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**ABUJA TRUST**  
FG to  
investigate land  
allocation in  
Abuja  
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**RAMADAN TIMING  
FOR ABUJA**  
Magrib - 6:11 p.m  
Alfijir - 5:18 a.m  
For other places see  
details on  
Page 18

**FIXED ASSET SOFTWARE**  
*for effective control over fixed assets*

**FEATURES:**

- Asset Register by Location
- Asset Register by Year of Purchase
- Asset Register by type of Asset
- Asset Additions (over existing Asset)
- Re-valuation of Asset
- Asset Audit Trail
- Full Asset Disposal
- Partial Asset Disposal
- Depreciation Run
- Etc.

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## FRCN queried over Rimi

The Executive Director of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), Kaduna, has been queried over a radio phone-in programme "Hannu da Yawa," which featured Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) presidential aspirant, Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi.

From Musa Umar Kazaure,  
in Kano

Daily Trust that Rimi had paid FRCN over N10 million to be featured in the popular phone-in programme over a one year period. But only one programme was aired before the management was

stopped by FRCN Director-General, Mr. Eddie Iroh.

Mr. Iroh followed this with a query to the station director and also a request for the files of all top management staff in Kaduna preparatory to some impending disciplinary actions.

It will be recalled that this

is the second time Mr. Iroh is clashing with a Kaduna FRCN director. The first one in early 2000 led to the exit of the then Executive Director, Alhaji Halilu Ahmed Getso.

Even though FRCN Kaduna has returned the bulk of the money, the presidential aspirant has vowed to fight the infringement of his rights, first of all by appealing to higher authority within the

PDP government. A bank draft of the money earlier paid by Rimi was returned to him with a letter informing him of the cancellation of the contract.

Radio journalists in Abuja and Kaduna, who spoke to Daily Trust, are confused about the development, considering that around the same time Rimi's programme was aired on Radio Nigeria Kaduna in

a paid programme, the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) also featured him on the interview programme "Point Blank," apparently without any problem.

Confirming the incident, Alhaji Abubakar Rimi told Daily Trust that the revocation of his publicity contract with FRCN Kaduna

Contd. on Pg 2



Black smoke billows into the sky over Gaza following an explosion in the area of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's office, after it was hit by Israeli missiles yesterday.

## US backs Israeli attacks on Palestinians

The United States yesterday backed Israel's offensive against Palestinians as Israeli missiles slammed into Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's helicopter compound near his headquarters in the Gaza Strip in response to the most

By Musa Aliyu with Agency Reports

devastating wave of Palestinian suicide attacks in years.

Witnesses said the helicopter missile strike wrecked three of Arafat's helicopters and damaged a hangar on the coast of densely populated Gaza city

in the evening.

People fled the packed streets in panic as columns of smoke rose into the air. Seventeen people were taken to hospital, and dozens of others suffered shock and trauma from the blast, medical officials said.

Arafat, who has been

Contd. on Pg 2

## Obasanjo now Garkuwan Abuja

By Emmanuel Ande

took place at the old parade ground at the beginning of the president's two-day state tour of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), was witnessed by the FCT Minister, Engr. Mohammed Abba-Gana, his Agriculture counterpart, Alhaji Adamu Bello, Senator Khairat Rasaq

Gwadabe and a host of other dignitaries.

Speaking after his installation, President Obasanjo said his administration would do everything possible to ensure that the aim of building the best federal capital is achieved.

His-  
Contd. on Pg 2



Yasser Arafat

## Army pensioners beckon on Obasanjo for payment

About 300 military pensioners yesterday converged at the old parade ground during President Obasanjo's tour of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to lodge their complaint over the non-payment of their pension entitlements since 1979.

A spokesman of the group told Daily Trust that the pensioners were not at the venue for the merriment of the president's visit. "We are the medically unfit military pensioners discharged in 1979. Since our discharge from the Army on medical grounds, we have been following up our pension entitlements, but up till today, nobody has answered us.

"In 1999, we were asked to report at Lokoja to receive our pensions. On getting there we were asked to undergo medical check up again to confirm the injuries we claimed we sustained during the war. We agreed and the doctors did it. From then, nothing has been given

By Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman and Ahmed Tahir

to us even as feedback.

"Instead, we were asked to report in Lagos. We all went there only for them to keep dribbling us. From January to October 2001, we

Contd. on Pg 2



Alhaji Abubakar Rimi

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## NEWS

## We will fight ASUU to the end — Obasanjo

The Federal Government yesterday foreclosed the possibility of further



Dr. Dipo Fashina

By Suleiman Mohammed

negotiations with members of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) as President Olusegun Obasanjo vowed to fight the union to the end.

Addressing students of the Nigeria Law School, Bwari, in continuation of his official visit of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, President Obasanjo described the various demands of ASUU as unjustifiable.

According to him, ASUU members have failed to

justify the salary increment made by his administration, rather, "they pay more attention on strikes. If they give lectures at all, they end up spending the day in staff club."

While advising the law students not to be vanguard of destruction, President Obasanjo described the law profession as exalted and versatile. "Aside from acquiring education, what matters most is what you contribute to your community and society at large."

President Obasanjo said lawyers should be protectors of justice and freedom rather than being major obstacles to administration of justice and protection of democracy.

He narrated a story of a judge who he said usually prepares two judgments, each for the plaintiff and the defendant, and only deliver the one that has the highest pay. He warned the aspiring

lawyers to be good ambassadors of the Nigeria Law School.

President Obasanjo promised to look into the problems of the school, adding that the essence of decentralizing the school was to ensure adequate provision of infrastructure are made for the students.

Earlier, the Chairman of the Council of Legal Education, Dr. J.O. Olojo, described the president's visit to the school as a landmark, adding that the three new campuses at Kano, Enugu and Lagos have commenced operation, and the first set of students would graduate in March 2002.

Dr. Olojo thanked the Federal Government for the assistance given to the school but lamented the absence of a well-equipped library and other facilities in the institution.



Guess who? President Olusegun Obasanjo during his visit to Federal Capital Territory... yesterday Pix: Felix Onighinde

Arafat *Contd from Pg 1*

held responsible by Israel for weekend suicide attacks in Jerusalem and Haifa that killed at least 25 people and wounded about 200, was not in the city at the time.

The surge of violence threatened to wreck a U.S. peace drive in the region that is intended to help bolster Arab support for the U.S.-led anti-terror campaign in Afghanistan after the September 11 attacks on the United States.

Palestinian Cabinet Minister, Saeb Erekat, said the missile strike showed that Israel was trying to destroy Arafat's Palestinian authority and he called on the United States to force a halt to the bombardment.

Arafat's helicopters have been regarded by Israelis and Palestinians alike as a symbol of his freedom of movement in governing Palestinian areas that he wants for the creation of an independent state.

Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, sent the helicopter gunships into action after returning from talks in Washington with President George W. Bush, who dispatched an envoy last week to launch a new peace mission.

"Obviously Israel has the right to defend itself and the president understands that clearly," White House spokesman, Ari Fleischer,

told reporters. Arafat's Palestinian authority has dismissed suggestions he was to blame for the weekend attacks by failing to crack down on violence. His security forces say they have arrested more than 100 militants since the bombings.

The militant movement, Hamas, took responsibility for the suicide bombings, which opened a bloody new phase in 14 months of Israeli-Palestinian violence in which at least 742 Palestinians and 222 Israelis have been killed.

Israeli government spokesman, Raanan Gissin, said the missile strike "was intended to send a very clear signal either Arafat will fight terrorism or we will have to do it."

"It was not an attack on the home or the compound of Mr. Arafat but on the helicopter and helicopter landing pad," he told CNN.

Three Israeli attack helicopters were seen off the coast of the Gaza Strip firing at least 14 missiles in quick succession followed by heavy machine gun fire.

Three of Arafat's helicopters were left in flames at the compound, which lies about 70 metres (yards) from Arafat's home and 200 metres (yards) from his main offices. Arafat was in the West Bank city of Ramallah at the time, officials said.

FRCN *Contd from Pg 1*

by the FRCN headquarters, Abuja, amounts to an infringement of his right of expression and also a breach of contract on the part of FRCN, Abuja. He regretted that even though FRCN Kaduna has been commercialized, its means of getting revenue is being thwarted for selfish political reasons.

The PDP presidential aspirant who insisted that he would first explore all normal avenues for redress before disclosing his next line of action against FRCN, Abuja, blamed the entire episode on over-zealous government officials who he said are against the interest and progress of FRCN Kaduna.

"Government is always using the same medium for its political campaign, but now turn to frustrate my own campaign; but I assure you no one can frustrate my own campaign and live in peace," Rimi warned.

The Director-General of FRCN, Mr. Iroh, could not be reached throughout last week as he was said to be attending a meeting in Lagos. His secretary, however, directed this reporter to the corporation's Company Secretary and Legal Adviser, Alhaji Mustapha Kurama, who said he was not aware of the contract in question.

## Mother of raped baby arrested in South Africa

The mother of South Africa's latest child rape victim — a five-month-old baby from Johannesburg was arrested on charges of assault and neglect yesterday, media reports said.

Her arrest came less than two days after the infant was admitted in a Johannesburg hospital after being raped on Saturday night by a man or men allegedly known to her mother.

The child became the latest victim of a spate of child rapes throughout the country after she was left unattended in a building once used as a cinema hall in the inner-city suburb of Joubert Park, late on Saturday.

The child underwent an operation late Saturday and had been treated with anti-retroviral AIDS drugs. Another operation is planned for this week, the

Sapa News Agency said.

"She is not 100 per cent, but she is responding fine to treatment," Trudi Schutte, a representative from the Johannesburg general hospital was quoted as saying.

Police have arrested two men aged 17 and 24 in connection with the rape, while her 24-year-old mother faces allegations that she had neglected and assaulted the child for some time.

South Africans have followed with disgust reports in recent weeks of rapes involving infants and girls.

Last month, six adult males from a Free State town were arrested in connection with the brutal gang-rape of a nine-month-old baby, a crime that has firmly placed the issue of child rape on the public agenda.

Pensioners *Contd from Pg 1*

were in Lagos. No provision was made for our feeding and accommodation. Nothing at all was given to us. Again, we were asked to go back to Lokoja because our records were there. They conveyed us in army vehicles to Lokoja last October.

"On reaching Lokoja, only 250 out of 4,167 of us were selected for payment. The 250 people were asked to move to Abuja where they would finally be settled. On getting to Abuja, only 25 out of the 250 selected pensioners were paid. The rest of us were abandoned. Nothing was given to us. Instead, we were asked to go back to wherever we came from."

The group of pensioners who came from every part of the country further told *Daily Trust* that they were all discharged from different units and different battalions of the army on grounds that they were medically unfit.

The spokesman lamented that the pensioners

have been very loyal to the Nigerian nation, adding that they worked together with President Obasanjo as their commander in the 60s and 70s. "We are tired of being carried here and there for medical check up. Now we don't know what to do. We don't have money to eat in the bukas in Abuja here now. In fact, some of our members have collapsed in the premises of the Ministry of Defence in Garki. We don't know how we are going to transport ourselves back home because we don't have money."

The spokesman added that in their last trip to Lagos, 47 of the pensioners died of hunger. Two of them equally died at Lokoja after returning from Lagos in October this year.

"A good number of us have remained in Lokoja because of lack of transport money to Abuja. Please, tell the government to come to our aid," he pleaded.

In most cases the perpetrators appear to be known to the families of the children.

It is estimated that a woman is raped in South African every 26 seconds. Minors make up nearly half of the country's rape victims.

Child rapes have been linked to among other things a belief that sleeping with a virgin can cure AIDS which has already infected an estimated 4.7 million South Africans and a heightened public awareness of the crime.

Obasanjo *Contd from Pg 1*

words: "Everybody who has been to Abuja seems to like it, but if we do not take care, it won't be too long before people will start to hate it."

Vowing that government would not allow the haphazard development of Abuja and the satellite towns, the president added, "Abuja should be a pride to all of us and this we will strive to achieve in the lifespan of this administration."

The president said the objective of his visit was to enable him to talk to indigenes, market women, traditional rulers and other residents in order to know their problems with a view to finding lasting solutions to them.

He expressed concern at the occasion over what he called "illegal and irregular" allocations of plots by officials of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA), and warned that "stiff measures would be taken against such officials; this will no longer be tolerated."

The Commander-in-Chief's visit was greeted by protesters who chanted slogans and displayed placards with inscriptions like: "Mr. President, save our souls," "Mr. President, come to our rescue before our houses are demolished," "Is Abuja only for the rich?" "Why do you want to drive poor people out of Abuja?"

But Obasanjo said government would not allow

further distortion of the Abuja master plan, adding: "Abuja has to be the best, and a showcase of development, of beauty, of admiration and of elegance."

Earlier in his speech, the FCT minister, Engr. Muhammed Abba-Gana, said the President's visit was in keeping with his style of monitoring at close range the impact of his administration on the people.

On the condition of infrastructure in FCT, the minister said the influx of people into the FCT was exerting pressure on social amenities like water, electricity and educational facilities among others.

While pointing out that government was doing everything possible to improve water supply to Kubwa, Gwagwalada and the communities around the airport, Abba-Gana said on completion of the second phase of the Usuma Dam water works, water supply would be extended to Idu, Karmo, Gwarinpa, Kado and Karu all in the FCT.

Besides commissioning of the Jibi housing scheme and the Asokoro General Hospital, which was started since 1990 by the General Babangida regime, the President inspected the Maitama General Hospital, the Nigerian Law School, Ushafa Pottery, Lower Usuma Dam and Abuja Water works.

NEWS

21 students suspended over exams malpractice

No fewer than 21 undergraduate students of Moshood Abiola Polytechnic (MAPOLY), Abeokuta, have been suspended by the academic board of the institution over their involvement in examination malpractices.

Investigations by *Daily Trust* showed that the affected students were apprehended during the first semester examination of the current academic session.

The decision of the academic board was as a result of the recommendation of the Abel Oyaniran-led Disciplinary Committee, which tried the affected students.

Speaking with our correspondent on Monday,

From Olumide Bajulaiye, in Abeokuta

Head of the Committee, Mr. Abel Oyaniran, attributed students' involvement in examination malpractices to laziness.

"Students, rather than engage in serious academic work, are mostly found engaging in mundane things, only to resort to cheating during examinations," he said.

While expressing the determination of his committee to reduce to the barest minimum the cases of cheating, the dean of students affairs said the school authority would re-endeavour to let students realise the implication of cheating during examinations.



President Obasanjo, Garkuwan of Abuja (right) and FCT Minister, Engr. Mohammed Abba-Gana, during the president's visit to Federal Capital Territory... yesterday. Pix: Felix Onigbinde.

FG to release \$100m to Nigeria Airways for more aircraft

The Federal Government is to release \$100 million

From Shakirat Abdulmajeed in Lagos with agency reports

to the Nigeria Airways for the purchase of more aircraft, aviation sources said in Lagos.

The government's gesture was in response to representations to it by the Ministry of Aviation and the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), headed by Malam Nasir el-Rufai, on the need for the purchase.

When the money is made available, the airline plans to add to its fleet a Boeing 767-300 series, an extended range aircraft, and two Boeing 737-300 series aircraft.

Sources in the sub-sector revealed that both parties had proposed \$40 million for the purchase of a six-year-old Boeing 767-300 series, while \$60 million would be spent in buying two Boeing 737-300 series aircraft.

The sources explained that the acquisition would strengthen Nigeria Airways operations on the international routes.

"The decision by government, particularly the Ministry of Aviation, is timely as it will enable the airline to operate to U.S. directly on its own and provide it a good

network on the West Coast route," the sources said.

"The plan is part of the ministry's initiative to revive the airline and reposition it for eventual privatisation," the sources added.

The airline on November 20, returned to the London route with a leased Boeing 747-300 series after a three-year break.

The airline has about 65 Bilateral Air Services Agreements (BASA) with several countries in Europe, America, Middle East and Africa, but was unable to fly most of the routes, making the carriage of passengers a lopsided affair in favour of the other countries.

In addition, Nigeria Airways signed 17 air pacts with different countries in Europe, but serviced only the London route with bilateral partner, British Airways and recently Virgin Atlantic Airways, which came in under the dual destination agreement.

The BASA with Britain stipulates 15 weekly frequencies with British Airways operating 10 weekly flights and Virgin Atlantic Airways four weekly flights, while the Nigeria Airways has only four flight frequencies a week due to equipment constraints.

Pop star, Elton John, sets to retire

British pop singer, Elton John, whose string of hits has made him one of the richest stars in the music business, has said it is time to let the sun go down on his recording career.

He stunned his audience at a U.S. concert at the weekend by saying his latest album, "Songs From the West Coast," would be his last, his London-based spokesman said.

"I'm fed up with it. I like playing to you guys but I hate the record industry," said John, who has amassed an estimated £140 million (\$210 million) fortune in a career spanning more than three decades.

"I've made 40 albums and it is about time for me to get out."

John's spokesman told *Reuters* he was unsure whether the final curtain had really come down on John's record career.

"He certainly said he would never make another record, but whether it was just something he said on the spur of the moment, or whether he meant it, we don't know yet," he said.

John ended the concert by dedicating his poignant ballad "Your Song" to Beatle's George Harrison, who died in Los Angeles on Friday after a long battle with cancer.

He said Harrison had taken the time to send him a congratulatory note when he was just starting to make a name for himself.

"I've never forgotten that gesture. It was such a mind-blowing event," he said.

"Songs from the West Coast" is John's first album of new material for four years, although its tone harks back to the vintage tunes of the 1970s that made him an international star.

Born Reginald Dwight to a working class family, John has been one of the music industry's most prolific performers, delivering scores of hits among them "Candle in the Wind," "Crocodile Rock," "Bennie and the Jets" and "Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me."

In recent years, the singer's flamboyant dress sense and extravagant lifestyle have kept him in the headlines more than his music.

Last year, John lost a multi-million pound court battle with his former accountant and ex-manager that were memorable for the details that emerged about the star's lavish spending.

The court heard how John spent \$57 million in a 20-month period, including \$195,000 on flowers.

FG upgrades printing press to parastatal status

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

The Federal Government has upgraded the department of printing of the Ministry of Information to a full-fledged government parastatal.

The Minister of Information and National Orientation, Prof. Jerry Gana, who was speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony for the Abuja office of the printing press yesterday, said the legal processes to that effect are on.

According to him, the development was part of the recommendations of the Ayida Panel's Report and is aimed at ensuring effective and sustainable printing and publishing services for government.

Prof. Gana said the movement of the seat of government to Abuja has made it necessary that an Abuja office of the printing press be established to provide reliable and prompt printing services to departments of government.

On the functions of the government printing press, the minister said they include printing of Gazettes, statutory instruments, civil service rules and reproduction of pamphlets and posters for domestic publicity of government programmes.

In his speech at the occasion before laying the foundation stone, Vice-President Atiku Abubakar said government was aware of the many problems and challenges facing the Federal Government press.

"Therefore, necessary steps are being taken to fully reactivate the press. We expect in return that the press will live up to expectation as a commercialised entity," he said.

The vice-president, who expressed optimism that the new office would be completed by the end of next year, said it would be well equipped to meet the challenges of modern printing.

The Managing Director of the press, Alhaji Suleiman Dangana, told journalists that the construction of the Abuja office would cost \$350 million.

Atiku urges stronger Nigeria, China ties

By Suleiman Mohammed

Vice-President Atiku Abubakar yesterday in Abuja called for the strengthening of the bilateral relationship between Nigeria and China, saying that both countries would benefit immensely in increased co-operation, especially in economic areas.

Atiku, who spoke when he received a delegation from China Petrochemical Corporation (SINOPEC) led by its Vice-President, Mr. Mo Shuhang, praised the

Chinese government for its supportive role over the years, saying that Nigeria placed great premium in its relationship with that country.

He told the delegation that the Federal Government would support China's private sector bids to participate and do business in Nigeria, emphasising that government policy is to encourage foreign

Man, 27, jailed for stealing goat

An area court in Gombe has sentenced a man, Ishaya Eli, to six months imprisonment for trespass and stealing a goat owned by his neighbour, an old woman.

Eli, 27, was charged to court on November 12 for trespass and stealing Malama Innawuro Sabiu's goat, punishable under section 286 of the penal code.

The prosecuting police officer, Malam Mukтари Galadima, said the accused took advantage of being a neighbour to Sabiu to enter her house while she was out and made away with her goat.

Eli was arrested on his way to the market by the ward head of the area, Malam Mohammed Abdullahi, and another person, Malam Mohammed Auwshi, who took him to the police station at the railway terminus in Gombe.

The accused had pleaded guilty to the offence and asked for leniency.

He said: "This is my first time of stealing and it is because of hunger. I wanted to sell the goat and use the money to buy food for my family."

Delivering judgement, the presiding judge advised Eli to find something to do rather than resort to stealing.

The convict was, however, given an option to pay a fine of N1,000.



Gov. Abubakar Habu Hashidu of Gombe.

investments. He spoke of the opportunities available in Nigeria's petroleum sector, and urged SINOPEC to express interest in the area.

Speaking earlier, the Vice-President of China Petrochemical Corporation (SINOPEC) said the company planned to strengthen business relationship between Nigeria and China.

## NEWS

# 6,500 to perform Hajj from Kano

No fewer than 6500 pilgrims are expected to perform this year's Hajj from Kano State. This is about 18 per cent increase on last year's figure.

The Executive Secretary, Kano State Pilgrims Welfare Board, Alhaji Laminu Rabi, who disclosed this in Kano, said already about 3000 intending pilgrims have deposited their Hajj fare under the Hajj Savings Deposit Scheme.

He stated that officials of the board have visited Saudi Arabia twice this year to prepare accommodation for Kano State pilgrims in the holy land. Alhaji Laminu, however, appealed to the Federal Government to change its decision of weighing pilgrims' luggage in Makka because of the hassle associated with it.

In a related development, the Nigerian Pilgrims Welfare Association has joined the 19 Northern state governors in their quest for a permanent pilgrims commission, instead of the annual task force appointed to conduct the exercise.

The Secretary-General of the association, Alhaji M.

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Kano

K. Ahmed, said in a statement in Kano that the annual appointment of task force contributes to Hajj problems. He suggested the appointment of permanent members on a three-year term, citing Decree 16 of 1975, which provides for such terms of appointment for pilgrims welfare board, as an example.

He also called for Federal

Government's involvement in lesser Hajj exercise because of the new system introduced by Saudi authorities which has made it impossible for pilgrims to over stay in the holy land.

Alhaji Ahmed kicked against government's withdrawal from Hajj operation, saying that the government has a duty to protect the welfare of its citizens, especially when they are in foreign land.

## Govt bans street begging by teenage girls

Bauchi State government has banned street begging by teenage girls as part of efforts to ensure that women are not left behind in acquiring education.

Governor Adamu Mu'azu, who announced this at the launching of a women development programme, "Women Agenda," at the weekend in Bauchi, reiterated government's determination to improve the living standard of women.

He promised that women groups would be given necessary assistance in their collective efforts to better

their lot.

The governor, represented by the Commissioner for Information and Culture, Alhaji Madaki Hamma, said that women have an important role to play in the development of the society.

Mu'azu called on the various women groups in the state to work together to ensure the success of women development programmes being executed by the government.



Governor Adamu Mu'azu of Bauchi State.

The state resident electoral commissioner, Mrs. Elizabeth Rindam, reminded women of the need to establish outreach programmes, especially for the rural women "who are more in number but are largely backward in terms of development.

"For us to promote our cause in the society, women need to earn the confidence of their male counterparts; we need to prove our ability to take a lead in the development of rural women," she said.

According to her, "Women Agenda" will only remain relevant if it is able to impact positively on the women.

The coordinator of Women Agenda, Mrs. Mary Simon, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that the project was a three-year political development process facilitated by rural communities in partnership with women in politics.



Vice-President Atiku Abubakar (r) laying the foundation stone while Engineer Piero Zammarchi, Contracts Manager (Abuja Area) at DTV Company Limited (l), assisting him during the foundations stone laying ceremony of Federal Government Printing Press in Abuja... yesterday  
Pix: Kennedy Eghonodje.

## Katsina sets up fuel distribution committee

In its resolve to solve the perennial scarcity of petroleum products in the state, the Katsina State government has reconstituted a standing committee to monitor, distribute and sell the products across the state.

Inaugurating the committee in Katsina, the Secretary to the State Government, Alhaji Isa Mohammed, urged members to be patriotic in their duties so that the products will be enough in the state to end

From Hassan A. Karofi, in Katsina

continued hardship caused by its scarcity.

The secretary further expressed government's resolve to tackle all fuel-related problem in the state, saying that this was what informed the inclusion of many stakeholders in the petroleum marketing in the committee.

Earlier, chairman of the committee, Alhaji Yusuf Abubakar, reiterated the committee's commitment in

ensuring the provision of enough petroleum products in the state.

