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April 20-26, 1992 Vol. 3 No.16

LEGAL DEPOSIT SECTION

Citizen

Private Eye
on rumours
of coup

N10 HARD ON NEWS, STRONG ON VIEWS.

Pro-league in a mess

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- * TORO ADMITS LAPSES
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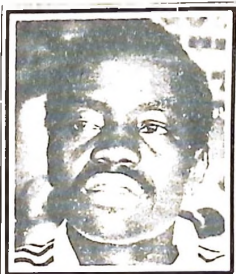
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COVER STORY
The Pro-league

Two years after its introduction, the pro-league football is still to prove that it has truly arrived

Page 11



Saraki's delima

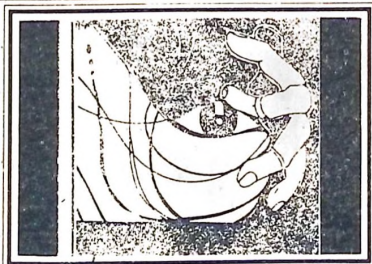
Middle Belt Forum scribe denies having endorsed Dr. Olusola Saraki as the forums' only candidate

Page 22

Departments

FROM THE EDITOR	4
LETTERS	5
VIEWPOINT	6
MOHAMMED HARUNA	9
NIGERIA	20
BUSINESS & ECONOMY	25
AFRICA	27
WORLD	30
BILKISU YUSUF	31

BACK-OF-THE-BOOK



Private Eye looks at the nation's toll gates

Page 32

PRIVATE EYE	32
POETS' NEST	33
DEFINITIONS IN HUMOUR	34

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FROM THE EDITOR

To be honest with you, there aren't many football enthusiasts at *Citizen*. It may therefore come as a surprise to our readers that this weeks' cover choice deals specifically with football. However, given the wide following the sport has in Nigeria and the revelations we unearthed in the course of putting the story together, we decided that for once, football should grace our cover.

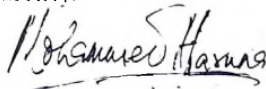
Actually, the decision to make the story a cover choice was taken a long time ago to coincide with the celebration of 20 years of football league in general and in particular the professional league which was introduced in 1990.

As with other professions, football has witnessed the exodus of Nigeria of players seeking greener pastures abroad. In some instances, some of them have actually sought to abandon Nigerian citizenship altogether. While this may not be surprising, it underscores the dilemma posed by our economic and social dislocation.

The wider questions that readily come to mind are why is it that despite the introduction of professional football in Nigeria, the exodus of players still continues? Why is our football declining despite abundant talent? Has the introduction of professional football helped its development? Was professional football introduced in a manner similar to our well known fire brigade approach to problems?

The answers to these questions are not easy, but the story can shed a lot of light on some of them. We have, for instance, discovered that despite the clear provision of Decree 11 that set the ball rolling as it were, many football clubs do not seem to care about the welfare of their players. According to a foreign coach, the players in Nigeria are treated as slaves.

In putting the story together, our sports guru, Joe Olajuwon, talked to a lot of people involved with the different faces of football. Isaac Ummuna, provided the background to how professional league is played elsewhere while Rabiu Barde and Tony Oko helped out with the background material. You will enjoy the story.



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LETTERS

Jeddah air crash

Sir

Your cover of *March 30* brought out the real stuff lawyers in this country are made up. It showed them as callous and corrupt in as much as they can ask a bereaved relative of an air disaster victim to give them a cut as big as 40 per cent to defend his or her interest.

Is that how our legal luminaries and SANs in this country made their enormous wealth?

Abubakar Halilu
Samaru, Zaria



Sir,

I detest the insinuation that all lawyers should be branded as inhuman as your story suggest.

Let's we forget, lawyers are businessmen and as such the law — which they practice — no matter how blind — allows them to canvass for business (clients) like any other businessman and woman.

So why the fuss?

Ayodele Peters
Ibadan

Carts before horses

Sir,

I wish to comment on the ar-

ticle written by Mahmud Jega on the above subject and published in the *Citizen* edition of *February 12/23/1992* Vol. 3 No. 7.

Jega wrote — "This administration has had more than six years to think up a structure for Abuja. Or was it not thinking when it wrote "Mayor" into the 1989 constitution?"

I wish to comment that the government was thinking when it wrote "Mayor" into the 1989 constitution, but did not think of the General Gado Nasko factor. If a mayor is elected for the Federal Capital now, what happens to Nasko, whom the IBB's government wouldn't like to hurt at this stage of the transition programme?

So, mayoral election and the subsequent swearing in of the mayor have to wait until the military president and his junta move out of office.

The transition programme is hinged on personalities and sacred cows that tune and twist it at will. It is a mockery to democracy that for an individual's interest, the election into a constituency like Abuja has to be postponed or shifted.

May God save the Third Republic that is being built on porous democracy!

By the way, editor, do please circulate your magazine to all parts of the country, especially here in Enugu.

Amba John Audu
UNN, Enugu Campus

Ukiwe and co.

Sir,

Kabiru Yusuf finally did what almost everybody in the country has not done. People pretended as if it is not a serious problem in our body politic. To say the least, Kabiru spoke the minds of a lot of peace-loving, civilised, if you like, citizens.

By far the greatest danger posed not only to the transition programme but also to the peaceful coexistence and development of the Nigerian nation, comes from some elites who have tested power by the grace of former leaders who wanted all the sectors of the country to be represented. So now that these pseudo-power brokers who, one will be surprised are not suffering from delusion of grandeur, believe they should fight for "their territory" even if the other territories will collapse, stands them out as the greatest ingrates around. In fact, I think they do not have a history to learn from.

One of these men, who painfully the government has refused to reprimand, Paul Unongo, recently realised that such negative and stone-age thinking will not hand him over the presidency, was wise enough to separate the wheat from the chaff; even though he has to do more himself for us to see whether he falls within the wheat or the chaff. Mr. Unongo says it is unfortunate for people like him and perhaps the biggest of the divisive elements in the country, General Theophilous Y. Danjuma, to go on their power-for-Middle Belt obsession when thousands are being killed in their domain. That is the crux of the matter.

It is not the ability to escape to the comfort of a house in Kaduna while fighting is raging in Wukari or Takum that makes one a champion of whatever. It is the ability to move the people into stopping rage against one another. It is also the ability to stop one's own houses and, indeed, life from being threatened when one's people are at each other's neck. The Tivs and Jukuns, to mention two of the Middle Belt ethnic groups, can perfectly select or elect leaders of their choice without some vapid advice from opportunists and political fraudsters.

I.B. Abubakar
Minna

Letters to *Citizen*, carrying names, signatures and addresses, should be brief and to the point. They should be typed double space and addressed to Letters Page, *Citizen*, G.11 Ungwan Kanawa, PMB 2334, Kaduna.

NFA, hands off

When the professional football league was introduced in 1990, the NFA projected a gate-taking of 70,000 Naira per week from the league matches. In no time, the takings dwindled first to 25,000 Naira and by the close of the season to 10,000 Naira. Since then the situation has grown worse.

What has happened? The major reasons are extreme bad planning, poor start, improper organisation, ignorance, and government interference.

Decree No 11 that legalised professional football league is technically a fine piece of legislation, but it is based on the assumption that everyone involved will be a patriot. From what we have seen, this is less than the truth. The NFA, club owners, coaches, referees and players have been anything but diligent and efficient. After two years, it is clear that unless these problems are squarely dealt with, professional football will die.

For a start, constant and unwarranted postponement of matches had on several occasions upset the tempo of league matches with the result that the interest of football fans could not be sustained.

Government intervention in the league, mostly for sentimental reasons, has not only diverted scarce resources from other social services, but it had the effect of scaring away private investors. It just doesn't make sense for government to buy football clubs.

The NFA started the league on a bad note when instead of registering only a few clubs to start the league, it invited just about everybody to participate with the result that matches became cluttered. Postponements and delays became rampant. The NFA also did not anticipate the enormous resources that would be required to sustain professional league. It vaguely relied on "gate-takings" as the only means of generating revenue. Trouble is, gate-takings can only come exciting, properly organised and well-attended matches.

The welfare of players and facilities for training are seriously lacking. In one season, one could find a club exhausting their resources in hiring 10 or more tired players instead of building junior teams and picking only two or three "star" players.

The sum effect of the unsuccessful professional league is that it has not helped to develop football, stem the tide of players' exodus, ensure a healthy revenue base for clubs and produce a wealth of fresh talent. As it is, one can hardly tell the difference between the amateur and the professional league. No wonder, FIFA ignored Nigeria in its listing of countries that play professional football.

We should take another look at our set up and find Nigerians who are truly committed and entrust them with the responsibility of organising a sensible football development and promotion schedule. They are in abundance.

It is instructive that at Senegal 92', the team that won the Nations Cup drew inspiration from its indigenous experience. In professional football, like most other things, we should draw on other people's experience and blend it with our own. But no, we have to be wholly British or Belgian.

League matches, professional or otherwise should be organised and run by one set of rules. The Nigerian Referees Association, NRA, should take a hard line against their members who have ruined matches and brought chaos through biased refereeing. The professional league should be autonomous. The NFA should be a mere on-looker - regulating the league, ensuring equitable mix among those involved and encouraging sponsorships.

As long as the NFA or government insists on running football in the manner of a parastatal, professionalism will take much longer to nurture. Football is big business. It should be left to those who can handle it. The NFA or the government should only be a moral guardian.

The governors' confab

Last weekend the 30 governors of the country met in Abuja for the first time since being elected. Kwara State governor, Alhaji Mohammed Shaaba Lafiagi, who chaired the meeting, reportedly told the press that the meeting will be regularised and its main objective will be to compare notes and to see how they can help with realisation of the remainder of the transition programme.

A regular governors' conference is a good idea in principle. Not only can they compare notes, such a conference can engender a healthy inter-party cooperation even as the parties compete for votes. Without knowing the details of the agenda for the last meeting — and the next one for that matter — we can guess that the parlous state of their treasuries must be on top. When they took over from the military, there was much talk of empty treasuries, which apparently did not go down well with the military authorities. Matters seems to have improved somewhat since then as the governors severally went to the federal capital, begging bowl in hand, to plead for money.

This, we must say, is as it should not be.

If at the last meeting the governors did not discuss how they can fill their treasuries without begging, they should do so at the next meeting. They should put their heads together and make a case for a drastic review of the revenue allocation formula. The current formula seems to give everyone a fair deal except the states, especially as five per cent was removed recently from its share and passed on to local governments.

