the platform expectedly set the "Business-agenda". It is not clear what to make of the "Business-agenda" but the

process certainly pushed to the background issues that are pertinent to Africa. For instance, the local media headlines had raised the expectation that Nigeria's Charles Soludo, the CBN governor would address the forum. But what we saw was selective Q&A that was titled towards a line of reasoning and some favoured speakers from America and Europe. Professor Soludo raised a critical question about the downside of globalization which confers an advantage to capital in terms of mobility compared to labour that is often treated as a national issue. This perspective which touches on increasing restrictive and discriminatory immigration policies of most countries in Europe was not exhausted until the "debate" got lost in the miracle of American flexible labour market with US secretary of labour,

Issa Aremu  
(issaaremu@yahoo.com)

Elaine. L. Chao intervening more than twice!

One critical lesson of Davos for Africa is that in the era of globalization it is what you bring to the table for discourse that matters and not what you assume others will allow to do or say. Globalization is all about contestation as much as "creative imperative", which paradoxically was the theme of this year's forum. What creative imperative Africa brought to this year's forum is not self-evident. On the contrary we saw the same beg-the-donor orientation that has been the rule rather than the exception from Africa. Thus, while India was particularly the "darling" of participants with respect to prosperity and wealth generation, true to expectation star-musicians chaired discourse about Africa

with respect to poverty! China reportedly turned the forum to show case its booming enterprises such that the forum announced that China "would be the location for a Global Industry Summit"! Even Pakistani's President Pervez Musharraf turned weakness to strength when he gave leadership lecture on how to manage disaster! The hope is that African leaders are learning from the global processes and procedures as much they are impressed with the results of other countries. The critical question is; what makes India and China achieve such remarkable growth rates in recent years? Is it due to uncritical whole sale liberalization as favoured by IMF and World Bank or gradual guided process with remarkable partnership between the state and the private sector? Are India and China preoccupied with

poverty alleviation programmes or direct state-led policies of wealth generation? 600 annual meeting of global political and economic actors with cross-cutting themes under the building network of partnerships shows that sustainable development is too important to be left to some select "economic team" and that the politics of development is as important as the economics of it.

The high point of Davos debate however is that employment occupies the two sides of development coin. Whether the preference is with flexi-jobs like United States or permanent jobs like Sweden, it is job nonetheless. The hope is that those at home here who are eager to downsize on employment without creating new jobs will realise that the road to prosperity cannot be through idle capacity unemployment promotes.

Issa Aremu (issaaremu@yahoo.com)

**"One critical lesson of Davos for Africa is that in the era of globalization it is what you bring to the table for discourse that matters and not what you assume others will allow to do or say. Globalization is all about contestation as much as "creative imperative", which paradoxically was the theme of this year's forum."**

## Opinion

### Anti-homosexual bandwagon as a dangerous trend

Since the federal government in a typical diversionary tactic ("let's give them something to play with while we get on with our major plans") embarked on banning same-sex marriage, a good number of people have invested their time, energy and—at least in one particular case—considerable talent and skill, in praising the needless bill. Overloaded and wobbling in an awkward manner, it is unfortunate that this anti-homosexual bandwagon will not capsize and send its riders to the ground where they may reconnect with our existing undeveloped reality. Yet even as this new enterprise is thriving, your correspondent will not join the bandwagon because it will be shameful to abandon principle in order to jump on a popular trend.

Lest this matter be misunderstood—and they are many who will deliberately choose to misunderstand it—the point is not whether homosexuality is wrong or right; whether people of the same sex should be allowed to marry or not, it is simply a question of how we came to need a law banning homosexuality, lesbianism and marriage between people of the same sex. At what point did any of that become a major issue in this country? Were there no extant laws banning homosexuality prior to this? As Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, the chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, likes to say, let us speak the truth to ourselves: Is

there any Nigerian who has come out to say, "I am a homosexual/lesbian and I want to marry my fellow man/woman?"

**A distasteful and dangerous business**

This is simply a matter of prying into people's bedrooms and it is distasteful to say the least. Those who hate homosexuals are free to do so. And those of us who are indifferent are also free to take that stand. What must not be misunderstood is that decent folk simply do not meddle in deeds occurring in other people's bedrooms. For instance, those of us who believe in polygamy—and your correspondent is one—and have, or would like to have, as many wives as is practical, would not be interested in having what we do with our wives in the privacy of our bedrooms become the subject of national discussion, let alone legislation. Similarly, let the point be repeated that what other people do in their bedrooms should not concern us.

Legislation in this area is not only a crass waste of time, it is also dangerous. Why should deeds in the bedrooms of the people become the business of the state? How is the law to be enforced—by sending spies into people's bedrooms? This incremental introduction of a police state must not be allowed to happen without a challenge. Of course, this being

By Crispin Oduobuk  
crispinoduobuk@gmail.com

homosexuality—something stigmatised to the utmost level—even those who share this view will not speak up so that they won't be accused of being gay themselves. For the record, let it be made clear here that name-calling is a filthy exercise usually the pastime of people who have low self-esteem and can hardly separate the issue from the person. As such, even if this would be the lone voice in the wilderness crying against this obnoxious invasion of people's privacy, then so be it.

The state moved against miracles being shown on air. Then came the spate of trite pronouncements on so-called dress codes in tertiary institutions and some other places. This dress code nonsense was even the subject of a bill! at the National Assembly at one time! Now the state wants to dictate what people should do in their bedrooms. That is simply disgusting. And worse: it is a cheap attempt to divert attention from the real issues of the day.

**Still the same old 'follow the West' mania**

Among the reasons being given by those who have fallen for this populist bait is something to the effect that, "It is good because for once, we are not copying the West." The naivety in this position is simply amazing. Didn't Europe go through the banning process to get to the legitimisation stage? Additionally, isn't it obvious that by suddenly dumping down this irrelevant bill on Nigerians, the government is reacting to a trend in the West, albeit in its own not-so-peculiar way? US President George Bush might as well have authored the bill because these are his sentiments exactly.

likely to spur agricultural output? Would it improve the education sector? What about power and basic infrastructure? Isn't it sad that we've allowed ourselves to be duped into making a whole lot of noise over a law that serves no real purpose? How, somebody should please let this writer know, does this law help in ensuring "the security and welfare of the people," which the Constitution says is the primary purpose of government?

Lest one behaves like the person who claims his neighbour is almost dying when the man himself says he only has stomach ache, why are the homosexuals not shouting for their right to marry themselves? Is it not because they already feel and know well the censure of society? It is even more annoying to find some characters coming out of the woodwork to jump on imaginary moral high horses to preach all manner of nonsense about decadence in society. Some of these same characters are part of those who contributed to the decadence they are now condemning by looting and mismanaging Nigeria into the sad state she now finds herself in. Their generation had jobs waiting for them before they left school. Some had cars and houses given to them before they even collected their first pay cheque. Yet a good number of them joined in ruining this country such that your correspondent's generation has never known any worthwhile order. We didn't have jobs waiting for us when we came out of school; indeed, many of our peers are still unemployed with their degrees and all. And whose fault is it?

**Bogus denials and impractical suggestions**  
About how homosexuals are not African and all that, would

how the term *yan daudu* came about in the North where one lives? With all due respect, your correspondent can say with absolute certainty that one's first language, Ibibio, does not have an equivalent to *yan daudu*. Yet, only those who do not like to speak the truth to themselves would say that they never heard of queer stories coming out of boarding schools even in those parts. And who will say he or she has not heard that some of those we call 'leaders' in this country are into this practice and other practices such as incest and bestiality? So where do people get off proposing that all homosexuals should be killed? How, one must ask, will they be identified in the first instance? By stopping everyone in the street and asking if they are gay or not? Hypocrisy being a well-known aspect of human existence, it would be pointless to cry against it here.

Meanwhile, this 'kill-them-all' talk reminds your correspondent that Mr Idang Alibi, a member of the Editorial Board of the Trust papers and a columnist with the *Daily Trust*, once wrote something to the effect that all HIV/AIDS sufferers should go into the river and drown. Considering that he is usually a mild-mannered gentleman with an understanding attitude, one has never been able to grasp how Mr Alibi could have written something so fundamentally inappropriate, not to mention impractical. It is that sort of unfortunate slip that one sees in this 'kill-them-all' attitude that would surely be used at some point to haunt certain people.

**Nazis had popular policies too**

Let this be recorded in passing: Holocaust deniers are always harping on how it is impossible for such a large number of people to have been killed without the society reacting against it. This line

into power democratically. In other words, they and many of their policies had the popular support of the people. Thereafter, obnoxious laws passed by Hitler's regime instantly criminalised some sections of the society. It is well-known that the German state went about this horrible killing business in a lawful and methodical manner that the Nigerian state cannot replicate in organising mere fertilizer supply or Hajj events. Now here we are at a sorry pass where some people are openly calling for the mass killing of all homosexuals.

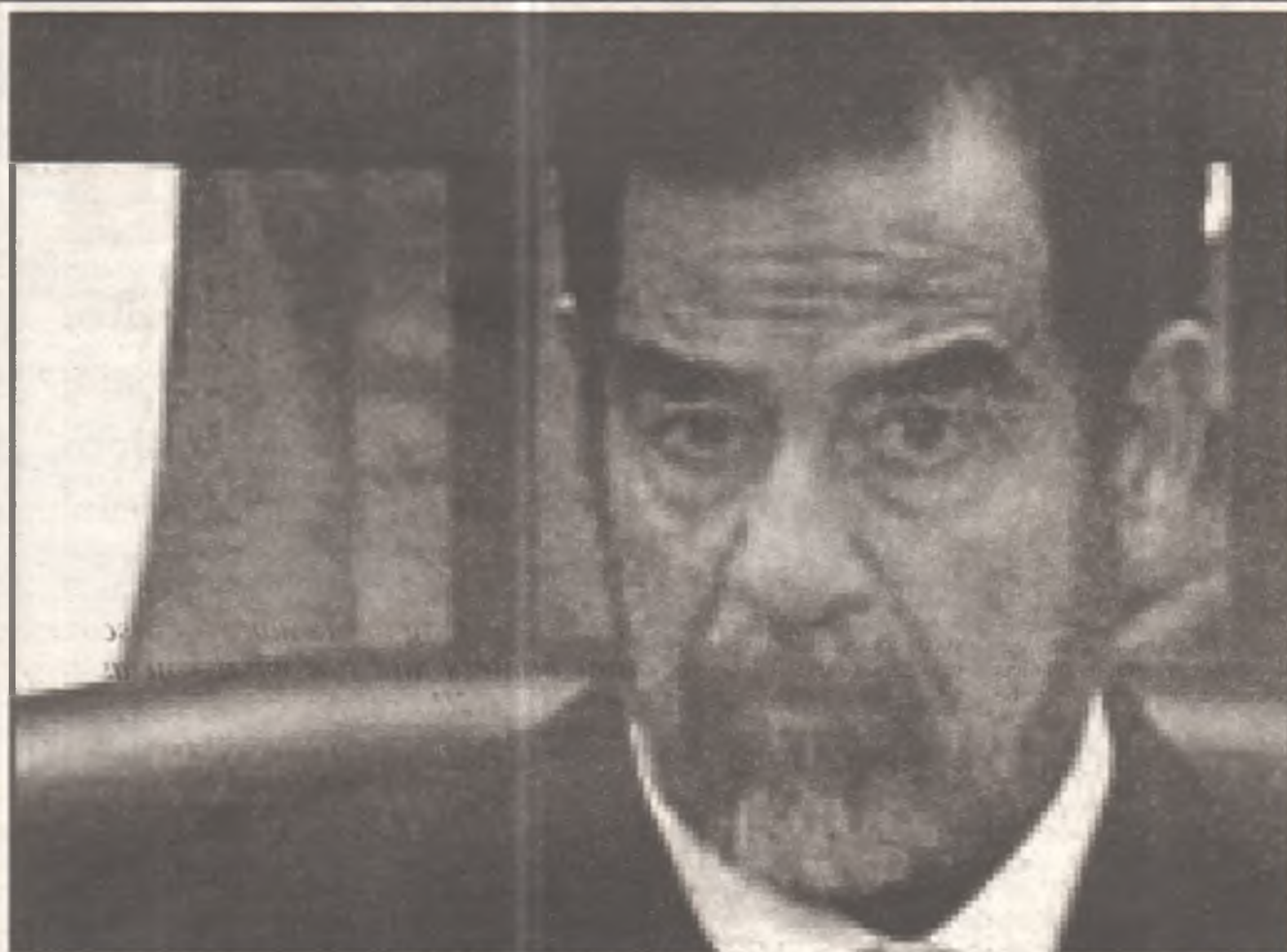
In order to have this repulsive desire actualised, some have started advocating in effect that it is better for the state to do all that can be done to kill all homosexuals than face squarely the business of development that should be the chief concern of the government. Isn't that a tragedy? Here is something to chew on: those who do nothing—or worse, celeb-rate—when the hangman comes for their neighbour should reflect on the possibility that the hangman may well come for them the next time. Today it's homosexuals. Tomorrow it could be handicapped people or single mothers. One will live and die on the major ideal of the constitution of this country which was enacted towards "promoting the good government and welfare of all persons in our country on the principles of freedom, equality and justice." This ridiculous new anti-gay law does not serve that ideal.

Finally, let the anti-homosexual bandwagon riders not be surprised if the principal actor in this drama succeeds in bamboozling them into unwittingly endorsing a sit-tight agenda that may mash both homosexuals and heterosexuals into a pitiful existence at the conclusion of this anti-gay law. Crispin Oduobuk, *Daily Trust*

**"Lest one behaves like the person who claims his neighbour is almost dying when the man himself says he only has stomach ache, why are the homosexuals not shouting for their right to marry themselves? Is it not because they already feel and know well the censure of society?"**

# Trust International

## World Report



Saddam Husain

## Saddam walks out in trial uproar

Former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein walked out of court amid uproar within minutes of the resumption of his murder trial under a new presiding judge.

He left in protest after his defence team walked out, and was followed by two more of his co-defendants.

The walkouts came after the new chief judge, Raouf Abdul Rahman, had Saddam's half brother and co-defendant Barzan al-Tikriti removed from the courtroom.

Saddam and seven others are on trial for the 1982 killing of 148 villagers.

They could face the death penalty if convicted of the killings, which followed an assassination attempt on Saddam Hussein in the village of Dujail.

The trial continued for some time with half of the defendants missing until the judge adjourned it until on Wednesday.

The court proceedings started with the new chief judge saying that he would not tolerate any defendants making political speeches or disobeying his authority.

His predecessor, Judge Rizgar Amin, had resigned earlier this month after criticism that he had been too lenient towards the defendants.

Judge Rahman said from the start that he would not tolerate outbursts

Mr al-Tikriti, a former Iraqi intelligence chief who is suffering from cancer, launched into a lengthy complaint about his medical condition and treatment.

the forcible removal of Mr al-Tikriti, who shouted that the court was "the daughter of a whore" as he was dragged away.

The judge then rounded on the defence lawyers, saying that they had contributed to the atmosphere that allowed defendants to think they could make lengthy speeches and disrespect the authority of the court.

Next, a defence lawyer was ejected from the court, and as a result the rest of Saddam's defence team stormed out, despite the judge warning "any lawyer who walks out will not be allowed back into this courtroom".

The former Iraqi leader then launched into a vigorous exchange with the judge, telling him that he wanted to leave and be tried in absentia.

"I want to leave the court," Saddam demanded of the judge, who in turn ordered the former leader out.

"I led you for 35 years and you order me out of the court?" Saddam responded angrily.

"I am the judge, you are

the defendant. You have to obey me," the judge hit back.

He accused Judge Rahman of abusing his rights as a defendant who was "innocent until proven guilty".

As the argument became more heated Saddam banged his hands on the dock and hurled insults at the judge.

Eventually, the judge said that Saddam should also be removed and he was led from the court too, shouting "Down with the traitors!" as he went.

Judge Rahman then appointed four new defence lawyers, but two more of the defendants, Taha Yassin Ramadan and Awad Hamed al-Bandar, said they did not approve of their appointment and they also left the court.

The trial then resumed with an anonymous female witness giving evidence about events in Dujail from behind a curtain until it was adjourned till Wednesday.

Saad Djebbar, an international lawyer and commentator on Middle East politics told the BBC that the chaotic scenes meant that the whole

trial was being undermined:

"I think it was a big mistake that this trial was held in Iraq because the judge, you cannot find a person, one individual today in Iraq - judge, lawyer, prosecutor who is impartial vis a vis Saddam Hussein. Either they are with him or against him."

He said coca was an integral part of Bolivia's indigenous culture and was the only means of survival for many people.

Many people in rural areas use the leaves in tea, or chew them to ward off hunger and altitude sickness.

Mr Caceres said he was convinced he would help lead a successful fight within President Morales' government to end drug-trafficking in Bolivia.

"What we say is no to drugs, but yes to the coca leaf," he said, adding he would not stop production on his own plantation.

President Morales, who was elected last month as the nation's first indigenous leader, wants to increase the production of coca for use in medicines, toothpaste and soft drinks.

He has promised to fight corruption, introduce a new tax on the wealthy, and renationalise energy companies.

## Coca grower in Bolivia drug post

Mr Caceres is a former mayor of a town in the coca-growing region of Chapare, and owns a small coca farm there.

Coca is used to make cocaine, but also has widespread ceremonial and medical uses in Bolivia.

Mr Caceres told the BBC's Hannah Hennessy that he opposes US-backed efforts to eradicate crops across the

country.

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### NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF TOWN PLANNERS

Recognized by Act No.3 of 1988

2, Ilupeju By pass, Ilupeju Estate, P. O. Box 53727, Falomo - Ikoyi, Lagos State. Tel: 01-4805124, 01-8502270, 08033041765. Website: www.nitp-ng.org

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ON COMPETITION FOR REDESIGNING THE INSTITUTE'S EXISTING LOGO

In preparation for its 40th Anniversary, the National Council of the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners (NITP) has instituted a competition among its members for the redesign of its existing Logo with best prizes.

In this regard, the Institute hereby invites proposals from its members in line with its approved guidelines for the competition. The guidelines require that:

##### (1) Specification

Proposals for the new design must:

- include a **Motto** explaining the **Vision and Mission** of the Institute.
- take into consideration, the totality of the environment in which town planners operate.
- be self-explanatory
- be in autocad format and in the NITP approved colours.
- be original, legible, stimulating, appropriate and easy to remember.
- meet international standards
- be in hard and electronic copies.
- contain detailed interpretation of all the elements / symbols contained in the Logo.

##### Eligibility

To be eligible for the competition, applicants among other requirements, must represent / be:

- an individual member of the Institute
- a state Chapter or Study Group of the Institute.
- town planning department in the various accredited Town Planning Schools / Institutions (Universities and polytechnics)
- registered Town Planning firms

##### Submission

Interested members, state Chapters / Study Groups and other Planning organizations referred to in paragraph 2 should provide the following information:

- Individual**  
- Name and Address, Membership category and Membership Number.
- State Chapters / Study Groups**  
- Name and Address, Names and Membership Numbers of Chairman and Secretary.
- Town Planning organizations / Institutions**  
- Name and Address of the Institutions / Firms, Name of the Head of Department and principal partner of firms.

##### 4. Prize

The winning design will attract a Prize

##### 5. Closing Date

Proposals must be received not later than six (6) weeks from the date of this publication.

All proposals must be addressed to;

The Chairman,

Committee on NITP Logo

NITP National Secretariat

2, Ilupeju By pass,

Ilupeju Estate, Lagos.

Or

through our E-mail: nitp@nitp-ng.org

signed  
Tpl. Ayo Adediran.MNITP.RTP

## Finns vote in presidential poll

Finns are voting in the second round of their presidential election.

Incumbent leftwing president, Tarja Halonen, the country's first woman leader, failed to win an outright majority in the first round.

Her bid for a second six-year term is facing a strong challenge from the Conservative candidate Sauli Niin-

The campaign was dominated by foreign policy issues, particularly traditionally neutral Finland's relationship with Nato.

Opinion surveys say the race between President Halonen and Mr Niinisto is too close to call.

Polls close at 1800 GMT, with the final result expected



## ALGON

ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF NIGERIA  
Plot 2652 Yedseram Street, Cadastral Zone A6, Maitama - Abuja, F.C.T Tel: 09-4135326. Email:algonnig@yahoo.com

### INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO LEASE ALGON GUEST HOUSE

The Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON) is seeking for Expression of Interest from interested and qualified hoteliers and practitioners in the hospitality industry, to lease ALGON Guest House.

ALGON Guest House is on the first floor of ALGON House situated in the high-brow area of Maitama, Abuja, and located at Plot 2652, Yedseram Street, Cadastral Zone A6, Maitama-Abuja.

#### FACILITIES:

- (i) 22 No. standard rooms fully furnished and ready for business
- (ii) 100 KV A sound proof generator
- (iii) Expansive space within and outside
- (iv) Functional bore-hole
- (v) Proximity to Government Ministries/Parastatals and the Central Business District

#### PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- (a) Brief history of firm
- (b) Evidence of registration with the Nigeria Tourism Board
- (c) Evidence of experience in the hospitality industry
- (d) Evidence of financial capability. A bank reference as well as audited account will be helpful
- (e) Evidence of company registration
- (f) Any other information that will assist the Association

#### PRE-QUALIFICATION FEE:

Interested firms/individuals are to pay by bank draft a non-refundable pre-qualification fee of N100,000 (one hundred thousand Naira) for the pre-qualification exercise.

#### SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS:

All applications should be in wax-sealed envelopes and addressed to:

*The Secretary-General,  
Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON),  
Plot 2652, Yedseram Street,  
Cadastral Zone A6,  
Maitama - Abuja.*

Applications including all contact details should reach the above address within two (2) weeks from the date of this publication.

Please note that response to this advertisement shall not be construed to be a commitment on the part of ALGON to lease the Guest House to any particular firm or individual, nor shall it entitle any firm or individual submitting application to any indemnity from ALGON.

ALGON reserves the right to take a final decision on any of the applications received.

#### SIGNED:

*Evan Enekwe (Mrs.)  
For: Secretary-General*

## THE FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, MUBI P.M.B. 35, MUBI, ADAMAWA STATE

### PUBLIC INVITATION

The Rector, Alh. M.A. Abba *mni*, on behalf of the Governing Council, Academic Board, Staff and Students, invites the General Public to the Polytechnic's 10th Convocation Ceremony and Conferment of Honourary fellows:

#### On some important dignitaries.

#### *Special Guest of Honour:*

Visitor to the Polytechnic and  
Honourable Minister of Education,  
**Mrs. Chinwe Obaji.**

#### *Chief Host:*

**Alh. Abubakar Saleh Michika,**  
Chairman, Governing Council,  
Federal Polytechnic, Mubi.

#### *Guest Speaker:*

**Engr. Edward Fyada,**  
Rector, Adamawa State Polytechnic, Yola.

**Date:** Saturday 4th February, 2006

**Time:** 9.AM

**Venue:** Convocation Square, Federal  
Polytechnic, Mubi

***You are all invited!!!***

Signed:

**Alh. Buba Bello**

# Trust International

Odd World

## Man with 11-woman commune had stun gun?

Police found a stun gun and tear gas Friday at the Tokyo home of a man who said he persuaded 11 younger women to live with him by chanting a spell, media reports said.

Police suspect he used the weapons to prevent the women, mainly in their 20s, from leaving, the reports said.

Hirohito Shibuya, 57, was arrested Thursday for allegedly threatening a 20-year-old woman who was reluctant to join the commune by telling her that if she left she would be turned to mincemeat, they said.

He denied threatening the woman, Kyodo news agency said, adding that he also allegedly told her he was a former senior officer in Japan's military with secret agents around him.

Shibuya, a bald, rotund man with bags under his eyes, has attracted heavy media attention this week after claiming he chanted a spell to attract the women.

He had married and divorced several of the women, who continued to live with

him, the reports said.

Asked what the incantation was, he told a newspaper: "When you say it, even unattractive men become

attractive. But I won't say it because if I do, I'll die."

Police confiscated several books on hypnosis from his home, Kyodo said.

## Starving woman curses God, dies in her sleep

A starving Kenyan woman placed a powerful tribal curse on God, accusing him of sending famine, and died in her sleep, local newspapers said Thursday.

The woman from eastern Kenya's drought-ravaged Kangundo district decided to invoke a dreaded oath from the Kamba community, famed for its potent witchcraft, media reports said.