He, however, called for proper provision of logistics in order to achieve the desired result. Other members of the reconstituted committee include, Yawale Zakka (Secretary), Alhaji Aminu Magaji Musa (NARTO), Malam Muhammad Musa (NUPENG) and Musa Yandoma (NURTW).

## Use looted money to settle debt —senator tells FG

The chairman, Senate Committee on Local and Foreign Debt, Alhaji Yusha'u Mohammed Anka, has suggested that the money, allegedly looted by late General Abacha and now frozen in some European and US banks, should be used for the settlement of Nigeria's foreign debts.

Briefing newsmen in Gusau, the capital of Zamfara State, Senator Mohammed Anka also said that if the looted fund is used in the repayment of the nation's external debt, it would bring relief to the average Nigerians who are jobless over the years due to debt repayment.

Senator Anka also explained that this year alone about of 1.5 billion US dollars was set aside for the payment of external debt.

"This year alone, a huge amount of money, about 1.5 billion dollars, has been earmarked for the payment of our external debt which is more than the entire budget provided for the federal ministries of works, water, agriculture and health. You can imagine, if we save this huge money and utilise it across the ministries to provide basic amenities to our people, I believe every Nigerian would have been better off," he further

From Salisu Zakari Maradun, in Gusau

explained.

The lawmaker maintained that his committee had so far been trying to ensure that the external debt was either cancelled completely or partly because, according to him, large part of it was fraudulent.

According to him, Nigeria borrowed about five billion dollars from the US in 1986 and to date, while the sum of about 17 billion dollars was released for the payment of such debt, still the country is owing about 28 billion US dollars.

"We find it reasonable to ask the foreign creditors to forgive us and cancel the debt or part of it, because we understand that, if it is profit, these creditors have made substantial profit out of the five billion dollars originally borrowed from them," he declared.

The senator insisted that if the debt must be repaid to the foreigners at the expense of the Nigerian people who are living in object poverty, then the creditors must invest that money in the country so that the people can get employment and enhance other economic activities.

## Gov blames bad infrastructure on lack of census figure

Oyo State Governor, Alhaji Lam Adesina, yesterday attributed the breaking down of infrastructures in the country to the non-availability of the correct figure of people living in different states of Nigeria.

Governor Adesina, who made the observation while receiving the state commissioner in charge of National Population Commission (NPC), stressed the need for the nation to know its actual population figure for development to take place.

He noted that the census figure has been a contentious matter since the population census of 1973, adding that the forthcoming exercise would afford the country the opportunity to know the number of people in the state.

"We need peace, we need tranquillity in the country and this can be facilitated by

From Yinka Oladoyinbo, in Oyo

the population commission by making sure the census is devoid of rancour and manipulation that can lead to crisis in the country," Adesina added.

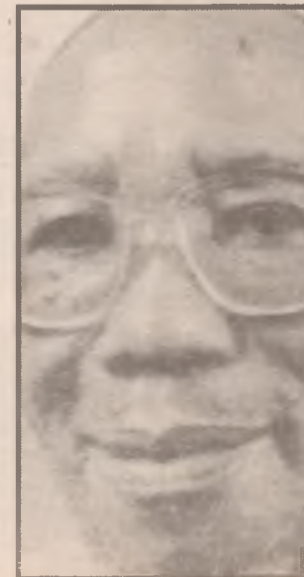
He, however, enjoined different state governments and the federal government to provide the necessary facilities needed to enhance a hitch-free census in Nigeria, saying, "we should provide the necessary inherent requirements for such sensitive job."

Speaking earlier, the state National Population Commissioner, Dr. Jelil Amoloye, revealed that the commission would soon commence the demarcation for enumeration centres which would facilitate the population census.

He urged the state government to resolve the existing boundary disputes in the state in order to give

room for a smooth enumeration demarcation exercise.

Amoloye also said that the commission was working round the clock to settle the six-month salary arrears of the NPC staff, and improve the facilities in the commission's offices to facilitate the head count.



Governor Lam Adesina of Oyo State.

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in every zone of the Federation.  
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place we'd like to be.**

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## Opinion

# Cholera in Kano: Facing the reality

By Faruk Sarkinfada

The recent epidemic of cholera in Kano State that claims the lives of a considerable number of its inhabitants is pathetic and attracted the sympathy of conscientious people within and outside Nigeria. However, a lasting solution to the frequency of epidemics of infectious diseases in this community is possible and achievable if only the policy makers of the state and the general public would face the reality in dealing with the matter.

The inadequate state of environmental health coupled with the sub-standard level of health education in many of the 'invaders' of the city parallel the pathetic public health record in Kano city: in the last five years, the city only enjoyed an epidemic-free year in 1997. The year 1996 is now remembered as the year of triple epidemics in Kano. According to a media report, almost 15,000 people suffered from cerebrospinal meningitis. At the peak of that crisis over 240 victims were dying daily. During the same period, another 1,390 patients were treated for cholera and countless turned up with measles. Cholera again traumatised the citizenry through the next three successive years (1998 to 2000). Early this year, an outbreak of measles is reported to loom Kano again. Of recent, cholera is raiding again!

Cholera, an acute infective disease due to the presence of *Vibrio cholerae* in the alimentary tract, and characterised by profuse diarrhoea and vomiting followed by extreme dehydration and collapse is mainly a water-borne disease. Drinking water is the commonest vehicle of the causative agents in all large epidemics and ingestion of up

to a billion organisms is required for infection in most healthy persons. The acute shortage of safe water supplies in the capital city of Kano and most parts of the state at the moment may have provided the conducive atmosphere for the recent outbreak of cholera in the state. Although, fruits and vegetables may also serve as vehicles of the causative agents to a lower extent, occurrence of cholera among various social classes and from different localities across the state further incriminates water as the most likely common vehicle of the cholera organisms and hence the epidemic of the disease.

Creating and maintaining a suitable atmosphere for the adequate and standard level of environmental health, is hardly possible without the sufficient indulgence of the authorities. Environment encompasses all those factors related to health that are external to the human body and over which the individual has little control yet over which the community may have a larger control. Examples include safe, uncontaminated food, air, water, and drugs control of air, water and noise pollution; effective garbage and sewage disposal; and prevention of spread of communicable diseases. Environmental health as an important component of primary health care is achieved largely through evolving and implementing effective policies by the authorities concerned and community participation as well.

The "notorious" health situation in Kano seems to be created by history and circumstances. For instance the over-population in the

heart of Kano city is largely due to the concentration of almost all commercial activities, both traditional and modern, in the capital city, the site of factories and industries in the state result in the influx of people from rural areas and neighbouring states into the city, on diverse tenures - elites and bourgeoisies build permanent settlements and bid bye-bye to their country homes unless in the weekends or during special occasions; petty traders who invade and congest the major streets of the city report and depart on daily basis; the *Almajiris* are permanent immigrants, their population is ever increasing. . . in a sample of ten people on a busy day time in Kano city, only two to four will be true indigenes of the city. This gives Kano the picture of a "one-city-state", as it is popularly known.

*Sharia* implementation in Kano state is assumed to bring about a positive revolution, especially in policies pertaining to health issues. Governance, in the real and wider sense, implies the administration and management of people and resources: It is effective and sustainable when the right people in a society make the right decisions at the tight time to deal with the rightly perceived problems and challenges rightfully. The principles of leadership under *Sharia* system lays great emphasis on good care in the management of every thing - humans, animals and resources - within the Muslim community, in accordance with Divine orders.

The Prophet (SAW) cautioned: "You are all shepherds and each of you shall be questioned about that which he shepherds; leader is a shepherd, and he shall be

questioned over his subjects; man is a shepherd of his family, and he shall be questioned on those he shepherds; woman is a shepherd in her husband's house, and she shall be questioned on what she shepherds; servant is a shepherd of his master's wealth, and he will be questioned on what he guards; ward is a shepherd of his father's wealth, and he will be questioned on what he guards; all of you are shepherds, and each shall be questioned on that which he shepherds".

The extent of care, concern and accountability of leaders over the ruled under the *Sharia* system is depicted in a statement once made by Khalifa Umar bn Khattab in Medina, (when Iraq was under the Islamic empire) that: "Should a mule stumble in Iraq, Allah will surely question me why I didn't repair the road for it".

Facing the reality in the control of cholera epidemics and other health problems that relate to poor environmental hygiene entails placement of priorities in primary health care and disease control activities: addressing the problem of water supplies to all parts of the state, especially the capital city; restoring the mass environmental sanitation exercise; great effort to decongest the capital city and mass public health awareness campaign.

We pray for God's mercy on the souls of all the deceased and His assistance in the efforts to control the cholera epidemics and other health problems in Kano. .

Faruk is of the Department of Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, Bayero University, Kano.

# Obasanjo, a Gorbachev in PDP?

By Ya'u Shehu Darazo

I was away overseas on that day General Obasanjo walked into the meeting of the founders of the PDP and indicated that he wanted to make certain donations to the party and of course to be the candidate of the party for the presidency.

If on that day he had told those gentlemen gathered there that 'I want to be your presidential candidate, I know because of your quality and the quality of all of you working together, the party is likely to succeed and I am likely to be the president by election through your party, but I am not going to accept the supremacy of the party which is going to put me at par.

If he had said these words at the gathering of the gentlemen, the question he should have asked himself is; would they have backed him as their presidential candidate?"

These are the words of the reverend Aro of Mopa in an interview with *Sunday Vanguard* recently.

Chief Sunday Awoniyi one of the very few principled and highly respected Nigerians around, knows the answer is capital NO. But for his decent background and experience, he would rather allow the readers; especially the jokers around the presidency to search for the answer.

General Obasanjo has been variously described as arrogant, vengeance or as Mr. Know All. These are hardly attributes of good leadership. Even his admirers acknowledge that he is far near officers like Murtala, on bravery and courage. In 1998, feeble minded out of prison; Obasanjo could not have dreamt the arrogance to utter those profane statements on party supremacy he made during the last PDP convention in Abuja.

History has taught us that men of honour and integrity few as they have always been, are sought to direct a cause in the melee hours of a nation Chief Sunday Awoniyi stoically directed such cause in Jos. Awoniyi was everything to Obasanjo that day, as he had been twice in the past. In 1966 in Kaduna and almost a decade later in Lagos. On those three occasions particularly that of 1966 and 1998. Awoniyi was to Obasanjo a deity. Thank God for Christianity -he could only feebly utter, thank you, thank you very much.

My good friend Sam Nda Isaiah who, I had the misfortune of tolerating his endless sermon on the virtue of Obasanjo presidency in 1998 woke up probably from a long coma on Thursday 15, 2001, to ask "where is the president this morning?" Unlike Sam (?) majority of Nigerians, with the possible exception of the title holders, sorry political office holders (the two have since become synonymous) know the answer. Remember at the height of Kano crisis when hundreds of innocent lives and millions of naira worth of property were being destroyed the President left for leisure trip to France. When asked by a French journalist on the happenings in Kano, Obasanjo replied "I don't care". I could not remember whether the Journalist asked another question. Knowing fully well that in his own country that answer was enough to call for an election.

But how could Obasanjo care when his jet is in perfect condition to jockey the globe. How could he care when those who are suppose to check him are busy *chequeing* their dividends from the democracy. How could he care when undertakers otherwise known as political office holders are competing for space with armed robbers and ethnic militias in the destruction of the very society they swore to protect.

One does not require the wit of Awoniyi or the genuine frustration of Sam to read Obasanjo. In psychology people like him are called psychopath. Come 2003 all those hawks called party stalwarts; opportunists called political office holders; tribal leaders called statesmen and the compromised spent force will be the foot soldiers of Obasanjo to Nigerians. These same Nigerians most especially PDP members and supporters will be too glad to listen to him on his new mission ending the era of party supremacy. They will be too glad to campaign and vote for Obasanjo other than the PDP. Because PDP according to the gospel of Bola Ige is nothing. They will be glad to accept that Obasanjo is the only Nigerian dead or alive qualified to rule this country. That Obasanjo is the only former head of state so entitled to forget his suit case and return as many times as he wishes to pick.

PDP members will expectedly swallow this new gospel of democracy according to Obasanjo hook, line and sinker. On the Eagle Square venue of the coronation, Nigerians will be presented with a new form of democracy, where, apology to Max Amuchie, it will ensure misnomer in governance. Off course the nation will be saved from the *misuse* of public funds to determine the direction of the national assembly or a political party, that is if at all they are graciously allow to exist. Then like peasants under Emperors of the infamous past, we would have reached the peak of democratic dividend as provided by the Nigerian copy of Gorbachev.

Here is the President!

Good news Sam! The president has just E-mail the 2002 Appropriation Bill from probably the moon. Since he has no idea where Nigerians are and how many times they eat a day, he has allocated a *huge* amount of N3.87 billion to the agricultural sector. For a nation with the cheapest cost of food item, that is indeed thoughtful of the farmer president.

But the joy of it all is the allocation of N10 billion to nurture poverty and *identify* the thugs that will likely vanguard the *Tazarce* project in 2003. Ever since the completion of the N50 million worth of projects scattered all over the 109 Senatorial districts as already testified by the Ghana-must-goers there seems to be no other project else to execute except *Tazarce*.

I will keep informed of His Majesty's next abode.

Ya'u is of Unguwar Sarki, Kaduna.

# Reforming Nigeria

By Sokpoh Hwe

I am a Nigerian, a proud one to be precise. I feel hurt by the crisis in our land. It is a syndrome deadlier than AIDS in comparison with the lives claimed. Here, even the innocent ones are casualties. Nigerians, do you have another home other than Nigeria?

There can never be another home for Nigerians. The only home, sweet home is Nigeria. If we like it or not we can't change our geographical location. What we can't change we should learn to accept. We strive to make changes where there is dissatisfaction. If we feel Nigeria is not what we want, we can try to attain the type of Nigeria we want.

It's sad to say that at 41 Nigerians are still destroying the little resources they have suffered over the years to build. Nigeria! Is it still really the giant of Africa? I doubt that so much. A "giant" at 41 is still crawling. Do giants crawl? No! They stand firm and as they walk, the earth acknowledges, the trees wave in recognition of a passing feller. Do we really know what it means to say something is a giant? If we do, then I wonder the type of "giant" Nigeria is.

Our Nigeria has become 'Naija' because the glory had departed Nigeria - the pride of Africa, the name cherished so much outside the country, the pride to be called a Nigerian, is it same now? At the mention of the name Nigeria - you are avoided like a plague. Do we ever sit to reflect? Everything has gone wrong, but do we just sit and fold our hands and watch? Nigerians! We all have a duty and the time is now!

No one can help solve the problems, it lies in our hands. It is you and I that can do it.

Let love reign in our hearts. To have a strong affection for someone. When we cultivate the habit of loving each other like

ourselves. Nigeria will be a better place to be. Why do we kill? . . . land issues, religious crisis, political crisis, power? We are only wasting our time. Let's show love and with its bond, we'll eliminate crisis.

The ability to accept delay, annoyance or suffering without complaining is patience. Whatever befalls us, we should be patient. It is only through this we can achieve an aim. Our running out of patience breeds anger. There should be tolerance, being able to accept people for who they are even when they are wrong. Peaceful correction would go a long way. Two wrongs do not make a right. Learning to accept faults and making amends would help us achieve a goal. If we are working towards a greater Nigeria, fighting each other, killing and avenging wrongs done to our brothers in different parts of the country, only initiate quarrels, which are a setback.

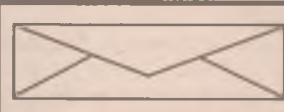
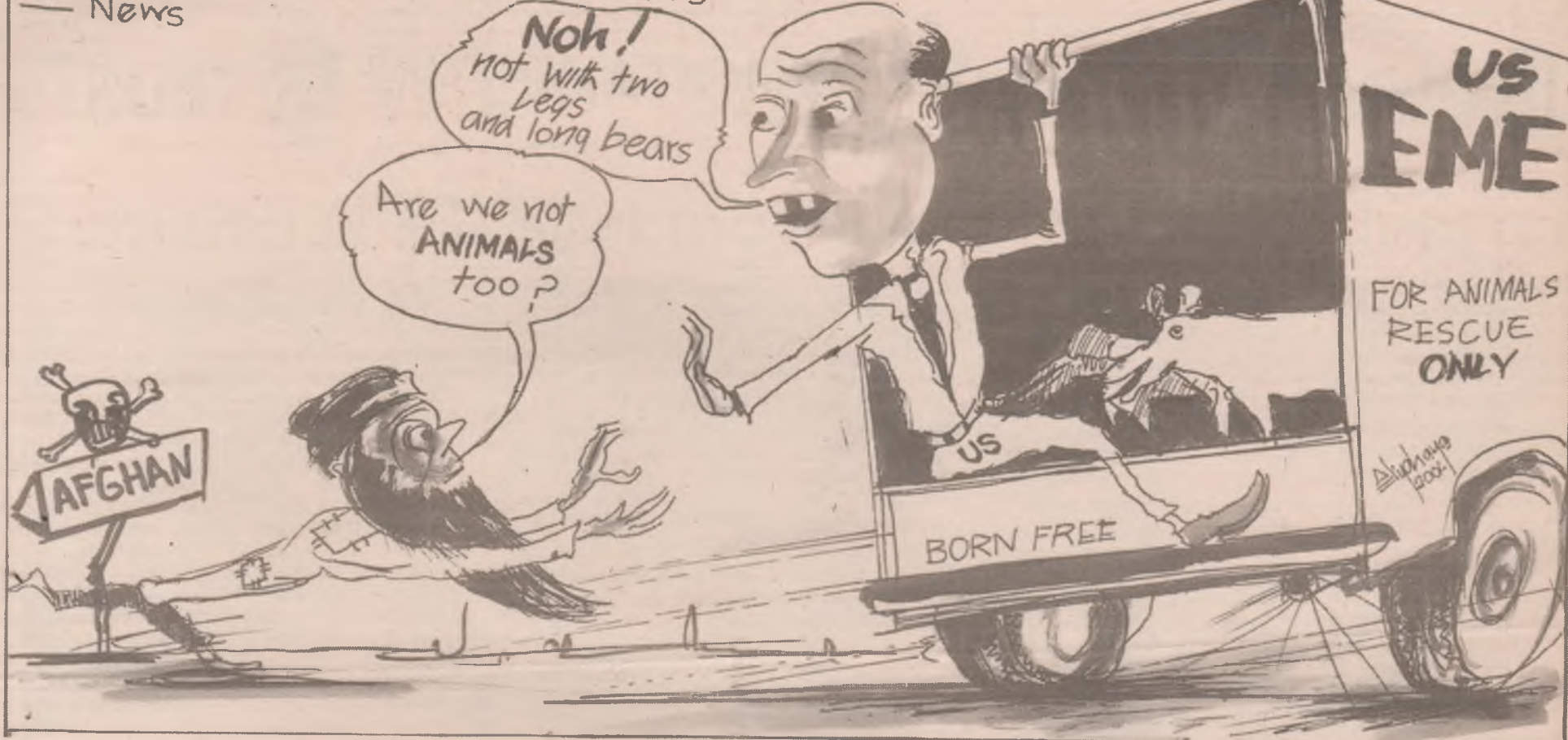
Where is the African pride, the pride of walking with our heads held high - that comes with so much greatness! Tell me Nigerians, what we have to show after 40 years. Let's not be fooled by initiators of crisis. Nigerians! Do we continue crawling! Think about these and let's be free from wars and violence.

Peace is what we cry out for. Embracing it and giving it a chance should be our desire. "Giants", let's grow!

With all these, we'll open our arms to embrace greatness. Nigeria is a fine country . . . a land flowing with milk and honey. Mineral deposits about, a land rich in agriculture and culture, the giant of Africa. It is not late for reformation, let's not waste more time.

Arise Nigerians . . . duty calls. Arise! For a better Nigeria. Hwe is of P. O. Box 7757, Wuse, Abuja, e-mail address: sweetnice@yahoo.com.

**EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR AFGHAN ANIMALS**  
— News



**YOUR LETTERS**

**Re - For Makarfi's eyes only**

**Haba! Hon chairman Sandamu local government**

I wish to call the attention of the Sandamu local government chairman, Alhaji Yaro Mamman Sandamu, to fear God and do something meaningful for the people of Sandamu local government. Painting and repainting of mosques is not the only thing we are lacking in Sandamu local government, we also need some important projects such as electrification to be executed by your administration. We expect a change of attitude, otherwise, *Takarkace.*  
**Bashir Umar Fago,**  
*GS (p) DSS Zangon Daura,*  
*P. M. B. 1012, Daura,*  
*Katsina State.*

I write in response to a write-up titled above written by one Kabiru Abdullahi in the Daily Trust of November 6, 2001.

The whole write-up was full of spurious, unsubstantiated and disgusting allegations that are clearly unschooled. In the article the writer out of deliberate distortions and fabrications posited that Makarfi's administration did not record any achievement. These baseless accusations are to say the least an act of media terrorism. While I may not be standing brief for Gov. Makarfi, it became imperative to be objective, which is the hallmark of the modern journalism and also to set the records straight in order not to mislead the reader.

It is a fact and not an act of sycophancy to say that the Makarfi-led administration has done creditably well and still continues to do more to

develop education, health care delivery, electricity, water resources, transportation and housing among other things to improve the living standards of the people. In a nutshell there is virtually no facet of the state that this positive impact is not felt.

The rest of the allegations are directed at the personality of the governor. The writer out of sheer mischief and blackmail deliberately painted Governor Makarfi black to achieve his selfish interest. He shamelessly blamed him for the ethno-religious crisis that erupted in the state. But any sensible person believes the governor is doing the right thing as chief executive to restore peace and order. Even before the February and May crisis, he embarked on a programme of reconciling the various interest groups in the

state whose relationship with one another had soured as a result of previous ethno-religious conflicts in the state. Parts of the measures implemented so far are creation of additional chiefdoms, introduction of legal reforms and his intention to create additional local governments. So to blame him on that is unfortunate.

Governor Makarfi has been exceptional in providing enabling environment for

business community. His frequent trips abroad are for our interest, which are already yielding dividends.

The writer also blamed Makarfi for serving under Abacha. He went to the extent of abusing late Abacha first to seek cheap popularity (among NADECO?) Bu how did he expect popularity by engaging in blackmail and playing to the gallery. Let me tell him in very clear terms that the Makarfi-led government cannot be

distracted from implementing the well thought-out programmes aimed at positively impacting on the lives of our people.

Finally, I advise Kaduna State indigenes to co-operate with Governor Makarfi to lift the state to greater heights and give him maximum support to seek for second term come 2003.

**Ahmed A. Rasheed,**  
*C3 Tudun Wada,*  
*Makarfi.*

**Re: Islam please enlighten me**

Allow me a space to correct Mr. Musa Solomon on the above subject which was published in the Daily Trust of November 29 on page 7. Before enlightening him, I would like to correct him because by enlightening without correcting it will be of no importance, that is why I decided to correct him before enlightening him.

Mr Solomon you accused Muslims of not practising their religion very well, even going to the extent of reading the Holy Book and quoting a chapter in it (4:90), but you refused to go further inside the Book you could have seen where people are classified. The issue is one can NEVER understand ones religions by reading It's Holy Books you have to be taught. We have Muslims in disguise (hypocrites) who called themselves Muslims in order to give Islam a bad name, just as we have Christians in disguise.

It is a fact that everywhere in the world religious faithfuls fight, for just causes and this does not apply only to Muslims in Northern Ireland the Protestants are fighting the Roman Catholics, and here in Nigeria Pa Joshua, Chris Okotie and Co. are taking a time-out.

What I do not agree with you is the Jos riot which you said and I quote "after dealing with the lady, the Muslim faithfuls proceeded to unleash mayhem", the issue here is

you are being dogmatic, it is not even after the prayer, it was while the prayer was in session that some young sponsored illiterate Christians came hauling stones and shooting bows and arrows which forced some Muslim brothers to abandon their prayers to protect their fellow brethren from being hurt, after that, it became free for all.

You also went to the extent of citing Hayin Banki area in Kaduna State where three churches were burnt down by alleged Muslim brothers. Haba Solomon how are you sure it is not the same Christians in order to create or get compensation handsomely by government to build a fantastic worship centre? After all no arrest has been made. Where were you when an incidence of such happened in one of the northern states in the middle belt where a Christian brother was pouring petrol around a church about to set it ablaze and was spotted by a fellowship lady who questioned him, he killed her and fled.

You again touched on Kano riot which everybody knows (except you) that it is not a religious riot but "looters" riot. For your records, it is the Ibos who started killing the Okada riders, mainly Hausas, seizing or burning down their machines thinking the demonstration is not peaceful since it was against America which is a Christian nation.