As a matter of principle, we think the federal level should have less than it now has. The excessive struggle for power at the centre, which is proving rather unhealthy, is because the nation's resources are concentrated there. The way out obviously is to drastically reduce the functions of central government to say, defence, foreign affairs, communications and transport, energy and similar subjects that cut across state borders. Such a devolution should then be matched by an appropriate revenue allocation.

We realise this is a matter for central legislation. Even then governors have a role to play in the matter. They should take that role seriously.

Welcome to the pit

The storm in the Russian parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies, last week over the economic reform package being put in place by President Boris Yeltsin is only the latest stage in the painful drama now unfolding in the former USSR. The Russian leaders, goaded by the IMF and other Western agencies, have already pushed through a process that has brought pain and ruin to their people. This must have come as a rude shock to the Russians who thought conditions under socialist rule were horrible and those under the market are fabulous. Well, not always.

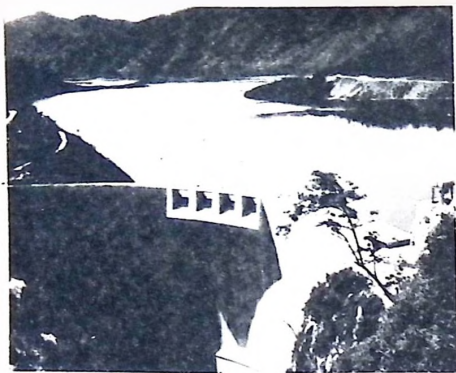
As we in the Third World know only too well, the Russians are now learning that Westerners put in their dollars only where there are more dollars to be made, safely and quickly. Twenty-four billion dollars in loans and export credits spread over many

years and predicated upon severe conditionalities, is all the West will extend to the hapless Russians, who saved for the West's trillions of dollars going down the arms drain by prematurely ending the cold war.

If Boris Yeltsin has any sense of history, he should know that the West, which abandoned Gorbachev before him, will abandon him to his own fate too as soon as the going gets tough. And it is already doing so. Last week, the Russian parliament voted against the reforms and moved to strip Yeltsin of his autocratic emergency powers. If only the remnant communists will keep up the act, with luck, Yeltsin will soon be as toothless as Gorbachev was back in December. Then the Western supporters will duck.

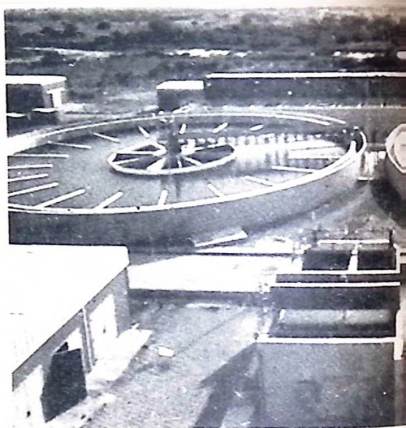
The Russians are welcome to the bottomless pit.

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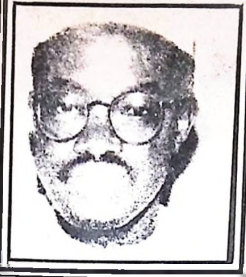
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MOHAMMED HARUNA

more absurd when you compare the years that these leaders have spent in office. The Middle-Belters would have led the country for 22 years after Babangida hands over next year, whereas those from the far north and the south have done so for only six and a half years and three and a half years respectively. Obviously if anyone should complain, it is not the Middle-Belters. Neither for that matter, the south going by

tion politics keep changing all the time.

However, though the president invites much of the criticisms of his administration, one must wonder how sincere some of his severest critics are. Take General Obasanjo or Chief Anthony Enahoro for instance. A lot of what they have said about the state of the nation are true, but my experience with these two gentlemen has made me wonder how much of their criticisms are well motivated and how much are self-serving.

From the exchange this magazine had with Chief Enahoro over our cover story on the 'wheat war' late in 1990, an exchange which shows that the chief, as a flour miller, was bitter almost to the point of pettiness and paranoid, one must wonder if his grouse against Babangida's regime is as sincere as he makes out.

As for Obasanjo, I recall how he dismissed me as a "negative writer" in the lobby of the International Conference Centre, Abuja, during the last OAU summit because I and this magazine had argued that the government was wrong to spend so much of its time and resources lobbying Africa to support his candidature for the secretary-general of the United Nations. I do not recall those who now nod at Obasanjo's criticism of Babangida agreeing with us that diverting the nation's time and resources to satisfy the personal ambitions of an individual was a waste.

All of this, of course, is not to say those who criticise the authorities are not to be taken seriously. As a reporter I am myself in the business of criticising those in authority and I want to be taken seriously. However, it is because we look at and act only on the "facts" presented by such critics while we ignore their motives, that we keep going round and round in circle — a vicious circle as it were.

Obasanjo and Co. as critics

Three Mondays ago Kabiru Yusuf wrote a beautiful piece in his column on "Ukiwe and Company" wherein he warned of the dangerous road down which Messrs Ebitu Ukiwe, T. Y. Danjuma and Adeyinka Adebayo, representing the East, Middle and the West, in a so-called Council of Unity and Understanding, were leading this country and their followers. The CUU, if you don't know, wants the next president to come from anywhere but the so-called "north", come hell, come high-water. Its argument is basically that the "north" has had more than its fair share of leading this country.

This argument is patently flawed in both fact and logic but coming from a council which seeks to foster unity and understanding through a separationist strategy, it is hardly surprising that it fails to see the flaws.

The factual flaw should be pretty obvious to all but the most myopic. To date we have had eight heads-of-state and presidents. Three, namely Tafawa Balewa, Yakubu Gowon and Ibrahim Babangida have come from the Middle-Belt. Three, namely Shehu Shagari, Muhammadu Buhari and arguably Murtala Muhammed (he is said to be of mixed parentage) have come from the far north, while two, Aguiyi-Ironsi and Olusegun Obasanjo, have come from the south. It beats me hollow how anyone can conclude that a ratio of 3:3:2 grossly favours any section of the country. Such a conclusion is the

logic that in number lies power.

The trouble however, is that we have remained inconsistent in our definition of our regions. This is why the argument of northern domination is flawed in logic. Some people simply cannot seem to make up their minds whether the Middle-Belt is a geographical entity or a religious identity. As a result they find it hard to accept that Balewa and Babangida, though muslims, come from the geographical Middle-Belt. Gowon, on the other hand, is sometimes regarded as northern when it is convenient and Middle-Belter when it is not.

The point of all this should be obvious; all too often those who seek power — either to sit on the throne or stand behind it — go to it with anything but a sincerity of motive. Naturally they seek to hide their real motives with beautiful words about service to society and all that, but when you get to the bottom of it all, much of the time you find it is service to self.

Perhaps I sound too philosophical this morning. The reason, however, is simple. Lately President Babangida has come under a lot of criticisms, much of it well-deserved. The president can only have himself to blame if, for instance, people disbelieve him anytime he reaffirms that he does not intend to stay in power one day longer than January 2, next year. This is because not only has the date of the handing over shifted twice, the rules of the transi-

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COVER STORY

Pro-League

Still in diapers

It was hailed as the antidote to our ailing soccer but after two years, the professional league is yet to show proof of coming of age

Decree No. 11 of 1990, which gave legal backing to Nigerian professional football league was explicit enough about what Nigeria wants to achieve by elevating the exciting game of football and the nation's indisputable king of sports to professional status. Professional football, according to the contents of the decree, which President Ibrahim Babangida appended his signature to on May 12, 1990, was to "encourage the development and organisation of all forms of professional football in accordance with the status and laws of the Federation of International Football Association, FIFA." The decree, also sought to ensure through guidance of Nigerian Football Association, NFA, the affiliation of Nigerian professional football clubs, "with recognised international football bodies to improve the standard of performance by Nigerians in world soccer."

The decree itself was a child of crisis management, and the only response to please some influential and seasoned football administrators and clubs owners who had campaigned vigorously for over a decade that the only way to raise the standard of football and rid it of crippling maladministration was to go professional. The signing into law of the decree can be rightly described as a hasty measure put in place to avert the total collapse of the national amateur football league, which commenced in 1972. By the close of 1987 football season, a national soc-

cer disaster was looming. Clubs like Abiola Babes, New Nigerian Bank, Leventis United, Flash Flamingoes, NNPC and many more which were owned by wealthy businessmen, multinational companies and state governments had called it quits between 1986 and 1989 from the league partly out of disenchantment with the way NFA was running the game and partly because of the increasing huge financial commitment that was needed to sustain these clubs.

The decree was therefore looked upon as the proverbial light at the end of a tunnel for club owners, coaches, footballers and fans who



Toro: executive scribe, pro-league

had been assaulted for years by the confusion and disorder that was the national amateur league. It was little surprise therefore that fans with whetted appetite, and football ad-



Pam and Oliha: at the beginning

ministrators, club managers, coaches and players who had tall dreams of the good things that professionalism had done to the game and its actors in other countries, waited with bated breath as 16 clubs who pioneered professional league, lined out their teams on Saturday, May 19, 1990 to savour their first professional matches.

But nearly three years after professionalism was introduced into the soccer scene, the

How it's done elsewhere

Those countries where professional football has reached an advanced stage reel with shock and disappointment after experiencing how it is done here in Nigeria. Among them are Greece-born technical adviser, Theophanis Dimitris, and his successor at top league Iwuanyanwu Nationale, Bulgarian Panov. The Bulgarian left for home after failing to make the Owerri-based clubside retain the championship which they won at first try in 1990.

Panov, according to sources in Owerri, left with very bitter memories of the way pro-soccer is run here, saying that there is nothing professional about our league.

Emeka Iwuagwu, the eastern correspondent of *National Sportslink* newspaper, quotes Panov (in the newspaper's edition of December 20-26, 1991) as saying that "For the over one year I stayed in Nigeria, hardly were players' needs met. They are slaves here and I must tell you because what they receive as signing fees and their salary fall below what is earned in Europe and even some African countries."

The soccer strategist dressed down Nigerian players, saying that "most of them are not disciplined and would have been banned for life for some of their acts."

Nigeria's soccer administrators, according to Panov, "are incompetent because there is no authentic programme for teams and players alike." He also lamented that unlike in other parts of the world where pro-football is played, NFA allows a club to sign as many as 15 players in a season.

Most of the players and



Oloyede

officials of some of the leading clubs in the country who spoke to *Citizen* in Enugu, share similar views



Ekpo

with the Bulgarian. Willy Bazuaye (team manager and coach of Udoji United)

Mr. Bazuaye, said, "administratively, we are nowhere. With the constant postponement and re-scheduling of professional football leagues or matches it is killing the business-like attitude professionalism is supposed

to bring."