"Whoever brought this famine, let him perish," the woman chanted, striking a cooking pot with a stick.

"She accomplished the feat at 10 a.m. and waited for the results, but God's wrath struck at night. She died peacefully in her sleep," the Kenya Times newspaper said.

Poor rains for three years running have left more than 3.5 million Kenyans on the edge of starvation, prompting President Mwai Kibaki to

declare the drought a national disaster.

## Tame iguana floods apartment block

A pet iguana unwittingly turned on a tap while its owner was absent, flooding his apartment and damaging the ones below, police in the southwest German city of Stuttgart.

The reptile, a female nearly one metre (three feet) long, turned on the hot tap, apparently with a swipe of its tail. The water flowed for hours Saturday, trickling down as far as the basement of the building.

Police alerted by neighbours broke into the flat to find the iguana lying unmoved under a radiator, in a pool of water.



A live green iguana sits on a tree branch. A pet iguana unwittingly turned on a tap while its owner was absent, flooding his apartment and damaging the ones below, police in the southwest German city of Stuttgart

## Twins detained for loincloth outrage

Zimbabwean twins who became media celebrities for appearing in public wearing nothing but traditional African goatskin loincloths have been detained pending trial for indecent exposure.

Harare magistrate Mishrod Guvamombe also ordered the 22-year-old brothers, dubbed the "Terrible Twins" by local newspapers, to undergo psychiatric evaluation, the official Herald newspaper said Friday.

The men, Tafadzwanashe and Tapiwanashe Fichani, raised eyebrows last month when they went to an upscale Harare shopping mall clad only in brief loincloths — leading several shocked shoppers to call the police.

The twins said they were making a statement by appearing in traditional African clothing dating back to pre-colonial times.

State prosecutors disagreed and lodged a case of indecent exposure against them,

a position the Herald said was backed by the head of Zimbabwe's National Traditional Healers' Association.

"We have failed to see how their actions conform to our culture," association president Gordon Chavunduka told the newspaper. "Dressing of that nature is now reserved for special traditional and cultural occasions, not everywhere."

The twins were denied bail and ordered back to court for trial on February 2.



## Petroleum & Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN)

...An affiliate of Trade Union Congress of Nigeria (TUC)

### APPRECIATION

On behalf of the National Executive Council (NEC) members and staff of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN), we wish to express our sincere appreciation to all who through messages, phone calls, personal visits and other media consoled us during the demise of our President, Comrade Uche Marcus Okoro.

Our list is endless but we are particularly grateful to His Excellency, Dr. Peter Odili, Executive Governor of Rivers State, Dr. Oby Ezekwesili, Honourable Minister of Solid Minerals, Dr. Mohammed Hassan Lawal, Honourable Minister of Labour and Productivity, Dr. (Mrs.) T. Koripamo Agary, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity, Engr. Funso Kupolokun GMD, NNPC, American Centre for International Labour Solidarity, Baker Hughes Nigeria Limited, Engr. Tony Chukwueke, Director Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), Management and Staff of DPR, Management and Staff of SPDC, Management and Staff of Elf Petroleum Nigeria Limited, Management and Staff of Nigeria Agip Oil Company (NAOC), Management and Staff of Transocean Support Services Nigeria Limited, Management and Staff of Saipem Nigeria Limited, Management and Staff of NNPC, Management and Staff of all Companies operating in Oil and Gas Industry in Nigeria, Comrade Peace Obiajulu, President-General, Trade Union Congress of Nigeria (TUC), Comrade Chief John Kolawole, Secretary-General TUC, Comrade John Odah, General Secretary Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Comrade Peter Akpatason, President, National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), Dr. John Olanrewaju, Director, Michael Imodu National Institute of Labour Studies (MINILS), Bishop and Parishioners of Foundation Faith Ministry, Port Harcourt, Minister in-charge of Methodist Church of Nigeria, Umuowa-Ibu, Gentlemen of the Press, particularly, the African Independence Television (AIT), Guardian Newspapers, Punch Nigeria Limited, Vanguard Newspapers and all other well-wishers who turned and assisted morally and financially to make the funeral ceremony a remarkable one.

May God Almighty richly reward you all.

Peter Esele  
Deputy President

Aminu Zaria  
National Publicity Secretary

Dr. M. M. Fadakinte  
General Secretary

# Trustfund

## Introducing Trustfund Pensions

From 1994 to 2003, Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) was the foremost pension fund provider with a network of 38 branch offices and benefit pay points in the country.

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# Trust International

## Middle East & Asia

### Hamas floats Palestinian 'army'

The political leader of the Hamas militant group has said it could create a new Palestinian army following its surprise election victory.

Khaled Meshaal, who lives in exile in Syria, said the force would include its militant wing and would "defend our people against aggression".

His comments came after foreign powers called for Hamas to renounce violence.

Unrest continues in Gaza and the West Bank, with supporters of the defeated Fatah party staging violent protests.

Some involved clashes with Hamas activists, others were directed at the leadership of Fatah.

Mr Meshaal said in the Syrian capital, Damascus, that Hamas had no plans to disarm.

"As long as we are under occupation then resistance is our right."

He said Hamas was ready to "unify the weapons of Palestinian factions, with Palestinian consensus, and form an army like any independent state... an army that protects our people against aggression".

But Mr Meshaal also said Hamas would abide by current agreements with Israel "as long as it is in the interest of our people".

Israel said on Saturday that no Hamas leaders would be immune from targeted killings if the group maintained aggression and continued to refuse to acknowledge Israel's right to exist.

Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz said: "Whoever stands at the head of a terror organisation and continues to carry out terror attacks against Israel is not immune."

Senior Fatah figures also warned Hamas not to interfere in the Palestinian security forces - most of whom are linked to Fatah.

Gaza police chief Ala Hosni told Associated Press: "The security institution is a red line. We will not allow anyone to tamper with it."

The victory of Hamas is a challenge, the people of Palestine have spoken and no-one should suppress their choice

Fatah supporters, security officers and members of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade protested all over Gaza and the West Bank on Saturday following Hamas' victory.

Security forces in Gaza demanded Hamas figures

responsible for killing policemen should be brought to trial.

Several people were wounded in an exchange of fire between Hamas supporters and members of Fatah in Khan Younis in Gaza.

In Ramallah on the West Bank, Fatah supporters also staged more protest against their own leadership, which they blame for the election defeat.

Fatah activists launched violent protests in Gaza and the West Bank

Hamas policy-maker Ghazi Ahmed Hamad said if Fatah did not join a government "we will try to form a government of technocrats".

Hamas has also rejected international calls for the group to renounce violence or face cuts

in aid to Palestinians.

Ismail Haniya, who headed Hamas' election list, said: "This aid cannot be a sword over the heads of the Palestinian people and will not be material to blackmail our people, to blackmail Hamas and the resistance. It is rejected."

President George W Bush warned US aid, worth \$400m (£225m), could be cut following Hamas' surprise poll win.

Hamas won at least 74 of the 132 seats in the Palestinian assembly and has the backing of a further four independent MPs.

### Korea cloning expert questioned

Disgraced scientist Hwang Woo-suk has been questioned by South Korean authorities for the first time since admitting his research was faked.

Dr Hwang and his team received more than \$40m for his work with stem cells, in the hope that his landmark research would help cure a range of diseases.

Dr Hwang has already

apologised for flaws in his research.

However, the scientist has insisted that most of the fabrications were carried out without his knowledge, by collaborators on the project.

Dr Hwang was being questioned at Seoul National University, where he was a professor.

"An investigation is under way into the appropriateness of Hwang's use of the money," said an official at the Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI), according to the Yonhap news agency.

Any evidence of financial wrongdoing would be passed on to prosecutors who are conducting a separate investigation into the case, a BAI

spokesman told the AFP agency.

Dr Hwang and his team could include charges of fraud and embezzlement if he is found to have faked his research to ensure its funding.

A final report on the scandal from experts at Seoul National University, published earlier this month, said that Dr Hwang had faked both his most famous research papers.

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# Trust International World Report

## Indian president outlines national mission on republic day

By Charles Onuniju,  
Senior Reporter

Indian President Mr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has urged all Indians both at home and those living abroad, to dedicate to themselves to the "national mission and progress."

The Indian deputy high commissioner to Nigeria, Mr. Anil Triganayat read out the president's speech at a ceremony organized by the Abuja office of the Indian High Commission to mark the 57th republic day.

President Abdul Kalam who excitedly said that 5000 years old civilization is awakening to new technology and development, proclaimed that he can see that a "developed India on is on the rise."

According to him, "in order to strengthen this process, scientists, technologists and healthcare specialists have a special role to play and outlined missions for them. "For the scientists and technologists of the nation, I have five immediate national missions and outlined them as "(a) increasing the solar photo voltaic cell efficiency from 14% to 45% us-

ing Nano technology, (b) Research in proteomics to identify the disease-causing mechanism and to develop new methods to treat disease; (c) Earthquake forecasting using multiple parameter precursors such as pre-shock conditions and electromagnetic phenomena, prior to final rupture; (d) Building a validated mathematical model for predicting the quantum of rain for a particular cloud conditions in a particular region in a prescribed time using the new type of polarimetric radar; and (e) developing the prod-



Oluyemi Adeniji, Foreign Minister

ucts in the healthcare, electronics and materials to meet the national requirements using the convergence of nano, bio and info technologies."

President Kalam who said that "any country is as

good as its citizens, urged

Indians to cultivate positive ethics, values and character which will ensure disciplined politics, business, judiciary, bureaucracy, scientific pursuits and sports and games, adding that "this will elevate

our politics to statesmanship."

Later at a reception hosted for the Indian community in Abuja, the deputy High Commissioner Mr. Triganayat told Daily Trust that Indian

and Nigeria has enjoyed a fruitful relationship, adding that India is pushing to strengthen relationship in core economic sectors as oil and gas, mining, agriculture, etc.

## Adeniji urges Spain to employ qualified Nigerians

The Nigerian foreign minister ambassador Oluyemi Adeniji has urged the Kingdom of Spain to make arrangements to invite qualified Nigerians to work legally in the country.

In a statement, made available to Daily Trust from the ministry of foreign affairs, the foreign minister who received the outgoing Spanish ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Alfonso Mannel Portables said that he would ask his Spanish counterpart, when he goes on a reciprocal visit to the country, to implement the relevant part of the strategic partnership agreement which they signed in Abuja in 2005. The outgoing Spanish ambassador agreed and added that Spain will be willing to in-

vide some qualified Nigerians to work in Spain for agreed time frames as soon as details are worked out.

Earlier, the outgoing Spanish ambassador to Nigeria said he had come to the

ministry to pay his respects to the Nigerian foreign minister, and to express his appreciation of the co-operation he received from the ministry and the warm farewell reception the ministry

had organised in his honour.

He concluded by thanking the government and people of Nigeria who had enabled him to serve Spain and Nigeria.

## N/Korea strengthens military capability

North Korea is boosting its military capability with its Sogun political policy.

A statement from the North Korea Embassy in Abuja said the country is making its military sector a top priority to, among other things serves as a deterrent to the 'so called' super powers.

'Sogun means giving top national priority to military affairs and making the Korean Peoples Army the

backbone of revolution, so as to beef up the driving force of revolution and vigorously promote national defence and socialist construction as a whole', the statement said.

It added that the reinvigoration of the military is important giving the collapse of socialism in the former Soviet Union and East European countries 'and the arbitrariness of the imperialist allies'.

Commending Korean

leaders Kim Jung Il and President Kim Il Sung, the statement said that they have thought of the Sogun as the only solution for Korea in a competitive world. 'There have existed various types of political system in history but not anything like the Sogun policy', it added.

It therefore said that the policy has, 'strengthened the army beyond measure' in the North Korea.

### Advertisorial

## WUSE MARKET: A CASE AGAINST FURTHER DEMOLITIONS

Fears are rife of another impending round of demolition in Wuse Market. With the advertisement of bids for shops in Wuse Market, many blocks of shops were omitted in the list. The shops number about 200. On further inquiry, the traders were made to understand that those shops are marked for demolition and redevelopment. Meanwhile, these are the latest of shops built by the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) in Wuse Market.

The question is, why are Abuja Investment and Property Development Company (AIPDC) and Abuja Market Management Limited (AMML) wasting so much time and money in Wuse Market? These affected shops, it will be recalled, were built by FCDA with public funds after they had demolished the ones earlier built by the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) in 1997. One would think that with the limited resources available, the attention of AIPDC and AMML will be channeled towards the development of other markets in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), so that Wuse Market would be decongested. Behaving as if Wuse Market is the only market that needs attention is wrong. Traders all over the F.C.T had expected by now that Wuye, Mabuchi and other markets in the FCT will be nearing completion. Expanding Wuse Market by way of multiple storey buildings makes no economic safety or aesthetic sense in a country where the economy does not give room for efficient disaster management. Consideration should be made for the limited space available for commercial transaction, and easy movement of people, goods and vehicles. Wuse Market is situated in a limited space of land that can never absorb every commercial activity in Abuja, no matter how tall the buildings are.

Again, we suspect strongly that people are hiding under the minister's genuine intentions to confuse issues. We know that the issue of re-development and re-allocation of a whole section of the market demolished last year is yet to be fully addressed. Why jump into another round of demolition, especially when the shops involved were built by the FCDA with public funds barely eight years ago. Is it that those saddled with managing FCT markets cannot see beyond Wuse market in their quest for market expansion in Abuja or are they simply looking for an alibi not to do a good job of the sub-lease of shops in the market? It would be recalled that traders are already complaining about the lapses in the implementation of the sub-lease.

The minister in his foresight and wisdom has given Wuse market a new outlook and traders are most appreciative of that gesture. The problem now will be how to sustain this legacy by present and subsequent managers. To begin to design storey buildings all over the market will be to re-congest the market and is not economically wise as the money could have been used to develop other buffer markets, especially Mabuchi, Wuye and Maitama markets. Most importantly, over crowding the market with storey buildings will have heavy safety implication in case of any emergency.

Signed:  
HARUNA YAKUBU OPARA  
FOR: CONCERNED WUSE MODERN MARKET TRADERS  
ABUJA.

# Business Trust

## Briefs

### First Custodian forms alliance with British firm

The board of First Bank of Nigeria Plc has announced the appointment of a management team for its new subsidiary, First Custodian Nigeria Limited. The management team is headed by a former deputy general manager and financial controller of First Bank, Mr. Stephen Olabisi Onasanya. He is to report to a six-man board headed by the immediate past governor of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Dr. Joseph Sanusi. Other members include Alhaji Muhammad Ibrahim (OFR), Alhaji Abdullahi Mahmoud, Dr. Ayoola Oba Otudeko (OFR) and Mr. Jacobs Mevo Ajekigbe.

Mr. Onasanya is a member of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria and an Associate Member of the Nigeria Institute of Taxation. He is coming into his present assignment with a banking experience spanning over 22 years post qualification.

### Access bank, Vono products declare results

The duo of Access Bank Plc and Vono products plc over the weekend declared their third quarter unaudited results.

According to the Nigerian Stock Exchange, Access Bank recorded a third quarter gross earning of N9.2 billion compared to N4.9 billion in the same period in 2004.

Also, it made a profit after tax of N1.6 billion as against N431.2 million recorded in the same period in the preceding year.

Vono products plc achieved a nine months turnover of N165.6 million compared to N313.9 million in comparable period in 2004.

However, Vono declared a loss after tax of N41.2 million compared to profit after tax of N52.6 million in 2002.

It would be recalled that Access Bank last year beefed up its capital base from N3 billion to over N27 billion through organic and in organic means.

Already, the bank has said that it plans to emphasize retail banking sector of the market.



The chairman of First Bank of Nigeria Plc, Alhaji Umaru Abdul Mutallab (MON) was, recently, conferred with the Entrepreneurial Award by the Institute of Directors (IoD) Nigeria. The award ceremony took place at the IoD Secretariat, Ikoyi, Lagos. Pix shows Alhaji Mutallab (m), receiving the award plaque from the IoD president, Mr. Femi Ekundayo (l), while the Managing Director/Chief Executive of First Bank, Mr. Moyo Ajekigbe looks.

### SON demands certification of new banks

The Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) has called on new banks in the country to get ISO certification in order to boost confidence in the financial services sector.

The director-general of SON Dr. John Akanya who raised this matter on the occasion of Honey Well Flour Mill Ltd's ISO certification in Lagos said if the banks go for such quality checks it would benefit the economy.

According to him 140 companies nationwide have got the certification out of which four have folded up, saying that such certification although discretionary is in the overall interest of the national economy.

He said that SON's efforts to put quality mark on made

From Bright Ewulu, Deputy Business Editor

in Nigeria products has been noted globally, saying that today smuggled and fake products from the eastern parts of the world now bear SON's NIS marks.

He said this has raised the war against substandard products which is flooding into the country, maintaining however that efforts are now in top gear to inspect imported goods and services from their ports of inception instead of waiting until they enter the country.

This is to avoid, what he termed, burning Nigeria's money because once it has entered the country the Nigerian owners of such goods and services would have paid for the products.

## BON shareholders approve merger with Unity Bank

By Austine Odo, Business Editor

Shareholders of Bank of North Limited Friday at a Court-Ordered meeting unanimously approved the Scheme of Merger with the Unity Bank Group, authorizing the bank's directors to consent to modifications of the Scheme as may be imposed and approved by the CBN, SEC or the Federal High Court.

The meeting which was attended by representatives of 16 out of the 19 owner states in Northern Nigeria and the Northern Nigeria Development Company (NNDC), also agreed that all assets, liabilities and undertakings of the Bank, including all its real properties and intellectual property rights, be transferred to Unity Bank Plc without further act or deed in consideration for the issue and allotment of shares in Unity Bank Plc to the shares of the Bank as provided in the Scheme.

This followed merger discussions with other banks and the signing of a merger agreement with Unity Bank on December 14, 2005.

Adamawa, Borno and Kwara States were absent but *Business Trust* learnt that they sent their votes by proxy, an arrangement that was approved by the Court Order.

The meeting was convened, according to *Business Trust* findings, following an order of the Federal High Court in Lagos with regard to the proposed Scheme of Merger by which all the assets, liabilities and undertakings including real properties and intellectual property rights of BON, NNB International Bank Plc New Africa Bank Plc would be transferred to Unity Bank Plc.

This is in consideration for the issue of Unity Bank shares to holders of the three banks' shares.

As a result, all ordinary shares of NI each which constitute the entire issued share capital of BON were agreed by the shareholders to be cancelled and the Bank be dissolved without being wound up.

The shareholders also consented to the appointment of Aminu Ibrahim & Co to represent, monitor and enforce their rights in respect of any post-merger share adjustments and other post-merger issues to be made pursuant to the Scheme and merger arrangements.

The meeting was presided over by the Chairman, Alhaji Abubakar I. Sadauki and

attended by all the directors.

The acting managing director, Engr Ahmed Ibrahim said an enlarged Unity Bank would combine the inherent strength of the group and the three banks and should be well positioned to compete favourably in the banking industry, increasing value for shareholders of the four banks. According to Engr Ibrahim, the merger will engender

a strong strategic presence in the south-south region, Western Union direct agency and a clearing bank for the Nigeria Stock Exchange.

The rescue and revitalization of a national banking franchise that is of special significance to Northern Nigeria and can continue to serve as a major catalyst for development for development in the northern

states as well as wide geographical reach are some of other benefits outlined by the acting managing director.

A suggestion by a member, Mohammed Hashim of the Gombe State ministry of Finance that Unity Bank be made to adopt the BON logo was turned down on the ground that it was subject to a collective decision of the merger group.

### CBN mops N93.7bn from system

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) last week withdrew the largest chunk of excess liquidity from the financial system. It withdrew a total sum of N93.7 billion via government securities auction.

It would be recalled that about N27 billion was removed from the system in the proceeding week. However, in the period in review, the daily Open Market Operation (OMO) recorded a total sum of N7 billion in the transactions that held on January 23, 2006.

Auctions were held same day for the 14 days, 35 days and 63 days tenured bills. Sales recorded were N5 billion, N1 billion and N1 billion respectively. There were no repayments for bills that matured.

The range of bid rates was 7.5 to 11.5 percent, issue rates 7.5 percent and true yield 7.5218 percent for the 14 days tenured bills. For the 35 days tenured it was bid rates 9 percent, issue rates 9 percent and true yield 9.0781 percent.

### Currency Exchange Rates

Currency	Buying Rate	Central Rate	Selling Rate
Yen	1.1039	1.1082	1.1125
Waua	186.0142	186.7408	187.4674
US Dollar	128	128.5	129
Swiss Franc	101.1298	101.5248	101.9199
Riyal	34.1261	34.2594	34.3927
Pounds Sterling	228.5312	229.4239	230.3166
Euro	156.736	157.3482	157.9605



## VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC

RC 3094

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC)  
RULES AND REGULATIONS

Pursuant to

INVESTMENT AND SECURITIES ACT (ISA) 1999  
WITHDRAWN OF REGISTRATION AS REGISTRARS'

The general public is hereby notified that VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC, REGISTRAR'S DEPARTMENT, has in compliance with the Securities and Exchange Commission's directives, withdrawn its registration as Registrars' with the "Commission" with effect from 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2005.

As a result, the Registrars' functions would henceforth be performed by UAC REGISTRARS LIMITED. All enquiries and correspondence should be directed to:

The Managing Director  
UAC Registrars Limited  
1-5 Odulami Street  
P.O. BOX 2183  
Tel: 01-2663241, 01-2666229  
Email: [uacregistrar@uacnplc.com](mailto:uacregistrar@uacnplc.com)

SIGNED:  
OLUWOLE ADISA  
COMPANY SECRETARY



## Publication Of Final Consultation Papers On Unified Access Service and Unified Licence

The Nigerian Communications Commission further to powers conferred on it by the Nigerian Communications Act, 2003 has developed the framework for Unified Access Service and the Unified Access Service Licence.

The draft documents have been published on the Commission's website at [www.ncc.gov.ng](http://www.ncc.gov.ng) and can be accessed by all stakeholders and interested persons.

Please recall that the Commission has been conducting a series of consultations with stakeholders on this issue since February 2005. These documents represent the final consultation papers on this subject.

By this notice, the Commission invites comments on the publication from telecommunication operators, industry stakeholders and the general public. All submissions should be addressed to:

The Executive Vice Chairman,  
Nigerian Communications Commission  
Plot 72, Ahmadu Bello Way,  
Central Business District,  
Abuja.

(Attn: Director, Legal Services)

Or by e-mail to: [legal@ncc.gov.ng](mailto:legal@ncc.gov.ng)

Interested persons should ensure that their type written submissions reach the Commission within 14 days from the date of this publication.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2006

**DAVE IMOKO**  
Head, Public Affairs

**Nigerian Communications  
Commission**

Sense Plaza, Plot 72, Ahmadu Bello Way,  
Central Business District, Abuja.  
Tel: 011-2348991 & 2340330.



# BUSINESS TRUST

## PENCOM licences Diamond Pension as fund custodian

**D**iamond Pension Fund Custodian Limited (Diamond PFC) was on Thursday, January 26, issued licence by the National Pension Commission (PENCOM) to operate as a pension fund custodian (PFC) under the pension reform act 2004.

It would be recalled that only last month, PENCOM issued licences to the first batch of three PFCs.

A statement from the company said the issuance of licence to the company was as a result of the recent satisfactory on and off-site assessment by PENCOM.

According to the Acting Managing Director/CEO, Mr. Chris Ofikulu, Diamond PFC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Diamond Bank Group, which is reputed for good service delivery and customer satisfaction. The company is thus poised to render cutting edge pension custody service through its well-tested technology and experienced personnel.

To attain this goal, the company has entered into a strategic alliance with Sectech Limited, a leading U.K. firm with extensive experience on custody IT and Consulting services. The cus-

tody software being deployed by the company, Custody 2000, has full functionality satisfying the PFA's and PENCOM's requirements. In addition, its board of directors is made up of accomplished technocrats who cut across a wide range of professions with Pascal G. Dozie as the chairman.

The company has also entered into an effective and efficient service level agreement with Diamond Bank Plc to utilise its facilities such as wide branch network connected together on an online time technology using the bank's robust technology, flecube.



(L-R), Mr. Tony Elumelu, Chairman, subcommittee on aviation financing of the presidential taskforce on aviation industry, Funmi Olayinka, head, external relations, UBA and Mr. Arthur Onyeachu, secretary to the committee, at the meeting in Lagos...recently  
Pix: Oladipupo Odun...