Lastly, it is out of ignorance of the religion of Islam that was why you wrote the last paragraph. In Islam your position does not give you the right to give support to infidels which you refuse to mention. The issue of WTC which is assumed Islamic by some critics including you. Because it is not by name that you classify somebody to a religion. Remember we have Christian Arabs and we have Muslims in WTC who died too. Did you forget that 4000 Jews working in WTC who refused to come to work on that 'Black Tuesday?' why are fingers not pointed at them? Because of the names on board?

Really, I repeat really it is UN-ISLAMIC TO THE CORE, but what about the retaliation, which is predominantly Christian, killing innocent civilians, attacking Relief Centres, Hospitals and even Mosques. I don't know your faith, but is it allowed in your religion?

No doubt Islam is a religion of Peace, and all its teachings are good but to link Islam with terrorism or disturbances is really unacceptable. Associating any religion be it Falung Gong, Buddhism, Christianity or Islam with causing unrest anywhere in the world is not the best, but it depends on how one understands ones religion.

**Adam Idris (Prince)**  
*Adamuidris@excite.com*  
*Plot 108c Aminu Kano*  
*Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja*

**Governor Mu'azu, review our scholarship**

It is no hidden secret that things are really hard in the country and with our little number in tertiary institutions (Bauchi indigene), one will have expected the state to give adequate attention in the provision of enhanced scholarship for the indigene so as to encourage the zeal of learning in many of us that are not from a richer family. But, this was not to be. It will interest you to know that a remedial student of Bauchi indigene receive a mere sum of N1,200 in a year and N3,500 for those in HND level, while our counterparts in nearby Jos collect N10,000 and those in Yobe collect N20,000. To make matters worse

the authorities of Kaduna Polytechnic have only recently ... reviewed the registration fees of student by almost 300 percent up. To me scholarship is the only sector that has not received the attention and blessings of Gov Mu'azu's administration, and in the spirit of democracy I am calling on the governor to as a matter of urgency come to our aid by reviewing our allowances to meet the ever changing atmosphere in the country, coupled with the ever rising increase in foodstuff and the untold hardship being faced by students daily. I feel the best time to act is now..

Bauchi indigenes are the least paid students in the country, and yet receive the

tardiest payment too. Who would imagine that those receiving award for 99/2000 have not been paid not to talk of 2000/2001.

Our delegations have been to the scholarship board several times to get an update on the situation but, all they keep saying is that the matter is receiving your attention and it is almost three months now that the last delegation came back.

With your achievement being felt by all the sectors of the state I am sure that ours will not be left out.

Long Live Bauchi State!  
Long Live Nubass!  
**Mustapha Sulaiman**  
*ND II,*  
*Mass Comm Dept,*  
*Kaduna Polytechnic.*



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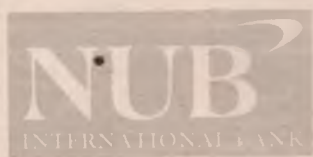
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Katsina: NICON Building, IBB Way, Katsina. Tel: 065-432109

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TRUST INTERNATIONAL

Foreign & Diplomatic

Rumania at 83: Seeking escape from turbulent past

By Musa Aliyu and Jibril Abubakar

Romania's transformation from socialist/communist state may not have been a rosy journey, but its days under communism may even have been worse. Recently, it marked its 83<sup>rd</sup> anniversary in Abuja. His Excellency Dr. Gheorghe Dumitru, its Ambassador to Nigeria briefed journalists on his country's vision vis-à-vis the journey so far.

Emerging from the ruins of the dictatorship of Nicolae Ceausescu, a communist leader with reckless pedigree for brutality, fighting poverty, unemployment, child abuse and general abandonment became the immediate preoccupation of the succeeding (post communist) regimes in Romania.

The 1989 pro-democracy revolution more than upturning the status quo against Ceausescu's ghastly rulership, created a new means by which the Central European state could rewrite its own history and hoist itself on the totem of economic, social and political success. At exactly 83 and 12 years after the revolution, Romania, though still grappling with the consequences of modernisation, is a showcase in the strong zeal to survive even against all odds.

Marking its anniversary in Abuja, His Excellency, Dr. Gheorghe Dumitru, the Ambassador of Romania to Nigeria, playing host to newsmen at his embassy, gave an insight into the Romanian vision. The envoy, whose training as an economist made him a deliberate choice in the new scheme, minced no words in spelling out the philosophical perspectives through which the new initiative is translated to reality. "We have three stages through which we hope to reconstruct our country. These are the political, economic and mental phases," he said.

Explaining further, Dr. Dumitru insisted that the defeat of Ceausescu in 1989 was the first stage of this. Thus, with that achievement a new set of leadership whose vision was focused on total reconstruction, away from the closed economic policy of the communist, began its efforts. Although there was, at the initial stage, a fundamental hiccup fuelled by feuds among politicians, stability was soon achieved. In the year 2000 specifically, elections successfully conducted brought to power new hands. The far-right opposition powers notwithstanding, the long awaited change surfaced.

The worst days began to fade-out, as Dr. Dumitru explained, a new era which witnessed increased economic openness began. This, he said, was informed by two interrelated yet independent factors. These, according to him, are the need to reconstruct the battered economy and to promote its security interests. Following from this premise, Romania sought to be embraced by the economic umbrella of the European Union (EU) for its integration into the economic mainstream of Europe and by implication, improve bilateral ties with European nations, especially the capitalist west. By subscribing to be part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), Romania wanted to be shielded from the wild encroachment of growing powers while it improved on its military and technological capabilities. For it, NATO was in all sincerity the right choice. In any case, the Warsaw military pact to which all eastern bloc nations belonged had packed-up with the former Soviet Union.

To Ambassador Dumitru, the safeguard and promotion of these all-important interests shaped and dictated the new foreign policy device of Romania. It was around this that the second stage of the new vision, tagged "Economic Reconstruction", rotated.

The third stage considered quite decisive is that which requires the total reorientation of the minds of the four generations of Romanians – the elderly, the middle, the youths and minors. This, apart from its importance, is tricky and difficult. This is owing to the fact that it is



Dr. Gheorghe Dumitru explains a point at the interview. Pix Felix Onigbinde.

very difficult to change or remould one's ideas - something one has been used to living with, probably all his life. The envoy, however, maintained that Romania has succeeded largely in casting away those strong sympathies and feelings, people had for communism. Today, despite the harsh realities of living without it, people are full of satisfaction about their new ways of life. The youngsters, in particular, on whose shoulders the hope of the future of the new vision rest almost entirely, are excellently receptive of the change. This solves a great problem.

Interestingly, the scourge persistently battling the youths, especially those in the working class level, is unemployment. But characteristic of an economist, Dr. Dumitru carefully explained that it was not unexpected. According to him, unemployment is an endemic feature of the capitalist economy. This is not necessarily a contradiction, he pointed, but a reality that must be faced in its entirety. The socialist/communist system, as was practiced in Romania, he further argued, gave the people the false impression of gainful employment. But in reality,

it was nothing better than overlabour with incommensurate wages. But the reality in the capitalist vision in Romania today is that the people that are in paid employment are well paid. On the average, he said, Romania is now a better place with improved human rights, better economic condition and wider chances for improvement.

Privatisation, a policy gaining currency on daily basis even in Nigeria which is an important bilateral friend of the Romanian government of Mr. Ion Iliescu, is Romania's wildcat for faster and sustainable growth and development. This may have informed Mr. Iliescu's position that Romania would be a part of EU with its entire "dignity". To this end, a restructuring of the economy has seen it selling out hitherto government controlled huge investments covering manufacturing, communication and transportation sectors. Mr. Dumitru explained that the new openness is working out and a show of this is his country's conspicuous economic presence in Nigeria just like many Nigerian investors and scholars are in Romania. He harped on the recent Nigeria-Romania Joint Commission

working on increased ties and cooperation not only between the two countries but also among their large number of investors. Against this backdrop, he said, official visits have been exchanged by top ranking government officials.

"Nigeria is my country's most important bilateral partner in Africa. That is why apart from our official embassy, we have a honorary consulate in Calabar," he submitted.

Romania, a Central European former communist country, is by virtue of its size and resources second only to Poland in the hierarchy of successful transformation, self-sustenance and survival among post-communist countries in Europe.

A product of the 1919-1920 international peace treaty, the foundation of the present day Romania was laid on December 1 1918, the day the extraordinary National Assembly convened and endorsed its unification before the presence of 100,000 of its citizens. Though on the threshold of history, the success of its vision depends largely on how stable it remains while devising contingency but improved strategies for development.



Mr. Bogdan Dumitrescu, Romanian councillor (left) and deputy head of mission, Mr. Laharia Storan. Pix Felix Onigbinde.

# TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA &amp; THE MIDDLE EAST

## Israel pressures Arafat to arrest bombers

Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, is coming under intense pressure to find those behind a series of suicide bomb attacks over the weekend which killed at least 25 Israelis.

Senior sources in the Israeli Government told the BBC on Sunday evening that Mr. Arafat had 24 hours to arrest those suspected of being behind the killings and keep them in jail.

Mr. Arafat responded to the suicide attacks by declaring a state of emergency in the West Bank and Gaza and arresting 75 militants including two top political leaders from the bombers, Hamas.

But as Israel's cabinet prepared for an emergency meeting yesterday to decide new steps to combat the attacks, it was not clear whether Mr. Arafat's crackdown would be enough to stop Israeli reprisals.

Israeli Foreign Minister, Shimon Peres, said Mr. Arafat would be tested "by deeds alone" and that the Palestinian leader's previous

arrests of militants had proved a "farce".

Following talks between President George W. Bush and Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon in Washington, the United States also demanded decisive action against militant groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

US Secretary of State, Colin Powell, called it a "moment of truth" for Mr. Arafat.

The US did not even issue its usual public appeal to Israel to show restraint.

Mr. Powell, normally the voice of even handedness and caution, said: "America is not going to tell Ariel Sharon not to defend his nation."

At the same time, a senior Palestinian security source told the BBC that if Israel engages in punitive retaliation, then no-one will be able to rein in the militants.

Two suicide attacks and a car bombing in quick succession on Saturday night killed 10 people and injured 170, most of them young revellers, in Jerusalem's Ben

Yehuda area.

As the violence continued into Sunday, Palestinian gunmen killed at least one Israeli and wounded five others at a Jewish settlement in Gaza. Israeli forces later killed the gunmen.

At lunchtime, a suicide bomber blew up a bus in the northern coastal city of Haifa, killing 15 people and wounding more than 100 others.

The bus was travelling through a mixed neighbourhood, where Arabs live alongside Jews, when the attack happened.

In the latest outbreak of violence, Israeli soldiers shot dead four Palestinians in a gun battle near Jenin on Sunday night.

All this happened while the new American peace envoy, Anthony Zinni, is trying to reconstruct some sort of peace process in the region.

## ... considers response to attacks

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon arrived home yesterday to weigh Israel's response to a wave of Palestinian attacks, as Palestinian security forces rounded up militants across the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In another sign that 14 months of bloodshed between the sides is yet to abate, Israeli troops killed four Palestinians near the

West Bank city of Jenin on Sunday in what the army said was an exchange of fire with gunmen.

Bush "made clear what he demands of Chairman Arafat and the Palestinian Authority: the immediate arrests of those responsible for these heinous acts and decisive action against the organizations like Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad that supports them," US National Security Council spokesman, Sean McCormack said after Bush's meeting with Sharon.

Hamas official, Ismail Abu Shannab and Ismail Haniyah, the director of Hamas spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin's office, were among those detained, Palestinian security sources said.

"The arrest campaign began yesterday after the twin bombings. It includes top-ranking leaders in both Hamas and the Islamic Jihad groups," a senior Palestinian security source told Reuters in Gaza.

Palestinian security chief in Gaza, Major-General Abdel-Razek al-Majaydeh, announced on Palestinian television the Authority's ban on possessing weapons or holding demonstrations without a license, as well as using mosques as a forum "for political propaganda against national goals."



A picture handed out by the family shows Maher Ikhbeishi, a Palestinian suicide bomber who blew himself up on a bus in central Haifa December 2, 2001.

## More child rapes brew crisis in S/Africa

At least 16 more child rapes have been reported across South Africa over the weekend as a spate of similar attacks in recent weeks threaten to plunge the country into civil crisis.

A furious mob beat and stoned a man on Sunday after he allegedly raped a 10-year old girl in a South African township, local police said.

The crowd of about 200 people threw stones at the man and beat him with sticks after the girl's mother found out about the attack, which took place in her home in the early hours of Sunday morning, and told neighbours to call the police.

A police spokeswoman said the girl was asleep when she was woken and attacked by her mother's boyfriend.

"She screamed for help but her mother had been drinking and she did not wake up," the spokeswoman for the south eastern Uitenhage area police told Reuters.

"The man then said he would give the girl \$1 (about N130) to be quiet about what had happened but she refused," the spokeswoman added. The man appeared in court yesterday.

In a separate incident, two men were arrested on Sunday afternoon for allegedly raping a five-month old girl in Johannesburg.

The cases are the latest in a growing number of child rapes, which are fuelled by a myth that having sex with a

virgin will protect a man from AIDS or even cure him of the incurable disease.

Local newspapers reported at least two infant-rap incidents last weekend, including one involving an eight-month-old baby in the Western Cape province.

Last week, South Africa's largest newspaper says the country is facing a state of emergency.

"South Africa's infants are under siege. Now is the

time for President Thabo Mbeki to break his silence on the abomination destroying not only the country but eating away at our nation's soul," the Sowetan newspaper said in a front page editorial on Monday.

The sexual abuse of toddlers was thrown into the spotlight by the alleged gang rape of a nine-month-old baby girl by six men.

## Chirac ends anti-terrorism tour

French President, Jacques Chirac, has ended a brief tour of North Africa aimed at boosting global efforts against terrorism.

He held talks with King Mohammed of Morocco on Sunday after short visits to Algeria and Tunisia.

President Chirac was the first French head of state to travel to Algeria for 12 years.

At a news conference in the capital, Algiers, he said the European Union have been a haven for Islamic militants for too long.

The EU, Mr. Chirac said, would introduce measures to curb the militants' activities, such as the introduction of European-wide arrest warrants.

He also pledged French support for the relatives of victims of a recent flood which devastated parts of Algiers.

Several thousands residents turned out to greet him as he toured one of the capital's districts worst-hit by flooding.

In Tunisia he sought backing for the US-led campaign against Islamic militants in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

President Chirac paid his respects at a royal mausoleum in Rabat on Sunday, laying a wreath on the tomb of the late Moroccan kings Mohammed V and Hassan II.

He emerged to urge Palestinians and Israelis to resume talks following a string of bloody attacks overnight and into Sunday.

"There will be no security without dialogue, without a return toward peace," Mr. Chirac said.

## Uganda disarms cattle warriors

The Ugandan Government launched a campaign on Sunday to disarm the Karamojong cattle warriors.

The Karamojong use the guns in inter-clan and cross-border cattle raids, which sometimes claim hundreds of lives.

The disarmament programme aims to remove about 40,000 guns from the cattle herders, who live in the remote north-east of Uganda, near the border with Sudan and Kenya.

Cows are at the centre of the Karamojong value system, and cattle-raiding is a way of life.

Raids principally take place to pay for dowries, but they are also a chance for men to prove

## Activists threaten civil disobedience in Zimbabwe

Civil rights activists in Zimbabwe have threatened to launch a campaign of civil disobedience in January, unless the government implements political reforms and ensures next year's presidential election is free and fair.

The chairman of the National Constitutional Assembly, Lovemore Madhuku, announced the move after a meeting of the NCA, which is a coalition of local churches, unions and human rights groups, on Saturday.

He said the government should expect mass protests and work boycotts if it rejected a new constitution drafted by the NCA.

President Robert

Mugabe has predicted he will win a convincing victory at the election, due before the end of March, while the opposition accuses him of changing electoral legislation in his favour.

An estimated 2,000 people attended Saturday's meeting on the proposed new constitution, which stipulates the separation of powers between a non-executive president elected by parliament and an executive prime minister elected by popular vote.

The new constitution would also abolish the death penalty for treason, though not for murder.

"We think we need change of the constitutional framework before you can go into an election, and we want to make that point in January," Mr. Madhuku said.

BBC reports from the South African city of Johannesburg that the NCA meeting showed resistance to Mr. Mugabe's rule is not confined to his political opponents, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC).

"This weekend's threat of a widespread national campaign of disobedience by civic organisations has highlighted other focal points of disaffection to the current Zimbabwean government policies," he says.

The Zimbabwean authorities, last week, briefly detained Mr. Madhuku and 32 other NCA members when they tried to demonstrate against new election rules they considered

undemocratic.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

World Report



Cuban leader, Fidel Castro, delivers a speech Sunday, December 2, 2001 in Santiago, Cuba, during the country's Revolutionary Armed Forces 45th anniversary celebration.

Odd World

Lawyers seek release of unborn baby from jail

In yet another bizarre twist in Mexican pop queen, Gloria Trevi's bid for freedom, her lawyers said on Wednesday they would submit a court plea for the release of the pregnant star's unborn child from a Brazilian jail.

Brazil's Supreme Court denied on Tuesday a request to grant Trevi the right to house arrest while she awaits a ruling on her extradition to Mexico to face sexual abuse charges.

The lawyers of the 31-year-old diva responded, saying their next Supreme Court action, to be filed immediately, would defend her unborn boy's right to freedom.

Trevi's legal team argues that the health and safety of the seven-months pregnant star and her baby, conceived in jail in as yet unexplained circumstances, are at risk.

"Brazilian law defends the rights of those yet to be born," Trevi's lawyer Otavio Neves told reporters at the court. "We must defend not only her interests but also those of the person inside her womb."

Tuesday's ruling was the third time this month the court denied Trevi house arrest.

The plea Wednesday is another twist in the Trevi saga that has stirred a media frenzy in Latin America, where she was known as Mexico's Madonna for her raunchy on-stage acts and lyrics.

Her situation was spiced up this year when Trevi revealed she had become pregnant in jail, in the female wing where conjugal visits are barred.

A police investigation concluded that Trevi impregnated herself via artificial insemination using a "homemade apparatus" in a bid to avoid extradition.

But jail mates have recently told local media that she was either raped by police or that she consented to sex with police guards in return for access to a telephone.

No smoking for drivers

Cypriots are angry over government plans to penalize their national pastime — puffing away on their cigarettes while driving their cars.

The cabinet wants to slap a 1,000-pound (\$1,552) fine on drivers caught indulging, which they call a bid to cut down on traffic accidents and protect non-smokers.

But members of parliament, who have the final say on the measure's approval, say the government's anti-smoking crusade has gone a tad too far.

"Its social racism," stormed opposition MP Doros Christodoulides. "When I heard this is what the cabinet had approved, I couldn't believe it."

More than half of all Cypriots smoke cigarettes and a 1,000-pound fine is about double a Cypriot's monthly salary.

Heath Minister, Frixos Savvides, said the proposal was "pioneering" since it had not been adopted in any other country.

He is a smoker.

Police probed over violent arrest

Australian police are under investigation over whether they used excessive force in hitting a cowering motorist with length of plastic tubing after a high speed highway chase.

Queensland state Police Commissioner, Bob Atkinson ordered the investigation into the arrest on a highway south of Brisbane on Thursday after an amateur video of the incident was screened on Australian television.

"Obviously it is important not to pre-empt the circumstances or pre-judge the matter. There will be a full inquiry," Atkinson said on Friday.

The arrest of the man — who police said had a knife — was captured on video by a passing motorist.

The video shows a police officer holding a one meter (three foot) length of plastic tubing, part of a road barrier, over his shoulder as he walks up to the motorist on the side of the highway.

The motorist cowers against a barrier, using his arms to try and protect himself, as the officer hit him across the body.

A group of some six policemen then swarm around the man.

The video prompted the Council for Civil Liberties to call for the police officer who hit the man to be stood-down.

"Police are trained to handle people who carry knives. From the footage that I have seen that's obviously what has not occurred," Cameron Murphy from the council said on Friday.

"The police officer engaged in an exercise of vengeance

Afghan talks make headway

The two main factions at the talks on Afghanistan's political future in Bonn appear to have agreed on a candidate to head an interim government.

The UN-brokered talks have been held up over agreement on the cabinet, which will be recognised internationally as Afghanistan's sovereign government pending a meeting of chiefs from Afghanistan's complex ethnic groups.

An adviser to the Northern Alliance said on Sunday that it had agreed with the royalist Rome faction to nominate an aide to the former king to the post, Reuters news agency reports.

Abdul Sattar Sirat is an ethnic Uzbek who served as justice minister before Zahir Shah was forced into exile in 1973.

A Western diplomat quoted by Reuters said that the royalist faction had

suggested Mr. Sirat, thus ruling out its expected choice, Hamid Karzai, a member of Afghanistan's dominant Pashtun community.

As an Uzbek, Mr. Sirat is ethnically closer to the Northern Alliance but his role as Zahir Shah's chief envoy also identifies him with the ex-king's mainly Pashtun supporters.

Observers note that the two other factions represented at the talks in Bonn are unlikely to oppose the choice.

But over the past week there have been a number of such announcements which have eventually come to nothing.

So far the United Nations says it has not received the lists of candidates its requested from the four delegations.

And until it does, nothing is likely to become clear.

Even after the lists are submitted it could be some

time before the various groups can agree on a total package acceptable to all and it could still all go wrong.

UN spokesman, Ahmed Fawzi, said he believed an agreement would be reached by today, although diplomats have warned it could take longer to agree the list of 25 to 30 ministers.

UN proposals also include setting up a special independent commission to convene a loya jirga, or traditional grand assembly, presided over by the former king. The interim government will rule for six months until this is convened.

Another measure is the creation of a supreme court, and a BBC correspondent says it is believed this could

be aimed at creating a role for the Northern Alliance leader, Burhanuddin Rabbani, whose opposition to some key decisions has delayed a final agreement.

The UN equally proposes a multinational peacekeeping force, but does not stipulate the force's size, mandate or duration.

The text says peacekeepers would be deployed at the Afghan administration's request.

The Northern Alliance, which controls Kabul, has softened its opposition to such a force.

The draft text also rules out an amnesty for those convicted of war crimes or human rights violations.

Surrender or die, Rumsfeld tells Taliban

US Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, has warned Taliban forces defending Kandahar, their last stronghold, that they will be killed if they do not surrender.

Mr. Rumsfeld told the NBC network that US military in Afghanistan would do "whatever is necessary" to flush them out, warning that the task would be "particularly dirty and unpleasant".

And as US warplanes continued intensive strikes against Kandahar, local forces opposed to the Taliban said they were still advancing near the city.

Tribal fighters say they are within three kilometres of the airport, but are meeting strong resistance from hundreds of foreign Taliban fighters entrenched there.

"The Arabs are really fighting, they know they have no choice, they are fighting to the death," Khalid Pashtoon, a spokesman for Gul Agha Sherzai, the former

mujahideen governor of Kandahar, told Reuters by satellite phone.

A prominent Pashtun tribal leader, Hamid Karzai, told the BBC on Saturday he had been trying to persuade senior Taliban officials by telephone to give themselves up.

Many residents, including Taliban officials, have already fled Kandahar.

But Taliban leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, has told his fighters that there is no question of surrender, and no need for negotiations.

About 1,000 US Marines are now in place at a desert airfield near the city, but there are no signs of a preparation for an assault.

As well as Kandahar, the key border town of Spin Boldak remains in Taliban hands.

Anti-Taliban forces say they have been holding talks with the Taliban about handing over control of Spin Boldak, but there has been no sign of any progress.

Cuba celebrates its revolution

Cubans have held double celebrations to mark the 45th anniversary of the launch of the revolution and the foundation of the country's armed forces.

One of President Fidel Castro's greatest challenges has always been to keep his revolution alive and relevant to younger Cubans who do not remember life before he came to power in 1959.

There are many anniversaries, few more important to Cubans than 2 December.

That marks the day in 1956 when Fidel Castro and the Argentine revolutionary, Anesto Che Guevara, landed on the south-eastern coast to try to overthrow the repressive government of Fulgencio Batista.

They landed in the wrong

place at the wrong time and were soon betrayed.

More than three quarters of the young revolutionaries were killed.

The survivors fled into the Sierra Maestra mountains from where Fidel Castro conducted the revolution.

He triumphed a little over two years later and has held onto power ever since.

One of the foundations of his government has been the Cuban armed forces, which this weekend celebrates its founding.

Festivities on Saturday were attended by President Castro and the head of the armed forces, his younger brother, Raul, in the Moncada barracks in the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba.

Fidel's failed attack on those barracks in 1953 is seen as the start of his uprising.

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# BUSINESS DAY

## Mixed reactions trail introduction of N5 coin

The debate over the decision of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to replace the N5 currency note with coin has continued unabated, as cross sections of Nigerians continued to express diverse views about the plan by the apex bank.



President Obasanjo.

While a cross section of the populace support the apex bank's decision on the new coins saying it would enhance the exchange system in the country, some kick vehemently against it viewing it as a wrong decision coming at a wrong time.