He said that "players need rest to plan and re-structure their various strategies in the field of play but here in Nigeria football league drags into the time reserved for players' vacation." He asked, "do we actually have a professional football representative in the sports ministry?"



Coach Bewarang

He did not spare his fellow coaches. Bazuaye says majority of our coaches are lazy. They believe in



Awoyemi

lobbying and relying on their god-fathers to get clubs."

Tony Emodefu

The former Nigerian junior international, Tony Emodefu who now plays for Udoji United Football Club is not happy with the constant changes in the timetable of pro-league which he said affects the psyche of players with

equally a negative toll on the game.

He however said that professionalism itself has improved the standard of game in terms of determination and seriousness of players in the field of play, the enforcement of certain rules in the game by referees such as prevention of talking inside the pitch and bad dressing on the field.

He also pointed out that the introduction of signing of contracts and transfer fees as one of the good things of professionalism.

He frowned at the state of officiating by referees and concluded that this was not unconnected with the non-invitation of Nigerian referees to the Africa Nations Cup in Senegal. He advised that referees should stop killing the game by being neutral at matches. **Friday Ebuaghe**

Friday Ebuaghe, a striker with Udoji United, never gave a good mark to professional football. Ebuaghe once played pro-soccer in Benin Republic.

Says he, "players are not treated as they should in terms of provision of adequate welfare facilities by some club."

He cited the case of the signing of contracts and transfer fees where a player's manager is left out.

By **Tony Oko and Isaac Umunna in Enugu.**

enthusiasm of those who campaigned for it had waned drastically. If clubs owners, coaches players and faithful followers of football have not been able to make out any discernible difference between the amateur league and its professional counterpart save for the name, the Nigeria Professional League Board and the Nigeria Football Association are either admitting that they had left many vital things undone in their attempt to implement the provisions of the pro-league decree, or they are planning for more time to put things right.

Chief Festus Onigbinde, former Green Eagles chief coach, now chairman of Osun State Sports Council and Confederation of African Football (CAF) Technical Instructor, writes off the professional football as an exercise in self-deception. He told *Citizen* in Lagos that there was hardly any difference between what we were doing at amateur level and "what we are now doing at professional level." To back up his point, the former Shooting Stars Sports Club (SSC) technical adviser said most of the divisions one and two clubs calling themselves professional still retained their amateur characteristics by depending only on gate-takings and subventions from government and individuals for survival. "I don't see how professional football can survive on gate-takings and charity. When you go into professional football, it becomes a profession and real business, and you find clubs going into industrial and commercial ventures to augment their revenue,"

Chief

Stationery Stores player contesting for possession of ball

Onigbinde said three years of professionalism has contributed nothing to the development of football. He also listed dearth of facilities, poor remuneration, too many clubs competing in the league and lack of foresight and managerial skills by clubs managers and football admin-



Before the league: Oloyede and Kpakor istrators as some of the reasons for the poor state of professional soccer.

Chief Onigbinde was not alone in this lack of faith in the way professional league is being run in Nigeria. Mr. Ekong Edet, the team manager

of ACB of Lagos, a pro-league division one club, believes that many things have been left undone as far as running professional football successfully is concerned. "The awareness has not really come into the public and the understanding of how to run professional clubs also has not been grasped by many club owners and managers. Clubs depend on gate-takings. You cannot make profit because of the expenses involved in running matches, paying for referees, hiring of stadia and player's salaries."

Investigations carried out by *Citizen* show that the teething problems of the professional league are jointly created by the pro-league board, which is charged by the decree to organise and regulate the league on behalf of NFA, and some of the participating clubs. For instance many of the provisions of the decree which could have given the pro-league more credibility and put it on a sound footing were either not implemented at all or were not properly implemented. Section 4(d) of the decree charges the league board to determine areas of the league's activities that can be commercialised to earn income for the league, the professional players, professional clubs and the Nigerian Football Association. There has been no concrete efforts to implement this provision. The closest to doing that was a statement credited to the NFA chairman, Chief Efiom Okon, prior to the commencement of the 1992 pro-league season, that an agreement had been reached with a Lagos-based company to begin pool-betting based on the league matches. The venture was launched only last week — 10 weeks into the current league season.

More serious and damaging to the stability of the league is pro-board failure to enforce Section 20(d) of the pro-league decree which makes it a condition of registration of every football club wishing to engage professional players to appoint an external auditor to audit the accounts of the club and that before registra-



tion is effected in any year, audited accounts for the previous year and the auditor's report thereon had to be produced." The consequence of the non-enforcement of this section is that clubs which are not financially viable participate in the league and even those that are financially buoyant, engage in financial recklessness. The pro-board is also in a fix as to what to do with a section of the decree that urged it to fix the minimum salary for players and the provision of adequate insurance policy and medical services for players by clubs.

Perhaps, owing to improper monitoring of clubs by the board, some club managers are more concerned

the clubs renewed. The same players also revealed that the club neither insured the players nor gave them medical services. "How do you expect players who are treated like this to put in their best? The way professional league is being run here is far different from what my colleagues who play even in Republic of Benin told me. I think we are yet to start professional football in Nigeria," said Agbaraka.

As it is, even some of frontline campaigners for professional soccer are beginning to express doubt with the way NFA is conducting the venture.

Chief Femi Olukanmi, a seasoned

concerned, it is hardly surprising when the Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) failed to list Nigeria in its February edition of *FIFA News* as one of the 58 countries recognised as playing professional football in the world. In the publication, Nigeria was still regarded as playing amateur football while Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Cameroun and Kenya were listed as the countries playing professional football in Africa.

The low mark giving to the way professional football is being run in Nigeria has however been described as asking for too much within a very short time by the pro-league board and even some clubs owners and football administrators. Alhaji Sani



Ranchers Habib (below) trading tackles with a KWASU Bombers player

with how they can use the little resources or monies meant for the upkeep of the player for their own survival. Two ex-players of Niger Dock Football Club of Lagos, a division two pro-league outfit, Emmanuel Agbakara and Victor Egbunike told *Citizen* in Lagos how they were forced by some clubs officials to part with large amounts of their signing fees and salaries on the promise that they will have their contracts with

sports administrator, who pioneered the campaign for pro-football with Ayo Afolabi and late Lekan Salami in the early 80s said at a public lecture he delivered in February on *Sponsorship and marketing effect on pro-league*, that it was unfortunate that NFA was urging clubs to sell shares to the public to generate a fund for survival when they were yet to find their feet. According to Chief Olukanmi, who is now chairman

of 3SC Football Club, pro-football can become a very rich venture if it is run the way it is done in Europe and Latin America. The football administrator listed in his papers pools betting, football lotteries, television rights and sponsorship of teams and players, as areas that clubs can explore to sustain themselves.

With so many things left undone as far as proper implementation of professional football in Nigeria is



All to the ground

Toro, pro-league board executive secretary told *Citizen* in Lagos that Nigerians are asking for too much from the operators of the pro-league in just over two years of its commencement.

Alhaji Sani who admitted that the pro-board has not adequately educated the clubs on how to successfully run professional football, explained that Nigeria was still in the experimental stage, adding that mo-

"We are still amateurs"

— Onigbinde

Citizen: Would you say going professional has improved the standard of football?

Onigbinde: It appears we are yet to understand what professional football is about. We do not actually know its real implication because there is hardly any difference between what we did at amateur level and what we are now doing at professional level. There are lots of gaps. For instance most of our clubs still depend on gate-takings, and I don't see how professional football can survive on gate-takings. When you go into professional football, it becomes a profession and real business and you find clubs going into in-

maintain their teams. I don't think we have got any positive impact from pro-league yet.

Citizen: Who is to blame for improper implementation or running of professional league?

Onigbinde: Professional football is supposed to be administered by administrators. Would you say it is the fault of the coaches that professional clubs are not being run as they should? It is not a technical problem; it is an administrative problem on the part of the clubs and even on the part of the whole football administration in the country.

Citizen: How would it be improved?

Onigbinde: Well, I will suggest that the administrators should sit down, replan their programme, think quickly and see whatever they can do to get us to where we want to be.

Citizen: Are you saying that there was no proper planning before we plunged into professional football?

Onigbinde: Well, planning is one thing, execution is another. If you want to look at the technical side, because we are talking about players going abroad. How many clubs, how many of our professional clubs have their nursery teams? How do they get their players? Are we building footballers, are we developing football? We are merely promoting football, not developing it. Now you talk

of Nigerian professional footballer abroad, we took a lot of them to Senegal, which one of them will you compare to Abedi Pele? Which one of them will you compare to Yeboah? Our problem is very basic and until we go down to that basic level we would not go anywhere.

Citizen: What specific suggestions would you give for improvement?

Onigbinde: I have written papers, I have given talks, I have been quoted in newspapers and television. I have had enough of that. I am tired.

Citizen: When you were with Shooting Stars (now 3SC) it is a pro-club owns by government and depended heavily on its subvention to survive. Did you make any suggestion as to how to make the club self-sustaining?

Onigbinde: Yes. I submitted my paper to the government. And I am ashamed that today that Shooting Stars are still going a begging. A club that is strong enough to have been in the million Naira bracket is still going a begging. I wrote suggestion on how to raise funds for the club. But again, one problem I have with Nigerians is that they believe I'm too rigid, some people say I'm stubborn because they don't want to listen to the facts. They want you to surrender the facts for some sentiments which I believe should not be the case. Let me give you an

example, a club like the Shooting Stars, if I go out and invite people for membership of the club, asking people who want to be members to contribute some amount of money, I'm very sure that if properly handled I will get 100,000 people in to request for membership cards and if I take 50 Naira from each of them, that is five million Naira. I can even ask anybody who carries that card to watch Shooting Stars matches free; because I know I cannot make five million Naira from gate takings, and already I have got my five million. Why do I have to? That is one item, just one item.

So one has more than enough. It appears some people are trying to give one some sort of name. The country belongs to all of us.

Citizen: But there is the other side of the coin. From experience, it seems the NFA and the professional department of the association are not being rigid enough concerning the implementation of the conditions given in the decree. For instance, the ownership of the stadium. Up till today no club has made any serious plans to own one.