## NICON pledges prompt claims payment

**T**he new chief executive officer of Nigerian Insurance Plc (NICON), Barrister Jimoh Ibrahim formally assumed duties last week with a promise to ensure prompt payment of insurance claims of clients.

Receiving a three man delegation of a consortium of brokers on Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), account led by Mrs. C. B. Onigbogi in his office, Barrister Ibrahim assured that the new NICON management would reduce all difficulties usually encountered in the payment of commissions and claims.

He expressed the hope that the new management would have a very cordial working relationship with PHCN stressing that the Power Holding Company is one of the most prized clients of NICON and the manage-

ment will be very proactive in bringing joy to its clients.

"We have come to start a revolution in the Insurance industry. To put a smile on the faces of our clients. "when you are insuring, nobody asked you to bring police reports and other unnecessary documents, why then must you be asked for police reports when you are about to be paid claims. All stakeholders must assist in this task," he said.

Speaking earlier the consortium leader, Mrs. Onigbogi congratulated the new CEO and expressed the hope that PHCN account would be well handled by the new NICON management. He urged him to use his office to ensure the prompt payment of all outstanding claims and commissions that have been confirmed promptly.

## Afribank appoints GMs, DGMs

**A**fribank Nigeria Plc has strengthened its management team with the elevation of three managers to the position of general manager and two to deputy general managers. The three new general managers are Mr. Henry O. Arogundade (commercial banking), Alhaji Bashir M. Wali (group company secretary/legal adviser), and Mr. Ayo G. Ahonsi, (consumer and retail banking). The new deputy general managers are Mr. Ali Sa'idu (deputy general manager/group head-

consumer and retail banking) and Mr. Raimi Oyebo (deputy general manager-secretary).

According to a release from Afribank Nigeria Plc, the appointment of new general managers and deputy general managers was informed by the need to harness the human resources in the bank for greater responsibility and results. The new appointees who are seasoned bankers and technocrats have since assumed their new positions.



Mr. Henry Arogundade, GM Afribank



Mr. Ayo G. Ahonsi, GM Afribank

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# Business Trust



From left, customs comptroller, Musa A. Tahir of Seme/Badagry unit, and his counterpart, Musa Daura, comptroller, Federal Operations Unit (FOU) Ikeja, at a function in Lagos...recently.

## NIA to introduce motor insurance data

As a way of shielding its members from incidences of fraud associated with motor insurance, Nigerian Insurers Association (NIA), the umbrella body for operating insurance firms is in the process of establishing motor insurance data base the insurance industry.

To also reduce the rising cases of stolen vehicles, NIA has engaged the services of vehicle tracking companies to track down stolen vehicles in any location. Making these disclosures over the weekend in a chat with insurance correspondents in Lagos, NIA Director-General, Mr. Ezekeil O. Chiejina said the two projects are to be managed by the newly incorporated subsidiary of the organization, NIA Global Ventures Limited registered with the sole aim of undertaking commercial activities of NIA.

Giving further insight on the viability of the motor insurance data base, he said the idea was to have in one place, all vehicles insured by insurance companies with a view to checking incidences of fraudulent multiple insurance and also minimizing fraudulent insurance claims.

Besides, the data base will be used by all arms of the industry and the law enforcement agencies like the police and Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in carrying out their duties. Other ways the data base will be put in to use according to the NIA boss include check-mating incidences of fake insurance documents, checking fraudulent registration of motor vehicles and helping the police in fighting crime and resolving accident issues between two or more motorists.

From Abdulwahab Isa, Business Correspondent, Lagos

view to partnering with them. When fully operational, the vehicle tracking system is intended to reduce the high incidence of claims on stolen vehicles" he clarified.

Reviewing the activities of the association last year (2005) he described it as "challenging but it was also successful and fulfilling in many respects."

The governing council of

the Nigerian Insurance Association (NIA) has approved the suspension of five insurance companies for failing to meet their membership obligations to the association.

The suspended firms are first chartered insurance company limited, Golden Insurance Company Limited, Guinea Insurance Plc, Mutual Assurance Limited and Prime Trust Insurance company limited.

## UBA spends N1bn on merger integration

The United Bank of Africa (UBA) has disclosed that its integration effort following recent merger with Standard Trust Bank (STB) and Continental Trust Bank Ltd (CTB) is in excess of N1 billion.

The bank's executive director retail, Mr Chika Mordi who aired this on the occasion of its media parley on its post-consolidation activities stated that with its rebranding expenses across the country, New York, Ghana the amount is in excess of N1 billion.

He said that the systems integration effort which took off in March 2005 took barely a year to execute, saying that its 428 branches will go live online on February 6, 2006.

Flanked by the bank's top officials, Mr Mordi stated that the difficulty in what UBA achieved within one year could better be appreciated by the fact that it has close to six million Nigerians and others as its customers.

Said he, "this will help you to understand the integration problems we faced, not just in Nigeria since we have branches in New York, Island and Ghana."

He said that the bank's

From Bright Ewulu Deputy Business Editor

bank has set up a call centre that would handle expected anomalies.

The executive director was optimistic that the effort will turn out successful, saying that the development has once more highlighted that UBA has gone ahead in post consolidation integration in the banking subsector.

Independent management consultant, Mr Peter Mounbaur in his intervention stated that the success of the effort owes to the big bang approach adopted by the systems managers.

Nevertheless, the bank said GTB's Bank master system will not be migrated the same weekend to limit risk.



## Nigerian coys eye foreign stock exchanges

Indications are rife that more Nigerian quoted companies may soon follow the example set by Oando Nigeria Plc by listing their shares on the floors of foreign stock exchanges.

Oando late last year listed its shares on the floor of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE).

The Dangote Group in 2005 said that it plans to bring its operation to the capital market, saying that it intends to list on the Nigerian Stock Exchange and the London Stock Exchange (LSE) in order to gain some mileage in its business.

However, its officials said they reason that its intension to list on the LSE is the fact that the nation's capital market may not be deep enough to take that area of its business in its entirety. Speaking last week, United Bank for Africa (UBA), executive director retail, Mr Chika Mordi said UBA has plans of listing its shares on the New York, Johannesburg and London Stock Exchanges.

Although, he was not specific as to the time this should be affected, he was emphatic that the bank had settled on that cause of action.

Earlier, in the month, the director-general of the NSE, Dr

Ndi Okereke-Onyuike had praised Oando Plc for its foreign exchange listing and had enjoined other Nigerian quoted companies to tap the

opportunities inherent in the move. According to her, the opportunities was made possible by the memorandum understanding (MOU) it has over time signed with these stock exchanges across the globe.

## SEC set for 2006 capital market conference

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has disclosed that the 2006 edition of the national capital market conference will focus on recent issues in the Nigerian economy as the apex regulator of the market is concluding arrangements to hold the conference and dinner in March. A melting pot for the various stakeholders in the Nigerian capital market, the 2006 edition of the conference, according to the Commission has the theme "NEEDS: Strengthening the Capital Market for a private sector-led growth.

The conference which is also another feedback forum on the effects of the federal government's policies on the country's financial system and the capital market in particular, is scheduled to hold on Wednesday March 29, 2006 while the dinner is to hold on Thursday March 30, 2006.

According to Ismail Mohammed Ville, Head, (Corporate Affairs) SEC, the conference is in line with the Commission's statutory role and functions of regulating and developing the Nigeria, capital market.

Ville declared that the major objective of the national capital market conference is to provide a unique forum for seasoned experts, regulators, operators, investors and indeed all stakeholders in the capital market to exchange ideas, critically analyse, and address emergent and contemporary issues with a view to positively impacting on the market and the players therein, thus enhancing their competitiveness and dynamism in the global economy.

Ville added that "this year's conference will also have a good number of capital market stakeholders' institutions partnering with the commission towards a successful conference."

# ABCON

Association of Bureaux De Change Operators of Nigeria  
P.O. Box 15750, Ikeja, Lagos. Tel: 01-4967091, 01-3453632

Notice is hereby given  
That the

## SEMINAR/ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (A.G.M)

Of the association has been  
Scheduled to hold as follows:

**DATES:** Wed. 1<sup>st</sup> Feb., 2006 – Seminar &  
Thurs. 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb., 2006 – A.G.M

**TIME:** 10:00am Each Day

**VENUE:** LAGOS AIRPORT HOTEL 111 Obafemi Awolowo Way Ikeja, Abuja

**SEMINAR FEE PER PARTICIPANT IS N15, 000 (EACH BDC IS EXPECTED TO SEND AT LEAST 2 PARTICIPANTS)**

Please be punctual and also note that the seminar is Compulsory for all Licensed BDCS.

# BUSINESS TRUST

International

## 'Zimbabwe maybe barred from IMF'

Zimbabwe may be at risk of being thrown out of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), whose officials are in the south African country assessing its economic policies.

Harare won itself a six-month reprieve in September 2005 by making an unexpected payment of 120 million dollars (100 million euros) to the IMF to relieve some of its outstanding debt to the world lending body.

But the Sunday Mail quoted "impeccable sources" as saying the IMF had now shifted its focus away from Zimbabwe's debt arrears of 136.7 million dollars and onto its domestic financial policies.

"Zimbabwe should not be upbeat about the current visit by the IMF team, amid revelations that the Bretton Woods institution is now saying its strained relations with Harare stems from the country's fiscal and monetary policies and not the country's failure to service its debt with the fund," the weekly reported Sunday.

The team's findings will be submitted to the IMF executive on March 8, which will decide whether to stop all future loans to Zimbabwe.

If this happens, Zimbabwe will become only the second country to be kicked out since the former Czechoslovakia in 1954.

The Sunday Mail warned Finance Minister Herbert Murerwa and Central Bank governor Gideon Gono not to be too optimistic.

"It has also emerged that barely 48 hours after meeting representatives from the ministry of finance and the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, the IMF team ... has already started compiling the report it is set to represent to the Fund's board," it said, quoting unnamed sources monitoring developments between Harare and the Washington-based financier.

President Robert Mugabe has had sharp disagreements with the IMF over its policy prescriptions, accusing it of imposing excessively harsh conditions.

For the past six years Zimbabwe's parlous economy has struggled with three-digit inflation, now hovering at about 500 percent, and chronic shortages of foreign currency and basic goods.

More than 80 percent of the population lives below the poverty line and more than two thirds are jobless.

## US asks Japan to open market

Japan needs more work on opening up its domestic markets for foreign firms, U.S. Deputy Treasury Secretary Robert Kimmitt said on Saturday.

"A considerable progress has been made but there are still opportunities in front of us," he told a panel discussion at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

"Things are going better for companies already in Japan but I think we still need to work on creating opportunities for new companies to come into Japanese markets," he said.

"Particularly looking at postal savings we want to create a level of playing field for Japanese and foreigners looking to come into Japan and give equal opportunities."



Nigerian teenagers inside the 32 passengers capsule of the London Eye, during a recent trip sponsored by Cadbury Nig. Ltd.

## Nigeria, Iran crisis push oil to \$67

Crude oil futures climbed back above \$67 a barrel Friday on nagging supply fears linked to Iran's nuclear standoff with the international community and militant attacks in Nigeria, Africa's largest oil exporter.

Adding to the bullish tone, Saudi Arabia's oil minister Ali Naimi said prices are unlikely to fall in the near term and OPEC's president suggested the global economy could live with \$60 a barrel.

Light sweet crude for March delivery gained \$1.50

to settle at \$67.76 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. March Brent crude futures on London's ICE Futures exchange rose \$1.32 to settle at \$66.24 a barrel.

Heating oil gained 2.89 cents to \$1.8069 a gallon, while gasoline futures advanced by 5.21 cents to settle at \$1.7364 a gallon.

"Geopolitical tensions remain in Iran and Nigeria," said Victor Shum, energy analyst at Purvin & Gertz in Singapore. "They pose potential threats to supply that together with the world's spare

capacity tightness and strong global demand, keep a relatively high floor under crude prices."

Naimi said prices are not likely to drop in the near term even though supply and demand are balanced.

"I have no control over prices. We accept that they're high, and of course, we want them to come down," Naimi said in New Delhi, where he is visiting as part of a state delegation.

His remarks come ahead of a closely watched meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Vienna on Tuesday.

OPEC president Edmund Daukoru, asked at the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, Switzerland, whether the global economy could live with crude oil prices at \$60 a barrel, replied: "I honestly think it can."

"OPEC is committed to supplying the market at a reasonable price," Daukoru said. "Of the two, we're more committed to supplying the market and keeping it stable. I can't fix the price."

Markets were also concerned about the dispute between Iran—the second-largest oil producer in OPEC—and the West over the restarting of its nuclear program. Iran insists the program is aimed at generating electric-

ity while the U.S. and several In Nigeria, four foreign oil workers were kidnapped at a Royal Dutch Shell PLC oil platform in the Niger Delta on Jan. 11. Militants who say they are holding the men are demanding the release of two tribal leaders and for Shell to pay local communities \$1.5 billion in compensation for oil pollution.

The kidnappings came amid a spate of attacks on oil installations in Nigeria that have forced companies to evacuate hundreds of their workers and cut 10 percent of the country's daily oil output.

Meanwhile, natural gas futures rose 17.1 cents to \$8.40 per 1,000 cubic feet. On Thursday, natural gas fell 23.1 cents to settle at \$8.229—its lowest level in almost six months, after U.S. government data showed domestic inventories were well above the five-year average for this time of year.

Above-normal winter temperatures in the U.S. have helped moderate demand, soothing a market that had otherwise been jittery because 16 percent of daily natural-gas production in the Gulf of Mexico remains shut-in nearly five months after Hurricane Katrina ripped through the region, knocking out platforms, pipelines and processing plants.

AP Business Writer Brad

## Accident victims wins case against motor company

Ford Motor Company was ordered to pay \$29 million Friday in the case of a 22-year-old woman who was partially paralyzed after the Firestone tire on her Explorer failed and the vehicle rolled over.

Firestone previously paid an undisclosed settlement in the case.

Plaintiff attorneys touted the case as the first Ford-Firestone case to go all the way to a verdict since Firestone tire recalls started in 1999.

"You have a situation where all the parties agreed there was a tire defect, but the question was who's ultimately responsible for the

Attorneys for plaintiff Rose Maria Munoz argued that the vehicle had a problem known as a rear axle "skate" that led to the driver's inability to handle the vehicle after a de-tread. Attorneys also said Ford had a role in designing Firestone tires.

Ford spokeswoman Kathleen Vokes said the case would be appealed.

"Our concern goes out to Ms. Munoz, but this accident was caused by driver error," she said.

Braugh said the case also brought attention to the issue of tire aging and what automobile manufacturers needed

to settle at \$67.76 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. March Brent crude futures on London's ICE Futures exchange rose \$1.32 to settle at \$66.24 a barrel.

ers have been aware of the problem since the late 1980s, but failed to provide information.

The vehicle in question was using an original spare tire sold with the vehicle that was more than 10 years old.

The accident occurred in 2002 near Poteet, Texas. Munoz was one of four occupants of an Explorer that had been sold as a 1999 Mazda Navajo. The left rear Firestone tire on the Navajo de-treaded, and the vehicle rolled several times. Munoz, who was ejected from the vehicle, was the only one seriously injured.



## Gusau's century-old tradition of roasting

Although this year's Eid-il-Kabir, has come and gone, with celebrations and sacrifice cutting across the homes of many Muslims around the world, the Sallah sacrifice in Gusau, the Zamfara State capital, has left indelible memories, especially due to its "uniqueness" where the sacrifice was carried out with a difference, as it has been for over a hundred years.

This year's Eid-il-Kabir, like that marked five years ago, (when this writer found himself in the ancient town for a similar festival), was marked with the traditional sacrifice of rams which was community based.

The Sacrifice was preceded by a joint contribution from residents of various communities, who listed out their names and each person providing at least one thousand naira, to make between twenty five to thirty thousand naira for the procurement of a cow. For instance, where twenty people contribute the sum of N25,000.00, a cow was jointly purchased, slaughtered and shared into twenty five equal parts, with each depositor getting a part. Sometimes, where an individual deposits two or three thousand naira, he or she gets three shares, as it is common to see the meat shared in parts fixed for one thousand naira each.

However, the cow does not imply the ritual sacrifice.

By Isa Umar Gusau,  
who was in Zamfara

The cow meat shared as the case this year, was mostly used by residents to prepare Sallah food, for house hold consumption, entertainment of visiting friends and relations, as well as distribution of same to neighbours.

In Gusau, most households (as has been the case over the years) shared the Sallah meals to neighbours and relations, only after returning from Eid praying ground, since during the Eid-il-Kabir, it is preferred not to eat before the Eid prayer.

On the return of people from the prayers, teenagers anxiously dragged out Sallah rams, belonging to their families, in preparation for the annual ritual sacrifice, which they had waited for, all along. For some of the teenagers, the zeal to drag out the rams, was not only due to their attraction to the sacrifice, but also a show of pride, where the sizes of the rams were compared, with some even taking snap shots with the rams. "I had to take picture with this (pointing at a big one) ram, because it is one of the biggest we purchased in so many years" Abdul, a teenager said.

In a traditional style, the Sallah sacrifice was done collectively. In various groups, between ten and twenty rams belonging to residents were gathered in one area. Elderly



Making sure the task is completed. A gangman making some adjustments. Note the plates underneath the meat, used to collect fat droppings from the rams

and young men took turns to personally slaughter rams belonging to them or their family members. As each ram was slaughtered, professional butchers who stood by, lifted the slaughtered animals, with teenagers focusing closely on rams belonging to their families, for proper identification. In less than twenty minutes,

a ram was skinned by the butchers. During that process, a resident of a particular area assumed coordination of the butchering.

He, the coordinator, collected between N100.00 to N200.00 from owners of each ram, as payment for the skinning and other accompanying services by the butchers.

With the completion of the exercise, internal parts, heads, legs and skin(s) of rams, were taken home by the teenagers, while the remaining parts of the rams were dressed in a special position, with peculiar sticks put through the skeletal bodies, in readiness for exposure to the fires heat for roasting.

In some places, an individual within a particular community took responsibility of procuring the peculiar sticks used for hanging the rams, as is the case in some parts of the Birnin - Ruwa ward of Gusau.

Prior to exposing the rams to fire, some liquid concoction comprising water, seasoning, salt and pepper, were sprayed on the rams, apparently for taste.

In some areas, after the concoction was sprayed, meat owners insisted on putting marks through some deep cuts on parts of the skeletal bodies, for easy identification, while in some areas owners stood behind their meat throughout the community roasting process.

In readiness to commence the roasting, youths and teenagers came out in various communities, to gather thick stems sourced from dry trees, and stacked the wood outside houses, setting them ablaze and allowed the flames for some minutes. Prior to that,

tasked with the responsibilities of erecting particular wooden stands to create room for easy hanging of the rams for a good session of roasting. After that, the roasting commenced mostly between 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. across various parts of Gusau. By 5:00 p.m. many parts of the town were filled with the aroma of roast



## g Layya ram

eat. For teenagers, who dutifully watched the rams belonging to their families, the Sallah was just a prelude to other things they worked hard to gain. Traditionally in many homes, those who watched over rams and took part in the roasting exercise were considered the rightful owners of the meat. Perhaps, this explains why teenagers often quarrelled on who should take charge of the roasting exercise in the family. In some families, ages were considered, in others, commitment during the rearing of the animals prior to the Sallah day, formed a criterion, while in some households, the teenagers were jointly given the task. But in other families, the teenagers were given the task in turns annually.

During the roasting, teenagers brought metal and plastic plates, positioned them underneath the roasting rams, to collect melting fat dropping from the meat. "For those of us in boarding schools, the fat seasons the taste of our meals. It gives the meals a peculiar and pleasant taste. You know meals in boarding schools are not too tasty. So the fat helps so much. Again, we sometimes eat it with bread," Nasir Shehu, a school pupil said.

For Mohammed Anka, the fat serves "better purpose. With this fat, I can preserve my Sallah meat for up to six months. Provided the meat

parts are dipped inside the fat, the meat is preserved," Anka Said.

The roasting exercise became completed at sunset in most parts of Gusau, on Sallah day. But the roasting itself was not without its own uniqueness. Apart from the gathering around various roasting positions, some residents seemed to stage a light competition on which group would finish roasting first. "Every year, our group here in Mayana ward comes its meat first in the roasting exercise," Ismaila Mayanci, said.

On completion, the roasted rams were taken home for distribution according to the tradition a day after Sallah. But why the entire roasting exercise? Does it have any religious significance?

Alhaji Mamman Nasadi, the ward head of Birnin Ruwa, speaks. "This has been our tradition for over one hundred years. I am about sixty years old, and I grew up to see my parents roasting their rams in a traditional way, as is the case today. So we copy them. One important aspect of it is that the exercise, in the whole of Zamfara State, is mostly a community based effort. Here in Birnin - Ruwa, the exercise brings about unity. We all gather in various areas, bring our sacrificed rams together, roast together as a family", and Nasadi stated.

On one other relevance of roasting the ram, the tradi-



Professional butchers in action

tional ruler said, "You know we have so many bachelors or visitors who either follow our relations to Gusau for Sallah, or even our relations themselves. Now, when they come, many of their wives don't cook here. Besides, we also have those who cannot even afford the meat. So, the entire aim of the roasting is to ease things for those who are without families or wives precisely. So, instead of searching for how to cook or fry

fresh meat, we give roasted meat, that one can just eat. To us it is better not to over task someone when given slices of the meat. You know, the true essence of Layya (Sacrifice) is to reach out to the needy. So why now tasking them with slices of meat instead of cooking or frying?" The Hakimin Birnin - Ruwa I, rhetorically asked.

As unique as one may choose to describe the Gusau Sallah sacrifice, the tradition is not without its own reservations expressed in opinions and actions. Mostly among the elites in the area, the act of roasting Sallah meat is considered by some as an archaic tradition that should be discarded. Sani Aliyu, an economist, sees the exercise as "a mere tradition" without any religious significance. According to him, though interesting, roasting changes the taste of the meat, since many people who are given the roasted meat, still prefer frying

it because, sometimes, the roasting is not done properly, as the meat is left with traces of blood."

But the elders hold contrary views. "That is purely for the unprofessional. When properly roasted, you just prefer it to fried meat. It is just unique," elderly Alhaji Hassan Nayaya upheld.

For others who hold other reservations, their concern about the Sallah roasting are the road blocks, mounted in some corners of Gusau, preventing vehicular movement where fire is set for roasting on some streets. In some areas, it was observed even by this writer, that some people had their cars parked far from their destinations due to the roasting exercise, mounted on some roads across the areas.

Mamman Nasadi, the Hakimin Birnin - Ruwa I, seemed to be in agreement with this inconvenience, even though he said, there is a solution. "The inconvenience is not good, even though it is

an annual event and lasts for a few hours. But the problem will be solved if government will step into it, and identify some open grounds where residents of particular areas will be given opportunities to carry out the roasting exercise, because it will be difficult to stop the tradition".

In this year's Sallah, many rams were slaughtered, while others had course to continue screaming "mehhhhh!" having survived the Sallah mass slaughter. Belief has it, though, that most rams would prefer being slaughtered for Sallah sacrifice than for other celebrations.

While awaiting the situation come next year, especially the adjustments required in respect of the road blocks during the Gusau Sallah sacrifices, the fine moments of the century-long tradition also reflected this year, will remain memorable for those who uphold the significance of the "unique style of roasting the Layya ram".

*During the roasting, teenagers brought metal and plastic plates, positioned them underneath the roasting rams, to collect melting fat dropping from the meat. "For those of us in boarding schools, the fat seasons the taste of our meals. It gives the meals a peculiar and pleasant taste. You know meals in boarding schools are not too tasty. So the fat helps so much. Again, we sometimes eat it with bread," Nasir Shehu, a school pupil said. For Mohammed Anka, the fat serves "better purpose. With this fat, I can preserve my Sallah meat for up to six months. Provided the meat parts are dipped inside the fat, the meat is preserved," Anka Said. The roasting exercise became completed at sunset in most parts of Gusau, on Sallah day. But the roasting itself was not without its own uniqueness. Apart from the gathering around various roasting positions, some residents seemed to stage a light competition on which group would finish roasting first.*

## ADVERTORIAL

## GOVERNANCE IN KANO STATE: TIME FOR EVALUATION

Every human endeavor is capable of being evaluated, including the complexes involved in managing people, under democratic governance. The precision, accuracy or success achieved and attained depends so much on many factors. Principally among which are, being in possession of reliable, relevant, tangible, sufficient and verifiable information on the issue or subject matter of the evaluation. For the evaluation to be complete and qualitative, provision for discount on human errors and mistaken beliefs should be made. But most importantly, absolute fear of Allah (S.W.A) should be the guiding light in evaluating people shouldering the burden of democratic governance, particularly governance with Islamic ideals and flavor imbued. All these and perhaps many more ought to be taken into accounts consciously in making political evaluations before passing judgment and taking position, privately or publically individually or collectively, now or in the foreseeable future.