The Chairman of *Abuja Multi-purpose Co-operative Cripple Society*, **Malam Idris Yusuf Gana** condemned the proposed introduction of the coins saying it would impact negatively on the economy.

Malam Gana argued in an interview with *Business Day* in Abuja that "there is no reason to believe that the introduction of coins would impact positively on the nation's economy since previous attempts have failed."

He said the last action of the apex bank which saw the introduction of 50k and N1 coins "had no impact on the economy, but rather contributed to worsen our situation since many people rejected it and prices of items that cost 50k and N1 immediately rose to N5 or above."

Speaking in the same vein, the *Manager of Kizito Lee Limited*, **Mr. Eloba Ogbonna**, said that the introduction of the currency coin was not suitable to the economic system now, and the usage of coins as legal tender, he said, is becoming out dated.

"Because the coins are not even in circulation any longer, I believe that increased the cost of goods

By Ahmed Shekarau, Hassan Idris in Abuja, and Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

and services (inflation)." To him, "let us forget about the new coins now and use the currency notes in circulation."

Also, a *staff of the Federal Ministry of Health*, **Mr. Joseph Ogbuagbu**, said the proposed introduction of new coins is another cause of devaluation, "because the more you change the money of a country, the more it is the tendency of devaluation," he argued.

He pointed that bringing coins into circulation especially those with higher denomination will cause inflation, and if government continues to introduce more coins, the money will not have the power it is supposed to have.

A neutral commentator who is an *industrialist from Kaduna*, **Alhaji A. B. Umar**, however believes that the CBN knows what it is doing, and that it must have made its research to find out what is good for people in this country.

"If it is indented to assist the small traders in the markets, it is a welcome development," he said. He was quick to point out, however, that many Nigerians do not like carrying about coins.

But an economic expert who lectures in the *Economic Institute, Abuja*, **Mr. Achir Robert** has a different view. He supports the government's decision to introduce the new coins, but affirmed that the value of the old denominations of coins should be maintained.

Mr. Robert stated that the though 50k and N1 coins introduced have since increased the rate of inflation in the economy, he believes the Central Bank of Nigeria must have its reasons for introducing the new ones.



Joseph Sanusi, CBN Governor.

He, however, cautioned the apex bank not to incur unnecessary costs of producing the coins, which he said, could be more expensive than the note.

But, the *Manager of All States Bureau De-change*, **Alhaji Hassan Mohammed** stated that if the naira coins were introduced, they will disappear "just as you can hardly see the 50k and N1 coins."

Contrary to Mohammed's argument, however, the *Managing Director of Coca-Cola*, **Mr. Nathan Kalumbu** strongly supports the CBN's plan.

Kalumbu who declared his support for the idea at the Lagos Business School breakfast meeting for last month, said his position was based on the conviction that he use of coins will boost retail trade and reduce prices.

According to him, the dominant character of business in Nigeria is retail based and this means that, if



*Adamu Ciroma, Finance Minister*. exchange system is not denominated to suit the condition of trade, there would be an exchange within the economy.

He, therefore, was of the opinion that the use of coins could help curb inflation and peg up the operation of the Nigerian economy.

It would be recalled that a lot of controversy has been generated since it was noted that the CBN has plans to introduce a N5 coin.

According to the CBN Governor, Chief Joseph Sanusi, the re-introduction of coins will promote pricing mechanism, especially of goods and services at the retail level.

He argued that coins have not attracted encouraging patronage from Nigerians in business transaction.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is organising a two-day seminar on capital market activities for members of the Nigerian Bar Association and other stakeholders in the nation's judiciary.

The seminar, which will be declared open by the Attorney-general and Minister of Justice, Chief Bola Ige, will hold between Wednesday and Thursday, December 5th and 6th, 2001, at the NICON Hilton Hotel, Abuja.

A statement signed by Wesley K. Audu of SEC's corporate affairs, said the seminar is expected to, among others, expose members of the bar and bench to the operations of the Nigerian capital market, and particularly make them conversant with the Investment and Securities Act (ISA) 1999.

The ISA, which expanded the scope of the

## Seminar on capital market holds tomorrow

By Ahmed Shekarau

capital market, will also prepare the minds of law practitioners for the expected upsurge in the numbers of capital market cases that may arise from its implementation and the rules and regulations made thereunder.



Bola Ige, Justice Minister.

According to the statement, the chairman of the organising committee of the workshop and a Deputy Director in the commission, Mr. Sylvester O. Akele hinted that the seminar, the first of its kind being organised by SEC is expected to attract experts and seasoned resource persons in the area of capital market operations.

Among those that would deliver papers at the seminar are Dr. Tunde Ogowewo of the School of Law, University of London, Dr. Franso Van Zyl of the South African Securities and Exchange Commission and the Director General, Securities and Exchange Commission, Malam Suleyman Ndanusa.

## UBA presents 4th law lecture today

The United Bank for Africa (UBA) Plc will today, Tuesday, December 4, 2001 hold its UBA Law lecture series at the UBA Amphitheatre, UBA house, Lagos at 4.00p.m.

The lecture titled "Nigeria and the Business Arena Quo Vadis" will be delivered by the Hon. Justice Kayode Eso, CON; LLD.

A statement signed by Dr. Kabir Ahmed, Principal Manager, Corporate Affairs of bank said, the lecture is an initiative of the bank's legal service division aimed at educating the general public on topical issues of law especially as they relate to banking practices in Nigeria.

"This is an aspect of the bank's social responsibility initiative aimed at educating its various publics residing

within the community in which the bank operates," the statement adds.

As usual, the lecture will

## ...promotes moneygram gift splash

Meanwhile, the United Bank for Africa (UBA) Plc with MoneyGram International Transfer will be running a promotion, "Moneygram seasons gift splash" from Thursday, December 6, 2001 - January 4th, 2002.

In a separate statement issued last week, the bank's principal corporate affairs manager said this promotion will enable each beneficiary to receive a red branded MoneyGram school bag each time he or she receives a money transfer of \$300 and

attract leading members of the bar, other legal luminaries and the general public.

above at any UBA branch within a period of four weeks.

"This is to enable our customers get a free bag for their children's return to school in January, 2002," the statement said.

There are numerous other branded gifts items to be given to customers who make transactions below \$300, the statement added, stressing that the more transactions you make, the more gifts you can receive. MoneyGram service is available in all UBA branches nationwide.

## Customs PRO bags best student award

Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gwangwazo, Public Relations Officer of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) Headquarters, has been honoured as the best overall officer in academics during a conversion course conducted recently at the Customs Staff College, Ikeja, Lagos.

A statement from the service said Gwangwazo, a Deputy Comptroller of Customs was honoured for his outstanding performance and vast knowledge in academic work during the course which took three months to complete.

It will be recalled that it was in June this year that the American Embassy in Abuja and US Department of Defence gave Ibrahim Musa Gwangwazo a certificate of excellence for his outstanding performance in

the course on "Military Communications with the Public in a Democratic Government."

A seasoned journalist who had practised both in Nigeria and in Britain, Gwangwazo holds membership of various professional bodies and other voluntary organisations.

Deputy Comptroller of Customs Gwangwazo started his journalism profession 22 years ago when he was enlisted into the services of Kano State Broadcasting Corporation. In 1984 he was seconded to the BBC World Service. After finishing his contract with the BBC, he joined the service of Nigerian High Commission in London as a protocol officer, and he was also the Founder and Chief Executive of News Africa Magazine based in London.

Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gwangwazo is among other Nigerians who answered the call to comeback and serve their father land in 1998, and that was when he joined the Nigeria Customs Service as a Public Relations Officer (General).



Ahmed Mustapha, Customs Boss.

# BUSINESS DAY

## FG approves N1.36bn for rehabilitation of MAKIA

The Federal Government has approved the sum of N1.36 billion for the rehabilitation of the runway of the Malam Aminu Kano International Airport, Kano (MAKIA) with a completion term of six months.

Following the release of

From Shakirat Abdulmajeed, in Lagos

the funds to the contractor, Messrs Reynolds Construction Company (RCC) Limited, the rehabilitation work is expected to commence soon on the site.

According to a release

made available to *Business Day* and signed by the General Manager Public Affairs of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) at the weekend, the contract was awarded to arrest the rapidly deteriorating condition of the 3,300 by 60 meters runway,

which was commissioned in 1978.

The contract involves the complete repair of structurally failed portions of the pavement and overall re-surfacing of the runway.

The scope of work also includes the re-construction of the crash road, marking of the pavement and improvement of the drainage system.

"The construction exercise will entail the closure of the runway and the diversion of flights to the secondary runway 05-32," added the statement.

## Chanchangi now UN official carrier in West Africa

Chanchangi Airlines has been appointed as official carrier for United Nations Operations in West and Central Africa, just as the airline has won the bid for airlifting of pilgrims in Hajj 2002.

The airline's spokesman, Alhaji Muhammad Tukur who revealed this to *Business Day* stated that henceforth, the airline would

be handling the airlift of personnel and materials for the global body in the sub-region.

Tukur, who expressed confidence that the airline is prepared to live up to the challenges, attributed their success on the confidence passengers have in the airline, adding that the management of the airline feel challenged to offer more efficient and reliable services to humanity.

The spokesman recalled that the airline has in the last three years hauled a couple of awards from various groups argued for excellent services.

"We have a track record that makes people to patronise us. Only recently the presidents of Botswana and Gambia were in Lagos and they flew Chanchangi to Abuja," Tukur claimed.

*Business Day* gathered that the airline is among the ones bidding for the second indigenous airline to operate the lucrative Lagos-London route.

Last week, the federal government approved the use of seven airlines for the airlift of Nigerians for the holy pilgrimage to Mecca in 2002, which Chanchangi was among.

The airline withdrew from the last hajj operations citing the refusal of the federal government to honour an earlier agreement on modalities for the exercise as reason for its withdrawal.

## CBN mops N19bn excess liquidity

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) securities market rebounded positively last week as it mopped a sum total of N19.7 billion excess liquidity from circulation.

This reveals an increase of over 100 per cent from the N9.2 billion achieved previous week.

However, this increase of stem largely from the secondary market which has been posting positive results

in the last two weeks.

According to available figures, the secondary market moved from its over N200 million record of previous week to achieve N11.4 billion in the week in review.

In its case, the primary market fell from its total attainment of N92 billion to stand on N8.3 billion, which could be said to be poor as

the apex bank had N15 billion on offer in that segment of the market.

Net sales in that segment also total N3.6 billion in the period inquisition while the total amount repaid stood at N4.6 billion.

In this regard the secondary market saw the apex bank repay N6.7 billion while achieving net sales of

N4.7 billion.

The belief among experts in the system is that investors may have embraced the secondary market securities because of the reduction of its maturity period from 35 days to 28 days.

The experts argued that the true yield of 19.7 per cent at 28 days maturity date may have been too tempting to most investors, hence the secondary market attracted more transactions.

The market's range of bids stood between 19.4 - 19.5 per cent and it will fall due on December 28, 2001.

On the other hand, the primary market has bid rates ranging between 19.5 - 20 per cent while its true yield stood at 21 per cent. It will mature on February 28, 2002.

The minimum rediscount exchange rate still remains at 20.5 per cent.



President Obasanjo.

## Chikwe inaugurates committee on "independent funding"

By Tashikalmah Hallah

The Federal Ministry of Aviation has inaugurated an 11-man committee to work out other means of financing the ailing industry aside government subvention.

Minister of Aviation Dr. Kema Chikwe, while inaugurating the committee weekend in Abuja, explained that the aviation industry in many countries is a revenue booster, and Nigeria cannot be an exception.

According to her, in the United States for example, the aviation industry has the highest revenue profile, and stated that Nigeria has the potentials, with even greater patronage, "but Nigeria has not been utilising the patronage, and this attitudes must be changed," she

added.

Dr. Chikwe said she was appalled by the discoveries of the committee on financial management of aviation parastatals which was constituted last year to determine the procedure of banking and disbursement of funds and the sources of revenue and procedure for collection of the said revenue.

She explained that the committee's report discovered "serious lapses" in the financial management of the parastatals.

The committee, headed by Mr. B. O. N. Otta, an aviation consultant, has four weeks to submit its report, and was tasked to:

"Identify all opportunities for revenue generation in the aviation sector; review existing revenue sources and develop strategies to fine-tune the collection process; and identify unexploited and undervalued sources of revenue for the aviation industry and recommend measures on how best to improve such sources."

Responding on behalf the 11-man committee, its chairman, Mr. Otta acknowledged the task ahead of them as "challenging," but added that their ability to do the job successfully is worthwhile.

Mr. Otta also expressed his appreciation to the sudden changes at the nations airports saying "it is the ingenuity of the minister's effort."



Joseph Sanusi, CBN Governor

## Nigeria redeems N1.7bn debts

The sum total of N1.7 billion (\$19.7m) Nigeria's debt was redeemed between January and November 2001, by the Debt Conversion Committee (DCC) which is headed by the Central Bank Governor, Chief Joseph Sanusi.

An analysis of the debt conversion transactions showed that a total of 14 investors were involved in the redemption exercise. A

breakdown shows that 12 of the participants are from the cash, gift and grants sector while the remaining two came from the manufacturing sector.

While the cash, gifts and grants contributed 65 per cent of the transactions, the manufacturing sector was responsible for 34.9 per cent.

In terms of value, however, cash gifts and grants redeemed the sum

total of N1.095 billion (\$12.8m) whereas manufacturing sector converted N622.9 million (\$6.8m).

The transactions last week failed to yield fruit as the participants were not successful in their bid. The bid of N59.567 million (\$536,160) by the participants whose bid failed to entice the apex bank.

This zero transaction witnessed in auction number 130 was similar to the situation in auction numbers 127 and 128 held previously.

In recent weeks, it was only in auction number 129 that actual redemption of N12.823 million (\$115,945) took place.

However, a sectoral analysis of the debt conversion system since its inception in 1988 depicts that the manufacturing sector is leading with 256 participants, followed by the agricultural sector with 126.

Coming third is the cash gift and grants sector with 181 participants, followed by the building and construction with 25 and services sector with 24 participants.

The financial and debt for debt sector lags behind the list with four and eight participants respectively.

## Lufthansa adopts safeguard measures against liquidity

Lufthansa Airline has launched an immediate package of measures to safeguard the group's liquidity and avert an operating loss over the full twelve months.

Faced by a weakening economy, Lufthansa began adopting capacities even before September 11. It has withdrawn 43 aircraft from service with a view to keep load factors at a respectable level.

According to the Lufthansa chairman and CEO, Jurgen Weber, the airline is keeping its options open in order to be back in force, once demand picks up again. "While improving our earnings position, we must act as quickly to ease pressure on the cost front."

and that includes measures affecting personnel expenses, he added.

He explained that in view of the crisis, the executive board is taking a ten per cent (10%) cut in basic remuneration in addition to the expected reduction in their performance-related pay.

Weber expressed confidence that the entire senior management team at Lufthansa will take a read clear lead by making a similar, exemplary contribution towards mastering the crisis together.

In the bid to adopt costs to the employment situation, the staff of the airline are also taking leave to use up their remaining 'holidays' entitlement and overtime.



Last Wednesday, the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) signed a production sharing contract (PSC) with three oil companies, Chevron, Shell and Brasoil (Petrobras), on the OPL 250 offshore oil field. Picture shows the Managing Director of Chevron Nigeria Limited, Mr. Raymond Wilcox (l) exchanging documents with the Group Managing Director of the NNPC, Mr. Jackson Gaius-Obaseki (r), while the Presidential Adviser on Petroleum and Energy, Dr. Rilwanu Lukman (m) looks on with interest. Pix: Felix Onighinde.

# BUSINESS DAY



Media Trust Limited, Zonal Communications Consultant of the National Council on Privatisation (NCP) on the ongoing privatisation programme in the North Central Zone, recently organised a sensitisation workshop on privatisation in Makurdi, the Benue State capital. Here, picture shows: Left Mr. Joel Iji (Radio Benue), Mr. Isiaq Ajibola (General Manager, Media Trust) and Mr. Abraham Ityokya, Deputy Director, Planning and Monitoring, Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) at the occasion.

## Tor Tiv seeks FG's clarification on BCC privatisation

The people of Benue State have called on the federal government to come out with a clear position on the privatisation of Benue Cement Company (BCC).

The Tor Tiv, Chief Alfred Akawe Torkula made the call during a one-day workshop on privatisation organised by Media Trust Limited to sensitize the people of the state towards participating in the ongoing privatisation exercise, last week in Makurdi.

The president, Benue State Council of Chiefs who was represented at the occasion by Ter Nagi, Chief Gendaga Dawna, said the call has become necessary especially now that people of the state have been left in the dark on who is the core investor in the cement company.

The royal father who decried the collapse of the company, said BCC once



Chief Alfred Akawe Torkula, The Tor Tiv.

From Mike Elaigwu, in Makurdi

brought glory to the state in the international community.

He said "if it is Dangote's share that will bring the company back to its normal sell, he should be giving the chance to continue operation as the company, is the only federal presence is paramount in the minds of every Benue indigene," Chief Dyako Atser said.

In a paper presented during the workshop, Mr. Ambrose Fesse described the federal government's decision to privatise public enterprises as a right step towards the right direction in order to reform the operations of public companies which had performed poorly and are drain on public purse in spite of huge investments from tax payers money.

According to him, even though the public companies were exempted from paying taxes and other related revenues unlike their private counterparts, they were unable to operate efficiently and generate surpluses, which now calls for federal government to relinquish the ownership of such interests to private investors to better manage their operations.

While urging the people of the state to participate in the ongoing exercise, Mr. Fesse disclosed that over 800,000 Nigerians have become shareholders in the enterprises privatised in the first phase of the exercise.

In his speech at the occasion, the acting Managing Director of Benue Investment Company (BIC), Mr. Joseph Odu has described the non participation of Benue indigenes in the privatisation exercise as "an epidemic," which will further contribute to marginalisation of the state from the scheme of things in Nigeria.

According to him, the state is playing at the fringe of the Nigerian economy, and that lack of investment culture of the few people who have the where-withal is not helping matters.

It will be recalled that Benue State lost its

allocation of 1,374,000 shares in NAL, IMB, FEB, Ashaka, AP, CCNN and NOLCHEM valued over N106,112,674.90 during the first phase of privatisation exercise to institutional investors from other states of the federation.

## Expert urges stiff penalties for defaulting shippers

Any vessel wishing to berth at the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) without valid document henceforth should be penalised.

Mrs. Vivian Amadife, the stevedoring contractor and Managing Director of VAC International Nigeria Limited, made this assertion at the official commissioning of the Millennium Dock workers safety Gadgets in Lagos.

From Tokunbo Oloke, in Lagos

According to her, "I appeal to the management of NPA to return to the old system of penalising shipping companies who have logistics problems such as short supply of trucks which ultimately prevents the tonnage on every shift."

She also called for an increase in the area of their operations to enable people recoup their investment and

From Samson Ojo, in Lagos

## Union kicks against NEPA privatisation

The National Union of Electricity Employees (NUEE) rose from its two-day National Executive Council (NEC) meeting at the weekend in Benin City to resist the proposed privatisation of the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA).

The union, in a statement signed by its General Secretary, Comrade Precious Kiri-Kalio called on the Federal Government to halt NEPA privatisation.

According to the statement, government's refusal to halt the exercise will be inimical to the rapid economic development of the country.

In the alternative, the NUEE NEC suggested that NEPA should rather be commercialised for efficient and optimal performance.

Condemning NEPA privatisation, the committee stated that electricity supply is a part of utilities provided as social services by the government to the people, and therefore needs not be privatised.

The NUEE NEC argued that in the developed countries of the world where sectional privatisation has been implemented, social services such as electricity would have been extended to not less than 95 per cent of the land mass of the country.

It decried, however, that

in Nigeria, electricity has only covered about 30 - 35 per cent of the country.

The NUEE NEC condemned the arguments of the Minister of Power and Steel, Dr. Olusegun Agagu that "privatisation is the best option to guarantee uninterrupted power supply."

The union also condemned the proposed rationalisation of the workforce early next year.

The minister was reported to have stated that NEPA with its 29,000 workforce which are poorly trained, constitutes a huge public sector parastatal where efficiency is "very low."



Segun Agagu, Power and Steel Minister.

## Kaduna govt, FIDG plan exhibition for North

The Kaduna State government and Financial Institute Development Group (FIDG) are planning to hold the north's maiden financial exhibition anchored on the bid to make investible funds more accessible to small and Medium Scale Industries (SMI)

However, the Kaduna financial exhibition comes up after the Lagos version which will kicked off on December 3, 2001.

According to FIDG Head of Marketing Operations, Gabriel Ofem, the northern exhibition is scheduled to come up in the first quarter of next year.

Ofem said the Kaduna State supports the idea which he said will feature a credit

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

bond package organised with a consortium of insurance companies which will take



Governor Ahmed Makarfi of Kaduna State.

care of loans the banks may be willing to give interest SMP's.

According to him, the exhibition earlier scheduled to hold in March 2002, may come up later than was planned as a result of a shift in FIDG timetable for 2001.

He revealed that the exhibition which is the first of its kind in the country is planned to touch every section of the country and would be organised in an annual basis.

Essentially, he disclosed, the Nigeria Financial Market (NIFA) as the exhibitions are tagged seeks to locate entrepreneurs and ensure that they are ably equipped financially to adequately play their roles in the nation's economy.

to invest into the well being of dock workers in the spirit of the new port reforms' adding that stevedores should be encouraged in regard to the decasualisation of dock workers by releasing the 2 per cent NSITF to the employers.

With the port reforms system, Amadife stressed that "we want to urge the NPA to also make upward review of payment made to stevedores to enable them meet up with their added responsibilities occasioned by the reforms.

She also said that since the payment of dock workers was made through the headmen, that dock-labour employers never knew their workers again, saying that payment to these headmen virtually made it impossible to know who the employees were.

She said the system never allowed them to deduct the National Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) from the money received for such payment to the fund.

Presently, she stressed withal there are 219 permanent dock workers of which 70 of them are casual workers some of which will soon be decasualised to enable them benefit in the NSITF training programme.

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NEWS

## Gado Nasko makes case for Zakkat payment

The Niger State Zakkat and Endowment Board has declared war on the rich Muslims who refuse to pay their Zakkat.

The Chairman of the Board, General Gado Nasko (rtd), sent a strong warning to rich Muslims recently in Minna during a press briefing on the activities of the board since its inauguration in February.

Gado Nasko said the board has been armed with the legal teeth to prosecute its programmes in accordance with Islamic principles and warned that anybody who refuses to pay his zakkat dues risks being jailed after such persons would have been referred to the appropriate court.

**From Kashim Sule, in Minna**  
"Zakkat is one of the five pillars of Islam and without it, Islam is not complete. It is as important as the five daily prayers, the Hajj Muslims perform or the fasting in the month of Ramadan," he added.

On the significance of Zakaat, the retired general declared that the practice expiates the wrong deeds of practitioners saying, those who cannot pay with money can do it with farm produce or animals.

The former Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) said his board plans to empower beggars so they can set-up businesses of their own and stop begging.

## Police arrest 199 in Borno

**From Abdullahi Bego, in Maiduguri**

Criminal activities such as home-breaking re-surfaced in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital, police in the state have arrested up to 199 people after a three-day crack-down on the men of the underworld.

Briefing newsmen in Maiduguri, Police Commissioner Alh. Uba Bala Ringim, said the crack-down, was targeted at criminals who "terrorise victims and loot people's property."

The operation, which he said would be extended to next year, centre around a number of "black spots" at Bulanbun Bridge, Kasuwan Shanu and Baga Motor Park, Maiduguri ward, and All People's Party (APP) Secretariat, all within Maiduguri metropolis.

Most of those arrested said Ringim, are hooligans who will be "thoroughly interrogated" to establish their innocence of culpability in recent reported robbery attacks in the city. The commissioner also said four motorcycles, two bicycles, electronics including TV sets, bundles of clothes, several parcels of marijuana were recovered by the police.

Speaking about persons arrested at the APP Secretariat "while smoking Indian hemp," Uba Bala Ringim said the police command is doing all it can to stamp out the "Ecomog phenomenon" or thuggery

associated with party politics in the country. "I will use any force to ensure they don't exist," he said, referring to the "Ecomong boys" who mostly stay around political party offices, acting as party thugs.

The President of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Comrade Adams Oshiomhole, has commended the family of late Chief Michael Adekunle Ajasin and the board of Ajasin Foundation for keeping the project alive.

The NLC boss, who was speaking at the Second Annual Colloquium of the Ajasin Founding held in Lagos at the weekend, congratulated the board of the Foundation for disappointing those who thought the Ajasin Foundation would fizzle out after its maiden outing.