Onigbinde: How can they build stadium when they don't have enough money to pay the players? They don't



dustrial, commercial ventures and taking up a lot of other things to augment their revenue. This is why I think clubs are finding it difficult to

have enough money to run their matches, and they are not looking towards that angle. You see one major problem is this. It appears we are trying to run before we can crawl. There are too many clubs in this country. Nigeria is big enough to have double the number of clubs now we have. But for our present position, we are having too many. How many of them can really survive? Some of them fall by the wayside mid season. They cannot continue the league. Some of them resorted to playing only their home matches, they cannot go and play away matches.

Citizen: But don't you think that the rule should be applied to ensure that it is only clubs that are viable that are allowed to take part in the pro-league?

Onigbinde: When we

were going to start professional football, I suggested that we didn't need to have more than eight clubs to start with. Eight clubs that we know can survive. Eight clubs! Investigate, inspect these places and see what is happening, then you will be able to know who and who is ready. But we threw a lot of sentiment into societal problem. We cannot leave any part of the country out, if they say they want to come. And because the people at the helm of affairs are trying to satisfy everybody they end up not satisfying anybody. That is the basic fact. We are still toying with pro-football and sports generally. We don't know the importance of football, or the importance of sports; recreation generally, we have not come to appreciate the importance of recreation and sports.

Citizen: Considering the small number of Nigerian

referees that are invited to officiate in international competition, (no Nigerian was used in Senegal during the last Nations cup) does that mean that the referees are so bad that we are not impressing the world?

Onigbinde: Definitely, if we impressed the world they will invite us to come and perform. So the fact that they didn't invite us means that we have not impressed them. Therefore we should look inward and see what has been happening. Have we been giving out our best, how many coaching courses, seminars.....are organised for our referees in a year? Will it be too much to send some of them on attachment to see how things are done?

These are the jobs of the technical department of a football administration. The technical department which the NFA has not got since its inception in 1945. Then what are you running? You are running football without a technical department.

Citizen: What is the function of the technical committee of the association?

Onigbinde: The technical committee is to take technical decisions, the technical department is to execute. You see the difference. The technical department takes technical decisions, formulate technical policies for approval by the NFA. Then the approved programmes are then now passed to the technical department for execution. I'm supposed to be a

member of the technical committee of the NFA. If we sit down today and take decision that we are going to do this or that, immediately after the meeting I go back to Ibadan, the man from Gusau will go back. Who is going to execute these policies and decisions? Because we don't have a technical department to execute these decisions. So you keep repeating yourself.

Citizen: Do you see any possibility of improvement in the league this season?

Onigbinde: It depends on how it is handled, how it is administered. **Citizen:** What do you think has been responsible for the poor outing of our clubs in continental competition? Has it anything to do with our league? For instance last year there was so much hope that our clubs would win at least three major continental cups, but we ended up all-round losers.

Onigbinde: You see, all the good results we have been having have been by chance, because we have not built football, we have not developed football. You cannot get consistent good results until you lay a good foundation for football. We don't need to go into any special preparation for any competition if we do our home work properly, but because the whole thing is upside down.

By Joe Olajuwon



BCC's Fuludu and Danjuma during a match in Kano

"Don't expect too much too soon"

Citizen: What is your impression

about professional football after two years?

Toro: I think Nigerians are expecting too much if you consider when professional league was introduced in this country. Professional football was first introduced in Europe in 1863, and the actual competition started in 1888. In Nigeria we only started in 1990, yet people are expecting that we should have all the facilities, that we should have all the sponsorship. It is not possible. Everything has to be gradual. I'm not trying to commend our effort so far, but that we have tried considering the period within which it was introduced in Europe.

Citizen: Are all the clubs complying with the decree's stipulation that they should submit their statement of account at the end of each season?

Toro: To be sincere, only two out of 16 clubs in division one responded, Udoji United and Highlanders (now Mighty Jets) of Jos.

Citizen: It seems the pro-board secretariat is not being strict on enforcing some vital aspects of the pro-league. What have you done to make the clubs comply?

Toro: We are relaxing it because the clubs are poor. No reputable company is prepared to sponsor any of these clubs. Therefore if you



insist on having their statements of account you will only see red accounts. That is not what we want. What we want is for these clubs to have sponsorship, we want these clubs to have their own facilities. I can tell you that no club has even forwarded a plan, to show that it is planning to build its own stadia.

Citizen: But the decree stipulated that these clubs should have their own stadia by the time the pro-league is seven years old.

Toro: Well that is what the decree said. I don't want to comment on that, but I'm telling you that it is not going to be possible. It will take more than 20 years before all the clubs can have their own stadia.

Citizen: Experts have blamed the teething problems on the presence of too many clubs and that these clubs go about buying expensive players every year instead of having a junior team where they can groom players and transfer them to the main teams. Do you agree with this observation?

Toro: I agree that we shouldn't have allowed 16 teams to take part in division two at the initial stage.

In fact what we wanted to do initially was to have eight teams in division one, and about 10 teams in division two. In Europe they started with fewer number. Just about 13 clubs in division one, and now they have up to four divisions.

You also mention these feeder teams. It is one of the conditions that you must meet before your registration is accepted by the pro-board. That is the practice. But if you are playing professional, the movement of the players is not restricted. Once you are able to negotiate with the clubs, then you get the players.

Citizen: What are you doing specifically to ensure that some of the problems the clubs face are dealt with fairly?

Toro: This year, we have mapped out our strategy. The first thing we want to do is to organise a seminar to educate the club owners and the management of the professional clubs. And we will ask state governments to assist by giving land to these club owners to build their own stadia. We will also invite the Nigerian Television Authority and see how we can negotiate on TV rights. In fact this is one of the major sources of revenue. As regard sponsorship, we would educate the public so that they can invest in professional football, and we would ensure that all the pro-clubs comply with the laid down rules. That is, get their players in proper way by signing

— Toro

contract agreement with them, insure them, and provide necessary medical facilities for them. All the clubs have complied with the insurance policy. In fact this year, we have made it a condition that no club will register until the players contracts are submitted. **Citizen:** Officiating is one area that has been generating lots of controversy between clubs and referee. This led you to use independent accessors to monitor the referees. What is your own impression of officiating during the last league season.

Toro: The referees performed fairly well last year, but we intend to ensure that they improve on their performance this year. We will also use independent accessors. And the members of disciplinary and organising committee, and the technical committee will also be involved to monitor match officials. We are also appealing to the public to ensure that the referees officiate fairly because most of the time the home teams want to win at all cost. We have to discourage such thing. **Citizen:** Don't you think our players are still going abroad because they are not satisfied with the condition at home?

Toro: No it is not so: They go out because of the facilities.

of the countries of Europe and Latin America running pro-soccer successfully today, went through decades of experiment before they could find their feet. The secretary also explained that the board is deliberately soft-peddling on the conditions stipulated by the decree because most of the clubs in the two divisions of the pro-league cannot meet the conditions and demands of the decree. For instance, Alhaji Sani disclosed that none of the current clubs in the pro-league can own its stadia in seven years of participating in the league as demanded by the decree. "It will take more than 20-years before all the clubs can have their own stadia," he said.

His stand on the professional league is shared by Alhaji Kabir Umar, former chairman of Kaduna-based Ranchers Bees (team) a pro-league division one and director-general of Kaduna chamber of commerce. "If you think of pro-football as it is played in Europe, we are non-starters, but I think advocates of European style of pro-soccer have forgotten that Europe did not find itself in the position it is today. They (clubs) started from the scratch," observed



Umar: we are non-starters

Alhaji Kabir.

But the price of taking the stance of a patient dog and following the path of lengthy experimental processes in our approach to professional football development is to hold on



The real professionals: Agboola and Yekini

to the back benchers as far as continental and FIFA organised football championships are concerned. Chief Festus Onigbinde believes that the performances of our clubs and national teams in CAF and FIFA organised football tournaments will continue to be a reflection of the standard of our national league. It is also the belief of Chief Emmanuel Omiunu, Julius Berger team manager, that the cream of the country's players will continue to flock abroad for better pay and standard facilities as long as ours remains at the experimental stage. Alhaji Kabir on his part believes that part of the problem of the pro-league in particular and our sports development in general is lack of continuity as a result of constant dissolution of NFA by government. "You find that the body that starts professional football, NFA is dissolved formed and dissolved again and again," he observed.

By Joe Olajuwon with additional reports by Rabi'u Barde in Kaduna, Tony Oko and Isaac Umunna in Enugu



Emeodofu: skillful winger

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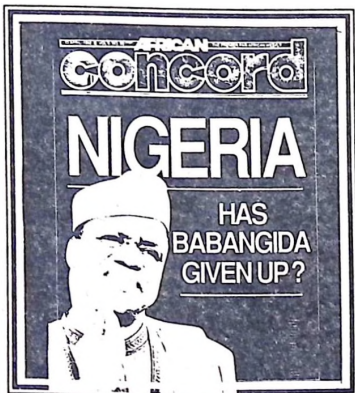
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NIGERIA

"Concord" closed

About 200 police invaded the office of Concord Press of Nigeria and closed it down without giving reason



The offending publication

The picture painted by workers who witnessed the night raid by the police on the premises of Concord Press Nigeria Limited, CPN, a stone throw from Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Ikeja, was that of a war. "They came in three lorries and a police armoured tank. They were about 200 and were well armed. At gun point they ordered us out of our offices threatening to kill anyone who refused (to obey) their order", narrated Yinusa Akeredolu, a Concord Press employee who said he was on night duty Thursday April 9, the day the police sealed off the premises of CPN, publishers of *National Concord*, *Sunday concord*, *African Concord* and a host of other tabloids. Also affected by that closure are Abiola Bookshops Limited and Wonder Bakeries, bakers of "Wonder Loaf".

A statement dated April 9 signed by Dr. Doyin Abiola, the managing director of CPN, said the po-

lice numbering about 200 entered the company's premises at about 11.40 pm on Thursday and sealed it off without giving reasons for their action.

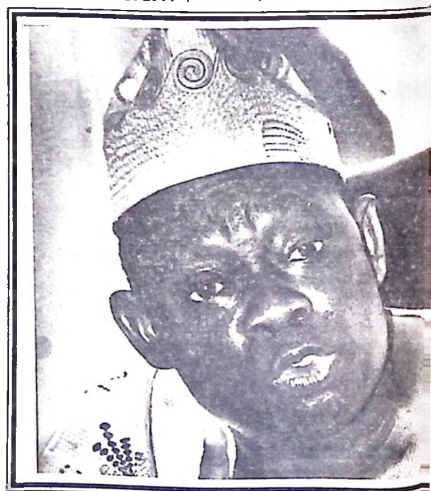
Interestingly, the police action took place while the company's chairman, Chief M.K.O. Abiola was at a banquet dinner which was attended by President Ibrahim Babangida in Abuja. The dinner was organised in honour of visiting racist South African leader, Frederick de Klerk.