To that extent, and to all extents, governance, particularly in democracy, should be evaluated using objective criteria's, parameters and indices in place and as against adopting sentimental attachments to illusions and wishful aspirations envy, greed, ignorance, vindictiveness, hear say, or rumor being peddled in wholesale and retail measures. In any event, periodic evaluation of democratic governance is an all important and non-negotiable requirement and process for anybody in control of his reasoning faculty. Because it is only by so doing that previous and past conditions and positions can be compared with current and present one's, so as to avail those in governance an opportunity to make amends in cases of unintended human errors, slow down where too fast, accelerate where too slow, give commendations in those events that recorded good performance, reprimand in those cases involving minor derailments, punish in cases of deliberate breaches. And put together all these possible scenarios and cases together to prepare and plan for future challenges.

Nobody should forget, and those who have forgotten should remember that political governance is about management of people and resources, done through peoples consent, consent donated to peoples representatives at all levels, by way of expressing their franchise in free, fair and credible elections. In addition to the fact that management of public opinion and responding to same also takes centre stage for an enduring tenure.

Political power or any power for that matter is neither a birth right, nor is it sold in the market nor can it be obtained through false pretences, deception or by force from the electorates. Rather, electorates have to be convinced on the programs of both parties and candidates. Past records, goodwill and integrity of aspirants plays a paramount role in guiding people to chose. Once the majority electorates elect to vote a government in or out of office, there is nothing anybody can do about it. A brief survey and excursion into recent past democratic governance in Kano State will shed more light. And in so doing a common plat form of comparing regimes with like terms would be fairer and more sensible. Thus comparing past democratic governance with the current one in place.

Rabiu Kwankwaso came into power in 1999 courtesy of Kano State voters. It was left for Kwankwaso to manage his mandate to the satisfaction of those who voted him into power otherwise a crash can occur as it indeed occurred to him just four years later. Kwankwaso lost out incidental to so many factors ranging from the silent to the loud.

It was during his regime from 1999 to 2003, that Kano State witnessed a unique style of governance where in views of people and public opinion did not matter neither does it count in governments policy formulation, implementation and review.

State owned media houses, both print and electronic, funded with tax payers money were used not to promote unity, but to disunite, not to inform people about activities of government but to conceal some or where made public, with wide distortions through massive misinformation. Indeed, only government stooges and hired spokesmen and women had access to the media and the larger stakeholders congregation became mere spectators. They had to resort to that style as they had no better option, going by the way they were packaged and deceptively presented to voters as politicians. They ended up descending into the once cultured political arena of Kano State with neither mission, vision or clear programs capable of improving the lives and living of voters. Little wonder they could not last long. In fact how they managed to remain in power for up to four years is still a mystery.

Recall also how, on assuming office, Kwankwaso deployed all State instruments at his disposal and mercy for the purpose of suppressing, undermining, frustrating and traumatizing those who do not share his world view, style of governance and value judgment. Thus he deployed his own parameter of dealing and relating with civil servants issues as against the old known culture of referring to the civil service rules, regulations and guide lines. Subsequently employment into the civil service became a matter of who you know. Deployment depending on who is behind you. Promotion no more a mater of right but that of privilege. Dismissal from service at the convenience of the governor. Salaries, allowances, and other entitlements paid only at the convenience of the governor. Retirees could neither get their gratuities nor their pensions in spite of their sacrifices. In short a traumatized state public service where no rules are applicable but only those common to animal jungles, where only might is right. Pity!

With no articulate programs at hand and having sensed resentment very early in its life, the Kwankwaso regime deployed massive resources in mobilizing unemployed youth whom they utilized in insulting the wider public, detracted their attentions, in still fear in them thereby hoping to conceal government monumental failure in making life better for the electorates. In spite of the more than enough at its disposal. Thus promoting thuggery which heightened insecurity and terror against the very people he claimed voted him into power.

Without consultations, because for Kwankwaso none was necessary, his regime went ahead to introduce programs that have no bearing on the needs of the people. Before then, he had to deceive people severally on the issue of Shariah implementation which for all practical purposes he did not like knowing fully well that his style of governance was not going to be Shariah compliant. Subsequently and with the passage of time, Kwankwaso's regime was sinking by the day into the murky waters of non-performance, incompetence, compromised vision, in addition to chasing imaginary enemies very well forgetting that he was his own enemy.

In other words, Kwankwaso's regime was that of "political leaders" without vision, lacking in mission. With power at their disposal but exercised detrimentally. With authority at thier hand but abused and misused. With peoples collectives resources as a trust under them but misapplied with abundant recklessness. With claim to Shariah implementation but accompanied by daily increasing Godlessness and heartlessness. Indeed like pharaoh who had everything at his disposal except allegiance from his subjects who refused to be cowed in spite of the trauma he made them to go through. All made possible by set of political appointees ready to do the biddings of the master no matter how dirty, inhuman or anti people. Because they were chosen not on merit but owing to their blind allegiance.

## TIME FOR EVALUATION

Such was the tragedy that befell the people of Kano State between 1999-2003. Godly as Kano people are and with a lot of prayers, a relief came their own way from God himself by making available to them Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau. A patient teacher. Thorough administrator with exemplary qualities. With high dose of Allah's fear. Able to relate with all age groups and interest groups with relative ease because all his cards are on the table for different players to see, with rules that do not change without notice or change at the eleventh hour. He came with a clear vision and well intended mission to a people he knew and understand well enough having been part and parcel of them. Shekarau's administration became a matter of team work. Every input matters. His executive council represents shades of many colors. Whatever one may call them, they still represent what is required to promote peace, harmony, progress, stability and brotherhood. Together with them and other various stakeholders Governor Ibrahim Shekarau added value to governance, improved the chances of people, brought in security and professionalism, instill decency and accountability, restore security in public service, admitted back the right of the opposition to criticize government through government media and indeed brought about policies and programs with direct bearing to the welfare of the common man. Commissioners and other political appointees, selected across Board, in addition to their input, were all mobilized towards the journey of restoring the dignity of labor and respect for the wishes and aspirations of the electorates.

In spite of the daily increasing people, trooping into offices and houses of commissioners and other senior political appointees, action capable of causing delays and derailments, Kano State has recorded tremendous progress and success to the administration of the electorates and of cause to the envy of detractors who see nothing good in all things that are universally adjudged to be good.

Just ask any civil servant currently in service, to compare his past and his present status and you will hear him telling you about the "new heaven" he is enjoying now as against his "old hell" of 1999-2003. Because he receives his salary and all other entitlements and is promoted as at and when due irrespective of his political lining. He has job security because the fear of victimization is no more. With training opportunities open to all the Sundry. Ask local government employees, they will relate the same pleasant story to you. With one bonus after the other, civil servants can now claim to have their dignity restored and value in public service recognized.

Ask the opposition, and they will tell you how free and unhindered it has been for them to use government media, in many cases to make genuine observations or even criticize the government of Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau without having to fear any negative consequences thereafter inform of molestation, insult or assault. This opportunity was not even contemplated before the advent of the Shekarau Administration.

Assemble all the pensioners in Kano State and find out from them their current state of mind with Shekarau presiding over. They will tell you that their past state of uncertainty of their entitlements particularly during the dark days of 1999-2003 have now been transformed into a definite certainty. Having collected all that is due to them as at and when due. Thereby able to discharge their daily obligations without resorting to borrowing and begging. They will also relate to you how stabilized they are now which explains their daily commendations and prayers on the Shekarau Administration. So much for pensioners.

There had been several regimes before that of Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau. But non had the courage to disclose to the general public, on monthly basis, the revenue accruing to the State and to every local government. This is the peak of openness, honesty, probity and accountability. The commissioners of finance and local

Go around the whole of Kano State and you will witness how beneficial public structures are being built and or rehabilitated to human standard. With projects sited without discrimination. In addition to responding to distress calls of individuals and communities with speed, precision and accuracy.

With traditional institutions taking a centre stage in projecting promoting and protecting the needs of their subjects because they are considered as partners in progress by the Shekarau's administration. Ask any traditional ruler his impression about the current government in power, and it will be all praises because he is dignify consulted without any fear of intimidation.

Women and children, youth and elders all bear testimony to the fairness, equity and justice associated with Mallam Shekarau and his team. With increase youth employment, engagement and training, a record difficult to beat is in place. With women empowerment on the increase, gender marginalization is on decline. With wider consultation, all are feeling involved in governance. With a cool, calm and methodical leader, backed by responsible subordinate progress, and development will continue to manifest.

Indeed, people of Kano State, enjoy serene and peaceful life which explains their current state of tranquility. Because they have relative security of lives, properties and environment. Students at all tiers are feeling the presence of government very much unlike before. With girl child education at all levels becoming free and increase and timely payment of scholarship allowances, all can be said to be safe for any willing student to justify the huge government investment in him.

Contractors are paid their monies at the beginning of job executions and on completion without the fear of being financial crippled. Just like small and big time business men and women go about their legitimate business without let or hindrance.

Indeed we the youth in Kano have long resolved that, our contribution to the current Shekarau administration shall continue to take multidimensional approaches. Because we appreciate his sincerity of purpose and good intentions. We appreciate the roles of many of his commissioners and other political appointees in carting a good course in addition to planning and executing good projects having multiple benefits and implementing Godly policies for Kano people which are having multiple benefits for now and for the future. Indeed we appreciate the burden on them and the daily increasing pressure surrounding them. We believe that only constant prayer and understanding is what they deserve. We call on Mallam Shekarau, his commissioners and all other political appointees and well wishers to persevere, remain patient, committed and forward looking. Allah is with you and the teaming youth of Kano State are solidly behind you.

Kano people, both the young and the old should appreciate the progress so far recorded by the Shekarau administration, particularly the conscious effort of instilling and restoring sanity through Shariah implementation. Shariah being Allah's law has no provision for envy, greed gossip, treachery or such other wickedness. Coming to terms with the realities of Shariah implementation will help in advancing Kano society to greater heights. Opposing it under any guise is at a serious peril because it is an opposition to Allah's will and command. And every body is aware that Allah is mighty, strong, full of power and wisdom, all seeing, all encompassing and whose will, will always prevail no matter the magnitude of opposition. SO HELP US GOD.

DANJUMA ABDULRAHAMAN RANO  
(President)

LAWAL SADIQ BAGWAI

# KANO TRUST

## Ado Bayero lectures to replace annual horse-racing

Following the non-completion of the Race Course ground rehabilitation, the organizers of the annual Kano horse racing have resorted to conduct an annual Ado Bayero lecture series in replace of the former.

The chief executive of mega-mix consult, a sports development firm, Alhaji Ahmad Shu'aibu Gara who hinted this to newsmen in Kano, said that the lecture series will commence on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February, 2006 under the chairmanship of Ambassador Braimoh Deinde Fernandez.

Alhaji Ahmad Gara Gombé said also that the lecture was organized just to show appreciation to the emir, Ado Bayero, for his usual contributions in all aspects of human endeavour, adding that the lecture would have Pro-

By Yusha'u Adamu Ibrahim,  
Correspondent (Kano)

fessor Ibrahim Gambari, the UN secretary general and special adviser on political issue to the UN as guest speaker.

Alhaji Gara therefore expressed dismay over the delay in the rehabilitation work of Kano Race Course ground; the development which he said disrupted the annual horse-racing.

"It is unfortunate that, despite the N100 million said to have been earmarked for the rehabilitation work by the state government, the field was worse than before," he lamented.

The mega-mix boss explained further that the field has now become slaughter lab for horses as against the claimed that, it has been reno-

vated to an international standard.

"How can you put Iran rail at the horse-racing field, you know it never dare any where in the world, you either put robber or nothing, but not Iran," said Gara, stressing that "you cannot also construct a drainage in the racing arena."

Gara, who expressed the supervising agencies insincerity of purpose and ignorance of how a proper horse racing should be, said that the rehabilitation work will rather kill many horses.

He, however, called on the government to as a matter of urgency intervene into the matter with a view to redressing the situation before it is too late.

The newly elected executive members of the All Nigerian Peoples Party (ANPP) in Kano State have been sworn-in with Alhaji Sani Hashim Hotoro as the new chairman of the party.

Speaking at the swearing-in ceremony held at the Sani Abacha Stadium, the state governor, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau, said delay in the conduct of the election of the executives has now become a blessing to the party and the state at a large.

Governor Shekarau added that since 2003, the ANPP Kano has been running under the leadership of sole administrator, but said with the recent election the party would be running by the elected chairman.

He said that the new development will enable the

## Kano ANPP executive sworn-in

party to continue to boost not only in the state, sbut also in neighbouring communities.

Governor Shekarau therefore appealed to the newly elected executives to shun all differences and carry along all members of the party and work hand in hand with government for the betterment of the party, the government and the people of Kano State.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* exclusively over the speculated two years tenure of the newly elected executives, the deputy national chairman of the party, General J.T. Useni (rtd), said the elected executives will serve the party for four years tenure.

General Useni said that "according to the party's constitution, they are to serve for four years unless if their peo-

ple cast vote of no confidence on them, then their tenure will be interrupted"

The national deputy chairman, who expressed satisfaction over the election, also said that according to the report they have received, the election was peaceful and fair, and therefore called on the new executives to work for the party ahead of 2007 general election.

On his part, the national treasurer of the party, Alhaji Isyaku Abdullahi (Jarman Akko), who served as a sole administrator in the state prior to the election, expressed optimism that ANPP would have no problem in Kano with the way things are going on. He added that the just concluded election was fair and free.

## Police stop ANPP factional rally

The Nigerian Police Force, Kano State command has stopped the formal rally organized by the factions of All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) in Kano following the recent congress and election of the new leaders of the party which was headed by the state government.

Speaking to *Daily Trust*, the state Commissioner of Police, Alhaji M.D. Abubakar, said the reason behind stopping the rally which was organized by the Faction Group was that, it lacks the legitimacy to get approval of the police according to the force rules governing conduct of any political Assembly.

He further stated that, Alhaji Danzago, who was at the forefront of organizing the rally, was just an individual in the party and the state administration as well, and that such guarantees to hold political rally and Assembly is only given to party as a whole and not to an individual.

The commissioner, who assured political stability among the various parties groups in the state, also maintained that any group who apply for permission to hold any political gathering would be granted provided such group meet the criterion.

In a swift reaction, the leader of the Faction Group in the party, Alhaji Ahmadu

By Aliyu S. Machika,  
Correspondent (Kano)

organized the rally in order to fight for justice as the just concluded congress of the party was involved with lots of irregularities, which he said would not be accepted by the faction group members.

In an informal address, Alhaji Danzago added that even though the security agents are doing their job, they should understand that people under democratic dispensation have the right to express their feelings.

He also accused the state government of giving each delegate at the congress the sum of one million naira, thereby describing the whole scenario as embezzlement of public fund, saying such monies needed to fund any party's congress should ideally come from the party members.

He further said the faction group has resolved to present their case before the national body of the party in Abuja to seek for justice, adding that if the national body fails to do anything on the case, they will call for another public congress and declare their stand on the issue.

Danzago then cautioned the party to avoid making similar mistakes made by the PDP which cost it the 2003 general election, saying if ANPP step in the same shoe then the party can stand the chance of losing the leader-



Governor Ibrahim Shekarau condoling Comrade Ali Mannir Matawalle over the death of Alhaji Musbahu Mannir Matawalle in Kano...recently.

## KASALCAF, medical & health union condole govt/emir & Rimi

Kano State ANPP Local Government Chairmanship Aspirants' Forum 2004 (KASALCAF) has sent condolence message to the government and people of Kano State over the death of Hajiya Sa'adatu Abubakar Rimi.

In a press statement issued in Kano and signed by the Publicity Secretary of KASALCAF, Alhaji Baba Ali

By Jamilah Nuhu Musa,  
Correspondent (Kano)

the front line politician, Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi, over the death of his wife.

The forum described the death as shocking and unfortunate, adding that the death of Hajiya Sa'adatu Rimi is a great loss not only to her husband and family, but also to the entire Muslim Ummah.

State Council of Medical and Health Worker's Union of Nigeria (MHWUN) has sympathized with the emir of Kano Dr. Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi and the Kano State government over the gruesome murder of Hajiya Sa'adatu Rimi.

In a press release signed by the state secretary of MHWUN, Comrade Abdullahi Hamza Falali,

cerned agencies, to strengthen efforts to fish out the culprits and bring them to book.

The condolence letter stated that the union strongly condemns violent attitudes whether politically or criminally motivated.

The union then prayed for the repose of the soul of Hajiya Sa'adatu Muhammadu Rimi and grant her *Aljannah*

# EKO TRUST

## Police command holds vigil over armed robbers

In what seems like obeying God's words, officers of the Lagos State Police Command last Friday held a vigil to ask God for forgiveness and also praise Him for sparing their lives despite the various attacks on them by men of the underworld.

The event, which attracted top police officers in the state, was held at the Command premises, also had in attendance some civilians who were interested in the action of the police.

It would be recalled that only last week nine of the

Stories by Olumide Bajulaiye, Correspondent (Lagos)

police officers in Niger Delta was shoot dead by men of the underworld in attempt to rob a bank.

Tagged a "night of tra-

vail in the supernatural", the programme was organized by the Christian Police Fellowship. The handbill that was distributed to invite people to the vigil has the name of the AIG zone 2, Lagos, Mr. Simeon Adeoye and

the Lagos Police Commissioner, Mr. Emmanuel Adebayo as hosts.

President of Elshadai Bible Church, Bishop Olanrewaju Obembe, who was the guest minister at the event preached on the topic,

"The blessings beyond egunje" charged the officers to turn a new leaf and seek God in the year 2006.

Commenting on the vigil, Bishop Obembe said about 500 officers made a commitment to God. "This event is really unprecedented. About 500 of the officers made a commitment to God. They have discovered that they have to trust God to remove the problem of stigmatization and the poor social welfare of the force.



Sunday Ehindero, Polic IG

## LASG sets up mobile courts on waste disposal

Hard times await motorists who have formed the habit of throwing out waste while moving on the highways in Lagos as the state government set-up mobile courts in all local government council areas for their prosecution.

In the same vein, any cart-pusher caught engaging in

refuse collection will be sentenced to jail term by the mobile court without an option of fine.

The state deputy governor, Otunba Femi Pedro read the riot act while monitoring the monthly environmental sanitation exercise at Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye local government development area at the

weekend.

Pedro said the action became imperative as the state government embark on Operation Clean-Up Lagos 2006 to restore the lost glory of the state and make it one of the cleanest cities in the world.

He lamented how passengers in moving vehicles throw out waste indiscriminately

without recourse to the existing environmental sanitation laws.

Vowing that offenders will be prosecuted instantly through the mobile court, the deputy governor said the Tinubu administration has resolved to enforce all the state environmental laws to ensure compliance and rid the state of filths.

Stating that the private sector participation (PSP) operation in waste management has been strengthened, the deputy governor informed that the governor has directed that vehicles and trucks hitherto owned by the state waste management agency

(LAWMA) be over hauled, repaired and forwarded to the PSP operators.

As parts of measures to achieve the objectives of the operation clean-up Lagos, Pedro said special attention would paid on companies, garages and markets adding that anyone that contravene the environmental sanitation law will be closed down.

He urged Lagosians to pay up their refuse collection charges to enable the government pay the PSP operators while noting that the state government has been subsidizing the payment since the commencement of the project.

## ...Celebrates Ikeja 2002 bomb blast

As Lagos commemorated the fourth anniversary of January 27 2002 bomb blast last Friday, Governor Bola Tinubu said the state has set up an inter-ministerial committee to look into and address the issue of incessant collapsed buildings in the state.

The Governor who was represented by his deputy Mr. Femi Pedro was speaking during the inter-religion prayer sessions at the Oke Afa Isolo canal site where over 1000 unclaimed bodies of victims of the event were buried.

Governor Tinubu said the committee would look critically at the issue of collapse buildings and make recommendations that would be made public and effectively implemented.

He said the committee would comprise government officials from ministries of Physical Planning, Environment, Special Duties and inter-governmental Relations as well as Home Affairs and some Non-governmental Organisations within the state.

Tinubu who was reacting to the recent collapsed building at Amukoko in which five people were killed said the state was ready to work hand in hand with all relevant authorities to stem the tide of incessant collapse buildings in the state.

He stated that preventive measures and proactive attention would be given to matters that had the tendency to degenerate into crisis adding that his administration would no longer condoned

Governor Tinubu added that officials of the Physical Planning Ministry would soon embark on inspection tour of property within the state while owners of buildings found to have violated the physical Planning law would be arrested and prosecuted.

He however called on President Olusegun Obasanjo to consider the relocation of military barracks away from densely populated areas of the city to outskirts to forestall future occurrences and disasters.

The governor noted that since the bomb blast occurred, his administration had put in place rapid response disaster management systems in the guise of Lagos State Environmental Management Authority (LASEMA) to

ensure that disasters were managed effectively.

Tinubu at the occasion unveiled a cenotaph built in remembrance of the victims of the blast and commended the young men who braced the odds to rescue some victims of the unfortunate blast.

Earlier, Chief Imam of the Alausa Business District Mosque Alhaji B. Kassim and the presiding Chaplain of Chapel of Christ The Light, Rev. Funso Awe for the repose of the souls of the victims.

Wreaths were laid in remembrance of the victims by the Deputy Governor who represented the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, Honorable Adeyemi Ikuforiji, Commissioners for Health, Dr Leke Pitan, Special Duties and Intergovernmental Relations, Chief Henry Ajomale among others.

## CEO, Epe reopens

Lagos State government has ordered the immediate reopening of the state College of Primary Education located in a suburb of Epe.

The school was closed many months ago following an internal crisis between the authorities and the staff.

The directive of the governor for the reopening of the institution was contained in a statement issued on Saturday by the Public relations Officer of the school, Mr. Damilola Sanni.

He explained that the action became necessary since peace had been restored between the management of the school and the

the governor conducted the affairs of the school.

According to Mr. Sanni, the administrator of the new management is Mr. Owolabi Amisu, while the registrar is Alhaji Mukhadass Fajah.

The state government had come under pressure from different groups and individuals to reopen the school because of the effect of its continued closure on the students.

The PRO stated the action of the governor for the reopening of the institution was sequel to the promise given by parents and students to guarantee a peaceful atmosphere for learning.

## URGENT RECRUITMENT

A reputable fast growing Community Bank in Kogi State requires for immediate employment suitably qualified candidates for the following vacant positions:

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- (ii) OFFICER
- (iii) CLERK

### QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

#### 1. INTERNAL AUDITOR:

Candidate must possess a recognized university first degree or its equivalent or professional qualification in Banking/Finance/Accounting with a minimum of 5 years experience in Banking.

Exceptional skill in Banking examination and computer literacy will be an added advantage

Age 25-35 years.

2. OFFICER Candidate must possess a recognized university first degree or its equivalent or professional qualification in Banking/Finance/Accounting with at least 3 years cognate post N.Y. S.C experience. Computer literacy will be an added advantage.

Age 25-30 years.

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HOW TO APPLY: All applicants are expected to apply in their own handwriting to be accompanied with detailed and updated C. V and evidence of academic background and experience, including certificates. Applications should be sealed and sent within 14 days of this publication to:

# Advertorial

## TEXT OF A PRESS CONFERENCE BY MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REPRESENTING SOKOTO STATE HELD ON SUNDAY, 29TH JANUARY, 2006 AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPLEX

**Gentlemen of the Press,**

Our attention has been drawn to a purported press conference held by Chief Donald Etiebet, the Chairman of All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), carried by the *Daily Trust* on Wednesday, 25th January, 2006 in Abuja.

Ordinarily, the cacophony of a political trader like Chief Donald Etiebet shouldn't have attracted any attention, let alone reaction. But when such utterances became an affront on the collective sensibilities of a people, then it became absolutely necessary to respond.

It is quite regrettable to note how Chief Etiebet descended so low by turning a political fight into a personal one to the extent of using foul language to describe our esteemed and revered Governor and leader, Alhaji Attahiru Dalhatu Bafarawa, the Executive Governor of Sokoto State.