Comrade Oshiomhole stated that keeping the Ajasin Foundation alive was



Comrade Oshiomhole

## Oshiomhole commends Ajasin Foundation

**From Samson Ojo, in Lagos**  
"not just a service to the memory of the late politician, but also a service to the democratic project, especially in the area of policy improvement, and the development of political ethics as well as leadership value."

He pledged NLC's support for the Foundation, saying "the board could always count on the support of the NLC in keeping alive the ideals for which Pa Ajasin lived and died for."

Oshiomhole said the greatest challenge before the foundation is to "distil the ideological, ethical, intellectual and organisational acumen that marked Pa Ajasin out as a pre-eminent statesman."

"By building advocacy around the ethical purity and statesmanship of Chief Ajasin, we can deepen the process of reforming our new

generation of political elite," he added.

Oshiomhole berated the emerging political elite, for making themselves a liability

to the electorate and the entire nation, unlike, Chief Ajasin and others who selflessly laboured to build the nation.

### Ramadan 19 1422H (Tue 4 Dec, 2001)

P.M. Ishai	P.M. Magrib	P.M. Asar	P.M. Zuhur	A.M. Fatar-rana	A.M. Alfijir
7.01,	6.07,	3.30	12.25,	6.34,	5.19

The above represents the earliest times of the daily obligatory prayer for Kaduna. Below are the times variations in respect of named towns. Zuhur variations can serve for Asar prayer while those in respect of Magrib could do well for Ishai.

TOWNS	المغرب Magrib Minutes	الظهر Zuhur Minutes	الاجير Alfijir Minutes
Aba	+9	0	-9
Abakaliki	+10	+3	-4
Abeokuta	+23	+17	+11
Abuja	+4	+1	-1
Akure	+14	+9	+4
Argungu	+7	+11	+15
Ankpa	+4	-1	-6
Auchi	+11	+5	-1
Azare	-13	-11	-9
Bama	-27	-25	-23
Bauchi	-9	-9	-9
Benin	+15	+8	+1
Biochi	-6	-3	0
Bida	+9	+8	+4
Birnin Kebbi	+10	+13	+18
Biu	-19	19	-19
Calabar	+6	-3	-12
Damaturu	-21	-18	-16
Daura	-8	-4	0
Dutse	-10	-7	-5
Enugu	+7	0	-7
Funtua	-1	+1	+2
Gombe	-15	-15	-15
Gumri	+6	+9	+11
Gusau	-1	+2	+4
Gwadabawa	+4	+9	+13
Hadejia	-13	-10	-7
Ibadart	+19	+14	+9
Ife	+17	+12	+7
Ilorin	+15	+12	+9
Jalingo	-13	-16	-18
Jere	+1	-1	-2
Jos	-5	-6	-7
Kafanchan	-1	-3	-5
Kelama	+15	+13	+12
Kafin Maiyaki	-6	-3	-1
Kano	-7	-4	-2
Katsina	-4	0	+4
Kontogora	+8	+8	+8
Lafiya	-2	-5	-8
Lagos	+23	+16	+9
Lokoja	+7	+3	-1
Maiduguri	-26	-23	-21
Makurdi	+1	-4	-9
Minna	+6	+4	+2
Misau	-15	-13	-12
Mubi	-24	-24	-24
Nguru	-16	-12	-8
Okene	+10	+5	0
Ogbomoso	+17	+13	+9
Onitsha	+11	+3	-5
Oyo	+18	+14	+10
Port Harcourt	+11	+2	-7
Potiskum	-17	-15	-13
Sagamu	+21	+15	+9
Saki	+19	+16	+13
Sokoto	+5	+9	+13
Umuahia	+9	0	-9
Wukari	-5	-9	-13
Wurno	+3	+8	+12
Warri	+16	+7	-2
Yola	-18	-20	-22
Zaria	-2	-1	0
Cotonou - Benin	+27	+20	+13
Ndjamena - Chad	-33	-30	-28
Niamey - Niger	+16	+21	+25
Zinder - Niger	-12	-6	-1
Yaounde - Cameroun	-5	-16	-26

## AD fielded incompetent candidates

- Adesanya

Leader of the Pan-Yoruba Socio-Cultural Group, Afenifere, Senator Abraham Aderibigbe Adesanya, admitted that Alliance for Democracy (AD) fielded incompetent candidates for political public office in the last elections.

Pa Adesanya, who made the observation on Sunday while featuring on a radio programme: Sunday Morning Live on FM, to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the state-owned station, Ogun State Broadcasting Corporation (OGBC), however, assured of a better representations in the next elections.

His words: "We shall do our best to get representatives that will do the South-West proud in the next election. We had no time to look at the credentials of those who wanted to join the party in 1999.

"You know that we learn wisdom from failure and not from success. We have made our mistakes and made our discoveries. Our people will no doubt get better representatives from us in the next election."

The Septagenarian, who lamented that the legislatures have generally not met the electorate's expectations, said PDP should be blamed for the disappointing

**From Olumide Bajulaiye, in Abeokuta**  
performance of public office holders.

He accordingly called on

President Obasanjo to make drastic positive changes in order to move the country forward.

## Group lauds Chikun LG boss over mechanic village

The Chairman, Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Mr. Nuhu Dogo Makama, has been commended for awarding contract for the fencing of the Gonin-Gora Mechanic Village.

Speaking to newsmen in Kaduna at the weekend, the Kaduna State Chairman of Nigeria Automobile Technicians (NATA), Comrade Shehu Adamu, said the project would yield adequate revenue to the state government.

According to Comrade Adamu, over 1,000 mechanics will be accommodated in the village when completed.

The NATA Chairman, who is also the co-ordinator of the association in Kano, Katsina, Jigawa, Zamfara, Kebbi, and Sokoto, called on other states and local government chairmen to emulate the good gesture of Honourable Nuhu Dogo Makama.

His words: "The fencing of mechanic villages in all parts of the federation will

keep our cities clean and check the excesses of charlatan in the profession".

Comrade Adamu then used the opportunity to advice motorists not to rush mechanics while repairing their cars, especially as the Sallah and Christmas festivities are around the corner, adding that such rush had resulted in accidents in the past.

The NATA Chairman reminded NATA executives in Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Jigawa, Zamfara, Kebbi, and Sokoto of the NEC meeting of the association coming up January in Port Harcourt.



Mr. Nuhu Makama

NEWS

**Briefs**  
**Abeokuta**

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has given a clean bill of health to the Asbestos Cement Pipes popularly known as AC Pressure Pipes, describing it as the best, and its components, cancer-free

**Lagos**

The Chairman Senate Committee on Local Government Matters, Senator Tunde Ogbehá, has declared that the Electoral Bill passed by the National Assembly is in the best interest of Nigerians.

Senator Ogbeha, who declared this to newsmen at the Presidential wing of Murtala Muhammad Airport, Lagos, on Sunday, advised state governors not to precipitate social chaos by dissolving and local government councils in defiance of the Bill as "no one can break the law and get away with it."

**Makurdi**

One time Minister of Power and Steel in the Second Republic, Chief Paul Unongo, has attributed the crisis plaguing Tiv land at the moment to "lack of unity among the Tiv elite."

Chief Unongo, who was speaking in Gboko, Benue State at a grand reception in honour of Chief Barnabas Gemade, warned politicians of Tiv origin to guide against their "undue attacks on their leaders as the practice is against the spirit of development."

**Abuja**

The Minister of Defence, Gen. T.Y. Danjuma, has reiterated the Federal Government's commitment to deal with any civil servant caught engaging in fraudulent practices.

He dropped the hint recently, in Abuja at a seminar organised by the Defence Ministry on "Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act 2001"

**Abakaliki**

A member representing Ebonyi North/East in Ebonyi State House of Assembly, Mr. Sabinus Nwankwegwu, has appealed to individuals, bodies and governments to support the rebuilding of Umuigwe primary school, which was recently gutted by fire.

Nwankwegwu said the appeal became necessary, "as the pupils now face untold hardships resulting from the total destruction of the school building by fire early this month."

**NASS, FG urged to call Buhari to order**

The National Assembly and the Federal Government have been urged to call the former Head of State, General Muhammadu Buhari (rtd), to order over his alleged anti-democratic utterances.

The Civil Liberties Organisation (C.L.O.), which made this call in a statement made available to *Daily Trust*, accused Buhari of inciting the military and other anti-democratic forces against the current democratic experiment in the country.

Buhari, who delivered a lecture in Kano recently on "the military class, political class and good governance," was accused of deliberately justifying military incursion into politics.

The C.L.O., which said Buhari had no moral right to justify military take over, stated that "it is really amusing that General Buhari whose regime unleashed unspeakable terror and hardship on the people of this country, would now justify an aberration that the military incursion into politics is."

"Nigerians," it said, "have not forgotten the inhuman episodes of floggings in the name of enforcing disciplines, the crating of Alhaji Umaru Dikko in far (away) London, and a host of other bestialities perpetrated by the Buhari regime, which further brutalised the psyche of Nigerians."

Carpeting the military class further, the organisation said "our recent past experiences with the military have shown that they are not the messiah, they claim to be. Infact no other platform exposed the underbelly of the military more than the just concluded Oputa Human Rights (Violations) Investigation Commis-

From Samson Ojo, in Lagos

sion. "It was a sordid study of



Gen. Buhari

the generals perpetrating untold human rights violations, killing and maiming of innocent citizens and, worse of all, looting the nation's treasury at the expense of the nation."

The Civil Liberties Organisation, while saying the former Head of State was "inadvertently fanning the embers of disaffection amongst the military and the unwary populace," also advised Buhari and indeed all ex-military leaders to "publicly apologise to Nigerian people for seizing the machinery of government by force of arms and subjecting the populace to untold hardships."

**Senator Dan Musa faults sharia court procedures**

Former Deputy Senate President, Senator Abubakar Dan Musa, has said the procedures being used in passing judgement by Sharia judges in the states that have adopted the Islamic legal code are full of flaws.

In an interview with *Daily Trust* in Kaduna, at the weekend Senator Dan Musa said "the way some judges handle both civil and criminal matters require proper study before verdicts are proclaimed."

He cited the examples of some young men and ladies who were arraigned before a Shari'a court on charges of wandering in Katsina city and sentenced to two months imprisonment without recourse to any of the conditions laid down in the Sharia legal system

Said he: "Sharia legal system is out to establish

From Hassan A. Karofi, in Katsina

justice and correct wrongs in the society, it is mainly to guide not to punish. But see how these young people were sentenced to two months imprisonment without regard to their future."

He expressed concern over the way and manner some judges punish offenders, saying that such sentences could only harden the criminals instead of correcting them which is the sole aim of Sharia system.

He cautioned against allowing judges to misapply the judicial provisions, saying only qualified judges should be recruited to man the courts in accordance with Qur'anic injunctions.

He said "God created mankind and provided the laws so that their lives could be made better and not made

**Military's return to barracks permanent - Gen. Kpamber**

The Commandant of Armoured Corps Centre and School (ACCS) Bauchi, Maj. Gen.



Lt. Gen. Ogomudia

never again to interfere with the democratic process in the country."

Kpamber stated this when he received the new Zonal Manager of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), Malam Sani Adamu, in his office.

He said, "the military is back to the barracks for good. Democracy is now the song of the people all over the world and Nigeria cannot be an exception."

"We will remain absolutely loyal to our political masters, and we do not intend to go beyond our constitutional roles."

Gen. Kpamber, who reiterated that the military would continue to protect and defend the sovereignty

of the country and jealously guard internal security, added, "We are now learning how to serve the people and not as people who should aspire for government."

The commandant further said the military was more than ever fully concerned with training, re-training and equipping its personnel with modern warfare skills. "This is better for us than indulging in politics," he added.

Earlier, Malam Sani had told the commandant that the purpose of his visit was to familiarise himself with the institution and solicit the commandant's co-operation in the discharge of the agency's functions in the North-East.

The Vice President, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, has said he can continue to serve the country without collecting salary or any allowance.

The Vice-President, who was reacting to the new salary structure by Revenue Allocation and Fiscal Commission which places the salary of the Chief Judge above that of the Vice-President, said he is not disturbed by the new salary structure.

Fielding questions from newsmen at the Presidential Wing of Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Lagos Sunday, the Vice President said: "even if they say I do not have pay, I won't mind. I will still work."

The President was in Lagos to attend an official

**I can do without salary - Atiku**

From Shakirat Abdulmajeed, in Lagos

reception by the Igbo community in Lagos for the Senate President, Chief Anyim Pius Anyim.

On the controversial Electoral Bill which has generated a lot of controversy, the Vice-President said "it is supposed to be a law, I have to see it before I can make any sensible comment on it."



Vice-President Atiku Abubakar

**Police warn OPC on vigilante activities**

Ogun State Police Command at the weekend threatened to arrest any member of the outlawed Yoruba militia group Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC), who engage in vigilante activities in the state.

The Commissioner of Police in the state, Prince Udom Ekpoundom, who gave the warning in a telephone interview with *Daily Trust* in Abeokuta, was speaking on his command's purported peace meeting with the OPC at the Alake's palace.

Denying the meeting with the OPC, the police boss said "I never had any meeting with the OPC. The command met with vigilante groups and the people of Egbaland to discuss the security situation in the town."

"My command is ready to arrest any OPC member that dares to engage in vigilante activity. We don't know any group by that name, because it doesn't exist nor is it recognised by government."

Sources close to the palace of the Alake of Egbaland, Oba Oyebade Lipede, informed our correspondent that the Alake had a peace meeting between the

From Olumide Bajulaiye, in Abeokuta

state police command, and members of the Oodua Peoples Congress.

The meeting was allegedly meant to douse tension and suspicions generated by the arrest of 15 OPC vigilante members by the police.

The OPC, had at an earlier press conference, accused the police command of arresting 15 of its operatives who were involved in vigilante exercises in various communities in Abeokuta.

Subsequently, they had sought the intervention of the royal father, threatening to withdraw their services should their plea for the release of their detained colleagues be ignored by the police.



Musiliu Smith



# INSIDE POLITICS

## When a "spare tyre" bursts...

Issues in the Jigawa State governorship crisis

By Sani Babadoko,  
Political Editor

On Wednesday November, 21 this year, the people of Jigawa State added another chapter to their litany of woes. That day the people of this ten-year-old state that prides itself as *The New World*, woke up to the reality that they had no governor. The previous day the Deputy Governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Shehu Kwatalo, who should be acting governor, resigned his appointment and precipitating an unprecedented constitutional crisis; no one was really in charge.

According to the 1999 constitution "the speaker should act for 90 days in the absence through impeachment, resignation or incapacitation of the governor and his deputy. But what the speaker Alhaji Sa'idu Ishaku did was to declare the state Governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Saminu Turaki, "missing". The lawmakers did not know his whereabouts as he (the Governor) had not actually handed over to anyone in particular. The House gave the state governor 48 hours to return to Dutse.

In announcing his resignation at a press conference in Dutse, Ibrahim Shehu Kwatalo said he had lost the moral right to remain in office. His action, he said was "most appropriate" in view of the fact that after nearly three years in office, the government had "failed to meet its contract with the people." He said he had also quit the All Peoples Party (APP) but did not declare for any party. It is however gathered that the estranged former deputy governor was headed for the rival PDP where he has been promised its gubernatorial ticket in 2003.

Alhaji Ibrahim's resignation is the first by any deputy governor since the current democratic dispensation was installed in May 1999. Twice in the past, he had threatened to resign on both occasions he rescinded his decision after intervention by elders.

The resignation is the climax of a long running power tussle between the two former allies which started shortly after their inauguration on May 29, 1999. The situation led to sidelining the deputy, withdrawal of funding and other responsibilities and the sacking of the deputy's loyalists.

The governor through his spokesman, Alhaji Usman Zakari, told *Daily Trust* that the resignation has been accepted. He said unlike it was on the two previous occasions when he "lobbied" and came back, this time around it is for real.

But the actions of these two politicians has raised a lot of questions in the leadership style of the governor of this most dreary and desolate state. Why for instance has the governor become known

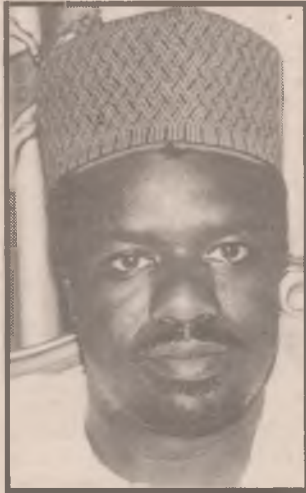
for his ceaseless trips ostensibly to bring in "foreign investors?" Or why should the quarrel between those two be at the expense of development in the state? Or why indeed should the two take their people for a ride?

Many people among them farmers and lawmakers in the state believe the deputy governor's action was correct but not for the same reasons, he gave. While they object to Governor Saminu's style of administering through the internet from several European, Asian or South American capitals, they also could not understand why the deputy stayed on for so long even when it became clear early in the journey that they are diametrically opposed in all departments.

Insiders to the political happenings in the state posited that it was as if the young governor baited his deputy when they assumed office. Having mastered the art of information technology, (he was said to have hawked computers which brought him stupendous wealth during the Abacha years) the governor, preferred to leave the knitty-gritty of day-to-day governance to his deputy. This is not surprising because Saminu has never worked in government for one day and would not want to be bothered with bureaucracy. But the more experienced Kwatalo has once served as deputy-governor to Alhaji Ali Sa'ad Birnin-Kudu in 1993.

The trappings of office soon got into Kawatalo's head and he started scheming to get his boss impeached. Soon the rumour mills began to roll as aides, eager to capture the governor's attention, started whispering stories about real and imagined ambitions of the deputy to the governor. One by one the governor withdrew all the powers delegated to his deputy. And since he (Saminu) was not about to abandon his frequent trips he carried state matters in his brief case. Several times he would fax approvals for vital state matters or invite aides and commissioners to join him in Hong-Kong, Johannesburg, London, Peru Paraguay, or wherever it was his tour took him, to clear or take decisions on state matters.

But while he took advantage of IT's versatility his state capital, Dutse, remained in a sub-rural stage. The town relies on a generating plant for electricity as the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) is yet to extend its services to Dutse. So electricity in this sleepy settlement is a matter of privilege. By 8:00 p.m. everywhere is in darkness and the only road in the state capital links the motor



Gov. Saminu Turaki

part, the government house and lodge and the market with little else to see. This has been so before Saminu Turaki's administration, but exacerbated further by the policy of decentralising ministries and parastatals to local government headquarters. It was told that on assuming office he got some advisers, made up of mainly those opposed to Dutse being the state capital, to "advise" on how to provide even development to the state. Of course they came out with the recommendation to decentralise.

Justifying this, the governor's Director of Press Affairs, Alhaji Usman Zakari, told *Daily Trust*, that, "We do not want to create a monster city like Kano in Dutse." He said Governor Saminu did not promise infrastructure in his first tenure. His words; "He promised economic empowerment of the less privileged masses. That is the first thing we want to do in the first four years. Infrastructures can wait till the second term."

Basking in the euphoria of the novel policy of decentralisation some landlords in the four emirates of Hadejia, Kazaure, Gumel and Ringim where the ministries and parastatals transferred readily released their property to house the ministries or parastatals but three months after, when it dawned on them that neither government nor development came their way, they chased out their irreverent "tenants."

In an environment where infrastructure such as roads and telecommunications are developed the decentralisation could work well. But here in Jigawa the experiment is a disaster. Files requiring joint ministerial action have to be hauled from one local government to the other and by the time the decision is taken or approval given they do no longer reflect the changed reality on the ground.

The governor's frequent journeys have not helped matters as commissioners and government officials abandon their offices for the long periods he is away. Staff morale



Alh. Ibrahim Kwatalo

is sagging and many of them are disoriented without any form of leadership, productivity is left for a later date even though the governor manages to pay salaries to a largely redundant civil service.

Curiously, it was the former deputy governor who stoutly defended this policy last April when the going was good. Said he, "every form of development in old Kano State began and ended in Kano city. That is why when Jigawa State was created, there was no single structure to use as office. That is why we decided that for this state to grow there must be even development."

Even the economic empowerment has not manifested in the lives of the people. The Saminu administration introduced sugar cane farming and told farmers to cultivate the plant is large quantity. They accepted the challenge. Some went for bank loans as they were promised the produce would be bought by the government. But without a factory to refine the cane there was little any one can do. So, today, like *Daily Trust* found out in Katanga village some kilometers from Dutse, the farmers are left with their cane drying away.

The banks are now threatening to sell their inherited farmlands to recover their loans.

But defending the policy Alhaji Usman Zakari said the farmers have nothing to worry about. He said it was the governor's detractors who were indoctrinating the farmers. Said he, "All the farmers have been producing are seedlings. We bought all their sugar cane last year and we told them specifically that before the end of next year (2003) our factory will take off." But can the farmers wait?

Officials and legislators who spoke in Dutse told *Daily Trust* that some foreigners came to Dutse but never intended to invest anything. They simply took advantage of an all-expenses-paid holiday to visit Dutse after which they disappear into thin air. Even those aides who went in search of these elusive for-

eign investors with the governor confessed that they went and were shown factories and came back. But the governor's spokesperson said that was not true. He blamed the PDP government at the centre instead for refusing to link the state to the national grid because it is an APP controlled state. He said that was why the state governor has invited independent power producers to come and generate power which is expected to take off sometime in February or March next year.

But, even Saminu's critics conceded that the governor has done quite appreciably in the area of education since he assumed office. From an enrolment of about 3,000 pupils there are now over 6,000 pupils; an increase of about 100 per cent in less than three years. The figure could have been that of a single primary school in another state but such is the non-challant attitude to western education in the state where the parents would rather have their children tend to their herds or farm than go to school.

Teachers are highly motivated. The state government paid additional 25 per cent of teacher's salaries for staying to teach. The local government councils are also mandated to pay an additional incentive of 25 per cent which brings it to 45 per cent extra pay. The Saminu administration is said to have spent over 400 million Naira in renovating classrooms in 160 schools across the state. Primary school pupils are also introduced to computer and science education.

The governor's critic especially those in the Jigawa Redemption Group (JRG) believe the governor's style has meant more agony to the people. Founded exactly a year ago JRG is said to be committed to the "liberation" of Jigawa from the scourge of the Turaki mal-administration. It has challenged his misappropriation of funds especially as there has not be a single investor in the state and for which the governor claimed to have spent billions of Naira in foreign trips. According to one of JRG's convenors, Alhaji Falalu Tukur Gantsa, its mission is to mobilise the people of the state against the governor so that he can refocus on his campaign promises and give Jigawa people a sense of belonging.

The JRG, have championed the cause of dragging Saminu to the Mustapha Akanbi, led Anti-Corruption panel. "There is an urgent need to drag Saminu Turaki to the Anti-Corruption panel if Jigawa State is to be salvaged," the *Wazirin Ringim*

Alhaji Sagir Muhammad had written in one publication. According to a stalwart of the rival PDP and a national ex-officio member, Alhaji Danladi Sankara, said there was no difference between Turaki's administration and a military one adding, "he does not like criticism. He has suppressed all oppositions, settled those he can and yet he has failed to provide the needs of the ordinary people."

Turaki had said those complaining about his style of leadership are the elites who are not comfortable with his empowerment of the people of the state. Speaking in the same vein, his spokesman told the *Daily Trust* that those criticising Turaki were political contractors and speculators who expected contracts which the government was not eager to give because, "this government is not a government for disturbing public funds. That is why we are not a contract giving government. I know it was the trend in the past but we have to change it. Our own concern is the common man."

But according to Malam Haro Shehu, a former image-maker of the APP in Dutse the control of state finances by the governor is suffocating. "No commissioner can approve a project involving 100,000 Naira. He alone awards contracts and direct payments with the result that a few aides closest to him manipulate the situation for their selfish ends," he added.

Turaki's aides however said the tight control was to reduce fleecing of the treasury by government officials. Turaki impresses on whoever cares to listen that he is trying to forge sustainable development to bridge the gap between the poor and the rich, tackle rural urban drift and reduce crime. His economic politics he said are geared toward creating a virile middle class and a solid economic based.

Critics however said his absence, which has taken him to over 50 countries, meant that he never spent two consecutive weeks save when there was the last floods and cholera disasters when he was around in July and August this year. He left the state early in September and came back at the end of the last month. He was away for a total of 58 days. Infact on this ground a lawyer Barrister Garun Gabas took the governor to court to prevent his many foreign trips but inexplicably the case fizzled out.

In all Turaki will need to stay more on his seat and convince the electorate that he meant well for them and is ready to turn their backwardness into opportunities. If nothing else as a token of what he sees elected governments do in those countries he loves to visit.

This  
space  
is for  
sale



Edited by Kevin Ebele Adinnu

Abuja to get  
modern market,  
tourism village.

- Page 22

Water turns  
gold in Abuja  
- Page 23

## FG to investigate land allocation in Abuja

President Olusegun Obasanjo has said that government would check the flagrant abuse of administrative procedures in the allocation of land in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Delivering an address at a civic reception organised at the start of his two-day official visit to the FCT, Obasanjo said he had received numerous complaints of multiple allocation of plots to many applicants.