Expectedly, reactions to the closure of CPN

mind the nation of the display naked power and abuse of privilege, on the part of security agencies which we can ill-afford, especially in the days of the transition programme the NUJ said, April 10. On that same day, several other bodies such as The Nigerian Guild of Editors, NGA and the West African Journalists Association, WAJA, condemned the police action describing it as a blatant violation of press freedom.

The police have however turned deaf ears to public condemnation of its action refusing to disclose the reason for its action. Even as Bashorun Abiola, Monday last week, appealed to "all well meaning Nigerians to assist (him) in any way they can in normalising the situation," no one had been told what exactly the CPN did. In the absence of any official clarification, speculation took over. And the popular belief is that *African Concord*, a weekly Pan-African magazine in the stable of the company is the target of the police. Dele Alake the editor of *Sunday Concord*, told *Citizen* last week the

were swift and unflattering. The first salvo came from the Nigerian Union of Journalists, NUJ, whose president and secretary, Sanni Zorro and George Anyakora respectively, condemned it as an abuse of state power. "The action of the police force has once more re-



Abiola: appealed for sympathy

they strongly suspect that government may have been irked by the magazine's April 13 cover story: **Nigeria, Has Babangida Given Up?** The story, written by Dapo Olorunyomi, an assistant editor, did an analysis of the president's economic policies and concluded that government has failed in all its objectives. Not only that, with the aid of what many regard as the most unfortunate interview ever granted by the president (*Daily Times* March 30-31 and April 1, 1992), the magazine insinuated that the government may have lost grips with the management of the economy. Arguing that since the president's economic po-

distress call they faced prospect of heavy financial losses. Affected are Newbreed Organisation, Publishers of *Newbreed* magazine and *Panache* Communications



Attah: a police state?

"They came in three lorries and a police armoured tank. They were about 200 and were well armed. At gun point they ordered us out of our offices threatening to kill anyone who refused (to obey) their order"

Classique complained to *Citizen* last week that they were going to lose more than 200,000 Naira in advert and sales alone. Shehu Dauda, general editor of *Newbreed*, expressed similar concern last week.

By Bolaji Adebisi with
Samson Ojo

lices brought untold hardship and poverty rather than succour and prosperity to Nigerians, *Africa Concord* asked the president to step aside and let others with fresh ideas mount the saddle of leadership.

Last year when Brigadier Raji Rasaki's government closed down *The Guardian*, the NUJ and some civil rights organisations went to court asking it to determine whether or not government has a right to close down a newspaper for any reason. The court, in its ruling late last year, said government, under our laws does not possess such right. Perhaps the police is yet to see a copy of that judgment. As the closure persisted last week, CPN customers who do business with Abiola Bookshops Limited let out a

Limited, Publishers of *Classique*. Both could not hit the newsstand last week because their materials and the week's edition were locked up in the CPN printing press. Okagbue Aduba, general editor of



Zorro: display of naked power

Politics

Saraki's dilemma

Middle Belt Forum Secretary, Yima Sen denies newspapers reports on selection of Dr. Sola Saraki as the forums candidate

Secretary to the Middle Belt Forum, Mr. Yima Sen, last week denied newspaper reports that Dr. Sola Saraki, second republic senate leader and an SDP presidential aspirant, had been endorsed as best among those candidates screened by the forum.

In an affidavit sworn to at the Ikeja High Court, Lagos, Mr. Sen confirmed that he attended the forum's meeting held in Ilorin on April 3, and 4, 1992. The forum secretary

however denied statements credited to him that Dr. Sola Saraki had been endorsed by the forum as its candidate. Said he, "I did not announce to the press that Dr. Sola Saraki had been endorsed by the forum as its candidate on April 4, 1992 as widely reported in the press."

Yima Sen further stated that he did not even address the press after the meeting but read out the text of a communique to one radio journalist. He also denied telling the *Sunday*



Saraki: not endorsed



Sen: "I am no fool"

Times that Dr. Sola Saraki was found to be the "best among those screened."

The communique dated April 4, 1992 and signed by Mr. Sen stated that the issue of the efforts towards presenting a suitable presidential aspirant was discussed in the meeting. Sen stated further that "having examined the resumes of the aspirants on shortlisted three of the aspirants from the Middle Belt zone, namely Dr. Sola Saraki, Professor Jerry Gana and Senator Mahmud Waziri, the house was informed that one of the aspirants from the zone, namely Dr. Sola Saraki was endorsed by a joint committee of states of the Middle Belt and eastern zone."

Mr. Sen said with some force "I am greatly aggrieved and embarrassed by this widely reported representation which has been oblivious of the fact that given my ideological, educational and professional background, I would not be as careless or foolish as to commit such a blunder."

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DISCOURSE

No food for thought

Several things in Nigeria today appear to me to present opportunities for deep and sober reflection.

One, is the mediocre quality of the 30 civilian administrations now in power in the states. Is the fault theirs or ours? Why is it that in four months, no governor has burst forth to stand out for keen intellect, for colourful rhetoric, for rigorous vigour, or for sheer drama? Is the era of quality now gone with the wind? Is this the best that this laboured transition can produce?

Two, is the matter of supporting one presidential candidate out of 70. I understand that many leading traditional rulers, businessmen and other elite characters support at least two candidates, one for each party, to play it safe. Should one vote for a past record, a future promise, or a current gain? Should one vote for a candidate or, as many Americans do, vote against another candidate?

Three, is the centrality of money in transition politics. I understand that this was the unintended consequence of the noble principle of establishing "grassroots politics". Now that the side-effects of a drug appear to overwhelm the patient, isn't it time to change the prescription? Is it wiser to invest billions of Naira in politics while agriculture and industry yearn for capital input? If 500 million Naira is required to campaign for president, is this grassroots, elite or super-elite politics?

Four, is the principle of surprise as a principal method of governance. Surprise is a key element in military tactics; soldiers rule in Nigeria; and

By Mahmud Jega

a leopard does not change its spots. Does this regime regard governance as waging war by other means? To be able to spring a surprise, you must ensure that only a few people are privy to your plans. That is to say, you must oust consultation and discussion. Is that the best?

Five, is the need to think about and fathom out the psychological motivations of the Babangida regime. I am thinking of late of De Klerk's visit. Why must Nigeria now undo the dedicated work of six previous regimes? Was its motivation the reassertion of national sovereignty, economic opportunism, or egomania? Did Nigeria spend a huge amount of money last year to lure the OAU to Abuja, grab its leadership and use it to scuttle African solidarity? Was that part of the IMF package too?

Six, is the need to unmask Citizen Atkins. Unmask, I say, the person, the motive, source of finance, and co-conspirators in all their collective dumbness. Whoever argued for an extension of his tenure because he has failed? In days gone by, politicians used to hold up positive achievement as justification for their continued rule. Has logic now turned on its head? Once, when one failed, one turned tails and ran.

Come to think of it, why is there so much pessimism regarding the transition programme? I do not remember Obasanjo being questioned at every turn regarding the sincerity of his pledge to hand over power. Is it

true that there can be no (pessimistic) smoke without (Maradonic) fire?

There is alot to think about in Nigeria. Deep thought and sober reflection presume a full stomach. The National Population Commission should have found out how many Nigerians ate on November 27. It will have helped to explain the paucity of deep thought in Nigeria today.

It is not that thinking is not going on in Nigeria at the present time, but one has reason to doubt its quality. For example, it was only after much discussion and examination of statistical information in the deep recesses of government that the decision was made to subject the Naira to the full force of the market. Not



Babangida: No thought for Food?

the brightest of ideas. It is the moral equivalent of the action of the landlord in Port-Harcourt who bathed a tenant in acid as part of his rent-recovery efforts. I suspect insufficient food has alot to do with it all.

Since food is not very scarce at the Aso Rock Castle in Abuja, the people there should think deeply about their place in history. A litre of petrol up 250 per cent; a tablet of soap up 400 per cent; a Peugeot 504 SR up 2,400 per cent; the Naira down 3,300 per cent. If Nigerians reflect back over the last six years, that is what they will find.

But not to worry. There is no food to fuel such thought.

Three, is the centrality of money in transition politics. I understand that this was the unintended consequence of the noble principle of establishing "grassroots politics"

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Enugu fair

Mixed expectations

The just concluded third Enugu International Trade Fair was many things to many people who participated in it

The third edition of the Enugu International Trade Fair, organised to expose Nigeria's local and international investment opportunities, ended Saturday, April 11. The Enugu Chamber of Commerce, Mines and Agriculture, ECCIMA, organiser of the fair, though improved upon its previous fairs, still has the twin problems of effective management and organisation, which makes foreign businesses shy away from it.

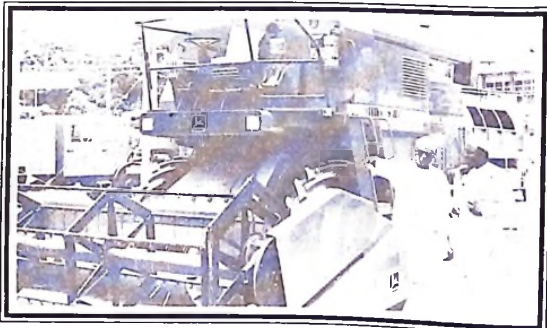
The turn out was less than 500 out of 1000 exhibitors expected to participate at the fair, while only 13 out of 30 states invited attended and celebrated their special days. However, the fair, which took off on Thursday April 2, with General Ibrahim Salihu, chief of army staff, representing President Ibrahim Babangida, had a plus for good security network except for the menace of a few pickpockets.

Joe Onyemelukwe, President of ECCIMA, disclosed during the fair that the amount of trade transacted annually in the eastern states of the country is put at 8.1 billion Naira. This amount in trade volume is no doubt reasonable in this era of backward integration and the federal government's recent establishment of an export processing zone, EPZ, in Calabar, Cross River State. Incidentally people are put off as to the meaning of EPZ, said Godwin Emenyonu, customs public relations officer. Said he, "Our job is not only to offer advice on duties to be paid by businessmen, but we have arranged to educate clearing agents and businessmen on the EPZ operations through seminars".