For the avoidance of doubt and without fear of equivocation, we wish to state here that any insult on Bafarawa is an insult on the people of Sokoto State. His Excellency does not only represent himself but certainly represents the collective dignity of the people of Sokoto State.

There is no doubt that Chief Etiebet has become a loose Canon, a political leader without conscience, a leader who is not only morally bankrupt but politically inept. He did not only succeed in putting our hitherto vibrant and robust political party, the ANPP, into a perpetual state of coma, but has demonstrated his capacity as a pathological political parasite that has sucked away the blood of our party to an anaemic state.

Chief Donald Etiebet needs to know that his other name is **"FAILURE"**. Throughout his political history, the only consistent legacy he bequeaths to any political organisation is chaos, monumental failure and inefficiency. From NCPN, UNPP and now ANPP, the story is the same.

**Gentlemen of the Press,**

1. What do you make of a leader of a leading opposition party in the country who has become the official spokesman of the Ruling Party?
2. What do you think of a party Chairman who is unable to call a NEC meeting of his party for close to 2 years?
3. What do you make of a person who presides over a party

4. What do you make of a party Chairman who has become a cankerworm on the finances of a party, spending every kobo without rendering account to any organ of the party as mandated by the constitution?
5. What do you make of a party Chairman who has been running a Democratic political party like an *Emperor* or an *Army Garrison Commander* without recourse to any provision of its constitution.
6. Does Donald Etiebet stand on any moral ground to level anybody as being **"Egoistic and Suffering from Political Spasm"**?

On the contrary, it is Chief Donald Etiebet that seems to be suffering from **political schizophrenia** and needs to go for mental examination to ascertain his sanity.

**Gentlemen of the Press,**

Let us use this medium to let Chief Etiebet know that the ANPP in Sokoto State is a united family led by our leader, Alhaji Attahiru Dalhatu Bafarawa, the two time Executive Governor of Sokoto State, but like any other political family, we can disagree and agree; intra-party crisis is a consistent feature of party politics, so leave us alone, we are capable of solving our internal problems, don't hide under intra-party crisis to wish away your monumental failure.

Please accept you have failed; failure is not new to you, the stigma will continue to hunt you and your family just like your shadow whenever the democracy is to be written in our country.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS REPRESENTING SOKOTO STATE

- 1 Senator Umaru Dattani
- 2 Gen. B. Maccido
- 3 Senator Sule Yari Gashi
- 4 Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambura
- 5 Hon. SIRAJU MARAFA GATFANO
- 6 HON. ZAKARI M. SHINARA
- 7 Hon. Altine Shehu Isijeri
- 8 Hon. Umaru F. DANGE
- 9 Hon. MUSA IBUBAKAR
- 10 Hon. MUKHTARI DIKKA
- 11 Hon. KARIMU MARAFA AKKIDA
- 12 Hon. Usman Mohammed Balkore
- 13 Hon. Mohammed Kator Umar



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The Economist

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**At this year's event, British American Tobacco Nigeria will host a Gala Dinner where the 3rd edition of its Social Report 2005 will be launched.**

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# Inside Politics

## Political parties and the defeat of democracy in Nigeria

The Workshop was barely half way when the poser for democracy in Nigeria became too illuminated for all to deny. Summarising this poser, Dr. Jibrin Ibrahim, who himself wrote his PhD thesis on factionalisation in Nigerian political parties at the University of Bordeaux in France, captured the matter this way: when you read all the classics works (such as those by Billy Dudley, Richard Sklar or C.S. Whitaker and even Richard Joseph) on Nigerian political parties of the first republic, what was common to all of them was a clear social and communal vision. Thus the NPC, for example, represented the northern aristocracy and developed a pan Northern vision, the NEPU developed a moral critique of its ruling class and was thus the party of the poor, the AG had a technocratic vision anchored on an ethnic oligarchy that was bent on social welfarism while the NCNC had a nationalist vision tempered by a liberal bent. Now, when you look at what we call political parties today, you don't find any vision. Yet, it is political parties that are supposed to operationalise multi-party constitutional democracy. How did Nigeria arrive at this sorry juncture then?

It was the poser that the Workshop recently at Abuja where participants, made up of political party leaders, civil society activists, journalists, researchers and academics were called to reflect upon in the context of a worldwide research on **Reinforcing Democracy through Dialogue with political parties**. The Nigerian Workshop was, therefore, part of a West African segment of this research being sponsored by the Swedish based intergovernmental organisation, International IDEA.

Before Dr. Ibrahim presented the Nigerian report, the IDEA Programme Manager for Africa, Joram Rukambe presented a global update on democracy which showed that political parties are actually in crisis all over the world. Political parties are distrusted, they are poor except those that have access to state resources and they are witnessing decline in membership arising from, among others, considerable movement into civil society/NGOs axis.

Responding to the poser when he presented the Nigerian report, Dr. Ibrahim said a political party is not defined as merely a vote seeking or electoral machine but a purveyor of a vision, citing the example of the Green Party in European countries. The Greens did not start by wanting power but from purveying a vision of society based on environmentalism. Now, on the strength of the number of people they have convinced of their vision, they have grown to be major players in the political field of play

By Adagbo Onoja

governments after so many years of fieldwork.

Nigeria did not take this path of party development because, according to him, in trying to eliminate ethnicity, regionalism and religion based parties, the Nigerian state started to impose restrictions on party formation, insisting that every party must have physical existence all over the country. This, he said, came to have important implications for the development of political parties, one of which is the emergence of people with a lot of money as the life-wire of these parties. And once this became the case, there is nothing you can call a political party. This is in the sense that while the classical characteristic of a political party is to search for popular candidates, the godfather looks for friends, followers and faithfuls who may be the dullest materials actually.

This is also why Nigerian political parties challenge the classical theory of parties in terms of membership and internal democracy. Classically, party membership is categorised into party cadres, ordinary members and those who may not feel sufficiently for a particular political party to be a card carrying member but who would normally vote for it in an election. But because of the godfather and the power of his money, Nigerian political parties almost do not need members given the godfather criteria of inclusion and exclusion.

Beside the internal chemistry, there is the fact of a tightly controlled context of party formation and functioning in Nigeria what with INEC's many dos and don'ts to the parties- from being registered to seeing how they function and even how they choose their leaders. The result is that Nigeria has the lowest number of political parties in the West African sub-region, a contrast to Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal and so on, none of which has less than nearly one hundred political parties even though many of them are not as big as Kano and Lagos states put together.

He, therefore, identified the challenge as that of turning around political parties into instruments for operationalising democracy instead of the voodoo platforms they currently are with particular reference to way women are excluded either by questioning the moral credentials of those not married or denying those who are married the right to contest on grounds of indigeneity. As a married woman, she can neither contest in her husband's state, nor in her own area since the chauvinists would say she belongs to her husband's area of origin.

Taking up these issues, the literary politician, Odia Ofeimun declared that real political parties are organisations committed to

defending a particular way of life. He exemplified with the defunct communist parties in Europe which were organised in such a way that they respond to how people got their children into schools, got jobs for their wives, go on holidays or even arranged funerals of members. His conclusion is that it takes a concern for people to organise a party in this

Because they assumed that such parties would turn into ethnic parties.

But responding specifically to the task of turning around the culture of political parties, Odia argued that even with the fact of money bags and godfathers as well as the debilitating impacts of poverty on the people, it is still possible to organise political parties that

members. Someone added from the floor that the PDP could not even boast of solid 100, 000 unless they were parading fake register of members.

Contributions from the floor differed slightly from the tenor of these three speakers. Or rather, the party leaders present filled the empirical gaps in the notions of Nigerian political parties from

members. He was referring to the agreement between AD governors and president Obasanjo on the 2003 elections, saying that before a lizard enters a wall, there must be a crack and that it was hyena appetite that drove these governors to such an alliance with the leader of another party and outside of party structures. "So, a smart head of state used these people whose lack of experience and gross insubordination was obvious to all.

He said that was only possible because Bola Ige was no longer alive to synchronise and harmonise the process and that the outcome was that the AD had to contend with not only the public order Act but also Armoured Tanks in the 2003 election. "This was beside police and electoral officials. In fact, we were overwhelmed," he said.

Someone else equally countered this submission, insisting that what is happening in AD is external. As far as he is concerned, Atiku and Tinubu want a part of AD, Babangida is there and Obasanjo too. This contributor said even if the MDD was formed, it would still not enjoy stability because of external factors.

This returned the discussion to the issue of godfathers and money bags. Comrade Abdulkadir Abdulsalam of the Nigeria Labour Party told the gathering that there was no one in that party that could say he was a godfather or money bag, saying there was nothing wrong in godfather per se, a point Chief Okorie stepped in to expatiate.

The godfathers we are having are not money bags but people who have achieved notoriety in tuggery, Chief Okorie said. The image of this variant of godfathers is that of a violent man who is prepared to kill for power, not one whose power is based on money bags.

This threw the question to that of the good godfather and the bad godfather, especially as it relates to party financing. Odia Ofeimun took over again. The most absurd thing about existing parties is lack of party finance sense, he said. In the first republic, all the formidable parties depended on government: the NPC on the native authority, the AG created a party company which was the subject of the Coker probe while the NCNC saw it as largesse. According to him, because it was only Awo who was punished for this in the Coker probe, he now advocated formal state funding of political parties but the situation today is such that there are no elections as for anyone to know which party should get what amount on the basis of voting strength. So, Nigeria is confronted with political parties formed on aggregative spirit of moving Nigeria forward but which begin to disintegrate into godfather's fiefdoms and fractions. This is followed by a dangerous deficit of trust and, by implication, the defeat of democracy.

Onoja is a member of Trust Editorial Board.



L-R: Dr. Jibrin Ibrahim, Country Director of Centre for Democracy and Development, Abuja, Josephine Anenih, Workshop Chairperson and Dr. Kayode Fayemi, out-going Director of Centre for Democracy and Development, London.

manner.

He finds unacceptable, the idea that political parties will become ethnic if they are not forced to be national. For him, the truth is that people organise around what they consider to be their most immediate problems. If a people found that religion is their most important problem, why do you think it must not be so? And he says that the construction of the political party space along abstract fixations explain why the parties have no roots in the people and are so unpopular. He locates evidence that they are so unpopular why ANPP would be in power and yet its members would be attending the meeting of the Arewa Consultative Forum, ACF, for an example, something which is the same for Afenifere and Ohaneze.

"The only reason ACF or Afenifere cannot be called political parties is because they are not fielding candidates. Otherwise, they are closer to what a political party is in terms of interest aggregation and interest articulation", Odia insisted.

He explained that Chief Awolowo's idea in *The People's Republic* that a political party aiming to control, say, a state does not need more than having state wide party offices made the Constitution Drafting Committee, CDC, in 1976 to force the concept of a national spread as qualification for registration.

can mess up existing ones. His confidence is based on the idea that the monies these parties mobilize are not spent on party activities as such but on the individual aggrandisement and personal fiefdoms of party barons and grand capos.

Kayode Fayemi now jokingly referred to as a governor in waiting in civil society circles intervened in the discussion to say that he found nothing of party sense among party membership in Nigeria, including his own Alliance for Democracy, (AD). This he said must be because the parties depend on aspirants seeking to contest election for funding. The result is that there is no sense of ownership among the rest of the members.

He revealed how a recent study showed that 60 percent of Nigerians would rather consult their pastors or imams when they have problems of admission for their children or getting employment for some relations and so on. And that the next person they would consult is the traditional ruler. This means that political parties, legislators, governors have absolutely no relevance to the people at all as far as solving their daily problems are concerned.

Linking this to the concept of party membership, Dr. Fayemi maintained that even the PDP which boasts of being the largest party in Africa cannot boast of 500,000 registered, paid up

these three presentations.

Chief Chekwes Okorie from APGA began his intervention by reinforcing the view of Josephine Anenih who was the Chairperson of the morning session that all the party leaders should have been at the Workshop in addition to INEC.

For him, the problem is not that parties do not hold regular meetings but that we have reached a point in this country where every party official expects to be paid to attend meetings. It is such that to hold a NEC, for example, APGA would need about 2 million naira. The more serious problem, for him, however, is that INEC appropriates budgetary allocation for political parties to its own overhead costs, resulting in no disbursement to the parties in the whole of 2005, according to him. Chief Okorie did not agree that a party has to have a million members. It is not a matter of quantity but quality, he argued.

An AD factional leader took the floor to declare that it is the PDP using crises in different parties to disorganise opposition, illustrating his thesis with the AD. He was from the Bisi Akande faction. The other AD faction leader at the meeting, Reverend Dr. Manzo Abubakar disagreed that it was the PDP using internal crises in AD but that the AD was suffering a crisis of misadventure by their elected



# IT WORLD



## Ministries laud Glo free SIM initiative

The minister of state for education Mrs Halima Tayo Alao has commended Globacom for its free SIM cards and directory initiative for the federal civil service in the country.

The initiative which is private-public partnership between Globacom and federal government has under it over 105,000 SIM cards and 5000 copies of directories.

Speaking while receiving over 27,623 free SIM, 35 directories for staff of ministry of education, Mrs Alao said introduction of per-second billing by Glo has brought down the tariff of GSM operation in Nigeria.

She said Glo intervention has made it possible for Nigerians to have affordable and accessible services in the country.

Mrs. Alao said the initiative is a practical demonstration of public-private partnership, saying that as a result of this partnership, the education system in the country has produced twenty-three additional universities within six years of its commencement.

Meanwhile, at the ministry of justice, the Attorney-General of the federation and the minister of justice, Pro, Bayo Ojo said the initiative could go along way in improving judicial system in country.

The attorney general who was represented by the Alhaji A. A. Yola, director, legal department commended Glo for changing the landscape of telecommunication in the country, assuring that the lines will be gainfully utilized.

In his remark, Abuja Regional Manager of the company Mr. Folu Aderibigbo said Glo has installed 2.5g network system allover the country to ensure effective services in the country.

He said being the fastest growing network in Africa, Glo will ensure that effective



Chief Operation Officer, Glo Gateway, Mr. Ashole Israni (l) presenting free SIM Cards to the Head of Service of the Federation, Alhaji Yayale Ahmad in Abuja...recently.

## GSM: W/Africa to enjoy harmonise tariff

Dec

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has set up two sub-groups under its technical group on GSM roaming to address the core issues of interconnectivity of regional networks and tariff harmonization, that will facilitate the introduction of a region-wide roaming facility in West Africa by December

Stories by Hamisu Muhammad, Assistant IT Editor

2006. A statement made available to Daily Trust yesterday in Abuja said that the first group will make proposals for strengthening trans-border interconnectivity to ensure the free flow of intra-Community calls through improvements in telecommunication infrastructure while the second will review the proposals already

adopted by GSM operators on tariff harmonization and billing.

Already the two groups have approved actions plans indicating critical activities to be undertaken towards the realization of the project which was approved during the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2006 29<sup>th</sup> ordinary summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government in Niamey, Niger Republic.

The statement said

“technical group has also proposed some measures for implementation under a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) involving Member States, Telecommunications Regulators in the sub-region and GSM operators that will enhance the creation of an environment conducive for the realization of the project”.

These according to the statement will include the domestication of laws that will promote the implementation of cross-border connectivity, the liberalization of international gateways to include mobile networks, the implementation of a fiscal incentive regime that will reduce the tariff on international calls and the operation of a regulatory framework that will support the full utilization of transmission capacity.

## Cisco trains foreign affairs staff on networking

Communication officers in the ministry of foreign affairs are undergoing networking training at the headquarter of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) under the Cisco Networking Academy programme

The programme is part of the federal government initiative of building human capacity in the information technology (IT) in the public service.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the training, the Director General of NITDA, Professor Cleopay Angaye

Cisco Academy in Nigeria, has from inception provided subsidized human capacity development programmes to Nigerian Universities, core civil service and National Youth Service Corp scheme through the Cisco networking academy programme. He said over 400 people have been trained to Cisco Certified Networking Associate standard at NITDA.

According to Angaye, the academy is a Cisco regional academy with a national focus, adding that the past beneficiaries of the programme include lecturers from universities who were trained to become Cisco

various universities.

He said training is one of the ways to ensure that practical knowledge is been broaden and acquire new skills.

In his response the permanent secretary of the ministry represented by Mr. Owocho Agama said foreign affairs ministry is the Nigeria's window to the world, therefore training its staff in IT has become necessary.

He said no one could afford to remain IT illiterate since information is needed in every day activities, adding that effective information and communication can only be

## Don calls for re-certification of teachers on ICT

A university lecturer, Prof Nwabun Nwaboku, has called for re-certification of teachers at all levels on their competence in Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

“Such re-certification should be the basis for promotion and other elevations for teachers,” Nwaboku, a professor of educational technology, Lagos State University (LASU), said in Lagos.

Delivering the university's 20th inaugural lecture, entitled, “Teacher, the answer is blowing in the wind”, she said the re-certification should serve as a follow-up to the National Council on Colleges of Education's decision to make computer education compulsory in all Colleges of Education.

Nwaboku urged stakeholders and the authorities to make the educational sector technology-driven for effective management of the institutions.

“Never before has the teaching profession been so challenged by technology,” she noted.

The don however, said it was regrettable that ICT facilities were lacking in most public schools, stressing that the situation had not encouraged acquisition of computer knowledge by teachers.

Nwaboku wants educational technologists to review teachers' training curricula to accommodate the new trends in the use of instructional materials and ICT.

She suggested the inclusion of entrepreneurial education in their curricula, adding that emphasis should be placed on production research at the post-graduate level of teacher education.

Nwaboku called for re-training of teachers to make them ICT compliant and to enable them to contribute effectively to the development of the profession.

“The answers to the teacher's professional challenges and the country's educational system are blowing in the wind,” she concluded.



## IT WORLD

# MTN subscribers experience difficulty

Subscribers of MTN Nigeria network, over the weekend experienced problems in making or receiving calls as a result of systems failure in the company's network.

The problem which began Friday afternoon, affected many subscribers in Abuja and Kaduna. Many of such subscribers who spoke to *IT World*, said service just disappeared without any notice, warning or apology from the company.

A subscriber in Abuja, Mallam Mohammed Nayaya, said throughout the weekend, he couldn't make or receive calls.

According to him, this is not the first time MTN has disappointed its customers.

"Late last year, such problem occurred but no apology

By Hamisu Muhammad,  
Assistant IT Editor

was made by MTN," he said.

He said "this time around, MTN must tell us the reason why it failed us and if possible compensate us."

Also affected, Mr. Silas Nyam said he was lucky to have a Vmobile line in another

handset, "which I used throughout the weekend.

He urged the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), to quickly intervene and take serious action to protect the consumers.

When contacted, the Corporate Service Executive of MTN Nigeria, Mrs Amina Oyagbola, said she is aware

that some Abuja links was affected over the weekend but the problem has since been rectified.

Mrs Oyagbola appealed to customers to exercise patience as the network is undergoing an upgrade to overcome such crisis.

It was learnt that most MTN consumers have suf-

fered poor services from the network providers, in the areas of recharging, credit inquiry, and delivery of text messages since late last year when the company embarked upon network upgrade.

Outcomes of the quality of service performance survey of GSM providers in Nigeria conducted by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) revealed that the Nigerian Mobile Telecommunication (MTEL) and the MTN Nigeria are top on the list of providing poor quality services to their customers.

The survey, which was conducted between the month of August and September, 2005 across the country involving total of 20,000 interviews, which was released last week by regulators, revealed that MTEL is the network with highest complaints, in terms of poor quality of services followed by MTN and Glomobile.

The survey shows that out of the 13 major problems in the questionnaire, MTEL led with about 12, MTN 2 with Glomobile and Vmobile in the third and fourth positions.

## Mobile phone boom set to continue

Shipments of mobile phones soared in 2005 and will continue to grow in 2006 on the back of strong demands from emerging economies which snapped up half of all handsets last year, a survey showed on Thursday.

Mobile phone shipments grew 19 percent to 810 million units in 2005 and is expected to rise by 15 percent to 930 million units in 2006, market research group Strategy Analytics predicted after the top five mobile phone vendors had published quarterly earnings.

"Booming demands in the southern hemisphere, in India and Africa, drove global mobile phone sales," said analyst Neil Mawston. Sales are set to break through the one billion mark in 2007.

Finland's Nokia, which reported earnings earlier on Thursday, kept the lead and ended the year with a 34.2 percent market share in the fourth quarter, up slightly from the 33.6 percent in the year-ago quarter.

The mobile phone behemoth introduced new models at both the low and high end of the market, but the market share gain came at the cost of lower average selling prices and profit margins—the popularity of phones in emerging markets is a direct result of much cheaper models that cost as little as \$40.

Second-largest, Motorola

closed the gap with Nokia somewhat taking a larger 18.3 percent market share in the fourth quarter versus 16.2 percent the year before on the back of its thin RAZR phone, which made up one in every three of its phone sales.

The US-based firm was the clear winner with quarterly shipments up 41 percent, while most of the others increased shipments by around 28 percent. But Strategy Analytics warned that the company may be relying too much on the success of the

Samsung Electronic's market share rose slightly to 11.1 percent from 10.7 percent. Its fellow South Korean handset maker, LG Electronics, was the weakest link in the top five, with quarterly shipments up 17 percent.

The Swedish-Japanese venture Sony Ericsson is breathing down LG's neck due to a comeback based on the Walkman phones it introduced last year.

Both firms now have 6.6 percent global market share, with LG only a whisker ahead of Sony Ericsson.

All top five handset makers now produce more than 50 million handsets a year each.

The really big losers remained the vendors outside the top five. Their combined market share slipped to 23.3 percent in the fourth quarter from 26 percent the year before.

## Otukpo council gets IT centre

From Hir Joseph,  
Correspondent (Makurdi)

Workers of Otukpo local government in Benue state have been provided with an Information Technology Centre to develop and place them on the global village map.

The centre which is part of on-going project to provide the area with an ultra modern secretariat at the old council, would according to the chairman, Chief Godwin Obla, be installed with over 14 sets of computers with up-to-date technology.

Chief Obla who briefed *IT World* at the site of the project which has reached completion level, lamented that unlike their counterparts in other parts of the world particularly the advanced nations, government workers in the country are still far from getting hooked to the global village.

Saying that the negative trend is more disturbing at the third tier of government where he emphasized the need for accurate and speedy information processing and management, Chief Obla disclosed that the multi-million naira project had been his dream even as he promised to complete it within the specified time.

"Because we don't want unnecessary delays, we have engaged direct labour for the structural work, after which we will engage experts from outside to hook us to the latest information technology," said Chief Obla who stressed further that as Benue State's second highest metropolitan area, Otukpo staff need to be up-to-date.

He said learning is compulsory for every staff, disclosing that experts will be brought in to coach the personnel on the use of computers for office duties.



Director General, National Space Research and Development Agency (NSRDA), Prof. Robert Boroffice (r), Director of Space Applications, Dr. Joseph Akinyede and Assistant Director, Francis Chizea, at a workshop organised for science and tech. reporters by the Agency in Abuja...recently. Pix: Felix Onigbinde.

## UN lends backing to the \$100 laptop

The United Nations on Thursday lent support to a project which aims to ship inexpensive, hand-cranked laptops to school-aged children worldwide.

Kemal Dervis, Head of the UN Development Program, will sign a memorandum of understanding Saturday with Nicholas Negroponte, chairman of One Laptop per Child, on the \$100 laptop project, at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting.

The program aims to ship one million units by the end of next year to sell to governments at cost for distribution to school children and teachers.

UNDP will work with Negroponte's organization to deliver "technology and resources to a targeted schools in the least developed countries," the UN agency said in a statement.

Negroponte wants to start shipping the cheap laptop, which is to have

wireless network access and a hand-crank to provide electricity, later this year. The aim is to have governments or donors buy them and give full ownership to the children.

Negroponte, who is also chairman of the MIT Media Lab, has said he expects to sell one million of them to Brazil, Thailand, Egypt and Nigeria.

The laptop is expected to run on an open-source operating system, such as Linux.

The devices will be lime green in color, with a yellow hand crank, to make them appealing to children and, so the thinking goes, to fend off potential thieves.



Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General

## Cool FM introduces programme on tech

A new radio programme dedicated to ICT will soon hit the airwaves on the frequency of 96.9 (Cool FM).