"Very soon, government will evolve measures to ensure the proper upkeep of records to know who owns which land," he said, stressing that a situation where a few people appropriated several plots of land to themselves would not be tolerated.

"Measures will soon be taken to keep proper and adequate records," to ensure that one plot was allocated per person and to check the frequent alleged misplacement of files by persons entrusted with the duty of allocating land to Nigerians.

The president said he was determined to make Abuja "a showcase for development, beauty, administration, elegance and good record-keeping, noting that unless that was done, the laudable dreams of its founding fathers would be defeated.

Obasanjo said in its present state, Abuja ranked the second best city in Africa and pledged that under his administration, the city would further be uplifted with all the relevant infrastructure to

enable it to improve on its ranking and image.

He said, however, that unless residents endeavoured to keep the city clean and orderly and stop haphazard development, especially in the satellite towns, the city would be robbed of the beauty that its founders envisaged.

"Unless we stop these haphazard development, we are going to destroy Abuja before it is even fully developed," the president said, assuring that government would not allow the city to be destroyed, but ensure that the master plan for its development was

adhered to.

In an address of welcome earlier, FCT minister Muhammed Abba-Gana said more than N100 billion was required to complete on-going projects in the FCT, adding that infrastructural development was now being taken to seven additional districts of the new capital.

Abba-Gana said funds were required to open up land for development, noting that while his office had more than 80,000 applications for land allocation, it had just a little over 7,000 plots to distribute.

He said about 1,052

housing units had been completed to ease accommodation problems in the FCT, while a U.S. firm had entered into a joint agreement with the FCT authorities to provide another 5,000 housing units in the city.

At the civic reception, school children, women and cultural dancers staged performances for the president, who was also conferred with the title of Garkuwan Abuja, (the shield) by the Ona of Abaji, chairman of the FCT traditional council of chiefs.



Comedians try to catch a glimpse of President Obasanjo with an improvised camera at the reception.



President Olusegun Obasanjo, Garkuwan Abuja, (right), Minister of Federal Capital Territory, Engr. Muhammed Abba-Gana (middle) and Minister of Agriculture, Alhaji Mohammed K. Sa'id at a civic reception held for President Obasanjo at the Old Parade Ground... yesterday.



School children from St. Aloysius Primary School, Garki, in a march past at the reception.

# Abuja Trust

## News

### Abuja to get modern market, tourism village

The FCT minister, Alhaji Muhammed Abba-Gana, has said that arrangements are at an advanced stage to provide Abuja with a befitting modern market with necessary facilities by 2003.

Abba-Gana gave the information at a civic reception for President Olusegun Obasanjo at the start of a two-day official visit to FCT yesterday.

He said the capital territory would also be provided with a comprehensive waste disposal and management system as well as a culture and tourism village to be located near the Lower Usuma Dam.

The minister said that much as the administration had tried to provide "real and visible dividends of democracy" in the territory in terms of infrastructure, the ever increasing population of the city had continued to have a telling effect on the modest achievements.

He said that although the new capital territory had been in existence for more than two decades, the present administration was the first democratically elected government to operate from the city, which accounted for the high number and rapidity of international events that were taking place in Abuja.

Abba-Gana commended Obasanjo for being part of



Engr. Abba-Gana.

the regime that initiated the construction of the new capital in 1976 and noted that it was gratifying that he had returned as a civilian leader to work toward the attainment of the laudable dream.

He said that to arrest the effect of increasing population in FCT, the second phase of the Lower Usuma Dam had been completed and had ensured adequate water supply to Kubwa, Airport and Gwagwalada.

He said Idu, Gwarimpa, Kado and other satellite villages would also benefit

from the expansion programme.

According to the minister, the FCT administration is currently making efforts to open up more districts through the provision of necessary infrastructure such as roads, electricity and water.

Abba-Gana said Katampe, Jabi, Gudu, Mabushi and Gwarimpa districts, as well as the ring roads were currently being opened up.

He said the ministry had forged partnerships with the private sector to encourage the development of estates towards the speedy development of the federal capital.

### CBN Abuja emerges governor's cup champion

The 21<sup>st</sup> edition of the annual Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) governor's cup football competition has been concluded in Port Harcourt with the CBN, Abuja emerging the champions.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the Abuja branch defeated Ibadan 2-1 in a thrilling final that could make national league matches seem like school football.

NAN reports that with the victory, CBN Abuja, which won the gold trophy, had won the championship three times since its inception in 1981, having won it in 1998

and 1999, while CBN Ibadan, which was making its first appearance at the finals, won the silver.

CBN Enugu walloped their Jos opponents 2-0 to win the bronze medal of the third place match decided earlier in the day.

In his address at the closing ceremony, Dr. Joseph Sanusi, the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, said he was happy at the successful conclusion of this year's edition of the championship.

Sanusi, who was represented by his deputy, Chief O.S. Odeyemi described this year's finals as

"highly entertaining, thrilling and fulfilling."

He said that the decision to rotate the venue of the finals which was first hosted in 1981 by Lagos, was informed by the need to create greater awareness among individuals, groups and corporate organisations nationwide about the importance of complementing government's efforts in the promotion and development of sports at the grassroots level.

Sanusi commended the teams for the high standard of play and the match officials for their diligence and strict application of the rules of the game. He urged the teams, which could not participate in finals to start early preparation for next year's edition.

NAN recalls that CBN Abeokuta won the championship last year.

### Man, 51, jailed for cheque forgery

The Upper Area Court, Abuja presided over by Aliyu Abduran has sentenced on David Obia (51) to five years imprisonment with an option of N24,000 fine for forging a cheque of N2.4 million and attempting to withdraw the said amount from Trust Atlantic Bank, Abuja branch.

The suspect who also forged an international passport was charged with criminal conspiracy, forgery and attempt to commit an offence contrary to sections 97,364 and 95 of the penal code.

David Oba alias Ogboru K. Douglas and two others, Francis Paul, Jide Sunday now at large, according to the police First Information Report (FIR), conspired and forged an international passport bearing Ogboru K. Douglas.

The suspects also forged a cheque of N2.4 million in the name of Douglas and attempted to cash it at Trust Atlantic Bank, Abuja branch.

Appearing before the court the suspect pleaded guilty and was sentenced to five years imprisonment with option of N24,000 fine.

In a related development a 35-year-old Prince Nwokwunyoku of Karmo village has been arraigned before the upper area court over duping one Mr. Donatus David Wuse of the sum of N436,000.00.

The complainant, Mr. David who wrote a petition at the area commander's office complained that sometime in February, 2001 the suspect and two others now at large conspired and collected the sum of N436,000.00 from him.

During police investigation the suspect admitted that he collected N15,000. N10,000 was later recovered from the suspect.

However, appearing before the court the suspect pleaded not guilty. The case has been adjourned to January 16, 2002 for further hearing. Meanwhile he was granted bail on N500,000 with a surety.

### FCT pilgrims depart for Jerusalem

Christian pilgrims to Jerusalem from the FCT have been urged to be good ambassadors of the country.

The FCT minister, Engr. Muhammed Abba-Gana, threw the challenge in a message to the departing pilgrims delivered by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Federal Capital Territory (MFCT), Alhaji Babangida Aliyu.

He reminded them as the Ambassadors of Christ, that they should emulate his teachings and remain steadfast and prayerful.

The FCT chairman of the Christian Pilgrims Board had earlier briefed the pilgrims on what is required of them as they embark on the holy trip.

The Chairman of the National Christian Pilgrims Committee, Apostle Bamidele Olumilua, advised the pilgrims to pray for the country.

### Provide FRSC with ambulances - Communiqué

Participants in a two-day workshop organised by the Save Accident Victims Association of Nigeria (SAVAN) have called on government to provide the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) with ambulances to transport accident victims to the hospital.

In a communiqué issued at Gwagwalada over the weekend by Mr. Abdullahi Yahaya, SAVAN coordinator in FCT, the participants said that transportation of accident victims with cars could lead to complications.

Participants in the workshop, organised for road users, said that some accident victims could have fracture or injuries that would require that they be placed in a particular position to avoid further injuries to the victim.

They lamented that due to lack of ambulances, FRSC officials conveyed accident victims in their cars, a situation that could compound the injuries sustained by the accident victims.

"If an ambulance was used to convey such accident victims, it could

reduce further injuries to the victims," they said.

The participants noted that in some cases, accident victims were bundled together in one car with the attendant risk of exchange of body fluids, which could lead to HIV/AIDS infection.

They also called on the federal government to erect road signs where they were needed to guide motorists and prevent accidents, especially during the Yuletide.

The participants were drawn from the National Union of Road Transport



Mr. Musiliu Smith, IGP.

Workers, commercial motorcycle operators and members of the public



The Minister of Water Resources, Alhaji Murktar Shehu Shagari (r) answering questions from newsmen while Information Minister, Professor Jerry Gana (l) listens during the ministerial press briefing by the minister in Abuja, last week.

# Abuja Trust

## Features

### Water turns gold in Abuja

*Among the basic needs of man, water stands out as the most indispensable but residents of the Federal Capital Territory have been grappling with acute water scarcity for some time now inspite of availability of Lower Usman Dam and the Jabi Dam. Hammeed M. Bello of Abuja Trust in this piece, explores the pros and cons of the current scarcity of water in Abuja.*

Many residents in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have now adapted to the ugly reality of going about their daily businesses without bathing, not out of their own free will, but due to the persistent water scarcity that is almost making life miserable.

At the wake of the current water scarcity, which has become a periodic occurrence in the FCT, residents have resorted to drinking well water or stream water and using same for other domestic activities even when they are aware of the health hazard it may cause them. This is definitely the case of using what you have to get what you want, and if you cannot get what you want, you make the best use of what you have.

Besides, at the well spot, which are found only in a few households, desperate neighbours in search of water cluster and struggle fiercely to get some volumes for household chores. They risk falling into the well, apart from enduring the bitter or salty taste of the water. There are instances in some of the suburbs that greedy heads of households take certain amount of money from neighbours before allowing them to fetch water from their wells. In places like Kubwa, Nyanya, Dutse Alhaji and Karmo, residents resort to drinking stream water, in competition with cows who don't only go to streams to drink water but dump their excreta in the water. This certainly exposes the people who drink such water to health hazards.

The persistent scarcity of water is a general problem, which affects both the Abuja city centre and the suburbs. In most part of Wuse area of the city centre for example, residents have to depend on water tankers for their daily water supply, as is the case in the satellite towns in Abuja and a large part of Maitama district of the city where tankers rescue residents from the dangers of starvation from water.

In Wuse Zone 3 specifically, although not officially attached to the area by the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Water Board which has the responsibility of serving Abuja residents with water, tankers belonging to the Ministry of Finance and the Presidency now supply residents whose taps have remained dry for more than one year.

Some time last year, the FCT Water Board conducted a house to house census in the city with a view to knowing exactly how many people lived there and the volume of water they would require, but since then, there has



A water tanker selling water to indigent residents following acute water scarcity. Pix: Hammeed M. Bello.



Here, children in Karmo, a suburb in Abuja, try hard to get as much water as possible from this dilapidated well. Pix: Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman.



Desperate people fetching water from a stream. Pix: Kevin Ebele Adinnu.

not been any improvement. One of the residents of the area who did not want his names in prints told *Abuja Trust* that, "when the

scarcity of water becomes acute, you will find everywhere smelling as women dump solid wastes and children excreta that

would have ordinarily been washed or flushed."

"Apart from the water problem," he said, "one other

problem we face here is that women dump their used pads in the rubbish can provided by Abuja Environmental Protection Board, (AEPB) and when it is full to the brim, the trash litter the whole area thereby polluting the environment. The situation is not helping the sanitary condition of the area as some residents resort to using old newspapers and polythene bags to pack their garbage.

The situation in the satellite towns is even worse. In settlements like Karmo and Gwagwa, there is no tap water at all and the 'Mairuwas,' the truck pushers who supply water to the areas are making brisk business and increase their prices arbitrarily.

In Kubwa, the situation is getting worst as the prolonged water scarcity is eating deep into the pocket of residents. A jerry can of water, which sold for N60 at the wake of the crises, now sells for between N100 and N120. A man with large families buys not less than 10 jerry cans daily to survive.

An *Abuja Trust* investigation revealed that following the scarcity of water in Kubwa, residents only wash their feet and faces before leaving for their offices. The ladies have devised an extra approach of spraying a strong perfume to suppress any unpleasant odour when exposed to the sun. Moreover, many toilets have been left unflushed thereby making the environment unhealthy.

Most residents are blaming the FCT Water Board for the difficulty caused by interrupted water supply. Authorities of the Water Board have however announced that the problem is caused by a breakdown in the distribution channel and have promised to correct the situation.

But the question on the lips of many people is that inspite of the huge sum of money spent in the expansion of the Lower Usman Dam and the promise of uninterrupted supply of water, in addition to the Jabi dam which has been on reserve, it is frustrating to experience water scarcity in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

It is expected that in a democratic setting when government is responsible to the people in addition to all freedoms that are guaranteed, a relief measure could be devised to cushion harsh effect when interruption of water supply becomes necessary. For example, a capacity reservoir could be on the standby to supplement the supply pending when the problem would be corrected. Water is indispensable to life.

# BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO

## (POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL)

BUK/PGS/24

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

28<sup>th</sup> November, 2001

### APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION INTO POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES 2001/2002 SESSION

Applications are invited from qualified candidates for admission into the following courses for the 2001/2002 academic session.

#### 1. FACULTY OF ART AND ISLAMIC STUDIES

**1.1 M.A./Ph.D in the following:** Arabic (Language and Literature), English (Language and Modern African Literature), Hausa (Language, Literature & Culture), History and Islamic Studies.

**1.2 M.A Mass Communication**

**1.3 Masters in Development Studies (M.D.S.)** in the Department of History: The Programme will be run on Part-time basis for a minimum of 24 months comprising course-work and project. Candidates for admission shall satisfy any of the following requirements:- A good honours degree with at least Second Class Lower; A Postgraduate Diploma in Development Studies with classification not below MERIT. Any qualification deemed by Senate to be equivalent to any of the above.

**1.4 Postgraduate Diploma in the Teaching of English as a Second Language (PGDTESL):** Admission Requirements: Third Class Degree in English or COMBINED honours. DURATION: One Calendar Year on Full-time basis.

**1.5 Postgraduate Diploma in Development Studies (PGDDS)** in the Department of History: Admission Requirements: Degree holders with at least Third Class from any recognised University; HND holders with classification not below Lower Credit with a minimum of 3 years working experience and Holders of any other equivalent qualifications from a recognised Institution of higher learning.

#### 2. FACULTY OF EDUCATION

**2.1 M.Ed/Ph.D in Education with specialization in any one of the following:** Guidance & Counselling; Educational Psychology; Philosophy of Education; Curriculum and Instruction; Special Education; Administration and Planning.

**2.2 Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE).** Admission Requirements: B.A. or B.Sc degree with a minimum of 3<sup>rd</sup> Class or any other qualification which together with relevant experience is deemed by the Faculty Board of Education and the Senate to be equivalent to the above.

**2.3 M.L.S. /Ph.D in Library Science with specialization in any one of the following:** Library Administration; Technical Service; Information Science; Library Resources and Bibliography; Communication Science.

#### 3. FACULTY OF SCIENCE

**3.1 M.Sc (Mathematics):** The programme will be run on full-time basis for a duration of 24 months comprising course-work and dissertation. Candidate for admission shall possess any of the following qualifications: A first Class or Second Class degree in Mathematics; Any qualification deemed by Senate to be equivalent to above.

**3.2 M.Sc/Ph.D Chemistry, with specialization in** Inorganic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry; Analytical Chemistry; Colour/Polymer Chemistry.

**3.3 Postgraduate Diploma in Chemistry (PGDC)** run for a minimum period of one year. Admission Requirement: A 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Degree in Chemistry, or HND Upper Credit or equivalent qualifications in relevant areas.

**3.4 M.Sc/Ph.D in Biological Sciences with specialization in:** Hydrobiology; Fisheries; Parasitology; Plant Physiology; Genetics; Plant Ecology; Entomology; Plant Taxonomy; Applied Zoology

**3.5 M.Sc in Physics with specialization in:** Atomic Physics; Nuclear Structure Physics; Solid-State Physics; Optics; Electronics.

**3.6 Postgraduate Diploma in Industrial Physics (PGDIP):** The programme will be run on full-time basis for a duration of 12 months comprising course-work and project. Candidates for the admission shall possess any of the following qualifications: A minimum of Third Class degree in Physics; Physics Education, Electric/Electronic Engineering, and Mathematics. A minimum of Lower Credit HND in Physics, Electronics Telecommunication or any other qualification deemed by Senate to be equivalent to the above.

#### 4. FACULTY OF SOCIAL AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES:

**4.1 M.Sc/Ph.D in Economics with specialization in any one of the following:** Development Studies; Economic Planning; Industrial Economics; Public Finance/Taxation; Agricultural Economics; Banking and Finance, Environmental Studies; Energy Studies; Political Economy; Quantitative Techniques Operational Research.

##### Admission Requirement for Ph.D Economics:

A good Second Class Degree in Economics, Accountant, Business Administration, or any other related discipline from BUK or any other recognised Institution

with at least 2 years Post-qualification experience.

##### Admission Requirements for M.Sc Economics:

**I.** Candidates must hold a Master's degree in Economics or any other qualification from the BUK or any other recognised University deemed equivalent by the Department. Candidates other than those holding a Master's degree in Economics or its equivalent from the BUK shall provide official transcript of both their undergraduate and graduates degrees.

**II.** Candidates with any other qualifications deemed equivalent may be required to take additional undergraduate and/or Postgraduate Courses deemed relevant by the Departments. Such candidate shall be confirmed subject to the successful completion of the required additional course(s).

**III.** In addition, candidates seeking admission for the M.Sc and Ph.D Economics above must submit direct to the Head of Department at the time of application, a brief description of their intended programme or research. No application will be considered without the description.

##### 4.2 M.Sc/Ph.D in Geography with specialization in:

Land administration, or Land Development

**4.3 M.Sc/Ph.D in Political Science with specialization in:** Political Economy; Political Theory, International Relation, Public Administration

##### 4.4 M.Sc/Ph.D in Sociology: Admission Requirements.

Master's Degree Programme: A first Class or good Second class degree in relevant discipline from the Bayero University, Kano or any recognised Institution.

**Ph.D Programme:** Only candidates who possess a good bachelor's Degree and a good Master's Degree in the relevant subject will be considered.

##### 4.5 Masters of Business Administration (MBA) Full-time and Part-time Admission Requirements:

**I.** A good Second Class degree in Accounting, Business Administration, Economic or any other related discipline from Bayero University, Kano or any other recognised Institution with at least 2 years post qualification experience.

**II.** An HND or a first Degree plus a professional qualification experience.

**III.** An HND, a first degree or any other recognised professional qualification i.e. ACA, ACCA, AIB, plus a Postgraduate Diploma in Management or Banking and Finance with a minimum of Credit classification from Bayero University or any other recognised Institution.

**IV.** The same as (iii) above with Merit classification in Postgraduate Diploma in Management with at least one year Post qualification experience.

##### 4.6 Master's in Banking and Finance (MBF) Full-time and Part-time Admission Requirement

**I.** A first Class or good Second Class degree in Economics, Banking and Finance, Accounting or Business Administration.

**II.** A first or good Second Class honours degree in other related disciplines with at least 2 years post qualification relevant experience in the Banking or Financial Institution.

**III.** A professional qualification in related field i.e. ACCA, HND or ACA plus a Postgraduate Diploma in Banking and Finance with a minimum of Credit classification from Bayero University or any other recognised Institution.

**IV.** The same as (iii) above with Merit classification in Postgraduate Diploma in Banking and Finance with at least one year post qualification experience.

##### 4.7 Postgraduate Diploma in Management (PGDM)

##### Admission Requirement:

**I.** A second Class Degree in any discipline other than Accounting, Business Administration, Finance, Marketing and Personnel Management from Bayero University, Kano or any other recognised Institution with at least 2 years post qualification experience.

**II.** A first degree with a classification below Second Class in Accounting, Business Administration, Economics from Bayero University, Kano or any other recognised Institution with at least 2 years post qualification experience.

**III.** HND with a classification of at least Credit in Accounting, Business Administration and any related field with at least 2 years post qualification experience.

**IV.** HND or any other recognised qualification with classification of at least an Upper Credit in any discipline other than the disciplines in (iii) above with at least 2 years post qualification experience.

**V.** A professional qualification in related field i.e. ACA, ACCA, ACMA, AIB

a) All candidates as stated above must have at least a PASS IN GCE Ordinary Level Mathematics.  
b) The Department reserves the right to administer a test to the prospective candidates before final acceptance.

Continued from Page 24

e) An equivalent of HND, provided that the candidate must have obtained at least 4 O' level Credits

**4.8 Postgraduate Diploma in Banking & Finance (PGDBF)**

**Admission Requirements:**

- I. A first degree with a classification not below 3<sup>rd</sup> Class in Economics, Accounting, Business Administration and Finance, or any discipline from any recognised University.
- II. HND with a classification of at least Lower Credit in Accounting, Business Administration or any related field with at least 2 years post qualification experience.
- III. A Professional qualification in related field such as ACA, ACCA, AIB.
- IV. All candidates for admission must have at least four Credits in WAEC/GCE O' Level/SSCE, including English, and at least a PASS in Mathematics or their equivalent and the Department reserves the right to administer an entrance examination to prospective candidates before final acceptance.

**4.9 Masters in Public Policy and Administration (MAPPA)**

**Admission Requirements:**

- I. A good Second Class degree in relevant discipline.
- II. Holders of Degree or HND plus PGDPPA (Merit) of Bayero University, Kano or

**4.10 Postgraduate Diploma in Public Policy and Administration (PGDPPA)**

**Admission Requirement:**

- I. Degree holders with at least Third Class from any recognised University.
- II. HND holders with a Minimum of Lower Credit.

**4.11 Postgraduate Diploma in Land Administration (PGDLA)**

**4.12 Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Management (PGDEM)**

**4.13 Postgraduate Diploma in Soil Education (PGDSE)**

a) The Programmes are designed for those with sufficient background in Environmental Sciences, Earth Sciences, Economics, Agriculture etc. Those seeking admission into the programmes should possess at least a third class bachelor degree from Bayero University, Kano or any other recognised University

Holders of at least a Credit Level at HND or its equivalent in relevant areas.

**5. FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY**

**Admission Requirement**

**5.1 M.ENG (ENERGY STUDIES)**

A good honours degree or equivalent in Mechanical Engineering from Bayero University, Kano or any other recognised Institution.

**5.2 M.ENG (ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING)**

A good degree or equivalent in Electrical or Electronic Engineering from Bayero University, Kano or any other recognised Institution.

**5.3 PH.D (ENERGY STUDIES)**

A Master Degree or Equivalent in Mechanical Engineering

**5.4 PH.D (ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING)**

A Master Degree or Equivalent in Electronic or Electrical Engineering

**5.5 M.ENG (CIVIL ENGINEERING)** with specialization in: Water Resources and Environ-

mental Engineering; Structural Engineering, Geotechnical Engineering, Highway and Transportation Engineering; Construction Management and Technology.

**Admission Requirement:**

A good Second Class degree in Civil Engineering or related discipline from Bayero University, Kano or its equivalent.

**5.6 Postgraduate Diploma in Civil Engineering (PDECE)**

This programme will be run on full time basis for a duration of 12 months comprising course work and project. Candidate for admission shall possess any of the following qualifications

I. Third Class degree in Civil Engineering or related disciplines such as Building, Geology, Architecture, Survey, Environmental Science etc.

II. HND Lower Credit in Civil Engineering or related disciplines such as Agricultural Engineering, Water Resources/Irrigation Engineering with at least two years post qualification experience.

III. Any other qualification deemed by Senate to be equivalent to the above.

**5.7 Postgraduate Diploma in Electrical Engineering (PGDEE)**

The programme will be run full-time basis for a duration of 12 months comprising course work and project. Candidates for admission shall possess any of the following qualifications:

Thirds Class degree in Electrical Engineering, Physics, Technical Education or Environmental Design; HND Lower Credit in Electrical Engineering or related disciplines

**5.8 Postgraduate Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (PGDME)**

The programme will be run on full-time basis. Candidate for admission shall possess any of the following qualification: Thirds Class degree in Mechanical Engineering, or its equivalent, HND Mechanical Engineering with a minimum of Upper Credit or its equivalent.