Coming just at the heel of a hike, foreign exchange and further depreciation of the Naira, the fair was many things to a lot of participating companies and visitors. Said Emeka Agbasi, of Edson Industries, manufacturers of break pads and linings: "Devaluation of the Naira has actually helped in the purchase of our

formed the largest part of their clientele, what with the offer of free gifts by the companies. Anthony Nzenwata, assistant general manager, Samson and Mbaebies, one of the participating cosmetic companies, told *Citizen*: "Our presence is to create awareness for our products in the market." Talking in the same vein, Larry Aniobi of ACE Laboratories, makers of Gentle Care Products said, "Many people are becoming conscious of beauty these days and we help make them beautiful."

International trade fairs are meant to provide opportunities to exhibit goods and services which people later order. Ebele Okoye, MD Ebele Journey Cycle, an indigenous



Lemaco's agricultural equipment on display at the fair

products by the customers." Balarabe Muhammed, public relation officer of Peugeot Automobile of Nigeria, Kaduna, explained that the company was at the fair, "to educate road users on how to maintain their Peugeot products and procure genuine spare parts."

Mrs. Maureen Ikeobi, a house wife and visitor at the fair, complained that "things were so expensive that one wonders whether it is an ordinary market or really a trade fair where things are expected to be cheaper." Local cosmetic companies invaded the fair, trying hard to convince people of the high quality of their products. Expectedly, ladies

bicycle manufacturing firm, believes in this philosophy. Exhibited in his stand are locally fabricated bicycle parts. Said he: "I came to show what my company can do."

Cadbury Nigeria Limited, "for the first time," according to Chido Nwakanma, Cadbury PRO "decided to exhibit the 55 million Naira Nigerian developed cereal conversion plant."

The service sector, like last year, witnessed boom at the fair. Restaurants and brewer stands spotted swarms of fun seekers engaged in drinking sprees at reduced or no cost at all.

By Tony Oko, in Enugu

Allocate FOREX through Stock Exchange

— Cadbury director

The finance director of Cadbury Nigeria Plc, Mr. Ayo Akadiri has called for the allocation of foreign exchange through the Stock Exchange as a way of stabilising the exchange rate of the Naira and ensuring accountability in forex operations.

He suggested that foreign exchange should be allocated on the basis of 60 per cent to companies quoted on the Stock Exchange, 30 per cent to un-

quoted companies and 10 per cent to others. Mr. Akadiri, who suggested this formula at a national workshop on Pricing of Securities and Replacement Cost under Deregulation, held at Otta in Ogun State recently, said that this will not only sanitise the forex market but also help stabilise the value of the Naira. Said he: "The problem has not been inadequate supply of forex but improper allocation, lack of monitoring and poor accountability".

These vices he argued had channeled foreign exchange into wrong quarters as manufacturers, its major users, are excluded from determination of the value of the Naira. He therefore concluded that for a proper free market to evolve in forex operations, the actual users of foreign exchange must be involved in the fixing of exchange rates.



Onosade: Chairman Cadbury

MD calls for data bank

The managing director and chief executive of Allied Bank of Nigeria Plc, Alhaji Shehu Mohammed has called for the establishment of a data bank to enhance information within the banking industry. Alhaji Mohammed made the recommendation at a national seminar on accounting in the bank-



Mohammed: Allied Bank MD
ing and finance industry held at Gateway Hotel, Otta, Ogun State.

LSG warns banks

The Lagos State government has urged banks that are still defaulting in payment of their withholding tax to clear all their areas without further delay.

The state commissioner for finance and economic planning, Chief Michael Olawale-Cole, gave this order in Lagos last week while commissioning Iupeju Business Centre, a subsidiary of Abejeye Group of Companies. He gave them 30 days to comply with his order, saying that the tax is needed to provide necessary social and economic services to the entire people in the state. Commissioning the complex, Chief Olawale-Cole commended the management of Abejeye Group of companies for its foresight in

In his paper titled "Rendition of Returns by Banks to Monetary Authorities" he observed that returns to monetary authorities have achieved quite a lot in the Nigerian economy. He however observed that there are still rooms for improvement in future.

In addition to routine returns, he suggested that the imposition of random returns will eliminate dress-ups and can easily indicate the true position of institutions and thus provide better guide to the authorities.

The bank chief however, warned that regulations and rendition of returns should aid competition

putting up such a complex and urged them not to relent in their effort to provide quality services to their clients.

The chairman of t



Otedola: governor of Lagos State

group of companies, Chief Dipo Odujinrin, said that the business centre was opened to provide the much needed high quality support services to commerce and industry.



Ahmed: CBN governor

and not constrain initiative. Alhaji Mohammed therefore said that the establishment of a data bank controlled by the Central Bank of Nigeria and linked with licenced bank and finance houses would transform reporting, returns, and the regulatory environment into a new age.

Tola Sunday

AFRICA

Libya

A caliph cometh?

Colonel Gaddafi continues to defy the West, backed up to the hilt by a pliant United Nations

Tripoli has kept up its defiance of the West, which on March 31 browbeat a reluctant United Nations Security Council to push through a resolution, warning that sanctions would be imposed against Libya unless it complies with an April 15 deadline for handing over two of its intelli-



Gaddafi: no compromise

gence officers for trial in the United States or Britain.

The two men have been accused of responsibility for the bombing of the American Pan Am airlines plane over Lockerbie in Scotland in 1988. France also wants to interrogate four other Libyans over the bombing of a UTA plane over Niger in 1989.

Colonel Gaddafi has maintained his robust rebuff of the West right up to the last minutes of the deadline. After a weekend meeting in Tripoli with Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak who has been trying to work out a compromise solution to the stand-off, the Libyan leader

said that Tripoli's "sovereignty would not be compromised".

However, he has not foreclosed all opportunity for a compromise. After his meeting with Mr. Mubarak, the colonel said that he would not personally hand over his citizens but the two Lockerbie bombing suspects could willingly surrender themselves for trial in a neutral country. Britain and the United States will almost certainly object to this.

Also last week, a Libyan official travelled to the Mediterranean sea for a meeting with the prime minister of Malta. No agenda was released but observers believe that Tripoli may have been trying to enlist the good offices of Malta in staving off imminent UN trade and diplomatic embargoes.

The Malta angle is also being pursued by the Arab League. At its meeting in Morocco at the weekend, its leaders proposed that the two Libyans wanted by the West should be handed over to Malta, considered a neutral country. Libya, on its part, reportedly agreed to condemn terrorism "in its all forms", a requirement by a UN resolution adopted last January.

In return, Colonel Gaddafi asked for a postponement of sanctions to give him time to talk to Malta. But a United Nations source said that "Security Council members appear deeply sceptical about the proposal, mainly because Malta is not seen as being particularly neutral". There is a strong suspicion in Western capitals that the explosives that blew up the Pan Am aircraft were loaded in Malta, where one of the suspects was believed to have worked in the Libyan airline office.

Gaddafi, though sounding tough is counting a great deal on the support of Arab sister states, some deeply suspicious of him. Last week he played a scary card. He threatened to turn himself to a modern caliph of "fundamentalist and extremist groups" if he was abandoned by the Arab family in his muscle-flexing with the West.

It worked. The Arab League and Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) were unanimous in condemning the March 3, UN resolution, warning of an imminent embargo on air links and arms sales to Libya as well as a reduction of its diplomatic staff abroad. Morocco, the only Arab member of the Security Council said the resolution was "precipitous".

Meanwhile, the Libyan leader is said to have been preparing his people emotionally for sanctions. His council of ministers directed that Libyans go into mourning on April 14, the eve of UN threatened sanctions, reportedly to commemorate the sixth anniversary of American bombing of Tripoli and Benghazi in 1986. For 24 hours international telephone lines would be cut as well as all access by land, sea and air. As one observer said during that time Libya would "sink into total self isolation".

It is possible that Tripoli is delaying the handing over of the suspects, believing that the international court of justice in the Hague, would rule in its favour in the case. Libya went to the court late March, complaining that US and Britain were engaged in "illegal and arbitrary blackmail" against it. It sought a ruling restraining the two Western powers from forcing it to hand over the two Libyans wanted in connection with the Lockerbie bombing. The court has now ruled that the UN Security Council resolution supersedes Libya's prayer to it. All of which means that a show-down between the West and Libya seems inevitable.

By Tawey Zakka with agency reports

Liberia

The ULIMO factor

With Charles Taylor becoming less belligerent, the ULIMO may turn out to be Liberia's main hurdle against attainment of peace

Last week's Geneva peace summit between the Liberia's interim government and the strongest of Liberia's several rebel groups, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, NPFL led by Mr. Charles Taylor is about the greatest hope for a return to a peaceful atmosphere to a country that has been under fire for over two years now. Even then, one of the little known rebel groups, the United Liberation Movement, ULIMO says it will step up its fight against Charles Taylor. And if the group's promise holds good, Liberia may in fact be far away from peace.

When Professor Amos Sawyer, Liberia's interim president met with Mr. Charles Taylor in Geneva, they signed an agreement which among other things stipulates that the West African peace keeping force, ECOMOG sets up buffer zone along border areas. Mr. Charles Taylor also agreed to continue the disarming of his NPFL fighters, which he had earlier agreed to during another summit in Cote d'Ivoire last October. Like all the previous summits, the latest one was also under the auspices of ECOWAS.

Indeed even before the latest summit, Liberia has been reported to be returning to its pre-December, 1989 state. The interim government confirmed this last week when it ordered the easing of the blockade on the NPFL controlled areas. Stressing that the move was to encourage the NPFL in its support for the agreement signed in Geneva. The NPFL is the largest rebel movement in the country; it controls more than half of

the country's territory.

But the peace is likely to receive a feeble blow, which is still capable of halting the peace move. The



Sawyer: more headaches



Taylor: another opponent in Ulimo

United Liberation Movement, ULIMO, based in Sierra Leone and consisting mainly of members of late President Samuel Doe's Krahn tribe who fled the country after Doe's murder, reacting to the Geneva summit, said nothing has changed and that they will continue their struggle to get rid of Charles Taylor and his soldiers. The groups have been fighting in some border towns of Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone actually invited the US and Nigerian troops to help repel the attacks of NPFL soldiers last year.

ULIMO said the Geneva peace agreement was unacceptable, warning that it will not guarantee the safety of the West African peace keeping force, ECOMOG if it enters areas that are under its control. The group's chairman, Mr. Raleigh Seekie was quoted as saying the Geneva agreement "effectively nullifies all previous peace plans

including Yamoussoukro Four (and that) the inconclusive political negotiations now make it all the more relevant for a military option to get rid of Taylor." Mr. Seekie spoke from his base in Sierra Leone.

ULIMO may be a little organisation, but its belligerence could slow down, if not scuttle the peace move in Liberia, especially with the elections scheduled for later in the month.