According to the Executive Director of Bridgeworld Communications and producers of the programme, Gboyega Akosile, the programme is a product of a painstaking research carried out by a group of young but vibrant Nigerians, with strong

background in broadcast-journalism.

He noted that the programme, which will later be on TV, with online version @ [www.technologyworld-report.com](http://www.technologyworld-report.com) would kick off with a radio version on February 6th, 2006 on 96.9 Cool fm. Akosile further described TWR as a child of necessity, borne out of the need to give Nigerians adequate information on ICT within the context of what is obtainable in other parts of

the world.

He says the programme has been designed as an entertaining form of news on IT. It would run for 10 minutes on Mondays and Thursdays every week.

The objectives of the programme include in-depth report of the ICT industry within the framework of the sector in the world, to provide a platform for critical review of IT revolution and development in Nigeria and to also serve as a data base for ICT sector in Nigeria.

# News



Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) boss, Malam Nuhu Ribadu (left), Chairman, House Committee on National Population, Hon. Farouk Adamu Aliyu (middle) and Chairman, House Committee on Health, Hon. Aminu Safana after meeting with Ribadu at the National Assembly Abuja...recently.

Pix: Felix Onigbinde.

## Okada riders, bus drivers set Airforce vehicle ablaze

Tension has risen in Makurdi, the Benue State Capital as commercial bus drivers, over the weekend teamed up with motorcycle riders and attacked men of the Tactical Air Command (TAC) of the Nigeria Airforce (NAF), burning down a water tanker belonging to the later.

This followed an accident involving a commercial motorcycle rider and the Airforce

From Hir Joseph, Correspondent, Makurdi

water tanker which knocked down, and killed instantly the motorcyclist, a development which sparked off a violent protest that lasted for hours until a detachment of mobile policemen finally succeeded in arresting the situation.

The rapid response of the Tactical Air Command through its base commander, A.E. Muazu who led a team

of officers and men to the scene of the disturbances, averted what would have turned into a bloody clash between the rioting Okada riders and men of the Force who were on board the burnt vehicle even though the irate youths still took laws into their hands.

They compelled commercial bus drivers to join them in the riot, a development which turned the entire metropolis into chaos as the protesters seized vehicular traffic along major roads with blockaders which they raised at various points particularly along Iyorchia Ayu road where the accident took place.

As a mark of solidarity, bus drivers who joined in could be seen bearing fresh leaves even as they moved from point to point, blaring horns, while Okada riders forced private motorists to park.

However, following a distress call through the state owned Radio Benue, The Base Commander, A.E. Muazu, hurried his men to the metropolis where they first saved the occupants of the burnt tanker before the detachment of mobile policemen joined them to disperse the rioters with teargas bath.

A number of arrests were also made by the police, but authorities could not be reached for confirmation as police commissioner, Mr. Ibezimako Aghanya's could not be reached for comment.

Daily Trust recalls that about the same period last year, bus drivers and Okada riders took laws into their hands, burning and pulling down public structures and vehicles while protesting the

## Platinum Habib pledges N1bn assistance to civil servants

The Platinum Habib Nigeria Bank has pledged to provide the sum of one billion naira as consumer finance to all civil servants in Katsina State to enable them purchase consumables and household items for use across the state.

This was disclosed by the managing director of the bank, Mr. Francis Atushe, who led members of the bank's management team on a courtesy call to the Katsina State Governor, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yaradua.

Mr. Francis Atushe, who said the bank will in addition support the agricultural development base of the state, said the bank will soon open another branch at the state capital to appreciate the support offered by the state throughout the uncertain 18 months period of merger and consolidation processes.

The managing director, who took time to explain the strategic drive of the bank's merger process and the hasty merger it undertook within 100 days, said the bank

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

the base where the spirit of Platinum Habib Bank originated. In a response, the governor of Katsina, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yaradua, who applauded the long standing relationship with the bank, said the state has intended to expand on a large scale irrigation farming and explore the production of honey, fishing and tree crops production with private sector to play a predominant supporting role in revolutionising the agricultural sector of the state.

Yaradua, who also poised to expand the state's Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme, said the state economic summit which would be held by February 2006 will provide an economic development blue print and will partner with banks and other related institutions to ensure the overall success of the programmes.

He then expressed confidence of the new management's potentiality to reposition the bank and be

## NEMA to test-run disaster preparedness

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is set to test-run its state of disaster preparedness and training of the various stakeholders in the management of disasters and emergencies in the country towards their readiness to handle any national or catastrophic emergency that may occur in the future.

A statement made available to Daily Trust by Ibrahim Farinloye said the Director-General of NEMA, Alhaji Salihu Shuaib Makarfi, will lead other stakeholders in disaster management in the simulation exercise tagged "Operation Gobara" which focused on forest fire, and it is intended to bring together professionals and stakeholders in fire fighting against bush burning and other sundry fire incidence, which has often led to the destruction of our conserved forest life and affected our economies badly.

The exercise, in collaboration with the Armed Forces,

The Etsu Nupe, Alhaji Yahaya Abubakar, has called on his subjects in the public service to form groups and establish viable industries in Niger State instead of running after contracts that are not readily available.

Abubakar, in a message to a seminar on Investment Opportunities and Grassroots Mobilisation for Economic Empowerment, organised over the weekend by the Bida Forum in conjunction with the local government councils under the Zone A Senatorial District, stressed the need for them to form small scale and medium scale industries in Bida town and its environs.

The Etsu Nupe, who was represented by the Shetima Nupe, explained that there was the need for Bida people to take practical steps to solve its economic problem, adding that, "we must redirect ourselves towards industrialisation of our community and the state in general."

The royal father also advised them to buy shares in companies in the privatisation exercise embarked upon by the federal government.

He argued that the establishment of industries in Bida Chiefdom would give job opportunities to the youths who he said are now wasting away for lack of employment.

The Etsu Nupe also called on banks to relax the stringent conditions on loans and reduce their interest rates to enable poor people access to

By Abbas O. Jimoh

will also provide the opportunity of training lead Agencies and the primary responders on issuing directives and orders that are feasible, logical and tactically sound, and establishing a tactical command post that tracks and monitors the operation, reacts to received communication or reports, synchronizes the rescue missions and supply of relief materials in a pseudo real-life difficult terrain with trapped victims.

Participants will also be trained on communication with reliable and standardised radio procedures, and introducing them in the art of rapid decision making in the face of disasters and distressed situations.

The simulation exercise is one critical way of accomplishing the objective of disaster preparedness, as it provides a cheap and easy way of depicting real-life situations of various disasters management preparedness of all agencies saddled with the

responsibilities of tackling emergencies.

It is also the most effective strategy for disaster management training at all levels and ensures that stakeholders are adequately prepared to carry out their duties in disaster managements.

The Disaster Reaction Units of all the Armed Forces, Nigerian Police, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, Federal Road Safety Corps, Ministries of Health and Environment and the Federal Fire Service, who are the Lead Agencies will demonstrate their Specified Service Area (SSA) as spelt out in the National Disaster Response Plan of the Country.

The exercise, the first to hold, is to take place at the Armed Forces Command and Staff College, Jaji, Kaduna State, between 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of February, 2006, while similar ones on flood disaster and maritime emergencies are scheduled to take place at a later date in the year at each of the zones of the federation.

## Etsu Nupe makes case for industrialisation

From Aideloje Ojo, Minna

provision of Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) were hard conditions as many people who would want loans to start businesses do not have landed properties.

Earlier in his address, the chairman of the Bida Forum, Mallam Aliyu Baba, explained that the forum was established in 1995 for the enhanced development of Bida and Nupeland.

Baba said the forum was creating awareness espe-

cially in the area of job opportunities for the youths.

He called on wealthy individuals from the Bida Chiefdom to come back home and participate in the economic development of the area.

He expressed appreciation to the fatherly advise the forum always receive from the Etsu Nupe and commended the royal father for his determination to ensure the upliftment of the standard of living of his subjects.

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## NEWS

## Trouble areas will be enumerated - NPC

The director general of the National Population Commission (NPC), Dr. Adebola Akinsanya, has said that troubled areas will be covered during the forthcoming population and housing census.

Many people have widespread fears that the upcoming exercise might not successfully hold in the flash points of the country, particularly within the Niger Delta region.

The director general, who was speaking to population reporters attending a training seminar organized by Internews Network Nigeria and ENHANSE Project in Abuja, said: "in the case of boundary disputes, we have agreed that we will assign unique codes to these areas so that the area will not belong to any of the feuding communities, at least, on paper, until it is settled."

Dr. Akinsanya said that the commission is collaborating with security agencies and government departments, including the State Security Service (SSS), the Police, Army, Customs and Immigration to protect the enumerators who will be in the field.

"We have a list of potential flash points all over the country, and all these agencies are part of the operation, so there will be sufficient security," he said.

On the issue of movement during the census operation, Dr. Akinsanya, said the Public En-

By Benjamin Auta,  
Reporter

lightenment Department of the commission has been mobilizing the nation towards the exercise.

"We have a two-day activity known as house numbering and households listing, so by implication Nigerians are expected to be counted or be enumerated in their houses."

He said that those who could not be counted immediately, particularly those traveling out of the country during the exercise will be counted at the airports, seaports or international garage.

He gave indication that a "call back" opportunity has been provided for in the enumeration exercise for individuals who may not be at home during that particular time.

"We also have a strategy of capturing even the homeless, because there are people who are homeless, there are people who don't have houses and live under bridges in Lagos. All will be counted," he said.

He called on the media to help in sensitizing the populace on the importance of the census for the success of the five-day exercise scheduled to begin on March 21, 2006.

He said that the new census regulations presented to the public will take care of census-related offences.

## '...Census result to be out in four months'

The preliminary results of the coming population and housing census will be released by the end of July 2006.

This was revealed by the Deputy Director, National Population Commission (NPC), Mr. Abiodun Owolabi, when reporters attending a training workshop on population organized by Internews Network Nigeria and ENHANSE Project in Abuja paid a courtesy call to the headquarters of the commission in Abuja.

Mr. Owolabi, said that seven data collecting centres has been set up in the six geo-political zones of the country, including Abuja, which will cater for the data collected in the country during the census exercise.

"The commission has about seven forms that will be used in census taking at various stages of the exercise which will be fed into the central data base for necessary evaluation and analysis," he said.

In order to ensure a hitch free census, Mr. Owolabi said that the training of officials will continue until the commencement of the census in March.

Also speaking, the Director of Vital Registration in the commission, Mr. Jamin Zubema, said that the commission has offices for the registration of births and deaths in all local government areas of the federation.

"We keep track of migration, birth and death and other information which are very vital post census events," he said.

He said that the commission has acquired 150,000 GSM handsets for field workers, which have helped the commission in getting timely information.

Speaking earlier, the Director General of the NPC, Dr. A.O Akinsanya, said that the census is purely a technical exercise, as it is mainly used for developmental planning purposes.

The Director General added that Nigerian leaders now know that census is basically for socio-economic planning and not just mere figures or number of people in the country.

"They already know that any attempt to distort the data, will be distorting the future of our children because if you don't have correct data there is no way you can plan," he said.

The Ag. Director-General of the National Orientation Agency, Dr. Lame Adebayo, has urged members of the civil society to join forces with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission and the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) in ridding the country of corruption.

Speaking in Abuja over the weekend, Dr. Adebayo urged them to commit their vibrancy and patriotic zeal to the task because the nation would not grow

## NOA boss drums support for EFCC, ICPC

unless corruption is, exterminated.

He was addressing a delegation of a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), Independent Anti Corruption organization who had paid him a courtesy call in his office.

Commending the NGO for choosing to fight corruption, Dr. Adebayo said the cankerworm had caused a lot of damages to

the country and that fighting it was the only way the country could progress.

He explained that corruption 'could only thrive where it was embraced by the people "which is why the role of EFCC and the ICPC is not only to fight corruption, but also evolve a new value system and orientation".

As an agency with the statutory mandate to work on the at-

titude of Nigerians, Dr. Adebayo said that NOA would work hard to enthrone a new value system that would be discouraging to corruption and corruptive tendencies.

The NOA he said, "is committed to evolving new core values for the nation-values of honesty, transparency and accountability, and would be working until these values are achieved.



ANPP House Leader, Hon. Aminu Bello Tambuwal (r) in handshake with Hon. Lawal Garba during the 3rd Annual Trust Dialogue held at Sheraton Hotel, Abuja... recently.

Pix: Felix Onigbade

## Borno HIV/AIDS patients fear shortage of anti-retroviral

As the federal government makes good its promise to provide free anti-retroviral drugs (ARV's) to persons carrying the HIV virus or suffering from AIDS, patients in Borno State have expressed fear that unless the supply of the ARV drugs is constantly replenished they might be 'out-of-stock' soon.

Chairman of the Association of Persons Living With HIV/AIDS in the state, Mallam Mamman Musa Pumta, made this known to *Daily Trust* in a telephone chat yesterday, explaining that the beginning of the free supply of the ARVs has made many people suffering from the disease, who have hitherto kept their situation to themselves, to report to hospital, thereby adding to the long list of people already put on the ARVs.

Mallam Pumta confirmed that the federal government has kept to its promise of providing anti-retroviral drugs free of charge, beginning from January 2006, saying that the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UIVITH), through which the drugs are supplied do not ask patients to pay any money.

"We started getting the drugs about two weeks back. We are not asked to pay for now. You may wish to recall that we used to pay N1,000 for a monthly course of the drugs. But this has made many people in need of the drugs who don't go to hospital before now to begin to report in hospital, raising the number to over 3,300," Mallam Pumta said.

The Association of HIV/AIDS Patients expressed the fear that unless the drugs are regularly re-

From Abdullahi Bego,  
Assistant Editor, Maiduguri

plenished and the supply increased, the additional number of people, which can continue to rise as more information on the cost-free nature of the drugs becomes available, may stretch the supplies and cause difficulties for those in need.

The federal government had promised in September, 2005 during an extra-ordinary National Council on Health Meeting in Abuja that it planned to provide anti-retroviral drugs free in the country, as one of the strategies to combat the disease and make more people suffering from it to

come forward to take advantage of the offer.

*Daily Trust* also reliably gathered that on its part, the Borno State government will set up a committee soon to work out the blueprint for the free distribution of ARV drugs in the three senatorial districts of the state, as it steps up its anti-HIV/AIDS campaign activities.

State Coordinator of the Action Committee on AIDS (BOSACA), Ba'abba Ibrahim Goni told our correspondent yesterday that over N40 million was budgeted by the state government for HIV/AIDS related campaign activities in the 2006 fiscal year, adding that much of

this amount would go to the provision of anti-retroviral drugs to patients in the state in line with the National Policy on the fight against HIV/AIDS as worked out by the National Action Committee on AIDS (NACA).

Ba'abba however observed that taking ARV drugs should not be a license for people living with HIV/AIDS to continue to engage in unprotected sexual practices, saying that a behavioral component in which those living with the disease increasingly abstain and protect themselves and others not infected, is key to the success of the government's campaign to reducing the prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS.

## 'Niger state still backward'

The *Talban* Minna and permanent secretary of the Federal Ministry of Works, Dr. Babangida Aliyu, said over the weekend that he was aggrieved by the rate of under-development of Niger State, 30 years after its creation.

Aliyu spoke on Saturday as the special guest of honour at a seminar organized by the Bida Forum, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), committed to the development of the Nupeland.

The *Talban* Minna expressed regrets that the dreams of the people of the state at its creation in 1976 have not been fulfilled because the resources had been mismanaged while its economic potentials were left untapped over the years by successive governments.

"I am an aggrieved Nigerlite.

From Aideloje Ojo,  
Minna

Thirty years ago, we had a dream when the state was created out of Sokoto State. We were the main engine of the country's economy. But today, the state has failed not only in the aspect of industrialization, but also in the provision of social infrastructural facilities.

"Thirty years after the creation of Niger State. Our cities are the dirtiest in the country, and the state is probably the poorest," he lamented.

Aliyu took a critical look at the factors responsible for the under-development of the state and concluded that priority must be given to the economic empowerment of the people.

He called on wealthy citizens of the state to divest their busi-

nesses back home to enhance its industrialization and social growth.

The *Talban* Minna commended the *Etsu Nupe*, Alhaji Yahaya Abubakar, for working towards the economic empowerment of his subjects.

The chairman of the occasion and former president of NACCIMA, Alhaji Ahmed Rufai, urged Bida people to rekindle their past economic glory by embarking on sustainable businesses.

Rufai maintained that the poverty in the land was caused by the lukewarm attitude of the people, some of whom he said, were not ready to work hard, but depended on gifts and begging to survive.

Rufai urged the people to have full determination to establish viable businesses in Bida area.



## Invitation for Bids (IFB) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

### SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES PROJECT (SMMRP)

#### PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLES

Credit No.: 4012-UNI

IFB No. MSMD/SMMRP/NCB/01/06

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in *Development Business*, issue no. 843108 of 9th December, 2004.
2. The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a credit from the *Development/International Development Association* toward the cost of Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources Project (SMMRP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for Procurement of Vehicles
3. The Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources Project (SMMRP) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Procurement of Vehicles and Generator as detailed below

Lots	Description of Goods	Qty
1	Sedan car	3

4. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources Project (SMMRP) and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 11a.m to 4p.m., Monday to Friday.
6. Qualifications requirements include:
  - that bidder should submit audited financial statements for the last 3 years to demonstrate the financial capability of the bidder in term of profitability and adequate working capital;
  - the bidder must show evidence of previous supply (sale) of similar equipment proposed in the past 5 years;
 A margin of preference for eligible national contractors shall not be applied. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
7. A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources Project (SMMRP), of Plot 360, Femolat Close, Off Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent, Wuse II, P.M.B. 107, Abuja and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee ₦10,000.00 (Ten thousand Naira only) or any freely convertible currency. The method of payment will be cash or bank draft in favour of Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources Project (SMMRP). The document will be collected by bidder's representative or sent by courier services on request.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 10a.m. on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2006. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives, who choose to attend in person or on-line at the address below at 11a.m. on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2006. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2.5% of the total bid price in the form of a bank guarantee, irrevocable letter of credit or cashier's cheque issued by a reputable bank.
9. The address(es) referred to above are:  
Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources Project (SMMRP),  
Plot 360, Femolat Close,  
Off Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent,  
Wuse II, P.M.B. 107,  
Abuja

Signed

Project Coordinator,  
Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources Project  
Plot 360, Femolat Close,  
off Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent  
Wuse II - Abuja  
Nigeria

TEL: +234-9-6703831

+234-9-4132429

Fax: +234-9-4138743

E-MAIL: [uladig2001@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:uladig2001@yahoo.co.uk)

[uladig@msmd.gov.ng](mailto:uladig@msmd.gov.ng)

[smmrp@msmd.gov.ng](mailto:smmrp@msmd.gov.ng)

## NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY, KEFFI

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR  
P.M.B.1022, KEFFI-NASARAWA STATE, NIGERIA

### INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Nasarawa State University is desirous of inviting competent and interested civil engineering contractors to bid in the pre-tender qualification exercise for the construction of a 1000 seat Auditorium and Construction of a 500-Seat Assembly Hall.

#### 2. SCOPE OF WORKS

The project (1,000-seat Auditorium) is about 40% completed. The Auditorium has a sitting area, podium, staff offices, stores and covered walkways. The Assembly Hall consists of a large Hall and offices among others.

#### 3. PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Interested contractors should submit the following information in one booklet arranged in the order given below:

- a. Certificate of incorporation by the Corporate Affairs Commission
- b. Company profile, giving details of technical and administrative staff with evidence of qualification
- c. List of projects executed of similar nature within the last 5 years.
- d. List of current projects
- e. Referees of three (3) major projects, giving names, address and telephone number of the contact persons from the clients and also the consultants that supervised the projects.
- f. Bank reference/Guarantee to handle the project.
- g. Evidence of current Registration with Federal Ministry of Works, Nasarawa State and Nasarawa State University.
- h. Copy of current Tax Clearance Certificate for the past three years
- i. VAT registration certificate
- j. Company audited account.

#### 4. SUBMISSION

The pre-qualification bids must be submitted separately and marked in a sealed envelope for each work detailed above and addressed to: THE REGISTRAR, NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY, KEFFI, P.M.B. 1022, KEFFI-NASARAWA STATE not later than two weeks from the date of the advert.

#### 5. COLLECTION OF TENDER/BIDDING DOCUMENT

Invitation to tender will only be extended to contractors that are pre-qualified on the payment of a non-refundable tender processing fees of Fifty Thousand Naira (₦50,000) only to the Bursary. Bidders are requested to note that the University is not bound to give reason for any unsuccessful application.

Signed

Bala I. Ahmed

Ag. Registrar

# NEWS

## Mismanagement: Yar'Adua indicts Ex-local government chairmen

Governor Umaru Musa Yar'Adua of Katsina State has indicted local government chairmen and councillors for mismanagement of resources entrusted to them, even as he explains why he ordered the stoppage of payment of severance gratuity to such public office-holders who squandered people's resources.

Governor Yar'Adua, who was speaking while receiving chairman and members of the Technical Committee on Remuneration and Monetisation from Revenue Allocation and Fiscal Commission, Hon. Otunba Oladipo for a courtesy call in his chambers, said the past chairmen and councillors lacks moral justification to request payment after squandering people's resources entrusted in their own care.

"Of the N34 billion credited to the accounts of various local governments in the state from 1999-2002, only one local government paid its severance to political office-holders, and one other local government paid half, with another five local governments unable to pay their salaries and other staff's entitlements," he said.

He added that, at the time

From Lawal Ibrahim,  
Correspondent, Katsina

those elected officials leave office, the local governments were indebted to the tune of about N1.2 billion as payment

of utilities, entitlements and other contractual obligations until when the state established joint account system which in six month paid all the liabilities and saved a billion naira which gradually rose to

about N7 billion until the recent directive by the federal government to release 100 per cent allocation to local government.

The governor however, called on the committee to suggest a uniform severance gratuity to all the political office-holders in the country and urged them to look at the

disparity in revenue generation to states especially the difference between capital and recurrent budget ratio amongst them.

Earlier in his address, the chairman of the Technical Committee, Hon. Otunba Oladipo, said they were in Katsina as part of the committee's resolve to have

wide consultations with government functionaries in the executive legislature and judiciary at all level of government with a view to obtaining their inputs, which would immensely guide the commission in determining a remuneration package that is fair, realistic and generally acceptable to the country.

## Ashaka Cem: Youth protest ill-treatment

Some protesting youth from Bajoga in Gombe State weekend disrupted the flow of traffic in and out of Ashaka Cement Company for hours to press home their demand for a better treatment from the company to its host communities.

Daily Trust correspondent, who visited the scene of the protest around 2:00pm on Friday reports that the youth blocked the only way to the factory with branches of trees and big stones on different locations along the way.

The youth carrying placards, accusing the company of neglect, said they wanted Ashaka Cement Company to build roads, provide water and other social services to their communities among others.

Responding to the protest, the managing director of the company, Engr. Muhammad Daggash, said Ashaka Cement company, apart from fulfilling its obligation to the

From Muhammad Abubakar,  
Correspondent, Gombe

federal government and other relevant authorities, is also mindful of the well being of the people of its host communities.

Engr. Daggash said the company had built school, roads and dispensaries for the communities, while it provides water daily to the neighbouring settlements free of charge from its boreholes using its own vehicles.

The managing director also said Ashaka Cement Company was employing all means possible to live in peace with the communities thus its reason for setting up a powerful Community Relations Committee comprising the host local government chairman and traditional rulers with a view to fostering understanding between the two.



The Norwegian Ambassador to Nigeria, His Excellency, Mr. Tore Nedrebo, discussing with Deputy Governor, Economic Policy (CBN), Dr. Obadiah Mailafia when the Ambassador visited the CBN in Kaduna...recently.



## RE: Invitation for Expression of Interest

Further to the advertisement on Expression of Interest for various advisor positions which appeared on Pages 23 - 27 of the Daily Trust newspaper on Thursday 19 January 2004, FIRS wishes to issue the following additional requirement for all applicants, in respect of minimum educational qualifications for all the positions advertised:

**EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:**  
A first degree or equivalent from a recognised educational institution is required in the minimum. However additional educational or professional qualification relevant to the position of interest shall be an advantage.

### METHOD OF APPLICATION

◆ Expression of interest must be delivered in hard and/or soft copy, with the envelope

marked as indicated for all positions.

◆ Closing date for submission of applications remain the same.

◆ Further clarifications could be obtained from the address below.