**6. METHOD OF APPLICATION:**

a) An application form can be paid for and collected from major Branches of any of the following Banks at the cost of ₦3,150.00

- I. African International Bank
- II. Access Bank
- III. Bank of the North Limited
- IV. Standard Trust Bank

b) Completed application forms should be accompanied by a self addressed envelope measuring 22.5CM (9" X 4" carrying a ₦20.00 stamp to be used for acknowledging the receipt of the application forms and must be returned to:

**The Registrar  
Postgraduate School,  
Bayero University,  
Private Mail Bag 3011,  
Kano-Nigeria**

Not later than 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2002

Signed  
**MOHAMMEDSANIAMINU,  
SECRETARY,  
POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL.**

**Capital City Classified**

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PTS Ltd An Authorised Service Provider of Intercellular Nig. Ltd (Abuja Digital Wireless Telephone Company) wants to engage interested individuals / firms as dealers to market their products.

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Apply within two weeks

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**LOSS OF DOCUMENT**

This is to inform the general public that the original copy of Certificate of right of Occupancy Ref. No. BO/9316 in respect of Plot No. 65 BOTP/86 Maiduguri measuring about 3984.32 M2 granted to Baba Mala Yarema is missing and if found, please return to Hajiya Fari Mala Yarema of Nairi Ward, P.O. BOX 4197 Maiduguri OR Phone 076-230381

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I, Ahmadu Mohammed, wished to be known as Ahmadu Mohammed Zakaria. Former documents remain valid. The Controller General of Nigeria Immigration Service & General public to please note.

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# Health

## UNICEF moves into anti-AIDS campaign

**W**orried by the spread of the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) is embarking on a campaign called "Massive Awareness Raising Campaign on HIV/AIDS (MARC) aimed at sending life-saving messages to Nigerians."

In a statement, recently in Abuja the fund stated that the campaign is a unique initiative aimed at developing a national movement for an intensive

**By Ikenna Emeka Okpani**

massive awareness campaign, primarily focusing on adolescents and youths, between 10 and 34 years of age.

"MARC is the first systematic attempt at disseminating correct and complete information through appropriate channels, using relevant communication strategies," the statement said.

According to the message, the campaign involves consultations and consensus building, to mobilise all partners and stakeholders to ensure political commitment, adequate resources and technical inputs for a successful campaign.

The campaign, *Daily Trust* gathered, will be centred on advocacy, social mobilisation, information, education and communication.

The first phase of the campaign will start later this year in six Nigerian cities-Lagos, Ibadan, Abuja, Kano, Kaduna and Port Harcourt.

According to UNICEF, Nigeria needs an awareness campaign vis-a-vis the level of ignorance on the pandemic.

"Nigeria has put into action several interventions to reduce and control the spread of this deadly pandemic. However, these

interventions were fragmented and lacked the continuity and the scale that is needed to make any remarkable impact, the fund stated.

Statistics from the joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) indicate that 22 million children and youths have died of AIDS, while it is estimated that 3 million Nigerians, most of them aged between 15 and 49 are infected with HIV.



Prof. A.B.C Nwosu

**T**he key to winning the fight against drugs is international co-operation, United Kingdom Anti-Drugs Co-ordinator Keith Hellawell has said. Mr Hellawell was speaking at the London launch of the United Nations Drug Control Programme's World Drug Report 2000.

He said: "The UK government's 10-year anti-drugs strategy sets tough targets to reduce the availability of drugs on our streets. These will only be achieved by a concerted effort from the international community at all levels, political, diplomatic, as well as law enforcement.

"Our long support of the United Nations Drug Control programmes is one measure of the UK's contribution, he added. "The UK is also working directly with other governments particularly on the heroin and cocaine routes to choke off the supply of drugs, precursor chemicals and money. This work is achieving substantial success as 594 kilograms of heroin and 3.5 tonnes of cocaine were seized in 1998-1999, and 32 organisations have been dismantled."

The United Nations's Drug Control programmes (UNDCP) showed that significant progress has already been made in combating cocaine and heroin with production of both drugs falling by about a fifth during the 1990s.

UNDCP Executive Director Pino Arlacchi -who also spoke at the event at the Marine Unit Boatyard on the River Thames, said that despite this positive indicator, the overall picture of drug abuse suggested that much still needs to be done.

He said that the numbers of addicts worldwide were still growing. "But if you look at the situation of the developing countries we are not seeing any more

## Call for global approach to fight drugs

**By Heather Forse**

escalations in abuse we experienced in the 1980s

and the beginning of the "90s."

Abuse of synthetic drugs such as ecstasy are now

showing "the first important signs of stabilisation and even decline," said Mr. Arlacchi.

Mr Hellawell said that a fall in the number of young people who are taking up smoking was also good news as it is expected to lead to a decline in the number of cannabis users.

Opium production has dropped 17 per cent in the past one year. But countries such as Afghanistan and Burma are stepping up production to meet demand.

The report said that drug trafficking is a growing problem with 170 countries reporting drug seizures in 1997-98, compared with 120 in 1980-81. The UK was among the countries to make the most significant seizures of cannabis resin, amphetamine, and opiates such as heroin.

During the launch Mr.

Hellawell and Mr Arlacchi took a high-speed boat trip along the Thames. The 47-knot Metropolitan Police speedboat is used in drugs swoops along the river.

The two men also took part in the demonstration of sniffer dogs' detection skills. Mr Hellawell was given a small bag containing amphetamine which he hid in his pocket for the test, but was duly tracked down by police sniffer dog Digby from a group of 50 people.

A smiling Mr Hellawell is pictured after praising Digby's skills and proudly displaying the traced amphetamine packet, along with other drugs found in a suitcase, to admiring onlookers as an example of the invaluable part such dogs play in the fight against drugs. (LAW/POL).



Fresh fields: although in the autumn of their lives, many Saga travellers -such as these on Borneo -are looking for adventurous times

## The saga of growing old with more fun

**By Violet Johnstone**

**S**aga, the international organisation which provides a range of products and services for people aged 50 and over, is coming of age this year.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary, parties will be held worldwide in 37 of its recommended resorts, on board the 24,500-tonne Saga Rose - which will sail on month's special anniversary cruise to the Caribbean -and at Saga's headquarters at its new office centre in Folkestone overlooking the English Channel.

Ideas for developments in the company's programme for the new millennium are an indication of the tremendous growth that has been achieved since its modest beginning. As is often the case, it was a simple suggestion that sowed the seeds of success.

Saga's founder, Sidney De Haan was sitting with his wife Margery in a park in Eastbourne on the south coast in 1949, thinking about the problems that come with running a small hotel and worrying about the approaching end of the summer season.

Margery noticed the number of older people enjoying the sea air and asked: "Surely retired people are the ones who could stay with us when the peak season finishes? No crowds, attractive rates, good company for each other."

De Haan contacted a coach company to discover how far it was possible to travel comfortably from

Folkestone in one day. Leeds and Bradford in northern England seemed feasible. Later, a small advertisement in a Bradford newspaper offering pensioners a week's all-inclusive holiday in Folkestone brought such an overwhelming response that other hotels had to be brought into the scheme. In 1951 Saga was founded and has never looked back.

In those days the UK's pensioners were a forgotten

army, mainly ignored by suppliers. Today, it is fashionable to be 50 and over, and to be courted and cultivated. It is a market that Saga has in its own right.

And no wonder. The "grey power" market represents one third of the UK population of about 58 million, and has an annual income of 166 billion pounds sterling. Life expectancy is growing, and by 2040 those aged over 50 are forecast to account for

half the population.

De Haan's pioneering support for older people was clear-sighted.

Saga brochures, offering a wide choice of UK, European and long-haul holidays and cruises, cater for all tastes. In a survey which it conducted last year, the company found that its customers wanted to travel not just abroad and further afield but to combine their holiday with some kind of activity.

"There is a sense of agelessness" says Tom Wright, the new managing director of Saga Holidays. "Date of birth is irrelevant and customers tell us they feel 10 to 15 years younger than their chronological age. People define themselves by lifestyle or lifestage, not age."

In response to this, "safe adventure" holidays are being introduced in Nepal, for example, going in search of the Royal Bengal tiger on an elephant, or going on safari in Africa or Asia, or exploring Borneo rain forests, or discovering the US west coast and giving in to the lure of the open road on a flexible fly-drive holiday. (SOC/RIZ)



Police sniffer dog Digby, and Mr. Hellawell shortly after the sniffer dogs' detection exercise.



# Beefing up the health care system

Every year an estimated one million people, mostly women and children die of Malaria in Africa. Here in Nigeria people regard malaria as "no case for alarm" because of how rampant it has become, despite its tendency to kill, resulting in a fall of gross domestic products and a disorganisation of our health care system.

It was against this background, that the federal government initiated the National Health Insurance Scheme, which was officially launched in October 15, 1997, and its legal instrument was signed on May 10, 1999 by the then outgoing government of General Abdulsalami Abubakar.

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

management of the scheme. Speaking with newsmen recently, the Chairman of the Governing Board of the Scheme, Prof. Ishaya Audu had reaffirmed the commitment of the management to the success of the scheme.

He said the scheme will ensure more mobilization of funds for health services, as resources for health services will be increased tremendously.

The scheme, he said, will not only take care of the formal sector, but also the informal sector, and other categories of people who cannot clearly fall into any of the two.

The history of the scheme is a very long one, as it has passed through the crucible and has vagaries of inconsistent policy implementation, which has become the second nature of successive Nigerian governments.

The cardinal principles of the health care scheme therefore, are to mobilize resources for health care services, and to enhance the quality of same. Others are to ensure affordability and to ensure access to health care services.

One of the special attributes of the scheme is that it is built on an internally developed mechanism that would ensure its financial sustenance without depending on government budgetary allocation for health care services.

After so many years, the National Health Insurance Scheme kicked off on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2001 with 7 pilot schemes across the country in each geopolitical zone and Abuja.

During the submission of their report, the Chairman of the Committee and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Alhaji Shehu Suleiman affirmed that the commencement date of the scheme is realistic, as adequate preparations have already been made to that effect by the management of the scheme.

The committee recommended that the federal, state and local governments should make adequate financial provision for the payment of contributions to the scheme for its workers.

It is also recommended that other public and private sector concerns be urged to make allocations covering their employees to the scheme. In the scheme, it is mandatory for any firm with at least ten employees to contribute 15 percent of the basic salary of each employer to the scheme in the ratio of 10 per cent to be contributed by employers and 5 Percent by the employee. The scheme will cover such employee, his or her spouse and four children.

Other recommendations by the committee include the immediate release of all outstanding statutory allocations appropriated to the scheme by the government, the setting up of an implementation monitoring council to ensure that all aspects of the scheme are implemented, and the entrenchment of accountability and transparency in the

The scheme is divided into four parts: the formal sector Social Health Insurance Scheme; Urban self-employed (Micro) social health insurance scheme; rural communities (community based) social health insurance scheme and the permanently disabled persons social health insurance scheme.

There are five major or main actors in the health scheme. The first is the government which serves as a regulator that protects rights and enforces obligations.

The second is the employer as contributor who pays 10 percent of 15 percent for employees, while the third is the employee who also as contributor pays 5% of 15% of basic salary.

The fourth main actor and an important one at that, is the provider of service. Providers of service are clinics which register with the scheme as primary providers to serve as gate keepers in the sense that they serve as the patients first point of call. Specialists who will only be contacted on referral only, also form part of the group.

The last main actors are the Health Maintenance Organisations (HMO) that will serve as financial managers. These are private firms who register solely with the scheme to collect contributions under the urban and rural based health schemes.

## Beans, Peas can cut heart disease risk

Bulking up the diet with legumes such as beans and peas can lower the risk of heart disease, study findings suggest.

Men and women who ate legumes at least four times a week had a 22 percent lower risk of coronary heart disease over 19 years than those who consumed legumes once weekly, researchers report in the November 26<sup>th</sup> issue of the Archives of Internal Medicine.

The most enthusiastic legume eaters also had lower blood pressure and total cholesterol, and were less likely to be diagnosed with high blood pressure and diabetes.

The findings have implications for the health of America, where heart disease is the leading killer of adults and one of the leading causes of premature and permanent disability, according to Dr. Lydia A. Bazzano from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana, and colleagues.

Legumes are rich in soluble fiber, which has been shown to help lower total cholesterol and LDL ("bad") cholesterol levels, and improve insulin resistance, the study authors note. Legumes also contain low levels of sodium and high levels of potassium, calcium and magnesium - a combination that is associated with a reduced risk of heart disease. Folate, a mineral also found in abundance in legumes, is thought to reduce blood levels of homocysteine, a compound that can boost heart disease risk.

"Increasing legume consumption may be an important

part of dietary interventions to reduce the risk of coronary heart disease," Bazzano and colleagues write.

The results of their study are based on interviews and medical exams of more than 9,600 Americans who did not have heart disease when the study began. Over an average of 19 years, about 1,800 cases of coronary heart disease were

diagnosed.

In other findings, individuals who consumed the most legumes tended to smoke more and consume more calories and saturated fat. They were also less likely to have graduated from high school. Those who ate the most legumes also tended to be younger and male, the report indicates.

## Too much water can be dangerous

Marathon runners consuming copious amounts of water to avoid dehydration during their 26-mile run should know that too much of a good thing can lead to illness.

Twenty-one runners out of the 5,082 race finishers of the 2000 Houston Marathon developed hyponatremia, a condition in which the sodium concentration in the blood drops because there is too much water in the bloodstream, and an inadequate excretion of water in urine.

"This represents the highest incidence of hyponatremia reported following a 26-mile marathon," according to Dr. Jon Divine of the Memorial Hermann Healthcare Organization in Houston, Texas, and colleagues.

Fourteen of these runners had significant hyponatremia and required hospitalization, the researchers report.

Divine and his co-authors presented the results of this study earlier this year at the Joint Annual Meeting of the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine and American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine, held in San Antonio,

Texas.

The investigators found that the longer it took runners to finish the marathon, the more likely they were to experience hyponatremia, especially in slower runners with finish times that exceeded 4 hours and 20 minutes.

Excessive exercise and drinking large amounts of water can lead to steep falls in blood levels of circulating electrolytes (salts), which are essential for many body processes. Symptoms of hyponatremia can include fatigue, confusion, dizziness and, in extreme cases, coma.

Exercise itself releases an antidiuretic hormone and slows blood flow to the kidneys, reducing urine output.

"This is a serious condition that causes deaths at many marathons throughout the world," Dr. Lewis Maharam, the medical director of the New York City Marathon, told Reuters Health in an interview.

"We don't know exactly how many runners develop hyponatremia, but as marathons change, it is becoming more common," he said.

## Nature's Pharmacy



With Zainab Ujudud Shariff

### STEPS IN THE PREPARATION OF HERBS

**Ointments:** The base preparation is into salve and the ointment is obtained simply by addition of extracts, infusion, or pressed juice or powdered herbs. A thorough mixture of this gives an ointment which can be applied to the affected areas.

**\* Poultices:** This involves the use of powdered or granulated herbs or mass of herbs, flowers, mustard or other substances, spread on a soft, moist muslin cloth or other loosely woven cloth, heated, and applied for 20 to 30 minutes on a sore or inflamed area of the body to relieve pain and inflammation. Do not allow a poultice to become cold, replace with a second one after removing the first. The following herbs are used in making poultices, namely: gum arabic, hyssop, comfrey, chickweed, cayenne (pepper), mustard etc. Poultices are excellent for distinct organs or protrusions such as breasts, groins, prostates, eruptions, boils, abscesses and neck conditions. It is advisable to clean the area before applying poultice. Of particular note is the use of onions or carrot poultices. These are applied to stimulate indolent sores, boils, that are slow to healing. The preparation of these poultices involves boiling the onions/carrots until soft or used as raw. Mash to pulp, add some vegetable oil to keep them from hardening, spread over a cloth for application.

**\* Powdered herbs:** The part of the herbs containing the active ingredient is dried and ground into powder, which can be used directly as powder, or made into capsules, tablets or solutions.

**\* Syrups:** Herbal syrups are made by the addition of powdered herbs or a tincture blended with simple syrup. A simple syrup is made by dissolving 1 cup of sugar in a cup of boiling water until a thick consistency is achieved. When tinctures or powdered herbs are added to syrup, it is advisable to stir thoroughly and sieves before bottling, eg lemon juice is prepared by boiling one part of lemon juice for 10 minutes. One should strain, and add three parts of sugar and boil a little longer.

**\* Salves:** For the preparation of salves, fresh leaves, flowers, roots, barks and dried powders are used. They are cut into fine pieces; a pound of herbs is added to 1' pounds of pure vegetable oil, 4 ounces of beeswax and mixed thoroughly. Cover and place in hot sun or oven under low heat for 3-4 hours; strain and leave to cool. This will produce a firm preparation ready for use.

**\* Herbal Teas/Tisanes:** They are presented in the best pharmaceutical formulation for convenient administration, either for short or long-term use. These herbal formulations are used by dissolving them in water for drinking. The application of teas for various conditions is determined by the concentrates. Generally, herbal teas are prepared by adding 1-3 teaspoons of powdered dried herbs to a cup of boiling water, and allowing to steep for 10 to 15 minutes. It is advisable to use a teapot or jug with a good lid or insulated flask to keep away any volatile oils from being lost. Both decoctions and infusions will keep for forty-eight hours in a refrigerator, though it is best when freshly prepared. The usual dosage is as follows:

Adults - One teacup or small mug three times a day.  
Children older than 10 years - 1/2 the adult dose.  
Infants (3 - 10 years) - use a quarter.

Culled from *Modern Herbal Therapy for Common Ailments* by Zainab U. Shariff.



Women and children at the flagging-off ceremony of this year's national immunization exercise in Abuja. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje



# SPDC is committed to improving environmental standards

## ISO 14001 certification for our facilities

The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited is committed to the external certification of its facilities under the International Standards Organisation's ISO scheme. ISO 14001 is an international standard for measuring how well the environment is managed by an organisation. 18 of our 22 major facilities have been certified to the ISO 14001 standards. The certification programme continues.



Alakiri Flowstation



Osubi Airstrip



Forcados Terminal

## Why ISO 14001?

- ☉ It ensures that SPDC complies with all applicable environmental legislation in Nigeria and overseas.
- ☉ It ensures continuous improvement in SPDC's operations.
- ☉ It provides an opportunity for partnering with host communities on environmental management.

## Benefits of the certification

- ☉ Minimising environmental impact of exploration and production.
- ☉ Efficiency in operations\business continuity.
- ☉ Improved asset integrity and reduced cost of repairs.
- ☉ Reduced litigation\enhanced regulatory compliance.
- ☉ Reduced cost of business\enhanced profitability.
- ☉ Motivated and happy staff.
- ☉ Enhanced reputation with shareholders and stakeholders.
- ☉ Meeting the Shell Group's expectation.

## List of facilities certified to ISO 14001

Facilities	Date Certified	Facilities	Date Certified
☉ Jones Creek	Dec. 2000	☉ Escravos\ Otumana District	Aug. 2000
☉ Warri Land 2	Dec. 2000	☉ Alakiri District Flow Stations	Aug. 1998
☉ Warri Land 3	Dec. 2000	☉ Carthorne Channel District	Aug. 2000
☉ Ekulama District	Nov. 2000	☉ Alakiri Gas Plant\Flow Stations	June 2000
☉ Soku LGSP	Oct. 2000	☉ Osubi Airstrip	July 2001
☉ Imo River 1 & 11 Flowstations	Oct. 2000	☉ Supply Services\Logistics	Oct. 2001
☉ Obibgo North Flow Stations	Oct. 2000	☉ Benisede\Ogbotobo	Oct. 2001
☉ Forcados Terminal	Oct. 2000	☉ Nembe Creek District	Oct. 2001
☉ Tunu\ Opukushi District	Sept. 2000	☉ Pipeline Services - West	Oct. 2001

The exercise continues.....



The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited  
Operator of the NNPC, Shell, Elf, Agip Joint Ventures



Chief-Executive

ies of their typed applications together with photocopies of all

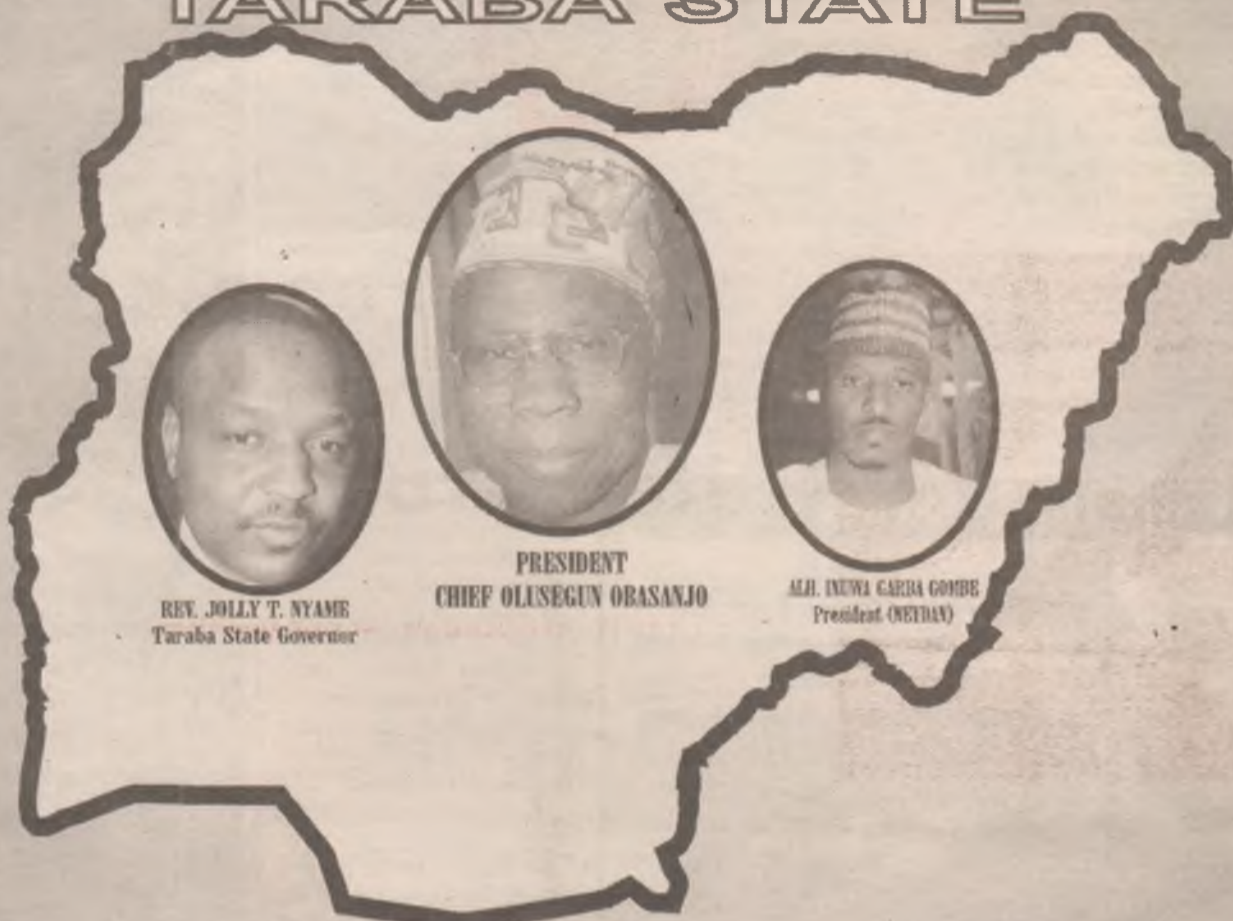


**NORTH-EAST YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA  
(NEYDAN)**

*Welcomes*

*His Excellency*

**PRESIDENT OLUSEGUN OBASANJO  
TARABA STATE**



REV. JOLLY T. NYAME  
Taraba State Governor

PRESIDENT  
CHIEF OLUSEGUN OBASANJO

ALH. INUWA GARBA GOMBE  
President (NEYDAN)

**WE ARE PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP  
OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF TARABA STATE  
Let's promote Peace and Unity, then Progress is for sure!!!**

**USMANU DANFODIYO UNIVERSITY, SOKOTO  
(Office of the Vice-Chancellor)**

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE POST OF REGISTRAR (INTERNAL  
AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT)**

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the vacant post of Registrar of the University.

**Qualification and Experience**

A good first degree in the Social Sciences or Humanities or Law from a recognised University plus a minimum of fifteen (15) years post qualification experience in an administrative capacity, preferably in an institution of higher learning. A higher degree, post-graduate diploma, and/or evidence of computer literacy will be added advantages.

**Schedule**

The Registrar is the Chief Administrative Officer of the University, responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the day-to-day administration of the University. The Registrar is also the Secretary to the statutory committees of the University, which are the Council, the Senate, Congregational and Convocation.

**Conditions of Service**

The salary attached to the position is HATISS 25 with allowances and fringe benefits as applicable to principal officer-positions in the Nigerian University system.

The appointment will be for a term of five (5) years in the first instance, renewable once for another five (5) years.