By Rabiou Barde
with agency reports

South Africa Parting of ways

The Mandelas' 34-year old marriage is eventually buried under the rubris of disagreements

The news the week before last had been about family breakups, real and rumoured, but all involving "big people in the public eye".

One of the rumours said that Nelson Mandela, the septuagenarian president of the African National Congress (ANC) and his wife Winnie, were about to separate. Journalists who sought confirmation from Mr Mandela were told that the time was not auspicious for him to speak on the matter.

The time was to come, however, on Monday April 13, in South Africa's political capital, Johannesburg, where the ANC leader called a press conference to announce that "one of the most famous marriages in history" had come to an end. Reading from a prepared speech Mr. Mandela announced: "In view of the tension that has arisen over differences between ourselves in a number of issues in recent months, we have mutually agreed that a separation would be the best for each of us".

Mr Mandela, however said that his love for Winnie "remains undiminished" and she could continue to rely on his support. He paid glowing tribute to his former wife, whom he said had borne her persecution by the South African government while he was in jail with "fortitude".

Mr. Mandela denied that the end of their marital relationship had anything to do with renewed allegations that Winnie was directly involved in the killings in black townships. On Sunday April 12, Johan Morgan, her one-time driver alleged that Winnie had been present when four black youths were assaulted by members of the Mandela United Football Club. One of them, Stompie Mocketse Sepele, 14, later died.

During her trial last year, Win-

nied any personal involvement in the incident. But the white judge convicted her on a count of kidnapping and assault and sentenced her to six years in jail. She has been out on bail pending her appeal against the conviction, which should be heard in June.

At that time, Mr. Mandela had declared that he believed that his wife was innocent but he said he would rather leave the issue of guilt or innocence for the judicial system to decide. Last Monday, he restated that position and berated the press for the role it has assumed in the whole affair.

His oblique reference to "differences over a number of issues" naturally has given rise to a great deal of speculation as to the real reasons for the end of a marriage of many years, most of which Mandela spent in jail.

It has been said that though Mandela believes his wife was innocent of the crime for which she has been convicted, his colleagues in the ANC do not think she is. They may have lent on him to end a relationship that they believe has turned messy and an embarrassment to him and the organisation he leads.

At the press conference were two top ANC leaders, Walter Sisulu and Oliver Tambo, ANC president during the period of Mr. Mandela's imprisonment. They were there in all probability, to show they supported Mr. Mandela in his hour of distress and agreed with what he was doing. But their presence has also been interpreted as a measure of the pressure Mr. Mandela had been put under to end a relationship he never intended to put a stop to.



Mandela and wife in Lagos June '90

One foreign journalist who covered the press conference said Mr. Mandela behaved like one who had suffered "considerable pain" and "a genuine sense of loss and grief". "Political expediency", he said, forced the man to do what he did.

There can be no doubt that the two Mandelas have toed two parallel political lines, representing different tendencies within the ANC. The husband has been representing the older, more sober, moderate and pragmatic generation of blacks while his wife is believed to reflect the rash and leftist tendency of the ANC youth wing. While since coming out of prison Mr. Mandela has inched the ANC towards a more accommodating attitude towards the white government, Winnie has been resolutely defiant.

Once she was quoted as saying: "With our neckless and boxes of matches we will liberate this country". Her influence within the ANC is believed to be enormous. Today she is head of the organisation's social welfare department and member of its national executive council. Whether that influence will disappear with the end of her marriage to the ANC's leader, only time will tell.

By Tawey Zakka
with agency reports.

WORLD

Russia Bear growls

Communist hardliners move to scuttle Boris Yeltsin's deal with the IMF

Russian president Boris Yeltsin fully expected trouble when the Congress of People's Deputies resumed sitting in Moscow two weeks ago. For five months, Yeltsin has been trying hard to put in place a tough package of capitalist economic reforms dictated by the International Monetary Fund, IMF. As a condition for help-



Yeltsin: reforms eat their own

ing the battered Russian economy, the IMF has demanded huge cuts in government spending, raised taxes, privatisation of the huge public sector economy, "freeing" of energy prices, and austere monetary poli-

comprehensive." This was the awaited signal for Western aid to come in. Two days after the IMF declaration, President George Bush and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl jointly announced a 24 billion dollar aid package to Russia. The offer includes loans, grants and export credits put together by the Group of 7 Western countries, which would extend to all states of the former Soviet Union. The money will only begin to flow around June, after Russia formally joins the IMF. Although the offer looked tempting, the American magazine *Time* described it as "old wine in a new bottle," mostly promises made by the West in the last one year which went unfulfilled, ostensibly because Yeltsin's reforms had not gone far enough. The latest offer was designed to boost Yeltsin's popularity before parliament resumed.

The Russian leader also moved to replace some of his key aides, many of whom have acquired notoriety in the eyes of Russians for their role in the reforms. First deputy premier Gennadi Burbulis, finance minister Yegor Gaidar and deputy premier Sergei Shakhrai were all

Gorbachev also condemned the 24 billion dollar western aid as "paltry," saying the west would have spent much more on arms if the cold war had continued.

cies. In return, the fund would arrange hard currency grants and loans for the importation of food, medicine and machinery and the stabilisation of the Russian currency, the rouble.

In early April, the IMF at last declared Yeltsin's reforms "bold and

replaced. Still, when the Congress resumed sitting last weekend, it passed a resolution opposing Yeltsin's economic reforms. The Congress also asked President Yeltsin, who doubles as the premier, to relinquish the latter post and to give up his emergency economic

powers, under which he rules by decree, by July this year. Yeltsin pleaded with the Congress to allow him to retain the emergency powers and to remain as premier until December, to no avail.

As the confrontation intensified, the entire cabinet threatened last Monday to resign unless the Congress withdrew its opposition to the reforms. When the speaker accused the ministers of attempting to blackmail the parliament, they promptly stormed out of the chamber. The rough encounter in parliament disconcerted the Russian ministers, and on Monday, Yegor Gaidar, who retains a senior government position, said President Yeltsin should assure them that they can discharge their duties.

There was no let up to the struggle when the Congress resumed on Tuesday. Pro-Yeltsin members of Congress argued for an extension of his emergency powers until December, while others urged a reconsideration of the weekend resolution opposing the reforms. Communist deputies promptly hit back; some called for an inquiry into the activities of the pro-Yeltsin Russian news media; others asked that Burbulis be summoned to outline his response to the threatened strike by miners.

The embattled Boris Yeltsin let it be known last week that if the Congress refuses to budge, he will go over its head and call for a referendum. Yeltsin even wished for a presidential system of government to enhance his position. In the midst of the confusion, he found support from an unusual quarter. Former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev, on a private visit to Japan, said he supports Yeltsin's reforms and would want them to be given two years to bear fruit. Gorbachev also condemned the 24 billion dollar Western aid as "paltry," saying the West would have spent much more on arms if the cold war had continued.

By Mahmud Jega and
agency reports



BILKISU YUSUF

freedom fighters like Nelson Mandela, Steve Biko and Robert Sobukure.

— Only when people have permanent interests whether patent or latent can the doublespeak language of diplomacy make any meaning. How can we justify de Klerk's sudden entry into the league of freedom fighters? Even in the sneaky, decep-

Those who support the move call themselves peace initiators. Apart from Presidents Babangida and de Klerk, the major actors, the Pik Bothas and the Nwachukwu are also convinced that this new style-detente with Pretoria is not in the least disruptive nor destructive as its critics paint it. Rather, they see it as the facilitator of the ongoing peace process. A hug and a pat on the back for de Klerk in their view, would encourage him to push the transition programme with renewed vigour. If the leader of Africa's most populous nation and current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity, OAU has welcomed Pretoria with pomp and pageantry, the move could be interpreted as a collective one, thus giving the long lost chicken an opportunity to come back home to roost or so the peace initiators will have us believe. But it is obviously a fallacious assumption. At no time did the OAU reach a consensus on exchange of visits with Pretoria. A clear line of demarcation should be drawn between Nigeria's foreign policy and continental resolutions. The absence of such distinctions subjects the OAU to the pushful initiative of Nigeria's foreign policy exploits.

If the peace initiators and the critics are shouting themselves hoarse, Pretoria is lapping up the unusual but favourable publicity the two day visit has bestowed on it. Apartheid has cost it dear. Scorned, shunned and lonely in its isolation, Pretoria lit the touch of friendship. It can now reap from the light of its adventurism having found a friend in Nigeria. Mr. de Klerk is now a hero and a friend. According to Babangida. "We have at last someone in South Africa with whom we can do business". Some business indeed! But if the OAU chairman welcomed the diplomatic pygmy back with these words, the rest of Africa will nod in acquiescence.

A pariah's victory

Diplomatic victories are not cheap items. They take a lot of high stake wheeling and dealing but the sweet taste of victory when it does come can overwhelm even the victor. Last Thursday, a 40 year old iceberg in the African diplomatic sea began to thaw when South African leader, Frederick de Klerk set foot on Nigerian soil. It was a milestone in South Africa's effort to end its diplomatic isolation and de Klerk, basking in the victory, did not hesitate to call for the elimination of mutual distrust between Nigeria and South Africa.

If diplomats are trained to accept that permanent enemies do not exist in their vocabulary, we ought to examine the permanent interests Abuja and Pretoria have. President Babangida and his guest did not leave us in doubt about these. Mr. de Klerk commended Nigeria for its leading role in Africa and reiterated his commitment to dismantling apartheid through the establishment of a transitional government in South Africa next month under the auspices of the Conference for Democratic South Africa (CODESA).

President Babangida while declaring Nigeria's support for a democratic South Africa, described Mr. de Klerk's efforts at dismantling apartheid in the past two years as "tremendously exciting." The general then subtly bestowed a freedom fighter title on the apartheid boss by equating de Klerk's initiative with the long and tortuous struggle of

active corridors of diplomacy, shouldn't a distinction be made between fighters for a just cause and a repentant but pragmatist racist who had no option but to renounce apartheid?

Hardly surprising that the visit was one of the most controversial in recent times, surpassed only by General Ike Nwachukwu's visit to Israel last year. Critics of the olive branch extended to Pretoria dismiss the visit as a premature affair. They point to this administration's much touted support for elimination of apartheid and the establishment of majority rule and wonder why it is too willing to welcome de Klerk while apartheid is still intact. If, the new style detente as both parties claim, is to "thaw diplomatic ice and open a line of communication" why couldn't it wait until next month's plenary session of CODESA when a transition government is expected to take a firm footing? Critics perceptive ears have heard the grumbles of black activists who are opposed to the visit and the government is yet to marshal convincing arguments in favour of its flirtation with the Pretoria regime. Some Africans, they reason have been insensitive to the plight of blacks who are mauled down in township violence which was sponsored by the racist regime. Others must be indifferent to the pace of change in South Africa to find such hasty justification for the visit. So much for the critics of the visit with whom my sympathy lies.