◆ Late submission will not be entertained.

Director Modernization  
Federal Inland Revenue Service  
Plot 522, Sokode Crescent  
Wuse Zone 5, Abuja  
Nigeria.

Tel: +234-9-2730784  
Email: [gochuke@yahoo.com](mailto:gochuke@yahoo.com)

## FEDERAL INLAND REVENUE SERVICE

522 Sokode Crescent, Wuse Zone 5, PMB 133, Garki Abuja, Nigeria

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# NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

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01-2616644; 01-2616621; 01-2616626  
Tel/Fax: 01-4616207

No. 3 Agbami Street,  
Off Gladiolus Street, Area 11 (Ikoyi),  
P. O. Box 5243, Corbi-Adenla,  
F. C. T. - Nigeria.  
Tel/Fax: 09-31443 05-00  
E-mail: nba@nba.org.ng  
Website: www.nigerianbar.com

## BAR PRACTICING FEES FOR 2006

All Legal Practitioners in Nigeria enrolled as Solicitors and Advocates of the Supreme Court of Nigeria are hereby notified as follows:

- I. In accordance with the Legal Notice dated 19th March 2002, issued under the hand of the Honourable Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, and duly published in the Official Gazette of the Federal Government of Nigeria, Practicing Fees payable annually by Legal Practitioners (whether or not in Private Legal Practice and inclusive of all Legal Practitioners working in Private and Public Institutions) are as follows:

CATEGORIES	AMOUNT
1-4 Years Post call	N 2,000:00
5-9 Years Post call	N 4,000:00
10-14 Years Post call	N 7,500:00
15 Years & Above	N 10,000:00
Senior Advocates of Nigeria & Hon. Benchers	N 20,000:00

- II. Bar Practicing Fees are payable at either the Supreme Court of Nigeria in Abuja or the Supreme Court Liaison Office, Court of Appeal, Igbosere Road, Lagos, on or before **Tuesday, January 31, 2006** in compliance with the Legal Practitioners Act. The deadline for payment for the purpose of taking benefits under the NBA Constitution is **Friday, 31st March, 2006**. The names of those who have paid their Practicing Fees will be published in April 2006, and made available to all courts in Nigeria and the general public to guide them in their relationship with lawyers.

- III. All Legal Practitioners are reminded that failure to pay their Practicing Fees within the time set by the Act - **Tuesday, 31 January 2006, and 31st March 2006** - set by the NBA Constitution, constitutes an act of Professional Misconduct and will result in the loss of rights in accordance with Section 8 (2) of the Legal Practitioners' Act which provides that no Legal Practitioner shall be accorded the right of audience in any court in Nigeria in any year, unless he has paid to the Registrar (Supreme Court) in respect of that year, a practicing fee as is from time to time prescribed by the Attorney-General of the Federation after consultation with the Association.

- IV. **THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ROLL AND ENROLMENT NUMBERS:** The NBA and the Supreme Court of Nigeria are jointly vetting the computerized database of legal practitioners enrolled to practice in Nigeria, from 1887 to 2005. Omissions and incorrect entries in the database reported by lawyers have been rectified. At the end of the exercise, an enrollment number would be assigned to every legal practitioner. The production of an accurate up-to-date and timely database of all legal practitioners will precede the production and effective implementation of the Stamp and Seal Project.

- V. **STAMP AND SEAL PROJECT:** The Stamp and Seal programme will commence in earnest as soon as the joint committee of the Supreme Court of Nigeria and the Nigerian Bar Association on Verification of the Roll of Legal Practitioners concludes its work. The programme requires that lawyers affix their numbered Seal and Stamp on every document endorsed by or emanating from them. The Stamps and Seals are obtainable from the National Secretariat and through the branches. Legal practitioners are advised to complete the application form and obtain their Stamps and Seal now, ahead of the time its use would be compulsory in accordance with practice directions to be issued by the Heads of the various courts. Delivery of the Stamps and Seals would begin at the end of the verification of the numbered Roll of Legal Practitioners now in progress.

CHIEF (HON.) NIMI WALSON-JACK  
GENERAL SECRETARY

PRINCE LANKE ODOGIYON  
PRESIDENT  
NIGERIA BAR ASSOCIATION

# KADUNA STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA.

## (MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE): State Secretariat, Independent Way, Kaduna.

### INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION TO TENDER FOR THE REHABILITATION OR CONSTRUCTION OF IRRIGATION SCHEMES AND CONSTRUCTION OF SMALL EARTH DAMS IN KADUNA STATE

#### INTRODUCTION

The Kaduna State Government in its effort to boost agricultural production in the state, especially through dry season farming, intends to award contracts to reputable Construction Companies for:-

- The rehabilitation of existing state owned irrigation schemes.
- The construction of canals and channels in already existing earth Dams
- The construction and channelization of new small earth Dams across the state.

The State Government is therefore inviting competent and interested firms for pre-qualification to tender for the carrying out of any of the under listed works:

#### 2. SCOPE OF WORKS.

##### CATEGORY I (STATE OWNED SCHEMES):-

The rehabilitation of state owned existing irrigation schemes for the provisions of canals, channels, sumps, etc at GALMA (140 HA Zaria L.G.), KADUNA GARDEN (30 HA, Kaduna south L.G.), BAGOMA (80 HA, Birnin Gwari L.G.), KUKUM DAJI (100 HA, Kaura L.G.), HUNKUYI (20 HA, Kudan L.G.), KUDA (20 HA, Kachia L.G.), JERE (30 HA Kagarko L.G.), and LERE (25 HA, Lere L.G.).

##### CATEGORY II (PARTNERSHIP SCHEMES WITH THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES):-

The construction and provision of irrigation facilities such as canals, channels, sumps etc at CHIKUN, KAYA, GIWA, IGABI, KERA WA, F ARAKWAJ, PANSHANU, JAGINDI, GWARGWAJI, PAMBEGUWA AND BAKIN KOGI.

##### CATEGORY III (DAMS CONSTRUCTION):-

The construction of new small earth Dams across the State

#### 3. PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

Interested companies are invited to submit the following documents: -

- Company tax clearance certificate for the last three (3) years.
- Evidence of company registration with Corporate Affairs Commission
- Copy of articles and Memorandum of Association.
- Evidence of registration with Kaduna State Tenders Board.
- List of names of professionals, their qualifications and their years of experience those to be attached to the proposed project.
- Verifiable list of plants, machinery and equipment, their locations to be leased, hired or owned.
- List and address of similar jobs successfully completed.
- Verifiable audited account of the company in the last three years.

The completed pre-qualification bid must be in separate sealed envelope for any of the categories and clearly marked "PRE - QUALIFICATION TO TENDER FOR THE \_\_\_\_\_ (CAT)

CAT I - Rehabilitation of state owned irrigation scheme

CAT II - Construction of small earth Dams.

Or CAT III - Provision of canals and channels in the existing earth Dams.

- The pre - qualification bid must be returned to the office of the Programme Manager, Kaduna State Agricultural Development Project (KADP) Headquarters, No. 11 Race Course Road, Opposite Murtala Square, P.M.B. 2269, KADUNA not later than Friday, 10th February, 2006 at 12 noon. Bids received will be opened at 1400 Hrs same day in the presence of bidders or their representatives.

#### N.B.

This is not an invitation to tender. Response to this invitation shall not obligate the Kaduna State Government to consider a responding company for pre-qualification for the award. The Kaduna State Government reserves the right to either accept or reject any submission in part or whole at its sole discretion. All costs incurred as a result of this pre-qualification invitation shall be borne by the responding company.

DR. A.A KASSIM,  
PROGRAMME MANAGER (KADP)  
FOR HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

# COURT-ORDERED SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING OF BANK OF THE NORTH LIMITED ON ITS MERGER WITH UNITY BANK PLC AND NNB INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC AND NEW AFRICA BANK PLC

VENUE: KANO HALL, NICON HILTON HOTEL, ABUJA DATE: FRIDAY, 27TH JANUARY, 2006 TIME: 11:00AM



Bank Secretary/Legal adviser, Aih. Mohammed Umar (in suit), Chairman Aih. Abubakar Sadauki, Ag. MD/CEO, Engr. Ahmed Ibrahim, Chief Raymond Ihyembe and Aih. Kabiru Tanimu Turaki, SAN, all Directors of the Bank.



Ag. MD/CEO Engr. Ahmed Ibrahim, standing for recognition during the opening of the meeting. To his left is a Director, Chief Raymond Ihyembe, and to his right are Chairman Aih. Abubakar Sadauki and BS/Legal Adviser, Aih. M. U. Avuya.



Chairman BON, Aihaji Abubakar I. Sadauki, presiding over the meeting.



Rep. Of Wall-Kwall and Co. legal advisers reading the court order at the meeting, while other advisers listen.



Representative of one of the Shareholder states making remarks at the meeting.



A cross-section of financial and legal consultants at the meeting.



Representatives of the Regulators SEC, CBN and CAC at the meeting.



A Representative of one of the Shareholders/States making remarks at the meeting.



The Chairman of BON, Aih. Abubakar Sadauki, interacting with guests after the meeting.



Aihaji Falalu Bello, OFR, and MD/CE of Unity Bank, with Engr. Ahmed Ibrahim of BON exchanging pleasantries with some shareholders/owner states reps)



Guests refreshing themselves after the meeting.



Guests helping themselves with refreshment after the meeting.

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01-8528444, 08034799999
- Fax: 01-4818278

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0803 4277777.

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- Kaduna:**
- 062 247818,  
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# IBRAHIM BADAMASI BABANGIDA UNIVERSITY, LAPAI

## Evaluation And Implementation Committee (EAIC)

Secretary, EAIC, Office of the Secretary to Government of Niger State, Nigeria.  
Phone: 066-220646

### APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION INTO THE FIRST DEGREE PROGRAMMES AT THE IBRAHIM BADAMASI BABANGIDA UNIVERSITY, LAPAI: 2006/2007 SESSION

1. The IBB University is a State-owned University established by the Government of Niger State in order to meet with the increasing demands for education at this level from its teeming students and other interested Nigerians. The new institution is located at Lapai, a town 62 kilometres from Minna. The University's mission is to provide academic standard of high quality while providing the State with the much needed manpower for development not only for the State but the nation in general.

2. Interested students wishing to apply for admission into the University are advised to go through the various Programmes given below:

3. The University will offer courses under the Faculties of Education and Arts; Management and Social Studies; Applied and Natural Sciences; Agriculture and Law. Course details and the U.M.E. requirements are given below for the information and guidance of the prospective applicants, as they fill their JAMB Application Forms against 2006/2007 Session, for which the University will enrol its first session.

#### 1. FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND ARTS (Normal Duration of each of the Degree Programmes is four years)

##### 1.1 Admission Requirements

S/No.	Code	Programme	Admission Requirements	
			UME	UME Subjects
1.	29501J	Special Education	Five "O" level credit passes in SSCE (or its equivalent) in English Language,	Any three Arts or Social Science subjects.
2.	29502F	Guidance and Counselling	Mathematics and other Arts or Social Science subjects.	
3.	29503B	Educational Psychology	Language, Mathematics and other Arts or Social Science subjects.	
4.	29504I	Adult Education & Community Development,	Science subjects.	
5.	29505E	Business Education	Physical & Health Education	
6.	29506A	Early Childhood Education		
7.	29507H	Physical & Health Education		
8.	29508D	English Language	Five "O" level credit passes, to include Lit. in-English and English Language.	Lit.-in English, two other Arts or Social Science subjects.
9.	29509K	Linguistics	Five "O" level credit passes, including English Language	Any language and two other subjects.
10.	29510H	Arabic Studies	Five "O" level credit passes in English Language, Arabic and three other relevant subjects.	Arabic and two subjects from Arts and/or Social Science.
11.	29511D	French	Five "O" level credit passes in French and English Language plus at least one other Arts subject.	French and any other two subjects from Arts and Social Sciences.

12.	29512K	History (with options in): a) Nigerian History b) World History c) Archaeology	Five "O" level credit passes to include: English Language and any one of Religious Studies, Economics and History.	Literature-in-English, History and any of CRK/IRS and Geography.
13.	29513G	Religious Studies	Five "O" level credit passes at SSCE (or its equivalent) in English Language, subject of specialization and three other relevant subjects.	Subject of specialization and any two other subjects from Arts or Social Sciences.

#### 2. FACULTY OF APPLIED AND NATURAL SCIENCES

##### 2.1 Admission Requirements

S/No.	Code	Programme	Admission Requirements	
			UME	UME Subjects
1.	29514C	Mathematics	Five credit passes at SSCE (or its equivalent) including English Language and Mathematics and any other three subjects preferably Further Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Agricultural Science in that order.	Mathematics and any two of Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography and Economics in order of preference.
2.	29515J	Computer Science		
3.	29516F	Statistics		
4.	29517B	Biology	Five "O" level credit passes at SSCE (or its equivalent) in English Language, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and any other Science subject.	Biology, Chemistry and any other Science subject.
5.	29518I	Botany		
6.	29519E	Zoology		
7.	29520B	Microbiology		

# IBRAHIM BADAMASI BABANGIDA UNIVERSITY, LAPAI

29521I Geophysics  
29522E Physics  
Five "O" level credit passes at SSCE (or its equivalent) in English Language, Physics, Mathematics and any other two of Chemistry, Further Mathematics, Geography and Biology.  
Physics, Mathematics and any of Chemistry, Geography or Biology.

29523A Chemistry  
29524H Biochemistry  
Five "O" level credit at SSCE (or its equivalent) in English, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and Biology.  
Chemistry, Mathematics and any of Physics, Geography or Biology.

29525D Geography  
Five "O" level credit passes at SSCE (or its equivalent) in English Language, Geography, Mathematics and any two of Chemistry, Physics, Economics, Biology and Agricultural Science.  
Geography and any other two of Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Physics, Agricultural Science or Economics.

### 3. FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES 3.1 Admission Requirements

No.	Code	Programme	Admission Requirements	
			UME	UME Subjects
29526K		Accounting	Five credit passes at SSCE (or its equivalent) in English Language, Mathematics, Economics and any other two relevant subjects.	Economics, Mathematics and any other subject.
29527G 29528C		Economics Business Studies	Five "O" level credit passes at SSCE (or its equivalent) in English Language, Mathematics, Economics and any other two subjects.	Economics, Mathematics and any other subject.
29529J 29530G 29531C		Sociology Political Science International Relations and Diplomacy	Five "O" level credit passes at SCCE (or its equivalent) in English Language, Government, and two other Arts or Social Science subjects.	Government and any other two Arts and Social Science subjects.

### 4. FACULTY OF LAW 4.1 Admission Requirements

S/No.	Code	Programme	Admission Requirements	
			UME	UME Subjects
1	29532J	Civil and Islamic Law	Five "O" level credit passes at SSCE (or its equivalent) in English Language Literature-in-English and two other Arts or Social Science subjects. Credit pass in Islamic Studies/Arabic is required for degree in Islamic Law.	Literature-in-English and any other two Arts and Social science subjects.

### 5. FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE 5.1 Admission requirements

S/No.	Code	Programme	Admission Requirements	
			UME	UME Subjects
1	29533F	Crop Science, Crop	Five "O" level credit passes at SSCE (or its equivalent) in English Language, Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Mathematics.	Chemistry, Physics and Biology/ Agricultural Science and Mathematics, Physics.
2	29534B	Protection, Soil		
3	29535I	Science,		
4	29536E	Horticulture,		
5	29537A	Animal Science,		
6	29538H	Agricultural and Development Extension		

4. The University will soon issue an advertisement on when applicants who wish to study at the Institution could apply for the 2006/2007 Academic Session.

Signed  
Alh. Shitu S. Naibi  
Secretary (EAIC)  
IBB University, Lapai

# SPORTS

## EGYPT 2006 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

### Cameroon top group, DR Congo reach last eight



The Indomitable Lions of Cameroon made it three wins out of three at the African Nations Cup after striker Samuel Eto'o steered the Group B winners to a 2-0 victory over Democratic Republic of Congo yes-

By Ismaila Umaru Lere,  
Assistant Editor

terday.  
DR Congo joined Cameroon in the quarter-finals on goal difference de-

### ... Angola out

spite the defeat, edging out Angola who beat Togo 3-2 in the night's other game in

Cairo.  
Cameroon, who had already qualified for the last

eight, took a 31st minute lead with 25-metre piledriver from Chelsea midfielder Geremi off an indirect free-kick and Eto'o added their second two minutes later after beating the offside trap with a neat finish as Congolese keeper Kalemba fumbled the ball into his own net.

DR Congo had defender Gladys Bokese dismissed in the 72nd minute for kicking out at Cameroon substitute Achille Webo but his team held on to their runners-up place in the group.

Meanwhile, Angola fell one goal shy of a place in the African Nations Cup quarter-finals after beating Stephen Keshi's Togo 3-2 in their last Group B match in Cairo.

Angola finished level on points with the Democratic Republic of Congo, who were beaten 2-0 by Cameroon in the other group match on Sunday, but were eliminated on goal difference.

Flavio scored twice and Maurito struck a late winner to record Angola's first ever win at a Nations Cup tournament.

Togo twice equalised in a thrilling game through French-based strikers Mohamed Kader and Cherif Toure Maman.

## Eguavoen defends Martins

Super Eagles head coach, Augustine Eguavoen has come to the defence of Inter Milan striking star, Obafemi Martins, following the player's not-too-impressive showing so far at the Africa Nations Cup.

Eguavoen also said on Saturday, that he is aware his team

may end up not qualifying for the quarterfinals of the Africa Nations Cup.

Despite winning their first two games to lead Group D of the tournament, the Nigerians may still be eliminated from Egypt 2006 if they fail to get a point from their last game against Senegal on Tuesday.

Below is the full text of Eguavoen's interview with Nigeriansportsonline.com.

**Q: Are you aware that any slip against Senegal could cost the Super Eagles qualification for the second round?**

A: Of course, we are fully aware of this that any thing short of a point against the Senegalese, then we will be working on a very tight rope. We don't want to elaborate on this. The boys are here. They are here for the job and they will definitely do the job.

**Q: Why did you decide to leave (Obafemi) Martins on the pitch for as long as ninety minutes in your last match. We have not seen the best of Martins in this competition so far. Why have him on for so long?**

A: Not just Martins alone. We played with eleven players and it all depends on how a game is going. We sit down together and within seconds we have to take a decision. At the end of the day, I take the final decision on who comes in and who stays in there. I believe that everybody that is registered for this tournament is capable of playing. Anybody that is called upon to go in will do exactly if not even more than what the person on the field of play is doing. Leaving Martins in there is to keep the defenders out there, irrespective of the countries we are playing, on their toes.

**Q: There seems to be a problem in your attack, given the fact that all your goals in this tournament have been scored by midfielders and a defender?**

A: There is no problem. They (the strikers) will score.

**Q: What is the present condition of Okocha's injury?**

A: The Doctor is not here...

**Q: The strikers have not been hungry enough for goals as was evident in the game against Zimbabwe. Was this deliberate, to slow down the tempo of the game considering there was an improvement in the second half?**

A: We started with eleven players. We didn't want to force things. We started from the rear but saw that it was not working out, and then substitutions had to be made. But you will agree with me that the strikers did not get enough protection from the referee. Normally, the Zimbabwean team deserve at least five, six yellow cards from the referee. But then, the referee decides. But if he had cautioned them well by bringing out the yellow cards, I think then you will see more of the players...

**Q: Your game changed entirely the moment Kanu and Mikel were introduced, do you think of starting them against Senegal?**

A: We'll see...

**Q: You seem to have problems deciding on who and who to pair in your attack. You have tried Aghahowa and Martins; two out and out strikers and it has not paid off. Is this not a problem, perhaps a big headache when we get to a stage where we must win to progress?**

A: That is a very good question. I watch some of the best leagues in the world, like the Premiership, very, very closely. For about seven or eight games for Newcastle, Alan Shearer didn't score but he kept on playing. You will also agree with me that Julius Aghahowa has rescued this country in a number of games. Obafemi Martins as well. After our match with Zimbabwe in October last year, we've not really had the time to put this team

together for friendly games. So that could be a big problem. But nonetheless, you know the two of them are the fastest strikers that we have in the team. We tried it in the first game, it didn't work, we tried it in the second... We'll see how it goes. Then again, like I told you before, this is a team. It doesn't matter who scores, it's a collective effort. But if they could be more relaxed, they will find the back of the net. But I tell you... very soon you will see them scoring.

**Q: It was speculated that there has been a private arrangement to bring meals to your boys from outside the Hotel. How safe is this arrangement for a national team?**

A: Nobody is arranging for an outsider to bring in food to these players. There is an LOC here and we have a Team Doctor who certifies the food good enough to be consumed.

**Q: How do you monitor your opponents in this competition, when your team always trains about the time your opponents play there matches. Is it not important for your boys to watch these other games?**

A: We have to train at the time we have matches. That's not our making. But not to worry, we have scouts all over the place, who are watching our opponents.



## Okocha trains with Eagles

Super Eagles captain, Augustine Okocha, has finally had his first training with the team since the Eagles arrived Egypt for the Africa Nations Cup.

Okocha got into the fray with the rest of the squad Saturday afternoon, heightening hopes that he will be ready to play his first game of the tournament when Nigeria take on Senegal on Tuesday.

The Bolton Wanderers midfielder said after the training session: "I'm pleased to be back in training and I'm looking forward to the time I'll be 100% fit."

"For now I feel I'm only 70% but I know I'll get there soon."

"I'm working very, very hard and I'm sure I'll be part of action soon."

"I want to commend the team for doing very well during my

period of inactivity. I have no criticism for them because they have done wonderfully well."

"I hope to join them soon and we can become a stronger team."

Head of the Eagles' medical team, Dr. Abdulkadir Muzam, believes Okocha is now at full fitness than the player thinks.

"I can say Okocha is about 85% ready for action. But we'll not rush things," Muzam told Nigeriansportsonline.com.

"We'll see how he responds to training before we can make any serious pronouncement."

"The good thing is he really wants to play and he's working hard to achieve that. He's been involved in functional training but he knows we'll not rush him."

"I can't say whether he'll play against Senegal or not but I'm pleased to observe that he's made tremendous progress."



Eagles top striker, Obafemi Martins received a vote of confidence from coach Austin Eguavoen.

## Ndlovu: Mikel was super

Peter Ndlovu, regarded as the best footballer to have come out of Zimbabwe, has poured encomiums on Nigeria's emergent star, John Mikel Obi, after the latter inspired the Super Eagles to a 2-0 win over the Zimbabwean team here on Friday.

Mikel Obi came on in the second half and apart from scoring and assisting the Eagles two goals brought some sanity to the Eagles midfield.

Former English Premiership

star Ndlovu, who came on as a substitute against the Eagles, said: "The number 8 (Mikel) was quite good. He made the difference when he came in."

"We knew all about Kanu when he came in but the number 8 was a surprise."

"I believe he would be a very good ambassador of African football in future."

Ndlovu, who is captain of the Zimbabwe Warriors, played for Coventry City and Birmingham City before moving to Mamelodi

Sundowns of South Africa to wind down his career.

He revealed to Nigeriansportsonline.com that the better individual qualities of the Super Eagles players gave Nigeria victory on Friday.

"We did our best against Nigeria, but obviously they were better."

"Football in West and North Africa is far ahead of football in Southern Africa."

"We came to this tournament to improve on our record in Tu-

nisia. Hopefully, we can still qualify for the quarterfinals."

"The match against Nigeria was difficult. The exposure of the Nigerian players was the difference."

"We played against a team whose players are with top clubs in Europe."

"It was a great compliment to us that we were able to hold them in first in the first half, but the quality of the Nigerian team's defence showed in the second half."



## NIGERIAN EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

INVITATION TO THE FOUNDATION LAYING CEREMONY OF NEPC HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AND THE INAUGURATION OF ITS GOVERNING BOARD.

The Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) cordially invites Federal Government Ministries and parastatals, the Organized Private Sector, industrialists, export agencies and the general public to the

### Foundation Laying Ceremony of its Headquarters Complex.

**DATE:** Tuesday January 31, 2006  
**VENUE:** Plot 424, Cadastral Zone A5, Aguyi-Ironsi Way, Maitama District, Abuja.  
**TIME:** 12. 30 PM.

Under the distinguished Chairmanship of the Honourable Minister of Commerce, Amb. Idris Waziri.

The ceremony will be preceded by the inauguration of the NEPC Governing Board at 11. 00 A.M. same day.