**Method of Application**

Applicants for the position should forward twenty-one (21) copies of their typed applications together with photocopies of all

relevant certificates and up-to-date curriculum vitae containing such details as full names (underline surname please); date and place of birth; marital status, names and ages of children; nationality; postal and permanent home addresses; educational institutions attended with dates and qualifications obtained; working experience with dates; present post and salary; names and addresses of three (3) referees one of whom must be the applicant's current Head of Department or is in a position to comment on the applicant's professional/administrative abilities to:

**The Vice-Chancellor,  
Usmanu Danfodiyo University,  
P.M.B. 2346,  
Sokoto**

The applications should bear the inscription (boldly): **POST OF REGISTRAR** in the top left hand corner of the envelope. Applicants should ask their referees to send their references directly to the Vice-Chancellor at the above address. Only short listed candidates will be acknowledged and invited for interview.

**Closing Date**

Four (4) weeks from the date of publication of this advertisement.

*Signed*  
**PROFESSOR A.S. MIKAILU**  
*Vice-Chancellor*



# Escude wins Davis cup for France

Nicolas Escude maintained his 100 per cent Davis Cup singles record with his eighth win in the tournament. Australia's late replacement, Wayne Arthurs, never really found his feet in a match dominated by serve. Arthurs, the world number 64, came in at the 11th hour as a replacement for Pat Rafter who withdrew with an arm injury.

The two players held serve throughout the first two sets which both went into tie-breaks. Escude took the first before Arthurs played his best tennis of the match to take the second. Having saved break points throughout the first set and six in the opening game of the second, the Australian turned the tables and forced Escude to come up with game saving points.

However, despite the support of the home crowd, Arthurs could not maintain the momentum he had built through to the third set. A single break, the first of the match on Escude's 12th opportunity, was enough to give the Frenchman the third set, and when he broke in the seventh game of the fourth, victory was all but assured. Arthurs served to stay in the game and although

Escude found the net with his first championship point, he made no mistake at the second time of asking. A backhand volley gave France their fourth and most important away victory in the competition this year and prompted Guy Forget and his team to run on court and mob Escude. Meanwhile, French Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, hailed France's tennis team after they defeated Australia in a surprise Davis Cup final victory on Sunday. "Bravo for your magnificent success," Jospin said in a statement. "Faced with the best nations in the world, your individual talents, your collective force and the wise choices of your coach brought a beautiful victory for France," he added. France stunned Australia 3-2 on Sunday to win their ninth Davis Cup title after Nicolas Escude clinched the tie by beating Wayne Arthurs 7-6 6-7 6-3 6-3 in the fifth and deciding match. Australia's world number one Lleyton Hewitt had beaten Sebastian Grosjean in straight sets earlier on Sunday to square the tie at 2-2.



Sacramento Kings' Scott Pollard, left, and Los Angeles Lakers Slava Medvedenko battle for a rebound during the fourth quarter in a preseason game at Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas. The Kings won 109-104.

## World Cup 2002 fixtures

Group A			Group E		
May 31	France	Vs Senegal	Seoul	June 1	Ireland Vs Cameroun
June 1	Uruguay	Vs Denmark	Wsan	June 1	Germany Vs S/Arabia
June 6	France	Vs Uruguay	Pusan	June 5	Germany Vs Ireland
June 6	Denmark	Vs Senegal	Taegu	June 6	Cameroun Vs S/Arabia
June 11	Denmark	Vs France	Inchon	June 11	Cameroun Vs Germany
June 11	Senegal	Vs Uruguay	Suwon	June 11	S/Arabia Vs Ireland
Group B			Group F		
June 2	Paraguay	Vs S/Africa	Pusan	June 2	England Vs Sweden
June 2	Spain	Vs Slovenia	Kwangju	June 2	Argentina Vs Nigeria
June 7	Spain	Vs Paraguay	Chonju	June 7	Sweden Vs Nigeria
June 8	S/Africa	Vs Slovenia	Taegu	June 7	Argentina Vs England
June 12	S/Africa	Vs Spain	Taegu	June 12	Sweden Vs Argentina
June 12	Slovenia	Vs Paraguay	Sogwipo	June 12	Nigeria Vs England
Group C			Group G		
June 4	China	Vs C/Rica	Kwangju	June 3	Croatia Vs Mexico
June 4	Turkey	Vs Brazil		June 3	Italy Vs Ecuador
June 8	Brazil	Vs China	Sogwipo	June 8	Italy Vs Croatia
June 9	C/Rica	Vs Turkey	Inchon	June 9	Mexico Vs Ecuador
June 13	C/Rica	Vs Brazil	Suwon	June 13	Mexico Vs Italy
June 13	Turkey	Vs China	Seoul	June 13	Ecuador Vs Croatia
Group D			Group H		
June 4	S/Korea	Vs Poland	Pusan	June 4	Japan Vs Belgium
June 5	USA	Vs Portugal	Suwon	June 5	Russia Vs Tunisia
June 10	S/Korea	Vs USA	Taegu	June 9	Japan Vs Russia
June 10	Portugal	Vs Poland	Chonju	June 10	Tunisia Vs Belgium
June 14	Portugal	Vs S/Korea	Inchon	June 14	Tunisia Vs Japan
June 14	Poland	Vs USA	Taejon	June 14	Belgium Vs Russia



World champion Lennox Lewis, who was angered by Lennox Lewis' behaviour has continued to battle with the boxer.

## Rahman blasts Lewis

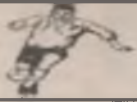
American Hasim Rahman has fired one final parting shot in his war of words with Lennox Lewis. Twelve days after losing his rematch with Britain's three-time heavyweight world champion, Rahman said Lewis was a sucker. Lewis regained his WBC, IBF and IBO titles when avenging March's shock fifth-round defeat in South Africa with a fourth-round knockout in Las Vegas. The pair had become embroiled in an unsavoury feud in between bouts, frequently trading insults and even brawling out of the ring during a TV chat show. Rahman insisted he was prepared to end the bitter dispute despite the defeat on November 17, but claimed Lewis' post-fight behaviour angered him. "I think he lost like a sucker and he won like a sucker," he told USA Today. "I just got knocked out, and I tried to congratulate him after the fight and he wouldn't accept it. "To me, the fight and hype is over. I'm telling him he won, I'm telling him congratulations. He should have accepted it like a man, unless he's something else," he added. Rahman also announced that he has now parted company with his trainer, Adrian Davis, admitting their relationship had turned sour before the Lewis bout.

were't really getting along for the last month of camp," Rahman said. "There was really a lot of tension. It was hard for me to be around him. "I almost didn't let him... Ottke lifts IBF title even Ottke knocked out Australia's Anthony Mundine in the 10th round to retain his IBF super-middleweight title. The German, who had to survive a knockdown, dropped Mundine with an explosive right. It was the 13th successful defence for Ottke who is unbeaten in 25 bouts. The fight turned into a slugfest after Ottke was felled by a looping left at the end of the eighth round. "I was 100 per cent concentrated - I knew it

work the corner. He was already paid, so I felt like I had to keep him. "Win, lose or draw, he was gone. Had he not been paid, he would not have been at the fight," he concluded. could be over with one blow. He's an explosive boxer," Ottke said. Mundine, now 10-1 with eight knockouts, charged out to start the ninth round and caught Ottke several times as the German desperately backpedaled around the ring. But Ottke came back, and the knockout blow came when Ottke hit Mundine with a short uppercut straight on the temple. Ring doctors said Mundine was unconscious for 30 seconds after he hit the canvas stiff-legged.



Nicolas Escude of France has won all of his singles matches in the Davis Cup.



# SPORTS



## Yobe, Jigawa Stars seek div I tickets

Yobe Desert Stars narrowly missed promotion to the elite division last season. However, the Desert Stars may participate in elite action this season if they pick one of the tickets thrown up by the NFA at the end of its convention in Kaduna.

The Stars along with Bendel United are among the

six clubs that would begin campaign for the four places in Makurdi play-off intended to give all fair chance to decide their destiny.

The others; Plateau, Jasper, Katsina Uniteds and Jigawa Golden Stars were dropped from the elite class at the end of last season.

But the demands of L'Sporto for a minimum of 16

and maximum of 18 gave them the breather and they would realise their ambition to continue in the top proleague class if they overcome other ticket seasons in the race.

The NFA emergency convention in Kaduna had recommended the play-off following pressure for it to stand by the Asaba AGM recommendation which was for four teams to go down while two were to be moved from the lower class to the first division.

But the convention in Maiduguri had voted overwhelmingly for only two to be relegated and promoted, a development that would re-

duce the number of teams to 14 in the first division.

Though the Nigeria Football Association (NFA) board insisted on the Asaba recommendation the AGM insisted on upturning that decision. Thus pitting members against the other delegate with the resultant verbal recriminations between them.

L'Sporto's demands offered respite and the chance for compromise without actually losing positions.

The play-off, which would begin today, is expected to last for three days. The first two in each group would move to the top division.

## Draw tickles Irish coach

Republic of Ireland Mick McCarthy expressed himself delighted with the World Cup draw which pitted his side against Germany, Saudi Arabia and Cameroon.

McCarthy's team open their campaign against Cameroon in the Japanese city of Niigata on Saturday June 1.

"I'm pleased. You look at the games and you know that you have plenty of time to prepare," said the Irish manager whose team will be based in Japan for the group stage.

"I played against Germany before the 1990 World Cup when we drew 1-1 in Dublin.

"I don't think we've ever played the other two teams but I do know a bit about Saudi Arabia as there was a chance we might have met them in the play-off.

"It's going to be difficult because we won't know what to expect against Cameroon but we've plenty of time to prepare.

"At this stage we can't really afford to think beyond the first game against Cameroon but obviously a lot of people will be talking about the Germany game.

"Germany were spanked at home by England but they recovered very well to give Ukraine a hiding in the play-off. It will be tough," said the Irish manager.

McCarthy added that his squad will have the difficulty of adjusting to the humidity in Japan and the time difference.

"I've only been able to get four and a half hours sleep since I've got here so that's something we've got to think about.

"I'm heading back home now where hopefully I'll get a few decent nights' sleep.

"FAI president Brendan Menton and our travel agent Ray Treacy are staying on to look at the venues and hotels-situation," said the Irish

boss.

After opening against Cameroon, the Irish face Germany in Ibaraki on Wednesday June 5 and the last game on June 11 against Saudi Arabia.



Arsenal's dependable support striker and Nigeria's international, Nwankwo Kanu, spins the ball away from danger when the Super Eagles engaged lowly rated Leone Stars of Sierra Leone during one of the World Cup qualifiers. Nwankwo and his mates would have an Herculean task beating Argentina, England and Sweden next June.

Pix: Omo Oba

## Amodu's Swedish opponent sure of qualification

Team Manager of the Swedish national side, Tommy Soderberg, has expressed satisfaction with the draws, which pitted Sweden along side Argentina, England and Nigeria. But he was positive qualification was within reach.

The Swedish though acknowledged that the group was a tough one considering the quality of opposition his side would face.

Soderberg, however, said he was optimistic Sweden would pick one of the tickets allotted to the group, noting

By Patrick Andrew

that he was particularly excited about the best from South America and Africa. "I feel highly positive about our chances for qualification in that group. We are though clearly playing against wonderful oppositions from South America and Africa. They are the best from the continents," he said, adding that Sweden could not rest on their oars to secure the ticket to move to the second round.

The manager said the Swedish Football Federation would take steps to familiarise

the team with oppositions from South America and Africa to keep psychologically, physically and mentally equipped to confront their opponents.

"We hope to have the chance to play teams from South America and Africa to sensitise us with the probable strength of opposition in our opponents," Soderberg said even as he maintained curious silence about England.

Sweden crushed Nigeria in the pre-World Cup 1994 friendly. However, Sweden has dominated England in the last 33 years, a development

many have given confidence. Sven-Goran Eriksson, a fellow Swedish handles the English national side.



Oneya, time for serious plans.

## Williams claims IBO crown

South London's Richard Williams stopped Australian Shannon Taylor in the fourth round to win the vacant IBO light-middle-weight title.

Williams, the heavy-hitting Commonwealth champion, landed a series of punishing blows midway through the round that threatened to floor the 29-year-old Taylor.

But the Australian appeared to have weathered the storm, until a combination of power punches from the 30-year-old Williams forced the referee to step in.

The technical knockout ended the fight with 43 seconds left in the round with Taylor defenceless against the ropes.

Taylor had been ahead in the fight, winning the first three rounds, until Williams came out firing in the fourth

round. "I don't think it has really sunk in yet," said Williams after.

"He was so tough, so strong, but this win puts me into world class and there is a lot more to come from me yet.

"I knew if Shane Mosley could tag him with the right hand I could do the same and I did," he added.

Williams is likely to make a defence of his newly-won world crown early in the new year and could then be looking at big pay days against American opposition.

Williams' manager and promoter, Barry Hearn, said: "I shall be talking to America's top promoters - Bob Arum and Don King - to see what we can come up with."

## Amokachi romances with Esperance

Former Super Eagles Star, Daniel Amokachi, is set to resuscitate his flagging career with Esperance FC of Tunisia which narrowly lost to Al-Ahly Nationale of Egypt in the Champions League final.

Amokachi, who was pivotal in Nigeria's Nations Cup win in 1994 and the USA '94 World Cup where the country gave Africa good representation, has been down with a nagging knee injury since France '98.

Amokachi's problem has persisted despite claim of spiritual cleansing at the popular Synagogue Church of All Nations. He failed to get a club since he was sacked by Beskitas in 1999.

"Dan 'the Bull' is on the verge of signing for

From Samson Ojo, in Lagos

Esperance, a development that could engineer a call-up to camp for the World Cup 2002.

According to the report, Esperance President, Slim Chibon, disclosed that the club had reached an agreement with the player who incidentally is married to a Tunisian model. Both parties may sign a contract in the next few weeks.

Amokachi had indicated interest to return to the Eagles during the crucial stages of the World Cup qualifiers but the technical crew declined to accept him on the basis of his form even as they assured that he could be considered if his physical and mental fitness improved.

## Olisadebe faces Raul

Panathinaikos face Real Madrid in group C of the Champions league today with their contender for European Footballer of the Year in the fine form and looking to pick up a few tips from his opposite number Raul.

Nigerian-born police international, Emmanuel Olisadebe, was one of the surprise names on the shortlist for France Football's Golden Ball and will line up against a trio of favourites for the prestigious prize in Raul, Zinedine Zidane and Luis Figo.

Panathinaikos have travelled to Spain in second place in group C after the first round of matches having been held to goalless draw in their own group by Porto.

They will be looking to snatch a point from leaders, Real Madrid, who beat Sparta Prague 3-2 away in their first game, but now they face a tough task against team of talented players.

Olisadebe, meanwhile, will be trying to lock up pointers from Raul after confessing his admiration for the Spaniard's gift for the unexpected.

"A player like Raul can score when no one expects him to. You don't see the goal coming but he picks the spot and puts it there.

"Most of the time you can see from the stands when a goal is coming but

with Raul a lot of times that doesn't happen," he said.

Not that Olisadebe is short of goal scoring ideas. He was joint second-top scorer in the European World Cup qualifiers with eight goals as he helped Poland top their group ahead of Ukraine to secure a place in next year's finals.

He again prove his worth at club level on Saturday as he scored two vital goals to earn Panathinaikos a draw at title rivals Olympiakos.

But the former Polonia Warsaw striker was modest about his own standing in the European game after hearing the names on the Golden Ball shortlists.

"I would rank myself 49th out of 50," the 23-year-old told Greek daily *To Vima*. "I don't even know what it means to be number one or number two on that list. I'm just a good player," he said.

Olisadebe is the first Greek-based player to appear on the shortlist since former Olympiakos Piraeus star, Zlatko Zahavic, two years ago, but the Polish international has hinted that he won't stay in Greece forever.

"I would like to play in one of the strongest leagues in the world," he said.

UEFA Champions League	
Today's matches	
Porto	Vs Sparta Prague
R/Madrid	Vs Panathinaikos
Arsenal	Vs Juventus
Leverkusen	Vs Deportivo

## TUESDAY COLUMN

# Human rights since September 11

By Ujudud Shariff

What the history of the 21st century must be significantly coloured with either pre or post September 11 2001 benchmark is stating the obvious. Equally obvious is the fact that President George Bush is today at the driver's seat of world history. That is if you believe individuals are the driving force of history. But what is not very obvious from the events unfolding every day since September 11 are the dimensions of these changes and their global consequences especially as they relate to the universal respect for human rights.

Therefore worried with the deterioration of respect for human rights as a consequence of the tragic events of September 11 in New York and Washington, DC, participants of an international seminar on 'Communicating Human Rights' organised by the British Council had a field day brainstorming on the subject in far away Woodside Conference Centre, Kenilworth, near Warwick in the United Kingdom. The thirty two participants drawn from twenty four countries including yours truly rose from the week long seminar frightened with the state of global human rights situation and the dangers and threats posed to the fundamental rights and freedoms as enshrined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights adopted by the United Nations on December 10, 1948.

Simply put, there appears to be a systematic and sustained global erosion of human rights and freedoms as different countries respond to the demands of Washington to join its war against 'terrorism'. All over the world a number of countries are enacting draconian laws that seriously infringe on the human rights of the people. Most shocking is the recently proposed legislation in the United States, which provided for the trial of 'terrorism' suspects by Military Tribunals and not the ordinary courts. Also there, hundreds of suspects are being detained without trial contrary to the democratic ethos of rule of law and Article 9 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) which states that 'No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile'. Equally alarming is the Bill before the British Parliament, which provided for the indefinite detention of suspected foreign 'terrorists' without trial contrary to Article 9 and Article 7 of UDHR which provides that 'All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law'. To us in Nigeria these laws are familiar as they remind one of those Special Military Tribunals that tried and convicted late Ken Saro Wiwa and eight others in November 1994. We can also remember the notorious Decree Number 2 of 1984 that gave the military authorities the licence to detain persons without trial till thy kingdom come! But remembering the condemnation and sanctions suffered by Nigeria on account of these laws, it is unthinkable to even ponder over why the custodian of global democracy and human rights as well Her Majesty's Government will adopt these types of laws that were long repealed in Nigeria. I am just wondering how the late General Sani Abacha would have reacted were he to be told of these developments in his grave.

But this is what the world is turning into since September 11. Equally worrisome is that many governments are reportedly being pressurized by Washington to enact similar laws to deal with 'terrorists'. Our major concern here is what some of these governments will do with these types of laws in dealing with the political opposition and perceived enemies. If history is anything to learn from, we in Nigeria for example have seen how such powers were used by the powers that be to unilaterally detain and abuse the human rights of Nigerians. One does not need a soothsayer to predict that with these types of laws, the jails will soon be filled up to the brim worldwide all in the name of fighting international terrorism. While these fears were unanimously expressed and agreed to as real threats to human rights, the Conference could neither agree on the meaning of 'terrorism' nor on who could be referred to as 'terrorists' especially as defined by President Bush.

The fluidity of the definition as provided by Washington poses such a serious threat to human rights by creating a state of fear which is akin to violating Article 5 of the UDHR which states that 'No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment'. Thus, the seminar agreed that the whole concept of human rights had to be re-defined post-September 11. All human rights activists and Non-Governmental Organisations must of necessity wake up and face these universal challenges. They must fight all violations of the peoples' right to peace, happiness and development whether by individuals, groups or states. They must also begin to sensitise and lobby parliaments against the introduction of draconian laws that erode people's free-

doms, rights and liberties. They must also begin to network their activities and make all human rights universal, inter-dependent, indivisible and inter-related.

But as the theme of the seminar was Communicating Human Rights, participants were treated to a week-long sessions on different strategies of communicating human rights. The participants who were drawn from different segment of society shared their experiences freely. Moreover, this miniature United Nations which the forum looked like, afforded members the opportunity to share experiences and compared notes on the state of human rights in their countries. By and large the stories were basically common and familiar. From Latin America, the struggle is not only against poverty but also against the culture of impunity. From Africa, we have not only these problems; we are also saddled with political instability, economic plunder, religious and ethnic jingoism as well as monumental corruption and looting of the national treasuries. All these issues were individually and collectively identified as serious threats to the full enjoyment of human rights. From the Middle East, the issues were not only similar but they had in addition the Palestinian question and their rights to self-determination from Israeli occupation.

From Asia, the issues are also similar. What puzzled many of us was the report from Hong Kong which has many laws in its statutes to promote and protect human rights but lacks laws against discrimination based on race, colour or ethnic origin. In other words, racism is not a crime in Hong Kong in spite of its condemnation by the UDHR.

Equally puzzling was the sudden realisation by both Mrs Bush and Mrs Blair of the pathetic situation of women in Afghanistan. Almost from the blues, the two first ladies issued statement lamenting the sufferings of women under the Taliban regime. Many of the participants wondered where were the two first ladies all these years until they saw the fall of the Taliban.

This issue now raised the question of double standards by the world powers in the application and enforcement of human rights. While the debate lasted the relationship between business interests and human rights became very visible. By general consensus, the participants decried this hypocrisy of the major powers.

All said and done, the fact still remains that the world is changing too fast and for the worst. The world now is on the brink of a major disaster as the whole humanity is being threatened with extinction by first creating a state of permanent fear and anxiety. The United States the world knew has changed so dramatically since September 11 that many people and nations are wondering as to what is happening to statesmanship and their core values of defending human rights and freedoms. Stories are being told of the state of paranoid ravaging the country. It is quite revealing the level of animosity between the United States and Canada due to the tightening of security along their border that is seriously affecting trade and movement of goods and people between the hitherto amicable neighbours.

Also at another platform, see how the meaning of 'terrorism' is changing by the day. Possession of weapons of mass destruction by sovereign countries especially Iraq and North Korea is now an act of terrorism. But what of Israel that is even reported to possess nuclear weapons? In the first place, what happens to all the other countries including the United States that also possess these horrible weapons? If there will be a global ban on the possession of these weapons, so be it. But nations should not be denied their rights to self-defence through the acquisition of whatever weapons. The dictum by lawyers that anyone seeking equity should come with clean hands is never more appropriate.

Coming closer home to Nigeria, there is now the need by our policy makers to critically examine our response to these unfolding events in line with our national interests. For example, it does not augur well for security agents to be arresting visiting foreign Islamic scholars as evidenced in the recent arrests of some Pakistani Muslim preachers. In whatever circumstance, we must not be seen to be compromising our sovereignty and independence. Similarly, Nigerians must not be allowed to feel alienated or discriminated against just on the basis of their religious faith. It is therefore a bad omen that some Nigerians were recently arrested and tortured just because they had the stickers of Osama bin Laden on their vehicles.

As for our legislators, they must stand firm and resist the introduction of any law that will impinge on the freedoms and human rights of Nigerians.

The issue of human rights is not only legal or political but also certainly a moral issue. It is incumbent on all of us to rise and defend our God-given rights and freedoms. The lessons from our immediate history have clearly shown that human rights violators do not have any tribal marks or religious affinity. What happens to your neighbour today could jolly well happen to you tomorrow.

# This space is for sale

## EDITORIAL

### Begging: The Tinubu formula

Recently, Governor Ahmed Bola Tinubu of Lagos State was quoted as appealing to Lagosians not to give alms to beggars. This measure, according to him, will go a long way in discouraging what the governor and others like him see as a scourge in our midst.

It is not easy to dismiss Governor Tinubu's argument with a wave of the hand especially if the issue is viewed from the moral point. In other words, no individual with an iota of respect and dignity for himself or his family will gladly take to begging just for the sake of it. Ironically however, the increasing number of beggars one sees along strategic areas in the city of not only Lagos but Abuja as well suggests that there is more to it than meets the eye. Speaking in plain terms, it cannot be denied that among the beggars we see today, there are those who are doing it not out of necessity. Perhaps the governor had these categories of beggars in mind when he urged Lagosians not to give them alms.

But if one is constrained to view the issue of begging from the social or economic context, one is bound to find fault with Governor Tinubu's formula.

First, there are those who blame the society for creating the fertile ground for the emergence of all sorts of beggars. This school heaps the entire blame on the inequality in the distribution system, unaccountable leadership and lack of necessary structures to provide for the need of the indigent. For, if the truth is to be told, there exist some people who are really in need but due to reasons cited above could find no alternative to begging. With due apology, such can be described as the real and genuine beggars who are doing it out of absolute necessity.

Secondly, there are those who always take the religious side and see nothing wrong in begging or giving alms to beggars. They cite religious injunctions to back up their stand.

Daily Trust feels that the whole issue should be viewed from all fronts; social, economic, moral and religious. We believe that the issue of begging can only be tackled effectively if viewed from such angles. While not condoning acts of laziness and dependence on others, it is imperative that effective means are provided for 'each according to his needs', so that society is built on justice, fairness and equity.

As governor of Lagos State with its substantial number of beggars, Tinubu should have given priority to the establishment of centres to cater for the increasing number of orphans, the disable and the under-privileged.