PRIVATE EYE

Tales of toll

The other day I heard some interesting gist from the grapevine. There was this very SAPPed customs officer who was telling his colleague about his new year resolution. You can't guess what it is, but as incredible as it may sound, this customs officer has resolved enough mobilisation fee to rehabilitate himself. The mobilisation fee is not for a contract job but for a privileged posting to a lucrative border town. Don't ask me who will be mobilised to effect the posting but those who get posted send returns to the *god papa*.

The latest rumblings from the grapevine indicate that the toll gate keepers are also going to rehabilitate themselves soon. Some of them, I am told, have withdrawn into their spiritual shells to pray hard for a heavy Naira shower. The dark clouds are gathering and the Naira rain

appears imminent. Naira rain at toll gates? Sounds odd, after all the toll gates are not road blocks eh? But I can say with certainty that the Naira rain will fall if the rain makers do not resolve their differences. And there are two, the federal ministry of works and housing, which administers and maintains the toll gates and the office of the federal accountant-general, to whom the toll fees are paid.

So why are they at each other's throat? The works ministry is tired of printing toll tickets without getting a refund from the accountant-general's office. It has now decided not to print anymore unless its outstanding claims, some eight million Naira of scarce dough, is paid. It also wants the accountant-general's office to pay directly for the printing. As the ministerial feud rages on, the toll tickets are being exhausted with no consensus reached on the issue.

Some cow brains

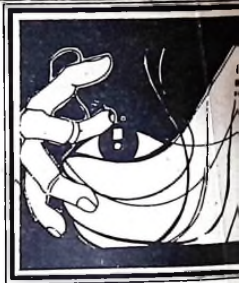
Professor Olikoye Ransome Kuti is married to controversies. Remember the minister who was caught blowing condoms at a family planning workshop? It was Kuti. Remember the minister who threatened to imprison parents who marry off their daughters — not his daughters — early to eliminate teenage pregnancies? It was the same Kuti. But while we are still waiting for him to tell us whether or not he also plans to imprison all those men who pregnate teenagers outside wedlock, Professor Kuti dropped another bombshell.

It is simply amazing that every other human being is not mooing like a cow. According to the sage of controversies, those who feed on cow

milk develop cow brains. I am not hard of hearing so I am sure I heard the minister well when he said "children are not calves and they should not be fed from cow's milk. If they are fed from cow's milk, they will develop cow's brains".

Perhaps Mr. Minister should tell us how many Nigerians use human milk in their cheese, butter, tea, fura, pastry, ogi and ice cream.

I am not a zoologist nor an expert in genetics but I know when not to listen to the minister. Until he tells us how many times he used human milk in his own tea, I just refuse to entertain any mischievous alarmist warnings from so called "experts". Give me cow's milk any time of the day!!



Now are you still wondering why the SAPPed toll gate collectors are praying hard? Once the ticks run out someone will have a fine day, feeding fat on motorists without having to account for what they collect. Aha! I can see another "you carry" drama reenacted at the toll gates. Motorists, you just wait out for rehabilitated toll collectors. *Ajuwaya!*

Sizzling rumours

Dear Private Eye, I don't know if you've heard what I am now tired of hearing — rumours of attempted coup. Not that coups are a strange thing in this country but really bizarre tales are circulating. People are naming names of those who are supposed to have a hand in the conspiracy. It is not for me to repeat.

Is it really true that these palace boys, most of them the "young turks" in the military were actually involved in the coup attempt?

Suda Saramuwa
19, Mai Kalwa Avenue
Kaura Namoda

Dear Suda,

If you're too chicken to name names who am I to do so? Seriously though, Private Eye can confirm to you that rumours are not true. Security arrangements at the Presidential Villa, Abuja have been normal and the so-called "young turks" are all alive and at their posts.

— Privat

World of letters

Experts have their technical language with which they communicate in their various disciplines. Our poets this week combined money and the literary world as their field. And they speak the fluid, liquid language of poetic and monetary wisdom.

Unmarking the poem

You may know the masquerade's rugged legs
You may know the masquerade's velvet hands
But you can't his falcon face.
You may know the masquerade's complex colour
But you can't decipher the colour clout

You may know the masquerade's dense dance
But you can't his steep steps.
You may know the masquerade's sonorous song
But you can't his embroidered tune.

The mask is a conundrum
Yet it is a rumbling drum.

But who unmasks the poem?
Who can dance to the flute of the gods?

Except we:
We, the poets
We, the unknowledged legislators
We, the oracles of the gods.

With our tranquil feelers
And the delicacy of fingers
We disvirgin the onion layers of the poem

Here, the nude layer shuttles us to noon prudence
Here, its watery strings swing us to moon proverbs
Here, we clutch to its pungent smell
Like a barnacle to the seabed

Pooling a blithe olive oil bath
For a hollified bath.

Alexius A. Maiyanga

Pastime

Poets of the Techtronic age
Would you read me
As I faithfully feel your faint groans
In the most illustrious of your verse
With success you sometimes echo
Escaping from computers
The sound and depth of your plight
The sickness that makes you write
The shallowness of an ink pad
You force to hold a pen
In search of a glorious word
Parse a little of your age disease
Making a mirror of your mind
I sooner come to know
I shall be like you lonely in a trade.

Maikudi Sambo Z.S.Z

Who is a poet?

He is the loner
In the 'mad?' world of creation
Seeing and smelling
Hearing and feeling and tasting
From ordinary things
What ordinary humans cannot
Creating from nothing something
With poetic magic
And the skill of a smith
He billows words into a furnace
And weilds them into new patterns
And from his high towers of imagination
With new creations cupped in hand
He descends to let his audience
Feel the cool soothing wind
hear its swift swishing sound
as it whittles through roses
to hear the rhythm of mating
between wind and rose
to smell its sweet scent

poets'
nest



Edited by Bilkisu Yusuf

and to crash its riddle
in the budding rose.

Emilda I. Nyuidye

Money market

The market for loans to the discount market
Always the short-term loans market
Because of the time value of money
They apply interest rate on borrowed money
In this market for call money
Here you accept debt and become a debtor
Or grant a credit and become a creditor
In a classical transfer of spending power
While dealing in money, its present value
Proves not equal to its future value
Hence, they factor interest to the future value
The participants are known from their reputations
The banks, individuals and corporate organisations
And the non-bank financial institutions.

Ibrahim Isa Abbas

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DEFINITIONS
IN HUMOUR

Learned enemies

The law is all about loopholes. Lawyers look for holes through which they put their loops to hang all of us.

Law has its logic and established procedure. One mad author once spoke on the dangers of telling the truth. "If you tell the truth once," he said, "they will never believe you again, no matter how much you lie." It is thus better to stick to what has served all the learned brethren well all these centuries — telling lies with a brave face, accompanied by proofs and impressive reasoning.

When next you are acquitted for want of evidence, or for innocence it only proves that you have a more persuasive liar on your side. It is as they say about the definition of a jury — "twelve men chosen to decide who has the better lawyer".

Lawyers have closed minds — to them Latin is the most modern of languages, Cecil Henry the only writer, Lord Denning a latter day prophet, and all other subjects not worthy of study. The following incidents adapted from *10,000 Jokes* clearly illustrate these attributes. First, the time wastage:

A lawyer was cross-examining a witness. He asked, "And you say you called on Mrs Subba last Saturday. Now, will you tell the jury what she said?"

"I object to that question," intercepted the lawyer on the other side. There was nearly an hour's argument between the lawyers, and finally the judge overruled the objection and allowed the question.

"And as I was saying" the first lawyer began again, "you called on

Mrs. Subba last Saturday. Now what did she say?"

"Nothing" said the witness. She was not at home.

Now, the loopholes:

A lawyer was defending a man accused of house breaking, and said to the court:

"Your Honour, I submit that my client did not break into the house at all. He found the parlour window open and merely inserted his right arm and removed a few trifling articles. Now, my client's arm is not himself, and I fail to see how you can punish the whole individual for an offence committed by only one of his limbs.

The judge considered this argument for several moments, and then replied:

"The argument is very well put. Following it logically, I sentence the defendant's arm to one year's imprisonment. He can accompany it or not, as he chooses."

The defendant smiled, and with his lawyer's assistance, unscrewed his cork arm, and leaving it in the dock, walked out.

And now, the ignorance:

An elderly man married to the bottle and books was in the dock. "You are charged with being drunk and disorderly," snapped the magistrate. "Have you anything to say why sentence should not be pronounced?"

"Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn", began the prisoner in a flight of oratory. "I am not so debased as Poe, so profligate as Byron, as ungrateful as Keats, so intemperate as Burns, so timid as Tennyson, so vulgar as Shakespeare, so —"

"That'll do, that'll do," intercepted the magistrate. "Seven days. And, Officer, take down that list

of names he mentioned and read them up. I think they are as bad as he is."

Now and then lawyers learn or two things. It is inevitable. Education, as someone observed, is a process of moving from cocksure ignorance to thoughtful uncertainty. The counsel in the following case now obviously a more learned friend:

A man was charged with bringing a number of pigeons, the property of a former. Counsel for defence tried to frighten the former.

"Now," he said, "are you prepared to swear that this man brought your pigeons?"

"I didn't say he shot them," the reply. "I said I suspected him doing it."

"Ah! Now we're coming! What made you suspect the man?"

"Well, first, I caught him with my land with a gun. Second, I saw a gun go off and saw some pigeons fall. Third, I found four of my pigeons in his pocket, and I do think the birds flew there after a committed suicide."

Personalities

PLAINTIFF — At the motor plain tiff is easily recognised — lynched.

DEFENDANT — One who, defending himself against the plain tiff, now has to defend himself against lawyers and judges.

ATTORNEY — One who earns living and has to atone for his earnings.

BARRISTER — (*bar rester*) one who rests at the bar, tends it, and serves the (now fully fermented) academic legal alcohol. And, now drunk, qualifies as a learned friend.

Crimes

Homicide — The crime of killing a home.

Assault — When you add salt to jury.

Bribery — A wonderful crime. It is what you offer to be in the dock the first place; and it is what I must give to be released.

Libel — Usually a truth difficult to prove and more difficult to defend against.



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Today's NATIONAL OIL
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