• This announcement serves as a formal invitation.

**Signed:**

**Mrs. G. M. Sasore**

**Special Adviser to the President on**

**Exports/ CEO, NEPC.**

**rsvp: 08056523553**



## UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA, ABUJA

(Office of the Registrar)

### ACADEMIC STAFF VACANCIES

Applications are hereby invited from suitably qualified candidates to fill existing vacancies in the following new Departments of the University of Abuja:

#### 1. DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND AFRICAN LANGUAGES

- a) Proposed Courses  
 B.A. Linguistics  
 B.A. Arabic  
 B.A. Hausa  
 B.A. Igbo  
 B.A. Yoruba

#### b) Academic Staff Requirements

- Professor  
 Senior Lecturer  
 Lecturer  
 Lecturer II

#### 2. DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

- a) Proposed Courses  
 B.A. Philosophy  
 B.A. Christian Religious Studies  
 B.A. Islamic Religious Studies
- b) Academic Staff Requirements

- Professor  
 Senior Lecturer  
 Lecturer  
 Lecturer II

#### 3. Qualifications

##### i) Professor

A candidate for this position must have a Ph.D in relevant field with a minimum of 15 years teaching experience in a University or similar institution. He/she should also have sufficient number of publications in reputable international and or national journals commensurate with the position.

##### ii) Senior Lecturer

The candidate must have a Ph.D in relevant field with at least nine years post qualification teaching experience in a University or similar institution. The candidate should have sufficient number of publications in reputable international and or national journals commensurate with the position.

##### iii) Lecturer I

The candidate must have at least a master's degree in relevant field with at least six years teaching experience. The candidate should have sufficient publications in reputable international and or national journals as required for the position.

##### iv) Lecturer II

The candidate must have at least a masters degree in relevant field with a minimum of three years teaching experience. The candidate should have publications as required for the post.

#### 4) Salaries

- Professor -UASS7 (N522924 - N753549)  
 Senior Lecturer -UASS5 (N420060 - N645528)  
 Lecturer I -UASS 4 (N338323 - N442731)  
 Lecturer II - UASS 3 (N257984 -N313690)

#### 5) Method of Application

Candidates are to submit fifteen (15) copies of their applications and detailed Curriculum Vitae with copies of relevant credentials to:

The Registrar,  
 University of Abuja,  
 P.M.B. 117, Abuja.

To reach him not later than six (6) weeks from the date of this publication. Only candidates short-listed will be contacted.

**Signed**

**M.B. Modibbo**

**Ag. Registrar**

# TRUST CLASSIFIED

## ASSOCIATION FOR THE CIVIL ENLIGHTENMENT OF NIGERIANS

The general public is hereby informed that the above named association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

**The Trustees are:**

1. Abdulrahman Abdulsamad
2. Dr. Muhammed Umar Kawu
3. Saleh Alh. Ado
4. Sulaiman Muhammed Hadi
5. Aliyu Saidu
6. Saleh Muhammed Galadima Kanam
7. Ibrahim Umar Abubakar
8. Mohammed Usman
9. Adamu Abu Kasim

**Aims and Objectives:**

1. To engage in the promotion of civil rights of Nigerians
2. To educate Nigerians of their civil rights through the media and other electronic devices.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, P.M.B. 189, Abuja, within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

**SIGNED:**  
Secretary

## GRASS-ROOTS DOCTORS SOCIETY

The general public is hereby informed that the above named association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

**The Trustees are:**

1. Dr. Bito Terrumun
2. Dr. Jombo Godwin
3. Dr. Akosu Joseph
4. Dr. Achinge Godwin
5. Prof. Dennis Ity Avyar
6. Prof. Abraham O. Malu

**Aims and Objectives:**

1. To improve the health status and general well being of the grass-roots population
2. To promote and improve health care delivery in Nigeria
3. To cater for the health care needs of indigent persons at the grassroots
4. To provide health services to disaster victims, internally displaced persons and refugees at the grassroots.
5. To cooperate with other bodies with similar aims and objectives.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, P.M.B. 189, Abuja, within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

**SIGNED:**  
**EDWARD OGAR ESQ.**  
Gracefield Solicitor & Advocates,  
9/10 Metro Plaza, (White Building, 2nd Flr.)  
By War College, Central Area, Abuja  
08035893213

## MOUNT ZION PROPHETIC MINISTRIES

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

**The Trustees are:**

1. Pastor Theresa Madu-West
2. Pastor Maxwell Ehibeh
3. Rose Ehibeh

**Aims and Objectives:**

1. To preach the gospel to the masses, to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind and to set at liberty those who are bruised.
2. To see to the spiritual and physical well-being and growth of its members.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, P.M.B. 189, Abuja, within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

**SIGNED:**  
**YAHAYA MAHMOOD & CO.**  
Al Ahmadu Bello Way  
P.O. Box 3935, Kaduna  
Tel: 062-242328

## MILLENNIUM CHILD FOUNDATION, MINNA, NIGER STATE

The general public is hereby informed that the above named association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

**The Trustees are:**

1. Hajija Sa'adatu Kolo - Chairperson
2. Banma Baba Sulaiman - Secretary
3. Alhaji Yabagi Alfa
4. Dr. Halilu Ayuba Ahmad
5. Hajija Hasiya Muhammad

**Aims and Objectives:**

1. To develop the intellectual and physical capacity of children
2. To promote the growth, development and well-being of the children
3. To organise travel and tourism programmes for children

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, P.M.B. 189, Abuja, within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

**SIGNED:**  
Secretary

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the original copy of the re-certification and re-issuance of C of O acknowledgement letter file number KD2611 dated 08/12/04 in respect of Plot No. 1387 Cadastral Zone DUT in favour of Ali M.U. and blue copy of Habib Bank Plc. deposit slip with No. 1134 being part payment of C of O fees is hereby declared missing.

All efforts to trace the above documents proved abortive. If found, please contact the nearest Police Station, AGIS, and the general public to please note.

**Signed:**  
D.Y. Umar

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the original copy of the re-certification and re-issuance of C of O acknowledgement letter file number Misc 18129 dated 09/23/04 in respect of Plot No. 1133 Cadastral B17 in favour of M/s Blue Seal Enterprises and Blue copy of UBA Bank Deposit Slips with No. 0017019 and No. 0017943 being payments of ground rent and Development levy is hereby declared missing.

All efforts to trace the above documents proved abortive. If found, please contact the nearest Police Station, AGIS, and the general public to please note.

**Signed:**  
D.Y. Umar

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This is to inform the general public that management of Sikon Securities and Investment Trust Ltd. has relinquished dealership registration with Securities and Exchange Commission. Sikon Securities and Investment Trust Ltd will henceforth function as a broker.

## CHANGE OF NAMES

I, formerly MISS SAFIYA JUMMAI MOHAMMED, now MRS SAFIYA OKECHUKWU OBIDIOZO. Former documents remain valid. The Nigeria Police Force, Kaduna Polytechnic and general public note.

I, formerly known as RIFKATU YAKUBU GUWAL, now wish to be called RIFKATU IORTYER. Social Development Secretariat, FCDA, the public to note

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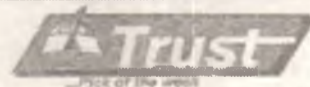


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# Sports

## EGYPT 2006 AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS

# Yusuf, Lulu caution Eguavoen over selection

Super Eagles technical crew has been advised to exercise "great" care in the selection of the star-studded team to avoid fielding the wrong pair of legs and the risk of a glorious exit at the on-going 25th Africa Cup of Nations.

Former NFA Secretary-General, Dr Ahmed Tijjani Yusuf and Alhaji Sani Lulu Abdullahi gave the advised against what they termed "obvious problem over the selection of the team noticed in the two matches played so far", adding that the handlers seem to have some difficulties in fielding the right person at the most appropriate position.

"Against Zimbabwe, the technical crew had selection problem which was why the team did not play to the level that was expected in the first half. It was the same in the first match against Ghana. So it is obvious there is selection problem probably of there are so many talents at the disposal of the coaches", said Yusuf, who believes that the coaches must have had sleepless nights over who to field to achieve the desired result.

Lulu, ex-NFA first vice chairman expressed similar fears noting that though the coaches have not disappointed the country so far in the tournament, the problem of selection has obvious and must be tackled objectively to avoid untoward result.

"I have confidence in the technical crew of the Eagles. So far, they have shown that they have the technical depth to pilot the team to a successful outing in the tournament. But there is this problem of selection which they are battling with certainly because the team is loaded with stars. In situations like this, the coaches usually have problem choosing the right pair of legs for the battle on the pitch. I am particularly happy that Austin Eguavoen introduced Mikel Obi and Kanu Nwankwo in the second half otherwise the result may have remained tepid"

Sports analyst, Emman Jemege corroborated noting the technical crew seems unable to choose the right pair of midfielders to feed the top strikers

By Patrick Andrew, Asst. Head Sports Desk

ers with the ball for the kill. According to him, the coaches should exercise caution over the selection because it could wreck the team if the right pairs are not fielded to fight for the vital points especially as the tournament enters the knock out stages.

Though Yusuf was happy that the coaches later made adjustment in the second half he

urged to the right players to be fielded noting that they may not have the luck of the preliminary matches in the next stage of the competition.

"It is true that the end justifies the means but they should be very careful with the team selection. The players should be fielded in the right places and from the onset to forestall the frustration that was obvious in the first half of the match against Zimbabwe"

The Eagles have won all their matches but have had to sweat hard to pick the maximum points. Though, Wilson Oruma was named the best player against Ghana, he was generally rated below par because he failed in his assigned to supply the two top strikers; Martins Obafemi and Julius Aghahowa with the ball upfront. Instead, Oruma took it upon himself to attempt scor-

ing thus abdicating his role and giving the Black Stars midfielders free reign over the Eagles.

He repeated the dreary performance against Zimbabwe until he was substituted by Mikel John Obi, whose control of the midfield tamed the soaring Warriors. Mikel supplied the cross that Christian Obodo nodded in for the opening goal and scored the second that confirmed the exit of their opponents.



# Oruma in injury fears

Marseille midfielder Wilson Oruma is likely to miss Tuesday's crucial Group D clash against Senegal here in Port Said after he hurt an old knee injury during the Eagles 2-0 win over Zimbabwe.

"My marker hit me around my knee during the game. It's an old injury and it really hurts when I try to shoot. I only hope I will be okay for our next match," said Oruma.

Skipper Austin 'Jay Jay' Okocha, on the other hand, has been pushing hard to be fully fit for Tuesday's cracker against Senegal.

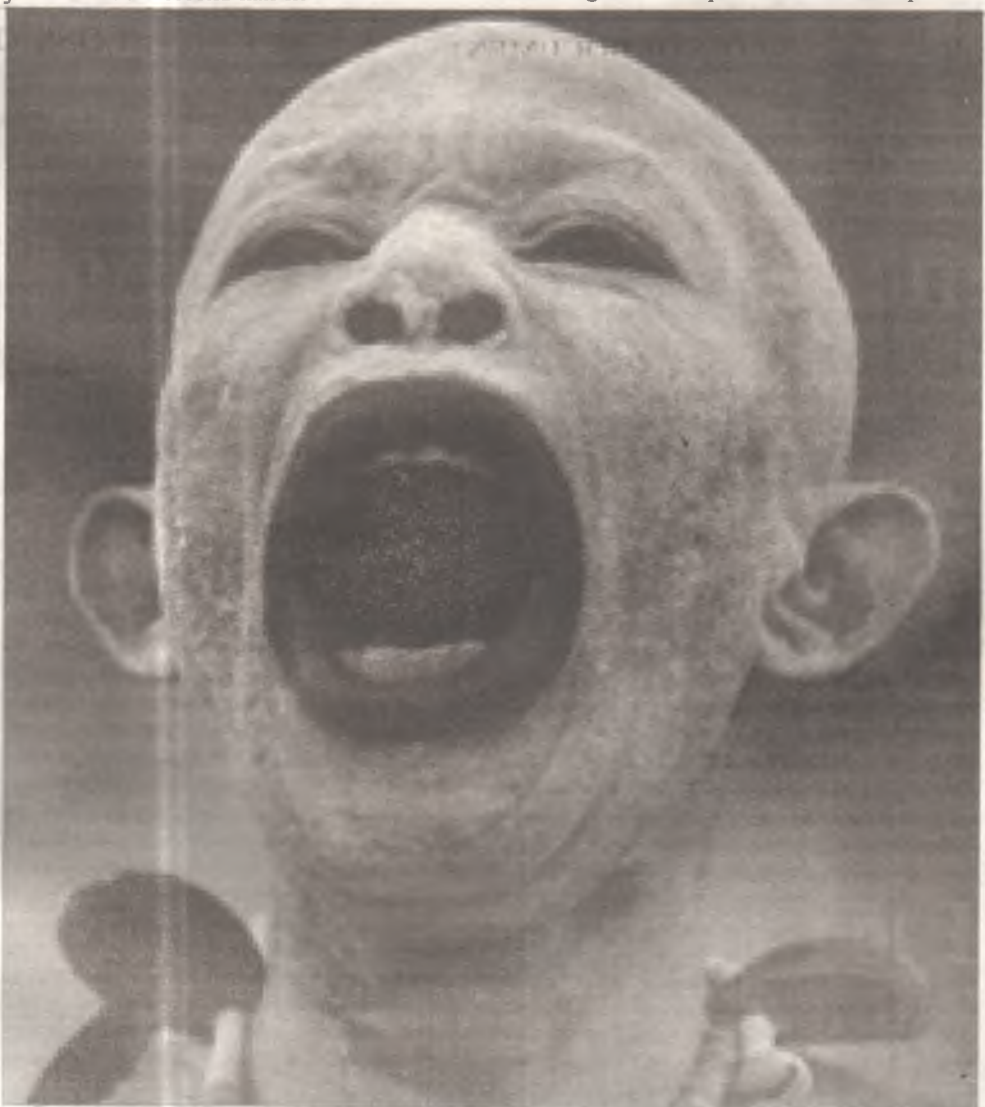
On Saturday morning he worked out at the gym of the Eagles Helnan Port Said Ho-

tel along with older brother Emma Okocha and assistant coach Daniel Amokachi.

Okocha is yet to play at this tournament after he suffered a thigh injury.

"Okocha's recovery has been remarkable but we cannot at this time really certify him fit. We need to watch him for a few more days," said team doctor Maazu.

The Super Eagles head Group D with six points after two rounds of matches but must avoid losing 2-0 to Senegal here on Tuesday to remain in contention at this tournament.



A Congolese witch doctor could not help his country from the claws of the Indomitable Lions of Cameroon in the last round of matches in Group B at the ongoing African Cup of Nations in Egypt...yesterday

# Makinwa calm about no action

Striker, Stephen Ayodele Makinwa, has said that he will wait for his opportunity at the ongoing African Cup of Nations.

The Palermo of Italy forward, expected to start alongside Obafemi Martins in attack has watched the games against Ghana and Zimbabwe on the bench.

But has insisted the team are doing well and he has no cause to grumble over his place on the bench.

"We have talented strikers in the team and the coach plays us according to the game plan," Makinwa told KICK OFF.

"If the team keep winning I think there is no need for anyone to complain, even though we all want to play not everyone will get such opportunity in every game.

Makinwa, who scored on his Super Eagles debut against South Africa in November 2004, is however confident that the team are on course.

He also stressed that the presence of older players like Nwankwo Kanu, Austin Okocha and Garba Lawal, has had a great impact on the younger ones.

"We are learning a lot from them, I was watching Okocha and Kanu as a boy, and I think it's a privilege to be playing alongside them here at the Nations Cup.

"We have a very strong side capable of achieving success here, and I believe

# Senegal spirits high to down Eagles

The spirit in the training camp of the Teranga Lions of Senegal is on an all-time high as they prepare to beat the Super Eagles and book a place in the quarter-finals of the African Nations Cup.

The Lions, who lost by a lone goal to Ghana in a Group

D tie on Monday here in Port Said, trained for over two hours on a chilly Saturday night ahead of the epic clash against the Eagles slated for Tuesday.

Coach Abdoulaye Sarr jogged around the pitch several times with his starting defenders Lamine Diata,

Souleymane Diawara and the suspended Habib Beye in what appears to be a special training for the defenders. While skipper Ferdinand Coly came off the pitch a lot earlier than the rest of the squad.

Young striker Souleymane Camara did not join

the rest of the squad in the grueling training session that lasted over two hours at their Sport Support base in Ismailia. Also missing from training was Wigan quicksilver striker Henri Camara.

Goalkeeper Tony Sylva played as a striker during the two-a-side games played within half of the pitch and helped himself to at least three goals, which he celebrated in a unique way.

Beye, who was also excused from the rigorous workout, told KICK OFF that the team will be gunning for victory against the Eagles.

"Victory is not negotiable. We know this will be a very tough match but this is not the first time that we have been faced with such a big challenge," said the Olympique Marseille de-

we have put behind us the Ghana match. We spoke as a team after the game and told ourselves what really went wrong and we hope to correct these mistakes on Tuesday against Nigeria."

The Vice-President of the Senegalese football federation Boubacar Gaye simply said: "This is war. And we need to win to remain in this competition."

Nigeria holds a better record in clashes between the two teams in the Nations Cup finals.

The Eagles beat the home team 2-1 at the 1992 competition. They also won 2-1 in a pulsating quarter-final match-up at the 2000 edition which Nigeria and Ghana jointly hosted.

While four years ago, the Eagles fell 2-1 to the Teranga

# Lawal stays upbeat

Midfielder Garba Lawal has revealed that playing as a substitute for the Super Eagles is no problem.

The Iraklis Salonica player considered as one of the "Elite state men" of the current squad says he nurse no hard feelings about the situation. "It's always been a privilege to play for my country. I

Lawal told KICK OFF on Saturday.

"The coach has the final say and he make use of me where and when needed, so I've no problem with that.

The 31-year-old says he relish the opportunity of playing alongside the younger players that will form the bedrock of next generation of Super Eagles.

have talented players and more importantly they are all ready to learn, which is good and promising.

"I've had the opportunity of looking closely at these players and I can assure you that when the likes of Kanu, Okocha and myself is gone, they will take the team to greater heights," the

## Yesterday's Results

Cameroun 2, Congo DR 0

Angola 3, Togo 2

Cameroun, Congo DR are through to the quarter-finals

## Today's Matches

Tunisia vs Guinea 6.00 pm

South Africa vs Zambia 6.00 pm

## Rimi: Caution, please

Even at the best of times, Alhaji Abubakar Muhammad Rimi has never been known to have much difficulty speaking his mind on any issue. But these are definitely the worst of times for the irrepressible political impresario. The twin tragedies that visited Rimi in quick succession within the last few weeks have been so infectiously painful that it is with the greatest of reluctance that one is revisiting the matter again. The memory of the tragic death of Rimi's senior wife, the late Hajiya Sa'adatu still brings bile to the mouth and a mixture of rage and sympathy for any normal human being that one is constrained to apologise to the Rimi family and readers at large, for reawakening those painful memories. That crime couldn't have been committed by animals; they were beasts.

But since Rimi himself has found the courage, characteristically, to talk publicly on the matter, it is, for want of a better word, pardonable to comment on the shattering revelations that Rimi came up with. While receiving the governor of Anambra State, Dr Chris Ngige, who had paid him a condolence visit last week, Rimi shocked the nation by declaring that he knows who sponsored the gruesome murder of his wife.

Perhaps only in Nigeria of today could such an earthshaking statement be received by authorities the way Rimi's was received. For all the visible interest that the relevant authorities have shown, Rimi might have declared that he knew who hit his car bumper last year and ran away. Of course, it is possible that the police who are investigating the matter are probably factoring in Rimi's statement in their investigations. But whereas the Rimi family is the bereaved, this crime, the first of its kind in living memory in this part of the country, is an assault on the moral fabric of the society. It touches the most vulnerable part of the human soul in a way that a thousand deaths through natural causes would never do. It was not even an ordinary murder. Life, the most precious possession of mankind, was violated in a manner calculated to provoke the most outrage.

Being at the centre of this uncomfortable tragedy and possibly the original target of this bestiality, it is understandable if Rimi loses his cool, such as he had, and says things that are outrageous in themselves. For the allegation that he (Rimi) knows the "chief sponsor of his wife's murder" who, he explained, "is a big man in Kano and Abuja," would have been received with immense gratitude and even fanfare by security outfits in any other country where the system works. But in Nigeria, where human life is valued at a rate cheaper than the price of a pair of shoes, the authorities are behaving as if it was some lunatic that was talking.

This curious lack of interest in pursuing clues that could unravel high profile murders and assassinations has happened at least three times before in the life of this regime. First was the case of the murder of Chief Marshal Harry. When the then Inspector-General of Police, Alhaji Tafa Balogun himself, cooked up a motive for the killing by way of waving a dude cheque for N20 million, Harry's party, the ANPP quickly moved to expose the lie in Tafa's explanation that the killers were robbers and were after the N20 million cheque! Robbers stealing a cheque for God's sake! That was when President Obasanjo or the National Assembly or even the press should have demanded Balogun's removal, and embarked on consequent interrogation. But till today, Harry's killers remain unknown to the public.

Then there was the statement credited to Professor Wole Soyinka in the aftermath of the assassination of former Attorney-General of the Federation, Chief Bola Ige. Soyinka had said that the ruling PDP was a nest of killers. Yet, nobody invited him to explain his statement. Next, there was Justice Abba who, while withdrawing

from presiding over the Bola Ige trial, declared that he was resigning due to pressure from unexpected quarters. Again, because the Nigerian state has little respect for human life, it did not find it useful to demand an explanation from Justice Abba. At the very least, the NASS should have compelled him to name those who were piling up pressure on him which would surely have assisted in locating which "quarters" Ige's killers were to be found.

And now we have Rimi offering another golden opportunity for the nation to have a glimpse of who killed



hearsays and innuendoes. This is dangerous for everyone, particularly members of the elite class.

The second more dangerous threat that this escalating wave of speculations poses is to the political process. Rimi has considerable political support in Kano



Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi

his wife. Shouldn't we seize it? First, one would wonder why Rimi chose to go public with that information. Is he also beginning to get frustrated by official efforts? Or is it that, which is also likely given the disposition of Rimi himself, the police were hearing that information at the same time with the general public? If Rimi really does know the sponsors of his wife's killers, who are they? Have the police made any arrest? If not, why? Is it that Rimi has no tangible evidence, after all?

Exactly where have the police situated Rimi's revelations; in the same category with that of Jibrin Tasi'u Zagge, the 30-year-old man who confessed to partaking in the murder? And where is Tasi'u? If he is mad; who certified him so? Was it a psychiatrist or his parents who would only be too willing to so admit? There was also the theory of possible complicity from the Rimi household because no breakage of any door was done by the killers to gain entry. Have the police exhausted that angle?

Chances are that there are too many questions, which answers we shall never know. But in the meantime, dangerous speculations are gaining currency. These pose too very serious threats. First is the possibility of miscarriage of justice. Given the amount of hearsay in circulation, most people are beginning to have conclusive profile of who the killers are and who and who sponsored them. Indeed, it is possible that some people somewhere are already planning revenge. All based on speculations,



Mr. Sunday Ehindero, Inspector-General of Police

and elsewhere. It is natural that in the absence of a transparent, official effort to find the killers, Rimi's supporters will be more inclined to believe the killers were from Rimi's political opponents and nurse grudges accordingly. The strategic political importance of Kano in Northern politics is well-known to be repeated because political fire ignited in Kano can spread to anywhere, and will end up polarising political forces in the region along superficial divisions. At a time when the region needs to harness all its political energy, a violent division could be catastrophic. Thus, the political elite must come to terms with the present and potential danger that is slowly gaining ground in Kano and come together to address it quickly. It is the worst possible time to get distracted.

However, this is not to say that late Sa'adatu's gruesome murder should be sacrificed to political expediency. Far from it. In fact, a quick honest solution that should conclude with the identification and prosecution of whoever those killers are is the only way to help the political growth of the region and enhance its chances in actualising its 2007 objective. But veiled statements, such as the one made by Rimi last week, will not help matters at all. This way, the entire political strategy of the region will be playing into the hands of political opportunists whose major political weapon is to divide and misrule.

Even the suspects that have been placed under trial remain suspects until a case of guilt is proven against them beyond any reasonable doubt. There is Shari'ah, which is the rule of law in Kano and which must not only be adhered to, but must be seen to be adhered to.